



# BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

May 2020

## ***Pastor Bob's Printed Blog***

Dear friends...

**I**t seems as though it has been a long time since I have written to you in this format. Our monthly newsletter (and our website, knowing that some connect with PB UMC in this way) are our primary modes of communication, especially because we are no longer able to gather in person.

Yes, it was in mid-February the last time I wrote for our newsletter/website; and *so much* has taken place since then.

I am often mystified at how the Spirit speaks to us in prescient ways, and yet some of what I noted back in February (and published in the March edition of the Beach Breeze) can be read with renewed vision today.

*I believe that connection and community are a critical part of our faith... What more can we do together? How can we grow in our faith and discipleship, in our presence in—and service to—the Pacific Beach community? How can we look even beyond our own congregation toward cooperation and collaboration with other churches to do new things in new ways and reach new people?*

*It can feel easy to isolate ourselves out of fear rather than to allow our loved ones and our faith community to see and acknowledge our authentic selves; but by courageously opening our hearts, I believe we find new strength and new hope. In the same way, it can feel easy for churches to separate our congregations into silos rather than to cooperate and collaborate in fresh expressions of faith; but in doing so, I believe we can find new strength and new hope.*

It is after having written this that we found ourselves unable to worship in person together. In this realization, we invited the community of St. Mark's UMC to join us. Based on feedback from a number of PB and St. Mark's members, we are enjoying this

time of worship together as congregations in our connectional system.

A difficulty of our connectional system is that sometimes our pastors are moved to other congregations. I would be ignoring the “elephant in the room” if I did not address this here. If you had not already heard or seen the announcements read in Worship on April 5<sup>th</sup> and April 19<sup>th</sup> and distributed by email on those same dates, it is Bishop Hagiya's intention to appoint me as the Lead Pastor of La Jolla UMC as of July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. This will also be a time of welcome as PB UMC welcomes Rev. Lori Leopold as the new Lead Pastor for this congregation.

Several questions have been asked about this transition that I would like to address here. A number of PB UMC members have expressed wonder and even frustration that an appointment change can come at a time like this. It is true that this timing is incredibly difficult. Even so, the La Jolla congregation's Lead Pastor is retiring and they would be left with a gap in leadership unless someone were appointed to take on that role. The opening at La Jolla has been public for some time, and any pastor in our Annual Conference could have submitted their name for consideration by the Bishop and the Cabinet. I did *not* submit my name for this (or any other) position, but know others who did.

I have also heard the rumor that I have been wanting to leave for some time. This is absolutely untrue. I don't know where this came from. Each year before the fall Charge Conference, SPRC committees and pastors are asked their preference in the appointment process. This year—and every year of my tenure at PB UMC—your leadership has asked that I remain with this congregation, and I have asked the same.

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# Meet Our Soon-to-be Pastor, Lori Leopold

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.



**R**ight after it was announced that our new pastor will be Lori Leopold, I got to meet her. We chatted on the phone. Even though it wasn't face-to-face, I really enjoyed getting to know her.

Lori has been a spiritual counselor, or chaplain, for hospices in San Diego the past 16 years. She started at San Diego Hospice & The Institute for Palliative Medicine, then worked at several different hospices in San Diego. Prior to that, she was pastor at San Luis Rey Valley UMC for six years. Before that, she was associate pastor at Garden Grove UMC for two years.

I asked her why she was giving up being a spiritual chaplain and returning to be a pastor. She told me, "There are a couple of reasons. I love being a chaplain, especially the time with patients and families. It is such a unique ministry. But it's also intense in its focus on death and dying. For several years, my heart has been leaning back toward a church setting and being a part of the full life of the community, including the births and the deaths, the beginnings, the endings, and everything in between." Lori also shared that she struggled with whether to stay in the United Methodist Church after last year's special session of the General Conference, when

the church adopted The Traditional Plan. "I was crushed. But it soon became clear to me that I'm called to stay in the United Methodist Church, a church I love, to help it live into being the truly inclusive church we are called to be. This is where I feel I can make a difference."

