



Pacific Beach
United Methodist Church

BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

April 2019

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

Lent

In our prayerful journey through the season of Lent, we have been exploring this preparatory time through the lens of the Andrew Lloyd Webber rock opera, "Jesus Christ Superstar," which has been back in the public eye since its live broadcast on Easter Sunday, 2018. We are exploring a different song from the musical each week, alongside its scriptural reference and how we can understand its context and its meaning for us today.

Holy Week

Good Friday falls on April 19th, when the church will be open from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm for an exploration of the meaning of Good Friday for each of us as unique persons of faith. Suitable for persons of all ages and abilities, stations of interactive prayer and learning will be available for participants at an individual pace.

Easter

Sunrise Service

On Easter Sunday, April 21st, we will gather together with the Water's Edge Faith Community at Crown Point Park on Mission Bay for a sunrise service beginning at 6:00 am. This casual service will begin with hot cups of coffee, donuts, and worship music, followed by the Easter story. Pastor Bob will offer a message of the joy of discovering the presence of Christ, and Pastor Jessica Stryko will lead us in sharing Holy Communion together. Dress warmly, and feel free to bring a chair or blanket.



Easter Morning Breakfast

Dee and some friends will have a breakfast fundraiser on from 7:30 to 9:00 am. We will have a variety of options, and ask for donations. There will likely be pancakes, turkey sausage, fruit, and eggs. Please understand that we will need to finish at 9:00 am, so Dee and friends can help with the egg hunt and attend worship with their families.

Worship

Back at 1561 Thomas Ave, our Easter celebration services will take place as usual in the sanctuary at 9:00 am and 10:30 am, including traditional hymns and a brass ensemble.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Plan to be in the courtyard by 10:00 am so you don't miss out on the egg hunt for the children. Bunny assistance is needed. Donations of filled plastic eggs can be delivered to Dee a week ahead.

Easter is a celebration of hope and new life. All are welcome to join in thoughtful reflection, prayer, community, worship, and celebration.

Pastor Bob's Printed Blog

Dear Friends . . .

Because last month's newsletter article was written before the events of the Special General Conference, it was released at a time that many in our membership were experiencing a wide variety of emotions. It is good that we took time during worship to acknowledge the pain that has been felt, and we were also privileged to experience immense grace from some of our members who shared why *this* congregation in Pacific Beach remains a beacon of light and hope.

I wanted to share some updates over the course of the last several weeks, not only at the denominational level but also more locally. Among the first is how we have been covered in local press in the aftermath of the Conference. The *Union-Tribune* wrote an article quoting several United Methodist clergy (<http://bit.ly/2UIfNVe>) and also produced a podcast interview with me (<http://bit.ly/2TPYdBL>). Several days later, the San Diego Gay and Lesbian News posted an interview (<http://bit.ly/2Hrve0o>).

In addition, our own Administrative Council adopted a statement stating (in part): "We recommit ourselves to active and prophetic DISSENT. Our ministries and mission will not be defined by these exclusionary policies." The full statement can be found on our website (<http://bit.ly/2tOuNFt>).

A number of voices have also come forward throughout the denomination. The Western Jurisdiction Bishops released a video (<http://bit.ly/2FbyZEt>) acknowledging the harm inflicted during the Conference and containing the assertion that, "We have not deserted you. We see you. We stand in solidarity with you." Our own Bishop Grant Hagiya shared in a sermon at a special worship service (<http://bit.ly/2Y5c869>) some of his experiences at the General Conference, and his joy of returning to his home Annual Conference where *all* are included; he then proclaimed his commitment that "As long as I am your Bishop, this community and these clergy will be affirmed and protected. If they come for your orders, they're gonna have to take mine just as well."

Author and Pastor Adam Hamilton has followed General Conference with passionate writing. In one post (<http://bit.ly/2Y6wUIS>), he asserts, "I will not treat my gay and lesbian people as second class. I will not quietly accept the way backwards as an acceptable way for us to live together as United Methodists." In another (<http://bit.ly/2HEgnzS>), he explores possible solutions for the future of the church that include radical restructuring or even creating a new denomination.

Mainstream UMC is a group of lay and clergy that strongly advocated for the One Church Plan that did not pass at

General Conference. At a debrief session (<http://bit.ly/2Hs9tOL>) held at Asbury UMC in Overland Park, KS, leaders from the organization noted that a core group of leaders including Mainstream UMC, Reconciling Ministries Network, and as many as 20 large church pastors were engaging in conversation about looking forward at ways to respond to the General Conference including a potential "divorce agreement" to leave the denomination.

