



Pacific Beach
United Methodist Church

BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

April 2020

Holy Week at PB UMC

This season of Lent is surely not what we expected it to be. We continue to wrestle with how best to respond to the COVID-19 virus, and have spent the last several Sundays worshipping online. In this time, we have been exploring the ideas from *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*, by Diana Butler Bass. If there were ever a time that we were in need of resurrection, this is it!

In this time of waiting, we will continue to worship online and will include services that are familiar, and services that are new. Further, we will continue to join in spiritual community with our friends from St. Mark's United Methodist Church.



On Sunday, April 5, we will celebrate **Palm Sunday** with palms, and with familiar hymns during our 9:00 am hour. This is a time that we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, leading directly to his crucifixion and resurrection.

New to PB UMC, we will celebrate **Maundy Thursday** at 6:00 pm on April 9. In Christian tradition, this is a special celebration of Jesus' last supper with his disciples before he went to pray in the garden of Gethsemane.



**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**



Good Friday falls on April 10, when we will LiveStream a traditional Tenebrae service at 6:00 pm that will include scripture and the extinguishing of candles, as we proceed through the story of Jesus' final hours.

Like all of our services during Holy Week, our **Easter** celebration will take place by LiveStream at 9:00 am, and include traditional hymns and a message celebrating resurrection. Even in a time when we wonder when we might be able to worship together in spirit and in community, the online Easter celebration is a time of hope and new life. All are welcome to join in thoughtful reflection, prayer, spiritual community, worship, and celebration.



Pastor Christopher's Update

Greetings PB UMC Family!

I hope that you all are doing well, or as well as possible, during this time of social distancing and sheltering in place. I wanted to send you all a brief update about what is going on with me and where I have been the past several months.

Most of you probably know that I have been working on finishing the revisions for a book I am publishing with the University of Illinois Press, and I am excited to say that I am finally finishing with the major revisions! I had hoped that the book, tentatively titled "The Spirit of Soul Food," would be released in October/November 2020. However, given the current pandemic, I am unsure if *anything* will remain on its original timeline.

To be sure, the outbreak of Covid-19 should help us realize the precarity of the things we take for granted: bread, milk, produce, toilet paper, and our jobs. Some of you may be feeling especially vulnerable right now and are worried about being laid off from your jobs. Please know that I am praying for you and the others who are more acutely suffering from the consequences of a global recession.

Like all USD faculty I have been working from home for the past few weeks, and I am trying to make the best of a difficult situation. I have spoken to my family more the past few weeks than I have in months. I've begun reading for fun (again) rather than just my normal reading to learn about the difficulties of our world. Most especially, I am focusing

on enjoying the additional time that I now have to spend with Isaiah and Gabi, who are adjusting to having me around more often! My hope and my prayer are that you can create the space in your life to find and savor the precious and simple things in life. And in so doing, that you come to a greater awareness of the love that empowers our families, the love of the one who is our true Hope and our true Shelter, our Savior Jesus the Christ.

Blessings,
Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter



Pastor Christopher, Gabi, and Isaiah

We Care for One Another

Thank-You Notes Made Easy



Dear Pastor Bob,

You raised an issue in your sermon on Sunday, March 1, that really touched me: thank you notes. I, too, never received many thank you notes growing up, and had no idea how to write one. I, too, find it an intention that is easy to put off. Gratitude, you remind us, is worth expressing. And you've given me a reason to share with the congregation some cool tips I learned in Toastmasters. Thank you!

In faith,

Hope A.



Friends, have you ever written a note that went something like this?

Dear Aunt Joyce,

Thank you for the hand mixer. It's great. I really appreciate it.

Love,

Hope

Falls flat, doesn't it? The problem with starting a thank-you note with "thank you" is that you've already used up your best words. So it's hard to think of a meaningful next thought to follow that "thank you."

Try instead leading with "you" or "your."

Dear Aunt Joyce,

Your hand mixer is a proud participant so far in two birthday cakes, several batches of popovers, and some wicked whipped cream. We look forward to using it for many years to come. Thank you!

Love,

Hope



When you start with the giver first, your focus shifts in a way that, in my experience, makes it much easier to imagine something the giver would love to hear about their gift. Give it a try!

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

Sunday School News

by Malea Sandstrom

I really miss seeing all my Sunday School friends on Sunday morning! I hope you all are staying healthy and enjoying the extra family time. I am sending out the Sunday School lessons to families. If you are not receiving them and would like to, please contact me. If the children are missing the silly videos we watch, look up “Whirl Lectionary” on YouTube, there are a few there. I also like the “Kidmo” Bible story videos.