Lori was born in Pittsburg, but grew up in La Jolla. She told me, "My family moved to La Jolla when I was only one year old. I grew up in the La Jolla UMC, and have attended La Jolla UMC for the past 16 years while serving as a chaplain. I got a BA in English at UC Davis in 1990 and a Master of Divinity, Emory University, from Candler School of Theology in 1993."

Lori's parents, George and Patsy, live in La Jolla. Lori has two sisters, Karen, who lives with husband Beau, in Santee, and Jenny, who lives in Alpharetta, Georgia, with husband Steve and Lori's two nephews, Aidan and Andy. Lori now lives in Oceanside with her two dogs, Sammy and Abby. "We will probably stay there for now, but hope to move closer to Pacific Beach in the next year."

What does she love about being a pastor? "Talking with people and hearing their stories about what they love, what makes them tick, and what they struggle with. I love worship, both the creating and being part of the gathered community. There are lots of things I love about being a pastor. I love small groups and spiritual formation, supporting one another in growing in love and peace and grace. And I love the food and the potlucks." She ended that thought with a big grin on her face (at least I imagined the grin).

I asked if she has anything else she'd like to share with us? "I am so looking forward to being at PB UMC. I have great respect for PB UMC's commitment to diversity and inclusivity, as well as its outreach into the community, including its remarkable ministries with people experiencing homelessness. I am thrilled to be coming to PB UMC and being a part of all that."

Pastor Lori will become our pastor on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, when Pastor Bob moves to La Jolla UMC (the church Pastor Lori now attends). We all are going to miss Pastor Bob, but Pastor Lori is going to bring a new style to our church with her sense of humanity and excellent leadership skills.



# ***We Care for One Another***

## ***Pastor Bob's Printed Blog (Continued)***

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Some have noted that this move was quite sudden. I agree. In my time as a pastor, and previously in church leadership, I have never seen an appointment take place as quickly as this. I am not privy to the conversations that take place between the Bishop and the Superintendents, so I cannot say why this is the case here.

Finally, dear friends, I want to seek out God's light in this difficulty, and in doing so I see two rays of hope. First is that I think Rev. Lori could be exactly the right pastor for PB UMC in this time. While it is absolutely untrue that I have been wanting to leave, I have felt discouraged that we have continued to experience a decline in worship attendance over these past several years. I have privately wondered if another leader might be a better fit for the needs of PB UMC than what I have been able to bring. Perhaps this congregation needs an ear when I am an eye; perhaps this congregation needs a hand when I am a foot. (See 1 Corinthians 12.)

Another hopeful possibility may be found in the strategic vision of ongoing collaboration between congregations. We have been

worshiping with St. Mark's UMC, who will be receiving Rev. Darin Arntson as their new pastor on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a familiar name to many of us as Rev. Darin has a connection with PB UMC. Some members of PB are already familiar with Rev. Lori because she is deeply connected with the La Jolla UMC congregation. With my move to La Jolla, what possibilities might we envision between our three congregations? Yes, each of us will need to connect specifically and intentionally with the churches to which we are appointed. This is necessary. So what new ways of being in ministry can be dreamed as we build relationships?

Friends, everything has changed and is changing. I believe the Spirit is alive and at work in this time. May we be guided to love and relationship.



Pastor Bob

## ***Stephen Ministry***

by Jesse H.

**S**tephen Ministry has collaborated to come up with ways that we can help during this time of social distancing. Even though we are apart, the need to feel connected is always a part of us. Please take one of the opportunities below to be in contact with a Stephen Minister.



### ***Stephen Ministry Virtual Coffee Hour, Mondays from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm via Zoom***

This is a time when one of our Stephen Ministers will host an hour of conversation for an opportunity to connect with others in attendance. To join, please go to [zoom.us/j/180169961](https://zoom.us/j/180169961) and enter the password 016318.

