



# the SPIRE

Monthly newsletter of Magnolia Presbyterian Church - September 2019



## Pastor's Column: On the Move

Back to school season in September brings the start of our new program year and with it, the energetic buzz of more people and more movement around the church.

We're also moving with excitement toward our 75th anniversary in 2020. You'll be hearing more about our plans from Session (your church governing board) over the next few months. Meanwhile please make time for our All-Church Retreat on Saturday, September 21st which will help us learn to listen for God's direction as we move into our future together as a congregation.

You'll notice the theme of movement winding its way through our sermons this year as well, beginning with a fall series on Old Testament stories of God and God's people on the move. We'll even be introducing a new worship song to accompany us in our travels.

What a joy it will be to join you on the journey!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Deb Sunoo

## CALENDAR

**Sept 8th**  
Annual Church Picnic

**Sept 8th**  
Backpack Blessing and  
Sunday School Kickoff

**Sept 14th**  
Supper Club

**Sept 15th**  
Choir Season Begins

**Sept 21st**  
Congregational  
Prayer Retreat

**Sept 23rd**  
Women's Evening  
Bible Study





## Annual Church Picnic September 8th

We hope you can join us on Sunday, September 8th for our annual church picnic at Magnolia Park immediately following our morning worship service. We'll barbeque hamburgers and hotdogs for everyone; please let Sharlene Bathum or Sally King know if you can contribute a salad, side dish, or dessert. See you there!



## Backpack Blessing & Sunday School Kickoff September 8th

Pastor Deb will offer a special blessing for all of our kids heading back to school this week. Parents, be sure to join us and invite your kids to bring along a backpack, lunchbox, or other school bag for this fun annual event during children's time in worship.

Our 2019-2020 Sunday School classes kick off this week too, both for our elementary grades and for our age 3 - preK group, with new Bible stories for the new year and a wonderful team of teachers led by Sharlene Bathum and Scott Mills.

## Choir and More

Music Director Rob Jones invites you to be part of our new choir season which begins with a 9:30 am rehearsal in the sanctuary on Sunday September 15th. Stay tuned for more opportunities to participate in our music ministry this year too, whether or not you are able to be part of the choir!



## Congregational Prayer Retreat, Saturday September 21st 9 am - 3:30 pm

When church leaders and congregations are discerning what is next for their life together, Renewal Ministries Northwest (RMNW) joyfully comes alongside to guide a multi-phase process of discernment. As a neutral outside party, they help churches articulate the question they want to put before God, and they help them to listen carefully and prayerfully for God's response. This process is facilitated by Rev. Denise Easter and Rev. Dianna Kunce, ordained Presbyterian pastors.

We have invited Denise and Dianna to help us listen for God's call as we approach our 75th anniversary in 2020. We believe we are positioned at an exciting juncture in time, and we are curious where God wants to lead us next.

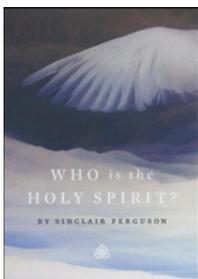
Phase One will be a one-day retreat for the whole congregation, teaching and equipping us to listen to God through prayer. Mark your calendars for September 21st from 9 am to 3:30 pm and plan to join us if you possibly can.

A prayer guide will be provided for everyone to use daily following the retreat; the guide will prepare us for subsequent phases of the discernment process over the coming months.

Come, let us seek the Lord and his wisdom together!

## Supper Club Meets September 14th

All adults in the congregation are invited to Laurie Trettel's new home in Bothell for a potluck dinner at 6:30 pm on Saturday, September 14th. Bring a dish to share and enjoy an evening of delicious food and fun conversation. Laurie's address is 19416 2nd Drive SE, Unit A, Bothell, WA 98012. Meet at the church at 5:45pm to carpool.

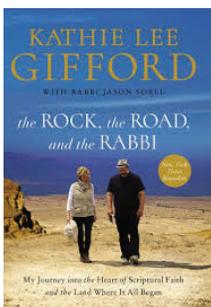


## Women's Evening Bible Study

The new season for our Evening Bible Study starts on Monday, September 23rd at 7 pm in the Mount Rainier Room at church. Study guides for our lessons on "Who is the

Holy Spirit?" will be available at the meeting. See you on the 23rd!

