



Pacific Beach
United Methodist Church

BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

December 2019

Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent



Advent Kick-Off, December 1st

Joyfully join us for Crafts, a Potluck, and Caroling at our fifth annual Advent Kickoff on Sunday, December 1, 2019, beginning at 4:00 pm. This year, we will have to give a break to our beloved tree, which needs time to heal, so we will be lighting up the season in another way, but we will sure have lots of love, light, and joy to share with all. If you have questions, please get in touch with Beth R. at bethr@pbumc.org or youth director Erich S. at youth@pbumc.org.

"A Baby Changes Everything," a Christmas Musical, December 15th

Join us on Sunday, December 15th, at the 9:00 am or 10:30 am service, or the evening presentation at 6:00 pm, for our Annual Christmas Musical. The production is directed by Ron Jessee. No tickets or RSVPs are needed for the three shows. Seating is first-come, first-served. A freewill offering will be taken at the service. Invite your family and friends. Please arrive early for seating and parking. Overflow parking is available at U.S. Bank, 1606 Grand Avenue, at the corner of Ingraham and Grand.

Project Grace Christmas Dinner, Wednesday, December 18th

Our annual Christmas Dinner – a special offering of our regular SD Project Grace – will be held on December 18th. Chef Ben will prepare a traditional Ham dinner with all of the fixings. If you would like to help sponsor this dinner, you can sign up with Chef Ben to donate one or more hams, or make a donation to help cover the cost of the dinner. This is a great chance for you and your family to help bring Christmas to our neighbors in need by volunteering to help serve the meal or simply sitting and chatting with our guests.

Socks & Stamps Drive

Once again, we will be collecting new men's and women's socks & US postage stamps for our unhoused community members. We especially need crew socks for men. We provide holiday cards, stamps, and new socks at our Project Grace Christmas Dinner so our friends can connect with loved ones, and feel safe and warm. Please bring sock donations to the "Socks Drive" collection box in the narthex by **December 15**. Checks, cash, and stamp donations can be delivered to Kathleen M. or Su-Yen K. (suyenk@pbumc.org).

Christmas Eve Worship, Tuesday, December 24th

There will be three worship services on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th, at 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and 11:00 pm. Christmas Eve is a time for the entire family to worship together, so while a family-friendly service will be presented at 5:00 pm, plan on the entire family being together for every service.

Come, celebrate with a faith community committed to showing Christ-like love!

Pastor Bob's Printed Blog

Dear Friends . . .

I confess that I'm breaking the rules as I write this note to you. I am one week into a three week leave, and I have been advised to truly take a break and to focus on self-care. I confess that I find this difficult. I confess my struggling.

My plan over these weeks is to heal. The bronchitis I have been experiencing for several weeks is better, but still stubbornly present. Even so, as I heal from this, I am also working on other practices of self-care. I have been working on creative projects including baking a cheesecake for the first time and attempting to record some music. Neither of these are quite perfect, but both are proving to be life-giving. Another practice is meant to engage my physical self in challenging work.

An area of the backyard at the parsonage has a number of plants in a circle surrounding a half-dead tree. This is a favorite spot for spiders, as well as random balls and other toys that sometimes cross the fence from the neighbor's yard. With the approval of your Board of Trustees, my plan is to remove these plants (and random playthings) and build a small fire pit out of concrete pavers. This will hopefully be a place to enjoy a campfire-like atmosphere in our beautiful San Diego climate.



In other periods of my life, I have found great spiritual joy in building or refurbishing. This has been lived out primarily in camp settings, work team projects, Habitat for Humanity, and even a brief experience with Sierra Service Project. As I began the initial steps of clearing the way for the fire pit, I found myself remembering these times and enjoying the manual labor.

With just the first quarter of the surrounding greenery removed, I was struck by the difficulty. These have grown over the years into a complicated and interwoven system of roots. It took quite a bit of effort to shovel and hack and pull free these first few plants, and I am under no illusion that the work will get easier.