### ***Appointment With a Stephen Minister***

If you're interested in scheduling an appointment with one of our Stephen Ministers for spiritual care or simply for a casual conversation, please go to the following link ([calendly.com/stephenministry/appointment](https://calendly.com/stephenministry/appointment)) to select a time that works best for you. One of our Stephen Ministers will reach out to you at that scheduled time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch through the church office.

The *Beach Breeze* is a monthly publication of the Pacific Beach United Methodist Church. Please visit our website at [www.myPBchurch.org](http://www.myPBchurch.org).

# ***We Grow in Grace & Faith***

## **Building Community**

by Jesse H.

**B**uilding Community is one of the committees of PB UMC that works to find ways to encourage building up our community and friendships within our church family. We also look beyond our church walls to build in a variety of ways through diverse activities and ministries. Now is definitely a time when relationship strengthening and finding creative methods to make this happen are needed more than ever. We have come up with several approaches to connect. We, as a committee, hope that you'll be able to take advantage of these opportunities and keep yourself spiritually healthy and connected.

### **Wednesday Night Devotional from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm via Zoom**

This will be a time to be inspired and uplifted to include a discussion and prayer time after the devotion. To join, please go to [zoom.us/j/480622290](https://zoom.us/j/480622290) and enter the password 029053.

### **Sunday Prayer Time from 8:30 am to 8:45 am via Zoom**

This prayer group will meet for 15 minutes before our online church service begins to pray for those in need, our church, the upcoming service, and whatever God puts on our hearts.

To join, please go to [zoom.us/j/969182434](https://zoom.us/j/969182434) and enter the password 060980.

Again, I hope you find these ministry opportunities to be a blessing to you.



## **Charitable Giving Tax Deduction**

by Su-Yen K.

**A**s noted in a Kiplinger article, <https://www.kiplinger.com/slideshow/taxes/T054-S001-cares-act-expands-charitable-giving-tax-deductions/index.html>, if you take the standard deduction on your 2020 tax return (the one that you'll file in 2021), you can claim a brand new "above-the-line" deduction of up to \$300 for *cash* donations to charity you make this year. Normally, you have to itemize on Schedule A to get a tax break for charitable donations. In this case, though, it's the other way around—if you itemize, you can't take this new deduction. This provision was enacted the end of March with the CARES Act.

Give generously, and enjoy the benefits many ways!

## **May Communion Offering**

### **Imagine No Malaria**

**T**he United Methodist Church officially joined the global effort against malaria in 2010, to address malaria in Sub-Saharan Africa where over 90% of all malaria deaths occur. UMC Health Boards, monitored by Global Ministries, deliver comprehensive malaria programs comprised of a variety of components: raising awareness about malaria, training health workers, and providing commodities (including nets, medication, and test kits), along with strengthening health facilities.

Because of the global effort to fight malaria, it is estimated that 6.8 million deaths from malaria have been averted since 2001.

Your communion contributions help to continue educating individuals about malaria prevention.



# ***We Reach Out to Others***

## **Church Council News**

### **Trustees**

by Kurt L.-K.

A contract has now been signed for remediation and rebuilding the Reed Street property damage that was a result of the fire. The estimated completion time is 4-6 months.

The parsonage had a small mudslide. Pastor Bob and family, along with one of the workers from church, shoveled mud out of the way and placed temporary hay baffles to prevent further damage from mud intruding into the back yard during future rains. The cost for the project was \$1700. The trustees have employed our landscaping company to make the necessary repairs.

### **Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)**

by Patty R.

It is always hard to say farewell to the pastor who has inspired you and creatively guided your church community through difficult times. It is even harder to say farewell during a pandemic, when we cannot gather in person. Or maybe we can. But if so, when? Pastor Bob's last Sunday with us will June 28. We will have to keep you posted as to when our official farewell party will be.

The members of the Church Council had the honor of meeting incoming Pastor Lori Leopold via Zoom on April 14. She officially joins us July 1, and we are sure she will make a spectacular contribution to our church community. We eagerly look forward to meeting her in person. We're just not sure when that will be. Again, we will have to keep you posted.