## Women's Afternoon Bible Study

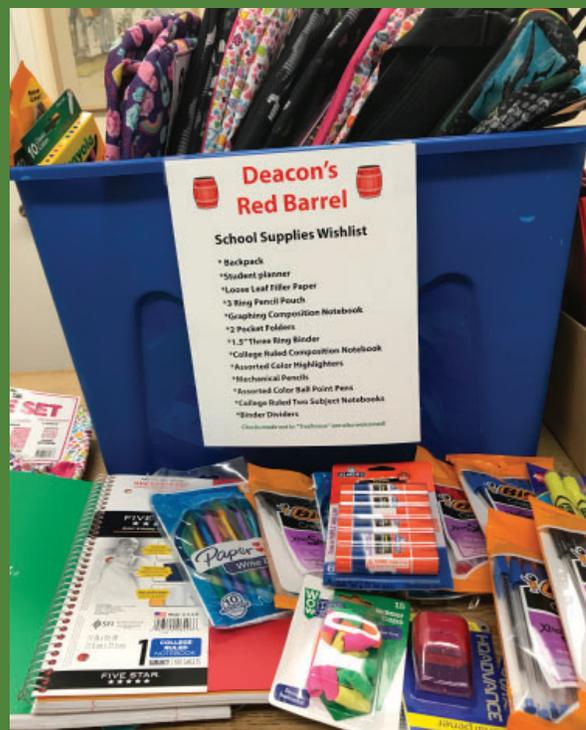


This year's afternoon study will begin on Thursday October 10th at 1:30 pm at the church. It is entitled, "The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi" - a video and book series by Kathy Gifford and Jason Sobel. Kathy and Jason visit sites in Israel and share background details that make New Testament stories come alive. All are welcome. The study

book is available for \$11.00. Email study leader Janet Friedrich with any questions at philipf@comcast.net.

## Wednesday Midday Prayers

You are invited to join us for quiet reflection, silent prayer, and shared prayers on Wednesdays at 12 noon in the sanctuary. All are welcome even if you can only come occasionally or can only come for a portion of our half-hour prayer time. Contact Robin Maddox if you have questions or would like more information.



## Red Barrel Thanks!

On behalf of the Board of Deacons, thank you for your August donations of school supplies for Treehouse for Kids. Your generosity allowed us to share with foster kids heading back to school:

- 13 backpacks
- 9 binders
- 14 spiral notebooks
- 7 composition notebooks
- 5 packs of notebook paper
- 5 folders
- 2 sets notebook dividers
- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 bottle of glue
- 10 pencil cases
- 136 pencils
- 48 crayons
- 32 highlighters
- 30 magic markers
- 65 pens
- 2 pencil sharpeners
- 6 glue sticks
- 15 erasers
- 2 rulers
- watercolor paints
- paintbrushes
- pad of watercolor paper
- and a generous check!



## Emergency Preparedness Update

Emergencies happen! MPC now has a plan to deal with potential emergency situations that may occur in the church sanctuary or elsewhere in the building.

This MPC Emergency Preparedness Plan was approved by the Session on June 4th and is written in a format similar to plans developed by other

Seattle-area churches. It includes instructions for dealing with disturbed individuals, medical emergencies, fire, earthquakes, suspicious packages, bomb threats, inclement weather, and shootings. It also includes appropriate responses for follow-through action by our pastor, ushers, and church officers.

The plan has been placed in red binders and located throughout the church building in the narthex, chancel, office, fellowship hall kitchen, and in the children's nursery and classrooms. Copies of the plan have also been distributed to staff, Session members, and Deacons. A training for ushers will take place this fall.

In addition, four first aid kits with hand-cranked flashlights, six fire extinguishers, and six fire alarms are located throughout the building on the three levels of the church. Red hats also have been placed in the Narthex Coat Room and in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen. The hats will be worn by ushers or church officers for identification purposes in the event they have to lead an evacuation of the building.

We pray we never will have to use our MPC Emergency Preparedness Plan, but it is important to us to be prepared. Anyone with questions about the plan or emergency preparedness may contact Session member Marion Wright.

