



Pacific Beach
United Methodist Church

BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

July 2020

2020 Cal-Pac Annual Conference



by Adam M.-L.

Although we could not meet in person this year, the California-Pacific Annual Conference met digitally via Zoom, a platform PB UMC has been getting used to for several months. I was reminded once again of the many clergy and laity across our region who are doing amazing work in their own churches and contexts. I was particularly moved by the body's willingness to make budgetary adjustments in support of anti-racism initiatives announced by Bishop Hagiya. I look forward to the ways in which Cal-Pac leads us in this moment of history.



Bishop Hagiya and Pastor Bob Rhodes

Observations by David DB., Rel.M., (Claremont School of Theology); Ph.D., (United States International University)

Bob Rhodes served as Conference Secretary alongside Bishop Hagiya for most of the 2020 Cal-Pac Annual Conference on-line. The pared-down format was efficiently served, and highly organized and scheduled. There were many fewer resolutions for discussion.

The resolve to work against our systemic and deeply-rooted racism was much in evidence, and inspiring.

Other topics that were considered included camping, the lowered amount of funding for the church, and maintaining the traditional supports we offer, such as traditionally, the African-American "Negro colleges."

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A Message From Pastor Lori

As I sit down to write my first *Beach Breeze* article, I am overwhelmed by all of the things I could say and want to say. But first things first...HELLO. How are you? I am so thankful to be arriving at Pacific Beach UMC as your pastor. While I trust that we are in many ways already known to each other as beloveds in Christ, I am looking forward to getting to know you and your unique stories! Each one of you is a part of the fabric of this amazing congregation, and I am deeply grateful that the Spirit has brought us together in this time and place.

This may seem too obvious of a thing to say, but I think it's important to acknowledge that we are joining one another's lives during a profoundly challenging and unsettled time. Throughout scripture we hear stories of our ancestors as they have lived during "in between" times. Now we find ourselves "in between" in so many ways. We are "in between" as we make pastoral transitions. You are saying goodbye to Pastor Bob, a beloved pastor who has given of his gifts, grace, heart, and spirit in this community for the last six years. I am grateful for Bob's generosity and support in this transition, and I can understand how hard it is to send him and his family on to new ministries. That grief is significant and real.

We are very much "in between" in this COVID-19 pandemic. Without any clear sense of a light at the end of the tunnel, we all perhaps find ourselves experiencing periodic waves of anxiety, grief, fear, doubt, anger, depression, and fatigue. These are normal responses to a very abnormal situation. I pray that we continue to be present with and for one another in every way that we can. On a practical note, I want to let you know that there have been meetings to discuss when and how we will "come back to church." That will happen in ways that are planned and purposeful, and will follow the guidelines set forth by our county and state, as well as by our California-Pacific Annual Conference. We will return to in-person worship in stages, prioritizing the health and well being of our congregation and community, and seeking to preserve the aspects of worship that help us to connect deeply with God and with one another.

We are also in an "in between" place in terms of our country, our culture, and our history. With the recent murder of George Floyd, conversations about racial justice have broken open in ways that feel unprecedented. We are in an "in between" place: a place where there is potential to slide back into inertia, apathy, and the status quo. But we also have the choice to move forward with courage, vulnerability, and conviction, drawing deeply from our faith in order to honor, advocate for, and protect the God-given dignity and rights of all God's

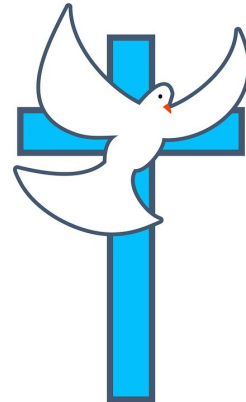
children. I was so glad to see that, beginning in July, Adam and Erich will be offering a small group to discuss Austin Channing Brown's book, *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*. I look forward to on-going conversations and our shared hard work around racial justice.