Note: After the first half-hour of work, I had to go and sit down. In the 80-degree heat and with the clinging bronchitis, I was feeling light-headed and weak. Yes, I'm sure it's just the bronchitis and surely not age or fitness.

On the second day, I found myself surprised. The work was just as difficult, though a bit more efficient with the previous day's experience and a better understanding of the plants and roots so deeply intertwined. Just as I was asking myself theological questions about the taking of life by removing these plants, I came across a small purple bloom. It wasn't part of the growth that I was removing, but was something completely different and completely new. In the middle of asking myself about endings, here was a new thing.



As a congregation, we are faced with the good work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This has grown complex for us at PB UMC as we endure change. Some are concerned that the decline we face is because of changes that I have put into place, and that may be true. Even so, change has been taking place as our attendance numbers indicate decline beginning as long as seven years ago. Perhaps we must explore the work to be done together. Perhaps we must evaluate the change already in our midst and our response. Perhaps each of us must evaluate our individual roles in all that we face as a congregation. Perhaps we must ask if we are "all in" as we heard during our Stewardship series.

Friends, the church is changing all around us. From denominational questions to the rapid decline of church attendance around the country, we face hard work. There are deep roots interwoven around structures and systems that must be examined. In doing so, we may find it necessary to cast aside some of what has been our tradition. In doing so, we may find continued difficulty in discerning where God is calling the church to go next. And in doing so, let us seek out the surprising new things that sprout in unexpected places and in unexpected ways.

See, God is doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do we not perceive it? (*paraphrase of Isaiah 43:19a*)



Pastor Bob

We Care for One Another

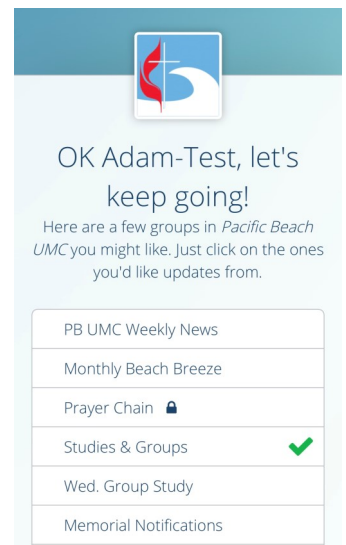
Advent Small Group

by Adam M.-L.

Advent is upon us! This year our small groups will follow along with Pastor Bob's sermon series on Amy Jill Levine's book, *Light of the World*. Our Pacific Beach bi-weekly Monday group will meet on December 9th and 23rd at 5:30 pm. Contact Mary Margaret for more information. We will also have a weekly Sunday group, meeting at 5:00 pm in the Narthex. Contact Adam for more information.

Small groups are about more than just studying various topics and subjects. Small groups are a way for us to strengthen the bonds of community, to learn from each other, and to grow together as the body of Christ.

Be sure to sign up for the "Studies & Groups" area of flocknote as new small group opportunities launch in 2020. You can sign up and edit your Flocknote settings by texting PBUMC to 84576, or logging in at www.flocknote.com/pbumc.



Christmas Boutique

by JoAnne A.

Please do your Christmas Shopping at our Christmas Boutique on Sunday, December 1, from 8:30 am to noon in our social hall. You'll have a wide variety of prefect gifts from which to choose.

December Office Hours

The Church office will be closed from Wednesday, December 25, through Wednesday, January 1. The office will re-open on Thursday, January 2nd. The phones and email will be monitored during that time, so if you have an emergency, please do feel free to contact the office by either of these means.

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

Caroling, Caroling

Once again, we have the opportunity give the gift of Christmas to our neighbors by spreading the Joy through caroling in our community on Sunday, December 22nd from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Gather in the church parking lot with others who will enjoy the fellowship organized by our “youthies” and our new Youth Ministry Coordinator Erich Schmitt.