The California-Pacific Annual Conference is beginning to take action. Bishop Hagiya recently hosted a listening session specifically to hear from LGBTQ clergy. Out of this, a new task force is being formed to explore ways of designing a future of inclusion in the church. In addition, our Conference is seeking ways to designate monies sent to the global church to minimize support of harmful and hateful theologies and policies.

Most recently, a *New York Times* article (<https://nyti.ms/2TJC9cB>) alleged that some ballots at General Conference were cast improperly. Organizers and leaders of the UMC are investigating the claims, and it remains unclear what impact this will have on the results of the Conference. A number of dates are upcoming that may affect what we know and where we'll go from here. The Judicial Council meets in late April to address the constitutionality of the Traditional Plan (much of which is expected to be thrown out). Our own Annual Conference Session is in mid-June, where we will explore our response at length. A conversation is expected as part of a Leadership Conference in Leawood, KS, in late September. And finally, the next General Conference will be held in the first two weeks of May, 2020.

I confess that I am frustrated by the pace of what is taking place. Even so, I suggest that one aim of the One Church Plan must remain on our minds: we are stronger together than we are apart. This congregation could explore extracting itself as a separate congregation from any denomination. I fear this would separate us from the new thing that God is already doing in our midst. I commit *some* patience. I commit to show up. I commit to faith, hope, and love – most of all, love.

May we continue to see the light that that shines on the path before us.



Pastor Bob



We Care for One Another

We have concluded our feasibility study as of January 31, 2019. We contracted with Marsha Bryan, a capital campaign fundraiser who came highly-recommended to us from the UMC. Overall, the study was a success and Marsha felt that our congregation was very passionate about our work and advocacy. She didn't feel that our vision (one, three, five year plan, etc.) was clearly defined, which prompted the VUE committee to organize a congregation-wide visioning process.



Marsha's role in this study was to determine the giving potential of our congregation. We didn't receive any six-figure gifts, which in Marsha's opinion would have been expected for a project of this nature. Although she wasn't able to see a clear path to our end fundraising goal, she remains optimistic and feels we should proceed with the capital campaign in hopes that further generosity will prevail. The committee met Monday, March 18th, to begin our coordination efforts for the capital campaign. Stay tuned for more details.

Ryan B.
Labor of Love Chair

Ladies' Group



Milton's menu can be found at www.miltonsdeli.com
Milton's Deli & Restaurant, 2660 Via De La Valle, Del Mar, CA 92014

Friends,
Food,
Flowers,
Fresh Air,
Fun For
All...



All families and individuals in the church are invited to join the Ladies' Group for their April event, Saturday, April 6, 2019.

We'll begin with Breakfast at Milton's in Del Mar. After a bountiful meal, we'll carpool to the Flower Fields in Carlsbad. (See <http://www.theflowerfields.com> for Flower Field specifics, including entry fees.) All are welcome!

There is a special Arts & Crafts Celebration at the Flower Fields on April 6th. Additionally, a Tractor Tour is available for an additional \$5.00 per person.

If you wish to participate and need a ride we can arrange for some to meet at the church at 9:30 am. This outing is being coordinated by Hope A. and Dart R. Please RSVP, so we can plan accordingly.

Member News

The Rev. Ed (Edward) Hoffman, a retired United Methodist Pastor who was affiliated with PB UMC, joined the Saints in Glory on February 19. Rev. Hoffman is survived by his spouse, Patricia, and their children: Stephen, Karen, John, David, and Anna.

A memorial service is currently being planned for late April.

Condolences may be sent to: The Hoffman Family, 4553 Lucille Dr, San Diego, CA 92115.

The *Beach Breeze* is a monthly publication of the Pacific Beach United Methodist Church. Please visit our website at www.myPBchurch.org.

We Grow in Grace & Faith

April Youth Ministry Activities

For more information about youth Ministries events or program in general, please contact Dee Baraw: deeb@pbumc.org.

Sunday, April 7

Dee will be out of town to celebrate her father's 80th birthday. Older Elementary students may go to the younger Sunday School. Middle and High School students should stay in worship.

Sunday, April 14 Palm Sunday

UMYF time TBA, due to Confirmation class.

Sunday, April 21 Happy Easter

Let Dee know if you are able to help with fundraiser breakfast and/or Easter Egg Hunt.

Sunday, April 28

We will have Sunday School, but no UMYF that day.