I'll confess to you that I'm not very good at memorizing Bible verses, but I can, like many of you, call on the 23rd Psalm by heart. It's a passage that soothes my spirit during "in between" times. "*Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. For Thou art with me.*" I offer these words as a reminder to all of us that God is with us in these difficult days, and that God is doing what God does: fashioning something new, redeemed, and hopeful out of all that feels chaotic and uncertain.

I look forward to all of the seasons that are ahead for us as a congregation. I'm so thankful to be walking with you—through the valleys, the hills, the cluttered paths, and the clear spaces.

Thank you for welcoming me to a new place to call home.

In Peace,
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori's Schedule

Pastor Lori will be in the Church Office beginning Wednesday, July 1st. Her tentative schedule is below. This schedule will be flexible, and will evolve based on our stages of reopening, as well as on church needs. You can reach Pastor Lori via the Church Office for pastoral needs, questions, or concerns.

Additional contact information will be coming soon!

Monday: 10-2 in the office

Tuesday: Work from home

Wednesday: 11-7 in the office/Project Grace

Thursday: 10-2 in the office

Friday: Day Off

We Care for One Another

Rainbow Masks for Pride Month

The PB UMC mask elves have distributed about 40 rainbow face masks as of this writing. We plan to hand out some more at Pastor Bob's drive-by farewell on June 28.

If you haven't received a mask yet, please don't feel left out. We are still sewing.

July's mask edition will feature rainbow fireworks on a black background. We encourage you to wear your rainbow masks through July, and especially on virtual San Diego Pride weekend, July 17-19.

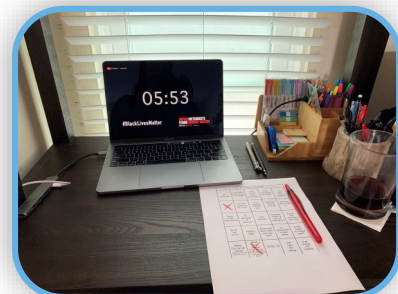
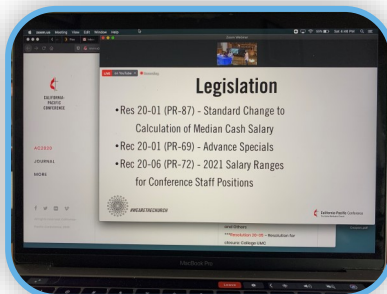
Contact Hope A. or the church office with your name, address, and the number of masks you are requesting for your household.



Cal-Pac Continued from page 1

I expected conversations about the shrinking church budgets, and about the greater difficulties of some churches to meet their apportionments.

My personal interest is to combat resolutions that implement Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions against Israel, termed “BDS.” The founder explicitly campaigns for the death of Israel. Though the Presbyterian USA denomination has passed a BDS-favorable resolution, there was no such resolution at the Cal-Pac Conference this year.



All Conference Screenshots by Adam M.-L.

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



Biographic Study on Racism in America

by Adam M.-L.

The world is not taking a break during the coronavirus pandemic, and neither is Pacific Beach United Methodist Church. Following the murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, our nation finds itself in the throes of turmoil. As siblings in Christ, we are being invited to open our eyes and to love our Black neighbors as ourselves.

Starting the first week of July, Erich Grimm-Schmitt will be co-leading a book study with Adam M.-L. as we listen to an experience of race issues in America. Secure a digital or a physical copy of *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, by Austin Channing Brown. Be prepared for discomfort as the author recounts her own experience of growing up as a Black Christian surrounded by whiteness. Book discussions will take place on Zoom (or via other socially distant formats as interest dictates). Please register as soon as possible for these book discussions by emailing ErichS@pbumc.org. Erich can also help with your questions, and give you Zoom tutorials.

We hope that you will join us for this challenging and holy work of rooting out racism in our society and also in ourselves!

Building Community Opportunities

Wednesday Night Devotional, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm, via Zoom

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

Coffee with Pastor Lori, Thursdays 1:00 pm, via Zoom

Join in a friendly chat with our new pastor and fellow church attendees.