### **Finance**

by Hope A.

The church has applied for two forgivable loans under the CARES Act. Funding has been suspended until Congress allocates more money. The SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Emergency Advance has a limit of \$10,000. The Payroll Protection Program has a limit of 2.5 times monthly salaries, or for PB UMC, \$31,480. If we receive either of these loans, we will track the use of the funds so that they can be fully forgiven. Regardless of funding, we are also committed to keeping our employees on the payroll.

## **Summer Camp Updates**

**L**ast month we listed dates for the camping season at Cedar Glen on page 6 of *Beach Breeze*. On April 20, 2020, Reverend David Berkey, Director, Camp, Retreat, and Discipleship Ministries, wrote, "Cal-Pac Summer Camp WILL HAPPEN this summer, one way or another!"

Here are three scenarios to be determined by conditions set by the government health officials and the Cal-Pac Conference:

Option 1 – Summer camp will happen at the campsites. The facilities will be clean and ready. Medical staff will provide safe protocols. Government health and safety guidelines will be followed, and a great time together outdoors will be had by all!

Option 2 – Summer camp would be held online for a week, with a schedule of activities, worship, small groups, crafts, etc. Leadership teams and staff are working on this model right now with the goal of bringing campers together to grow in faith and community.

Option 3 – There are 3 weekends tentatively scheduled for Summer Camp Reunion Retreats at Lazy W Ranch (September 5-7), Camp Wrightwood (October 16-18), and Camp Cedar Glen (December 4-6). All age groups, including graduating seniors, would be invited and we would do a mini version of the summer camp program.

A decision about these options will be made no later than May 29<sup>th</sup>. More information will be available at [www.calpacumc.org/summercamp](http://www.calpacumc.org/summercamp) or [www.campcedarglen.org](http://www.campcedarglen.org).

# Circle of Support

## March 2020 Record of Generosity

<i>Excluding extraordinary items*</i>	Budget	Estimated
March giving	\$18,800	\$12,967
March other sources of income	\$11,800	\$9,281
March total available for ministry	\$30,600	\$22,248
March expended in ministry	\$32,426	\$25,955
March income minus expenses	(\$1,826)	(\$3,707)
YTD giving	\$56,400	\$42,101
YTD other sources of income	\$35,398	\$23,685
YTD total available for ministry	\$91,798	\$65,786
YTD expended in ministry	\$97,277	\$94,626
YTD income minus expenses	(\$5,469)	(\$28,840)
Year 2020 budget	\$386,129	

Sharing the Grace of God in Worship  
via individual Livestream connections. Numbers  
do not reflect an entire family worshipping  
together.

Apr 5—124 persons Palm Sunday  
Apr 9—381 persons Maundy Thursday  
Apr 10—64 persons Good Friday  
Apr 12—115 persons Easter  
Apr 19—83 persons

Joined at Christ's Table  
on Wednesday Nights

Apr 8—100persons  
Apr 15—108 persons  
Apr 22—100 persons

\* Fire and fraud in 2019, covered by insurance.

## Reflections From the Finance Team

This has not been a normal Easter season. Contributions to the church dropped severely the week that we first switched from in-person to online worship, but have increased somewhat since then. Thank you!

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.



Palm Sunday Communion as Viewed at Home  
(Host in Lower Left Corner)  
Photo by Mark B.



Maundy Thursday Communion  
via Zoom

# Calendar of Events

**Worship Times:**  
**9:00 am, Worship Celebration**  
**Via Livestream**

## Week 1

Fri, May 1 No scheduled group activities  
 Sat, May 2 No scheduled group activities

## Week 2

Sun, May 3 8:30 am, Sunday Prayer Time via Zoom  
 9:00 am, Livestream Worship  
 Mon, May 4 4:00 pm, Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom  
 Wed, May 6 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
 Online  
 5:30 pm, SD Project Grace  
 6:00 pm, Wed Night Devotional via Zoom