Watch for our flyers at church, on Flocknote, and the church website. For more information, get in touch with Erich, youth@pbumc.org.



Children's Choir

Children's Choir will sing for the congregation both services on Sunday December 8th.

Practice is held on Sundays between services, from 10:00 am until 10:20 am.

If you have any questions, please contact Jesse . at jesseh@pbumc.org or Joseph P. at josephp@pbumc.org.

A Baby Changes Everything

Created by Deborah Craig-Claar & David T. Clydesdale

The 2019 special PB UMC musical will be presented Sunday, December 15th, at the 9:00 am and 10:30 am worship services, and again at 6:00 pm.

The production, “A Baby Changes Everything,” is a concert presentation, with dramatic readings by the Voices of Praise and Acts of Faith Players.

This dramatic musical tells the story of three individuals in the tiny village of Bethlehem. Initially turning away from the promised Messiah, the trio almost sleeps through the first Christmas night, until they are awakened in time to experience the life-changing miracle in a manger. “A Baby Changes Everything” brings the biblical Christmas story into a bold and unique contemporary focus.

Share the joy of Christmas with family, friends, and neighbors at this inspiring presentation!



We Reach Out to Others

Interfaith Shelter Network and PB UMC 2020

by Kenneth J. B.

This is the 34th season of hosting Interfaith Shelter Network guests here at Pacific Beach UMC. In this program more than 200 homeless men, women, and children in San Diego receive shelter and other services for a two week period. Our sheltered guests will arrive Saturday, March 21st, to officially launch the start of the two weeks here at PB UMC. Each of the guests in the Interfaith Shelter Network is pre-screened and receives additional case management support as they endeavor to get their lives on more solid footing. Our guests will be at the church from 5:00 pm in the evening to 7:00 am next morning, each day during their two-week stay. They will sleep at the church and shower at the church. They will eat their breakfasts and dinners at the church. Carrying a healthy sack lunch, each guest leaves during the day for work, job hunting, to go to school, or for Sunday worship services.

For nearly 35 years the PB UMC ministries, in collaboration with the Interfaith Shelter Network and other organizations, have helped provide some immediate survival demands for adequate food and health service needs. The continuance of this service tradition at PB UMC is achieved with the contributions of its members and friends who generously donate their talents, gifts, and services. The volunteer recruitment will begin in the month of *January* with sign-up sheets located in the church narthex after each worship service. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities, but the most critical needs are overnight supervisors, dinner hosts, lunch hosts, set-up volunteers on March 21st (including luggage and cots pick-up), and clean-up April 4th (shelter break-down and washing bed linens).

During the month of *February* donation boxes will be available in the narthex to collect personal care items such as deodorant, hand and body lotion (travel size), gloves, socks, soap, toothpaste and brushes, feminine hygiene items, razors, and shampoo and conditioners for our guests. Along with my fellow coordinators, Betty and Ray, we thank you for your support and service. Together, we are looking forward to hosting and displaying our genuine PB UMC hospitality in welcoming guests.

For questions and inquiries please contact Ken B. at 619-251-5987 or email: KenB@pbumc.org. Please Include "PB UMC Interfaith Shelter" in the subject line when sending an email.

Stephen Ministry

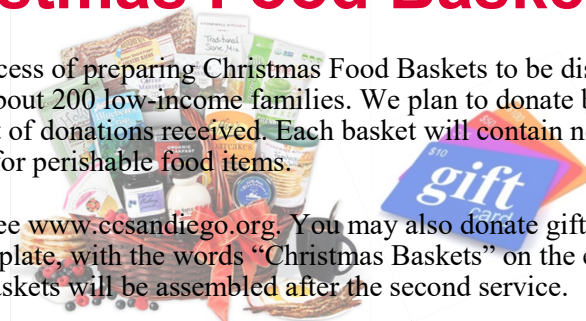
Our first Stephen Ministry training will begin on Sunday, January 5, 2020, from 10:30 to 11:30 am. There is still time to discuss becoming a Stephen Minister and join this training. Please contact Jesse H. at jesseh@pbumc.org for more information.