Sunday Prayer Time, 8:30 am-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, and enter the password 060980.

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) to select a time that works best for you. One of our Stephen Ministers will reach out to you at that scheduled time.

We Reach Out to Others

Church Council News

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

by Patty R.



What a festive, spirited procession PB UMC members and friends presented as they embarked on a Thank You car parade past the parsonage at 5350 Vickie Drive on Sunday, June 28! SPRC coordinated the event in honor of Pastor Bob. Cars lined up, some decorated, with lights flashing and horns honking, to say hi, and to drop off greeting cards. Thank you to all who participated in this social distance send-off.

Although we are saddened to see Pastor Bob leave our congregation, we know his new congregation, La Jolla United Methodist Church, will be joining with PB UMC to run the Interfaith Shelter and other projects.

We look forward to Pastor Lori Leopold joining us on July 1. SPRC is working on plans for small Zoom meetings so she can get to know members of the congregation. She has e-mailed SPRC, saying that she "Can't wait to see you all in July."

Thanks to the SBA loan Hope A. has procured, Ivey Merrill and Erich Schmitt will be working on a PB UMC advertising project for a period of eight weeks at ten hours per week, each.

Finance

by Hope A.

Early this year we received news that Project Grace was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Georgia Lynch Foundation. Processing was delayed by the pandemic, but we are delighted to report that a check was received in June. You'll see this income included in next month's financial table.

Special PB UMC Charge Conference



A Special Charge Conference will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, July 7, 2020, at 7:00 pm. This Special meeting is being held so that PB UMC members may approve the salary and benefits package for our new pastor, the Reverend Lori Leopold. Each line item of the salary and benefits will be available during the conference.

To join the Zoom meeting, go to
<https://zoom.us/j/97333323418>

Meeting ID: 973 3332 3418

If you have questions, please contact Ken B. on his cell (619-251-5987), by email, Kjbr4726@aol.com, or via his work number, (760-839-6290 x7056).

Circle of Support

May 2020 Record of Generosity

<i>Excluding extraordinary items*</i>	Budget	Estimated
May giving	\$18,800	\$19,205
May other sources of income	\$9,161	\$13,842
May total available for ministry	\$27,961	\$33,047
May expended in ministry	\$32,426	\$23,652
May income minus expenses	(\$4,465)	\$9,395
YTD giving	\$94,000	\$82,008
YTD other sources of income	\$57,140	\$50,712
YTD total available for ministry	\$151,140	\$132,721
YTD expended in ministry	\$162,137	\$137,571
YTD income minus expenses	(\$10,997)	(\$4,850)
Year 2020 budget	\$386,129	

* Fire and fraud in 2019, covered by insurance.

Joined at Christ's Table
on Wednesday Nights

May 27 — 109 persons
June 3 — 50 persons
June 10 — 106 persons
June 17 — 72 persons

Reflections From the Finance Team

For the first time this year, May giving actually exceeded our monthly budget. Thank you, generous people! We've booked the \$9,000 EIDL Advance as other income, having clarified with the SBA that we don't need to apply for forgiveness. All that, plus below-budget expenses, helped to bring us to a lower deficit than we had expected year to date.

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 for you to notify our financial secretary Linda A.

We've received \$30,415 from the SBA Paycheck Protection Program Loan. The money is on deposit in the church checking account. It's booked as a loan, not income, so it is not included on the financial table on this page. The loan is forgivable if we spend it on payroll and utilities. At this writing, Congress has passed a more generous 24-week period in which to spend the loan proceeds. If signed by the White House, we will have no difficulty whatsoever in qualifying for 100% forgiveness, and would probably be able to qualify for 100% forgiveness under the current more restrictive rules as well.

July Communion Offering Reconciling Ministries

Reconciling Ministries encourages United Methodist Churches and communities to be inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

PB UMC is a Reconciling Congregation, and has been since the mid 1990s. Each year we receive one special communion thank offering in support of the national and global advocacy and education work carried out by the Reconciling Ministries Network.