A great big THANK YOU to Kathy W.! She is making new curtains for all the downstairs rooms, including the Sunday School room and nursery. You all will have to check them out when they are done. She is even doing something special with the old curtains (which she also made). Surprise, surprise!

April Youth Ministry Activities

by Erich Schmitt

We are in crazy times right now, and we are clearly seeing an abundance of growth in church ministry. Many of our activities and events are happening virtually, so to keep updated with everything going on, visit the **Children and Youth** page on the **PB UMC Website**. There are many digital communities being led by amazing district leaders, such as myself, who are providing opportunities to engage. Check it out.

April Communion Offering **Summer Camp 2020**

Through its scholarship program, PB UMC helps young people participate in camping programs at Camp Cedar Glen during June and July each summer. The camps, developed with United Methodists in mind, are specially designed for Elementary, Junior High, and Senior High students. Each small group program allows campers to grow in interpersonal skills while engaging in nature and strengthening their faith. Your contributions help support this unique experience for youth.

To support our monthly Communion Offering, visit pbumc.org/give and designate “Communion Offering,” or mail your check to the church office.



Project Grace

by Hope A.

At this writing, PB UMC plans to continue to serve takeout meals to the Wednesday night Project Grace guests. So will most of the other churches that offer meals in Pacific Beach. The medical, acupuncture, and dental clinics are not operating onsite. We will, of course, follow all guidance from the County Health Department and the State of California.

Shoreline Community Services, the nonprofit that was set up five years ago to support Project Grace, has a new team of board members. What fortuitous timing this is. The new board members are active in the PB homeless community, and give us needed expertise and contacts to help manage the virus crisis. Caryn B., founder of PB Street Guardians, joined the board as co-chair alongside Craig R.. Caryn has recruited other PB Street Guardians.

We all have a huge heart to support the activities of the Pacific Beach churches that provide homeless meals and services. Shoreline will engage in a visioning process to determine our goals and how to reach them. We'll have more news for you soon.

We Reach Out to Others

Where We Are in Our Visioning Process

by Hope A.

It seems strange to plan for church-as-usual while our lives are disrupted by social distancing. The VUE (Visioning, Uniting, Expanding) committee met online March 16, 2020, to consider how and when to present the results of our congregational assessment survey conducted in November 2019.

We are thrilled with the participation rates of the survey, noting that 90% of respondents took the time to answer every question. Thank you!

Our original plan was to present the major themes and opportunities to sign up for involvement at a series of live coffee hours between worship services. Needless to say, the live part is on hold.

Instead, for now, we will make available online the full results of the survey for those who have the time and inclination to read through them while the world is on pause. Please contact the church office for information on how to access the survey results. Think of these survey results as a bookmark for the future, a manifestation of the Spirit moving in our midst. We look forward to moving forward after the threat of coronavirus is lifted.

Church Council News

by Hope A.

Our new combined Administrative Council, consisting of Trustees, Finance, and Staff-Parish Relations teams, met online March 10, 2020. The next Church Council meeting will be held April 14, 2020, at 6:30 pm, probably on Zoom. If you want to join us please notify the pastor in advance. Here are some updates from the teams.

Finance

The Church Council has approved the 2020 budget. It includes a deficit balance though we had hoped to see a way to make it up.

Terre F., one of our church council members and a recently retired CPA, is helping us get caught up on QuickBooks and has already provided valuable counsel to the treasurer.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

by Patty R.

All church employees have been informed that, as approved by the Church Council, they will be compensated for time lost due to the coronavirus.

Thank you to the nursery workers who worked until Sunday, March 22, when church worship had to be changed to LiveStream. Anastasia B. has resigned as a nursery worker. Starting the last week in February, Catherine T. kindly substituted for her. SPRC was looking for one more nursery worker when Amberlyn R. was forced to come back home due to the coronavirus-induced closing of her college. She will be working in the nursery until the fall, when we expect in-person worship services will have resumed. We will continue to advertise the nursery position for the fall.

Staff members are going to the church only for essential activities. We are grateful for their service and pray for their health and safety.

Trustees

Demolition for the Reed Avenue fire damaged property has been in full swing, and construction is expected to start soon. Absent delays due to coronavirus, construction is projected to be completed at the end of 2020. Several facility requests have been approved, but are now likely on hold. A home inspection for the parsonage is due, and we discussed purchase of a home service warranty for the parsonage as well as the rebuilt Reed Avenue property.