Christmas Food Baskets

Pacific Beach UMC is in the process of preparing Christmas Food Baskets to be distributed by Community Christian Services Agency to about 200 low-income families. We plan to donate baskets for seven families, and more, depending on the amount of donations received. Each basket will contain non-perishable food items, plus a \$35.00 Target or Walmart gift card for perishable food items.

For a list of recommended groceries see www.ccsandiego.org. You may also donate gift cards to Pam R. or Hope A. or offer cash in the Sunday collection plate, with the words "Christmas Baskets" on the envelope. The deadline for collections is Sunday, Dec. 8th. The baskets will be assembled after the second service.



Circle of Support

October 2019 Record of Generosity

	Budget	Actual
October giving	\$21,456	\$13,355
October other sources of income	\$9,205	\$7,909
October total available for ministry	\$30,661	\$21,264
October expended in ministry	\$33,791	\$27,776
October income minus expenses	(\$3,130)	(\$6,512)
YTD giving	\$214,559	\$174,991
YTD other sources of income	\$125,260	\$120,415
YTD total available for ministry	\$339,819	\$295,406
YTD expended in ministry	\$348,308	\$329,651
YTD income minus expenses	(\$8,489)	(\$34,245)
Year 2019 budget	\$415,890	

Sharing the Grace of God in Worship

Oct 27 – 123 persons
Nov 3 – 108 persons
Nov 10 – 107 persons
Nov 17 – 112 persons

Avg. Weekly (2019) – 112 persons

Reflections From the Finance & Stewardship Team

We continue to hold expenses below budget, while our giving income declines. You may have heard about the fire at the house we own on Reed Ave. We have preliminary assurance that the church will be compensated for lost rental income while the house is renovated or otherwise dealt with.

We received a generous donation to Shoreline Community Services, which will assure that all Project Grace expenses this year (including a needed refrigerator) will be covered by designated income. Thank you to our anonymous angel!

Joined at Christ's Table on Wednesday Nights

Oct 23 – 170 persons
Oct 30 – 212 persons
Nov 6 – 136 persons
Nov 13 – 160 persons
Nov 20 – 170 persons
(Thanksgiving Dinner)



December Communion Offering: UM Student Day

United Methodist Student Day is one of six churchwide Special Sundays. United Methodist Student Day calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The special offering provides scholarships for qualified United Methodist applicants. When you support United Methodist Student Day, you make it possible for more students to serve the world God loves. What no one person or congregation can do alone, we're doing together.

CHURCH STAFF:

Lead Pastor: The Rev Bob Rhodes
Sojourning Pastor: The Rev Christopher Carter, PhD
Office Administrator: Lynn Nguyen

Music Director: Ron Jessee
Sunday School Coordinator: Malea Sandstrom
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Erich Schmitt

Calendar of Events

Worship Times:
9:00 am, Traditional Worship
10:30 am, Contemporary Worship

Sunday Music Rehearsals:
8 am, Voices of Praise (Adults & Youth)
10 am, Children's Choir

Week 1

Sun, Dec 1 Worship and Communion
 10:00 am, Children's Choir (p.4)
 8:30 am-noon, Christmas Boutique (p.3)
 4:00 pm, Advent Kick-Off and Potluck (p.1)
 5:00 pm, Advent Small Group (p.3)
 Mon, Dec 2 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
 Wed, Dec 4 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
 5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
 Thurs, Dec 5 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
 Fri, Dec 6 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
 Sat, Dec 7 9:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters



Our Courtyard Tree
2018



Week 2

Sun, Dec 8 Worship
 Children's Choir at Both Services (p.4)
 Noon, Assemble CCSA Food Baskets (p.5)
 5:00 pm, Advent Small Group (p.3)
 Mon, Dec 9 5:30 pm, Advent Small Group (p.3)
 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
 Tues, Dec 10 6:30 pm, Trustee meeting
 Wed, Dec 11 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
 5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
 Thurs, Dec 12 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
 Fri, Dec 13 7:30 pm, Narc Anon