Good Friday Tenebrae Service  
 YouTube

## Week 3

Sun, May 10 Mother's Day  
 8:30 am, Sunday Prayer Time via Zoom  
 9:00 am, Livestream Worship  
 Mon, May 11 4:00 pm, Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom  
 Tues, May 12 6:30 pm, Church Council Meeting Online  
 Wed, May 13 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
 Online  
 5:30 pm, SD Project Grace  
 6:00 pm, Wed Night Devotional via Zoom

## Week 4

Sun, May 17 8:30 am, Sunday Prayer Time via Zoom  
 9:00 am, Livestream Worship  
 Mon, May 18 June Beach Breeze Deadline  
 4:00 pm, Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom  
 Wed, May 20 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
 Online  
 5:30 pm, SD Project Grace  
 6:00 pm, Wed Night Devotional via Zoom



Easter Celebration  
 via Zoom

## Week 5

Sun, May 24 8:30 am, Sunday Prayer Time via Zoom  
 9:00 am, Livestream Worship  
 Mon, May 25 Memorial Day Observed  
 4:00 pm, Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom  
 Tues, May 26 Beach Breeze Posted Online  
 Wed, May 27 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
 Online  
 5:30 pm, SD Project Grace  
 5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries  
 6:00 pm, Wed Night Devotional via Zoom

## Week 6

Sun, May 31 Pentecost Sunday  
 8:30 am, Sunday Prayer Time via Zoom  
 9:00 am, Livestream Worship

## Announcements

### General Conference

The UMC General Conference, originally scheduled for May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis, has been postponed because of COVID-19. A press release with more detail is here:  
<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/general-conference-to-move-to-2021>

### California-Pacific Annual Conference

The in-person Conference Session, originally scheduled for June 17-20 in Redlands, CA, will transition to a digital format. Our leaders will still gather, but do so differently. For more information, go to:  
<http://www.calpacumc.org/annual-conference-2020/ac2020-to-go-virtual-digital/>

# ***We Love and Worship God***

## **May Scriptures**

### **Series: "Revive Us"**

<b>May 3, 2020</b>	"By His Wounds" 1 Peter 2:19-25
<b>May 10, 2020</b>	Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
<b>May 17, 2020</b>	Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
<b>May 24, 2020</b>	Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
<b>May 31, 2020</b>	(Pentecost Sunday) Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; Matthew 28:16-20

**For the latest Sunday sermon titles and scriptures, sign up to get weekly Thursday postings at [www.pbumc.org/news](http://www.pbumc.org/news).**

### **Pacific Beach United Methodist Church**



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## ***Get Ready to Put Our Vision Into Action***

by Hope A.

**T**he VUE (Visioning, Uniting, Expanding) committee is eager to move forward in our visioning process despite imitations imposed by our distanced worship. We had envisioned placing poster stations for several weeks following Easter during coffee time between worship services. People would be invited to express their interest in activities using Post-it notes. Alas, nobody will be in the courtyard for a while yet.

So, here is the new plan. We will reach out in several ways in the first four weeks of May, hoping that at least one of them will speak to *you*. Pastor Bob will send an email to the congregation with details and links.

Marco Polo group sponsored by Adam M.-L.

Weekly online small group discussions via Zoom, hosted by VUE members

An online tool that you can respond to on your own

Phone call follow-ups with some of our members who do not engage online.

What are we going to talk about? It is time now for action. We will identify activities along four themes that emerged from our congregational survey. You may suggest other activities. If people volunteer to lead some of these activities, great. They will happen. And if nobody volunteers, then we imagine that the Spirit is not moving among us to pursue those activities at this time. And that is okay, too.

The four themes:

- Growing connection and discipleship
- Points of entry
- Inactive members
- Ministries and volunteers

We also recognize that many of our plates are full. If you take on a new activity and also have other volunteer responsibilities at church, be prepared to identify what activity you will give up in its place. Imagine that we will play musical chairs. Some ministries will be taken up by a new volunteer, and others may be dropped altogether.

If you volunteer for an in-person type ministry, please use this time of social distancing to plan and prepare for when we can worship again in person.