Circle of Support

February 2020 Record of Generosity

<i>Excluding extraordinary items*</i>	Budget	Estimated
February giving	\$18,800	\$15,909
February other sources of income	\$11,800	\$6,057
February total available for ministry	\$30,600	\$21,966
February expended in ministry	\$32,426	\$41,823
February income minus expenses	(\$1,826)	(\$19,857)
YTD giving	\$37,600	\$29,534
YTD other sources of income	\$21,782	\$11,012
YTD total available for ministry	\$59,382	\$40,546
YTD expended in ministry	\$64,852	\$68,404
YTD income minus expenses	(\$5,469)	(\$27,858)
Year 2020 budget	\$386,129	

* Fire and fraud in 2019, covered by insurance.

Sharing the Grace of God in Worship

Feb 23—118 persons
Mar 1—117 persons
Mar 8—111 persons
Mar 15—71 persons (LiveStream)
Mar 22—219 persons (LiveStream)

Joined at Christ's Table on Wednesday Nights

Feb 26—175 persons
Mar 4—176 persons
Mar 11—175 persons
Mar 18—105 persons
Mar 25—105 persons

Reflections And Reassurance From the Finance Team

Although we are concerned about income as a longer term issue, the church has plenty of cash to ride out our financial needs during the coronavirus crisis. The funds that are set aside for our Labor of Love capital project are already at US Bank in a money market account with a favorable promotional interest rate.

Please continue your giving online or by mail, as you are able. If you are unable to keep up with your pledges, it would be helpful to notify our financial secretary, Linda A.



Summer Camp is Coming!

The Cal-Pac Summer Camp schedule for Camp Cedar Glen is set, and the anticipated dates and prices are:

Younger Elementary Camp (grades 2-3)	June 28-July 1, 2020	\$230
Older Elementary Camp (grades 3-6)	June 28-July 3, 2020	\$450
Junior High Camp (grades 6-9)	July 5-11, 2020	\$450
Senior High Camp (grades 9-12)	July 12-18, 2020	\$450

PB UMC assists families with 50% of the cost of camps. If further assistance is needed please contact Erich, or Pastor Bob. Go to www.calpacumc.org/summercamp for more information or to register.

CHURCH STAFF:

Lead Pastor: The Rev Bob Rhodes
Sojourning Pastor: The Rev Christopher Carter, PhD
Office Administrator: Ivey Merrill

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

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, Children's Choir

Week 1

Wed, Apr 1 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace

Week 2

Sun, Apr 5 Palm Sunday
9:00 am, LiveStream Worship



Wed, Apr 8 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Apr. 9 6:00 pm, Maundy Thursday
LiveStream Worship celebration



Fri, Apr 10 Good Friday
6:00 pm, LiveStream Tenebrae Service



Week 4

Sun, Apr 19 Worship
9:00 am, LiveStream
Mon, Apr 20 May *Beach Breeze* Deadline
Wed, Apr 22 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries

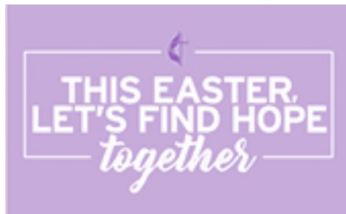


Preparing Take-Out Meals for
Project Grace, March 26, 2020

Photo by Pastor Bob Rhodes

Week 3

Sun, Apr 12 Easter
9:00 am, LiveStream Worship



Tues, Apr 14 6:30 pm, Church Council Meeting Online
Wed, Apr 15 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace

Week 5

Sun, Apr 26 Worship
9:00 am, LiveStream
Mon, Apr 27 5:30 pm, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
Tues, Apr 28 9:00 am, *Beach Breeze* Assembly
Wed, Apr 29 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace

We Love and Worship God

April Scriptures

Series: "Grateful"

Apr 5, 2020 Palm Sunday
"Table Memory" Matthew 21, 1-11;
John 13 1-17, 31b-35

Apr 12, 2020 Easter Sunday
John 20, 1-18

For the latest Sunday sermon titles and scriptures, sign up to get weekly Thursday postings at www.pbumc.org/news.

Apr 19, 2020 Bright Sunday

Apr 26, 2020

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church



1561 Thomas Avenue
San Diego, CA 92109

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
* PAID *
San Diego, CA
Permit No. 174

Small Groups at PB UMC

by Adam M.-L.

Our spring small group will feature the Reverend Michael Dowd in an 8-week video series on Religion and Science. Rev. Dowd published several books and gave a compelling TEDx talk, having devoted his ministry to reconciling the intersections of science and faith. The group will be open to both Pacific Beach and St. Mark's, and meet online via Zoom. Please email AdamM@pbumc.org to sign up for scheduling this exciting web series.



Wednesday Mid-Day Bible Study

The ongoing mid-day Bible study group, originally titled "Scripture & Sermon Study," continues online at this time. Additional participants are most welcome. If you would like to take part, get in touch with the church office, then join us at 11:30 am each Wednesday for enthusiastic study, interpretation, and sharing of ideas.