Sunday School News

by Malea Sandstrom

Some encouraging words for families from Emily Carrington:

Every Sunday families face the monumental challenge of getting out the door and to the service on time. In our house the baby always needs something right as it is time to leave. Some mornings we stop to address her needs, and we are late to church. Other mornings we come rolling in with a crying, needy, baby. Either way, we are not part of corporate worship in the ways we used to be.

It is easy to find excuses to stay home, but even on the most stressful mornings it is important that Christian parents haul their families to church, even if we just feel like we are going through the motions. Children see what we do and, as my pastor reminds us regularly, they love what we love. The regular struggle to attend regular worship reinforces to our children that church is a priority.

Notes of Thanks

"Offering" for church from
Joseph - a guest on Wednesday
night
Asks for prayers for Miss Hazel

Donation from Bob Brady
"I eat here every week and I get a lot
of food. I have had a good week.
It's the least I can do."



Other news: The Sandstrom twins, Erik and Noah, will try again to get baptized at PB UMC on April 14th at the 10:30 am service. Parents Dennis & Kristin, Grandmother Malea Sandstrom, and Great Grandfather Harrell H. are very excited!

Serving Our Wednesday Guests

Nancy E. started the successful book collection for our Wednesday night guests. Recently, Nancy added magazines to the book collection. Several guests were extremely pleased, and Nancy asks that others from our congregation contribute magazines. Popular magazines include *AARP* and *TIME*.

We Reach Out to Others

Stephen Ministry

Thank you to those that attended the information session about Stephen Ministry on Sunday, March 17. We went over what Stephen Ministry is, how it can be used in our church, and how to get involved. If you missed the meeting and would like to see the recording, please let me know. Also, we are currently reviewing applications for Stephen Ministers. If you believe that you may have the calling to offer support to others during time of need, please contact me for the application. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for Stephen Ministry at PB UMC.

Jesse Hodge
Stephen Ministry Lead
JesseH@pbumc.org



Let's Walk Together to Raise Awareness and Donations Towards Fighting Hunger in San Diego!

Every year, walkers come together bringing friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers to support the fight against hunger in San Diego County. In 2018 CCSA provided food, clothing, and other services to over 30,000 low income and homeless individuals and families.

Bring the special people in your life to this year's walk at 8:00 am, on Saturday, April 27th, at Crown Point in Mission Bay. It's a fun and exciting way to support a great local cause, and meet like-minded people in our community. This is a low-stress, flat-path, scenic walk along Mission Bay. All are Welcome!

Please go to <http://www.ccsasandiego.org/special-events/hunger-walk> for more information and registration

Grace & Dine Lunch Bunch

Everyone is welcome for lunch after second service, about noon, on Sunday, April 14, 2019, at Swami's Café, 3924 W. Point Loma Blvd, San Diego CA 92110, phone: 619-222-6600. It's a straight shot down Ingraham, 3.3 miles south of the church, on the right. Please let us know you're coming so we can get a big enough table.

Contact the church office, Hope A, or Marcia M. to reserve a place.



Circle of Support

February 2019 Record of Generosity

	Budget*	Actual
February giving	\$21,456	\$20,795
February other sources of income	\$12,847	\$6,732
February total available for ministry	\$34,303	\$27,527
February expended in ministry	\$34,624	\$35,778
February income minus expenses	(\$321)	(\$8,251)
YTD giving	\$42,912	\$40,922
YTD other sources of income	\$22,501	\$12,509
YTD total available for ministry	\$65,413	\$53,431
YTD expended in ministry	\$69,248	\$68,262
YTD income minus expenses	(\$3,835)	(\$14,831)
Year 2019 budget	\$415,890	

Sharing the Grace of God in Worship

Mar 3 – 164 persons
Mar 10 – 112 persons
Mar 17 – 120 persons
Mar 24 – 130 persons

Avg. Weekly (2019) – 132 persons

Joined at Christ's Table on Wednesday Nights

Feb 27 – 187 persons
Mar 6 – 155 persons
Mar 13 – 171 persons
Mar 20 – 160 persons

Reflections From the Finance & Stewardship Team

Administrative Council approved our 2019 budget, so it's now official. Our deficit in the first two months of the year is driven by reduced rental income and renovation expenses at our rental properties, combined with below budget giving for Project Grace. Meanwhile, giving income is generous for this part of the year. We've received a substantial bequest from Steve Frank and Russ Gooden via Steve's estate. We have Project Grace money coming in, and the rental issue is temporary, so we have confidence in the coming financial year.

Thank you, God's people!



