



Monthly newsletter of Magnolia Presbyterian Church - December 2019

Pastor's Column: Come, God-With-Us

I recently came across this poem by Thom M. Schuman, a beautiful gift to us in this Advent season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Immanuel, God With Us:

*Come, God-with-us
Who braves our rejection and hurt,
Who holds us in acceptance and love.*

*Come, God-for-us:
Who whispers
In our ears
That we –
Each of us –
Are beloved children.*

*Come, God-under-us:
Who cradles us in arms that never grow weary;
Whose lap has room enough
For all.*

*Come, God-over-us:
Who watches in the long silence of the night,
That we might rest in peace.*

*Come, God-beside-us:
Who steadies us
When we falter,
Who lifts us up
When we fall.*

*Come, God-behind-us:
Who picks up all the faded dreams
We drop along the way
And patchworks them into hope.*

*O Come, O Come, Immanuel:
And we will rejoice forever!*

A blessed Advent and a merry Christmas to all,
Pastor Deb

CALENDAR

- Dec 8th**
Advent Party and Celebrating Pastor Deb
- Dec 8th**
Welcome New Church Officers
- Dec 8th**
Giving Tree Contributions Due
- Dec 14th**
Christmas Supper Club
- Dec 15th**
Children's Christmas Pageant
- Dec 15th**
Poinsettia Orders Due
- Dec 24th**
Christmas Eve Service

Jan 5th
Ecumenical Worship at Church of the Ascension





Choir in December!

This Christmas season add your voice to the MPC Choir! We'll sing on December 1st, 8th, and 22nd and again at the 7 pm service on Christmas Eve (December 15th is the children's pageant; no choir). Rehearsals are at 9:15 am on the three Sundays. Add your name to the choir email list to receive rehearsal updates and song info. Talk to Rob anytime about joining us or send him an email at music@magpres.org.



Advent Party & Celebrating Pastor Deb on December 8th

Please put Sunday December 8th on your calendar now and plan to join us for our Advent Party right after the morning service. Following lunch together, we will make cards for our homebound members and celebrate our wonderful Deb's 10 years as our pastor. We will also practice the Christmas Pageant in the sanctuary after lunch. If you are able to contribute to the lunch, please contact Sharlene Bathum or Sally King. See you on December 8th!



Giving Tree for Foster Youth through Treehouse

A big thank you for all the generous gifts that are coming in for our Giving Tree! The holidays can be a tough time for children in foster care who may be missing relatives and familiar traditions. We

can make the season a little brighter for these children with our gifts. You can purchase one or more of the gift suggestions on tags hanging on the tree; then return the unwrapped gift to church no later than December 8th. Donations by check are also welcome. Checks can be made out directly to Treehouse and left in the collection plate. Your contributions will help to bring a happy Christmas season to foster families.

Welcome New Church Officers

We are grateful to our new church officers for stepping up to serve in the new year. We welcome Vaclav Novak and Suzanne Tyler to Session, and Christina Curry, Scott Mills, and Joyce Yost to the Board of Deacons. Ordination and installation of our new officers will take place during our 10:30 am worship service on Sunday, December 8th.

Christmas Supper Club December 14th

Anné and Brom Wikstrom will host the annual Supper Club Christmas Party on Saturday, December 14th at 6:30 pm. All adults are invited to join in the celebration! Bring a dish to share and enjoy an evening of good food and holiday fun. The Wikstrom's home is at 2715 West Lynn Place. To let us know you'll be at the party, kindly call (206) 683-7844 or email miele444@comcast.net.



Children's Christmas Pageant, December 15th

You won't want to miss our annual Children's Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 15th during our 10:30 am service of worship. The kids have been busily practicing their lines and their songs, familiar costumes are reappearing, and we will be treated to a new script entitled "The MPC News Hour." Many thanks to Sharlene Bathum, Rob Jones, and our parent helpers for everything you've been doing behind the scenes so that we can all enjoy this beloved MPC tradition!



Poinsettias Orders Due December 15th

Help us decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas Eve. Poinsettia purchases can be made in memory of a loved one or to honor someone special in your life. Fill out an order form in the Sunday bulletin or contact the church office to place your order. Checks for \$10 per plant should be made out to Magnolia Presbyterian Church with "poinsettia" in the memo line. The final date for poinsettia orders is Sunday, December 15th.



Candlelight Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve

At 7:00 pm on December 24th we will enjoy a traditional service of Lessons and Carols featuring familiar Scripture readings and favorite hymns. Toward the end of the service, the sanctuary lights will be dimmed as we sing "Silent Night" by candlelight. Young children are invited to sit with their parents; we will provide activities for them to enjoy in their seats. We hope you will invite family and friends to join us!

Afternoon Women's Study Update

Please note that our afternoon women's Bible study will not meet in December. Remaining dates for this year are January 9th, February 13th, March 12th, and April 9th.



Christmas Joy Offering

Each year the Presbyterian Church (USA) invites us to participate in the Christmas Joy Offering, an opportunity to provide assistance to current and former church workers and their families who are facing financial challenges. The Joy Offering also provides financial assistance to students attending Presbyterian racial-ethnic minority colleges and schools. This year we are inviting anyone who wishes to give to this special offering to do so online at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/> (If you prefer, you may also contribute via check written out to Magnolia Presbyterian Church with "Christmas Joy" in the memo line.) Thank you in advance for your gifts of Christmas Joy.

Ecumenical Worship at Church of the Ascension, January 5th

On Epiphany Sunday, January 5th we will join with neighbors from other Magnolia congregations at Church of the Ascension for their 10:15 morning worship service. We look forward to gathering again with our ecumenical friends! Please note that there will NOT be a morning worship service here at MPC on January 5th.

Welcome Aboard!

If you have been worshipping with us regularly you may be curious about what's involved in church membership. Pastor Deb would be happy to meet with you and answer any questions you may have. Contact her at deb@magpres.org or 206-283-3322 to learn more. We're glad you're here!

Still Time to Turn In 2020 Pledges

Many thanks to everyone who has turned in a pledge card indicating your expected giving to the church for the coming year. If you were not able to be with us on Pledge Dedication Sunday, there is still time to turn in your pledge. Extra cards are available in the narthex. Completed pledge cards can be left in the offering plate or mailed to the church office, or you may simply email the amount of your 2020 pledge directly to Sharlene Bathum at s.bathum@comcast.net. Thank you for your faithful giving to MPC!