Week 3

Sun, Dec 15 Worship—"A Baby Changes Everything"
 at Both Services, and at 6:00 pm (p.1,4)
 5:00 pm, Advent Small Group (p.3)
 Mon, Dec 16 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
 6:30 pm, Finance Committee
 Tues, Dec 17 January *Beach Breeze* Deadline
 (Note date change)
 Wed, Dec 18 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
 5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
 Christmas Dinner (p.1)
 Fri, Dec 20 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
 Sat, Dec 21 9:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters

Week 4

Sun, Dec 22 Worship
 10:00 am, Children's Choir (p.4)
 5:00 pm, Advent Small Group (p.3)
 5:00 pm-7:00 pm, Caroling (p.4)
 Mon, Dec 23 5:30 pm, Advent Small Group (p.3)
 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
 Tues, Dec 24 9:00 am, *Beach Breeze* Folding Party
 Christmas Eve Worship
 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and 11:00 pm. (p.1)
 Wed, Dec 25 Christmas Day — Church Office Closed
 for Christmas Break until January 2, 2020
 5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries
 Bruce Trumbo hosting
 Fri, Dec 27 7:30 pm, Narc Anon

Week 5

Sun, Dec 29 Worship
 10:00 am, Children's Choir (p.4)
 5:00 pm, Advent Small Group (p.3)
 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
 Mon, Dec 30 New Year's Eve
 Tues, Dec 31 New Year's Eve



We Love and Worship God

December Scriptures

**Series: "Light of the World:
A Beginner's Guide to Advent"**

- Dec 1, 2019** "The Meaning of Memory"
Luke 1:68-79
- Dec 8, 2019** "The Promise of Potential"
Luke 1:26-56
- Dec 15, 2019** "A Baby Changes Everything"
Christmas Musical
- Dec 22, 2019** "The Journey of Joy"
Luke 2:22-40
- Dec 24, 2019** "The Gift of the Gentiles"
Matthew 1:18-2:15

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church



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Meet Our New Youth Ministries Coordinator: Erich Schmitt

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

I got the opportunity to meet our new Youth Ministries Coordinator, Erich Schmitt, on his first official day at work at PB UMC. He told me he has 10 years of experience working with youth ministry. He has volunteered as Youth Leader at Foothills UMC for about 9 years. "A lot of what I've learned came from camp, working with youth in various capacities, especially when I was camp counselor to them."

When I asked him about his future at PB UMC, he told me, "I am very excited to learn and grow with the youth. I am here to facilitate, and to direct the youth in a way that they will own the effort. That's for them to own, not me. One of the first things I want to do is to help them create identities where they'll collaborate with each other, knowing what is important to them both inside and outside the church. I think I was fortunate to have a good mentor when I was young, and that's where I got my energy to work with youth. I think we need to put more energy in our youth."

He told me pi (3.14159) is meaningful to him and his fiancé, Amanda G. "We plan to get married on Pi Day. That date is important because Amanda has a degree in math, and Pi Day celebrates the mathematical constant pi. Pi Day falls on March 14, since three, one, four are the first three digits of pi. The next three digits are one, five, nine. I made our relationship official on March 14 at 1:59."

When I asked him if there was anything else he'd like to share, he told me, "I think the best advice I can give anyone who wants to work with youth is to meet them where they are, not where you are. It is better to listen first, and you will learn what is important to them. Also, churches have gotten hung up on internal needs, which are important, but we should also meet the needs of the community. I believe this mostly reflects the many ways Jesus did ministry: to go outside the walls and be the church."

I had a lot of fun getting to know Erich and look forward to observing his impact on our youth. For more about our time together check out the PB UMC website.