To learn more about Reconciling Ministries, visit www.rmnetwork.org.

CHURCH STAFF:

Lead Pastor: The Rev Lori Leopold
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
Via LiveStream

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

Week 1

Wed, July 1 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
6:00 pm, Wed Night Devotional (p. 3)
Thurs, July 2 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor (p.4)



Week 2

Sun, July 5 8:30 am, Prayer Time via Zoom (p.4)
9:00 am, LiveStream Worship
Mon, July 6 5:30 pm, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
Tues, July 7 7:00 pm, Special Charge Conference
via Zoom (p.5)
Wed, July 8 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
6:00 pm, Wed Night Devotional (p.4)
Thurs, July 9 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor (p.4)



In Our Garden:
Purple Butterfly Bush poking Through Sweet-Smelling
Star Jasmine

Photo by Mark B.

Week 3

Sun, July 12 8:30 am, Prayer Time via Zoom (p.4)
9:00 am, LiveStream Worship
Wed, July 15 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
6:00 pm, Wed Night Devotional (p.4)
Thurs, July 16 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor (p.4)



Our New Worship Banner

Photo by Pastor Bob Rhodes

Week 4

Sun, July 19 8:30 am, Prayer Time via Zoom (p.4)
9:00 am, LiveStream Worship
Mon, July 20 August Beach Breeze Deadline
5:30 pm, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
Wed, July 22 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries
6:00 pm, Wed Night Devotional (p.4)
Thurs, July 23 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor (p.4)

Week 5

Sun, July 26 8:30 am, Prayer Time via Zoom (p.4)
9:00 am, LiveStream Worship
Mon, July 27 August Beach Breeze Posted Online

We Love and Worship God

July Scriptures

July 5, 2020 “Cast Your Nets on the
Other Side...”
Mavi B. preaching, with Pastor Lori
celebrating Holy Communion
John 21:1-14

July 12, 2020 “Sacred Pillars”
Genesis 28:10-19a

July 19, 2020 “Rooted and Grounded in Love”
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 26, 2020 “The Trouble with Weeds”
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church



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MEET THE SUBJECT OF MY EASY INTERVIEW: Our Security Officer

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

Recently, I enjoyed getting to know our Security Officer. He told me the story of where his name came from. “When I was 12 years old, my uncle asked me if I wanted to ride on the back of his Harley. I did, but wanted to start it myself, thinking it would be easy. I kicked and kicked. When I finally was able to kick start it, I was thrown right off. My uncle looked at me and said “Easy, huh?” His name? Easy.

I asked Easy how long he’d been PB UMC Security Officer and he replied, “I’ve been here almost 2 years. I love this place. It is my home, and I want everyone to feel safe. I have lived onsite for just over a year. I patrol the grounds to make sure no one is here that shouldn’t be. I also have access to onsite cameras, both on my phone and in my room. If I see something questionable on the camera, I will go out no matter what time it is. So, everyone is aware I am here all the time. Sometimes, I’ve had to deal with severe behavior. But most of the time, I deal with lots of less dangerous things that go on around here. I just never know what to expect.”

“If something is broken, I fix it. Recently, I noticed the lighting in the back was dull. So, I replaced the bulbs. I found folks in the neighborhood like that the alley is more lit up now.” We are so lucky Easy lives onsite. He finds problems that offsite security wouldn’t find.

“I ask folks to leave our property. I chat with them, and they learn to respect me, and I don’t have problems with them again. Our neighbors are happy that we no longer have people hanging around. They often stop by to thank me. I have made it a point to know who our neighbors are, and make sure they know who I am.”

I asked him if he attended church services, and he told me, “Technically I go to church every day to take care of issues. That said, I do consider this my church, and I do occasionally attend a Sunday morning service.”

Easy provides superior security for us, our Wednesday night guests, and our neighbors. We are very lucky to have Easy doing what he does. He truly cares about us.