April Communion Offering: Summer Camps and Sierra Service Project

This month's Communion Offering will support scholarships for two ministries available to our children and youth. Youth summer camps and Sierra Service Project (SSP) are specific environments tailored to the spiritual formation of young persons at critical points in their faith journeys.

A scripture-based curriculum is the framework at age-level summer camps that guides leaders, children, and youth into a lifelong exploration of faith and experiences of God in Jesus Christ.

Sierra Service Project is a Christian non-profit organization that works with Middle School and High School youth to experience the power of serving people with a culture and background different from their own.

CHURCH STAFF:

Lead Pastor: The Rev Bob Rhodes
Sojourning Pastor: The Rev Christopher Carter, PhD
Office Administrator: Aimee Kay

Music Director: Ron Jessee
Sunday School Coordinator: Malea Sandstrom
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Dee Baraw

Calendar of Events

Worship Times:

9:00 am, Worship Celebration

10:30 am, Worship Celebration

Sunday Music Rehearsals:
8 am, Voices of Praise
(Adults & Youth)
10 am, Grace Notes



Week 1

Mon, Apr 1 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Wed, Apr 3 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Apr 4 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Fri, Apr 5 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Apr 6 9:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters
Intefaitsh Shelter Guests Depart
10:00 am, Ladies' Group Event (p.3)

Week 2

Sun, Apr 7 Worship and Communion
Mon, Apr 8 5:30 pm, Scripture & Sermon Study
6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Apr 9 6:00 pm, Staff - Parish meeting
6:30 pm, Trustee meeting
Wed, Apr 10 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Apr 11 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Fri, Apr 12 7:30 pm, Narc Anon



Week 3

Sun, Apr 14 Palm Sunday
Worship and Communion
10:30 Service—Sandstrom Baptism (p.4)
Noon, Lunch Bunch (p.5)
UMYF, Time TBA (p.4)
Mon, Apr 15 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
6:30 pm, Finance Committee
Wed, Apr 17 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Apr 18 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Fri, Apr 19 Good Friday
5:00 pm, Prayer Stations (p.1)
7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Apr 20 9:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters



Week 4

Sun, Apr 21 Easter
6:00 am, Sunrise Service (p.1)
7:30 am, Breakfast-Fundraiser (p.1)
Worship and Communion
10:00 am, Egg Hunt (p.1)
Mon, Apr 22 May Beach Breeze Deadline
5:30 pm, Scripture & Sermon Study
6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Wed, Apr 24 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministry
Thurs, Apr 25 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Fri, Apr 26 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Apr 27 8:00 am, CCSA Hunger Walk (p.5)

Week 5

Sun, Apr 28 Worship
Youth Sunday School (p.4)
Mon, Apr 29 6:00 pm, Al-Anon

We Love and Worship God

April Scriptures

Series: "Jesus Christ Superstar"?

April 7, 2019

"I Only Want to Say" Matthew 26:36-46

April 14, 2019

"King Herod's Song" Luke 23:7-11

April 21, 2019

"Superstar" Luke 24:1-12

April 28, 2019

Acts 5:27-32;
Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church



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San Diego, CA 92109

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Meet Mark B., Our Computer Specialist

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

I recently got a chance to talk to Mark, and learned a lot about what he does for our church computer systems.

He told me he started coming to PB UMC in 1997. "I've gone to church all my life. I was attending a larger church but was concerned about limited opportunities for single and gay people. Their pastor suggested I try PB UMC because Pastor April was doing good work with the gay community. After a couple of visits, I started coming regularly. I really appreciated that everyone has a place here. Gay or straight is not an issue. It's about how you want to be involved."

I've known Mark ever since I started coming here 5 years ago, but recently I've noticed he is very active. He told me, "I'm a self-employed computer consultant, so it was natural for me to offer some of those skills to the church. I set up our first website in 2000. At the time, there was one computer with a dial-up modem in the office. In 2002, the Trustees took a leap of faith to make a major investment in network and computer infrastructure. As part of that project, I strung about 4000 feet of network and phone cables around the church, connecting the sanctuary, social hall, Lanai, and most rooms in the admin building. This all started as pro bono work, but as technology use at the church continued to expand, the Trustees agreed in 2009 to bring me on as an official contractor. We're now up to ten computers plus a server. It amazes me how much technology there is in a modest-sized church!"

Mark added, "This church means a lot to me beyond my work with technology. I appreciate the church for its diversity and inclusion of LGBT people. I like that we practice *thoughtful* Christianity, that we are encouraged to question and grow in our understanding of faith and in how we live."

We are very happy Mark B. found our church and certainly appreciate all the work he does to maintain our computer systems.

