



BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

August 2020

VUE Passes the Baton

When the congregation adopted the single board governance proposal at our church conference last fall, our plan was to consolidate Visioning, Uniting, Expanding (VUE) into Church Council. VUE was in the middle of our congregational assessment, and so VUE continued meeting separately to finish that project.

VUE was conceived as the successor to the volunteer team that attended Readiness 360 (R360) workshops in 2014-2015. Here's an excerpt from the April 2015 Beach Breeze:

"The [R360] team readily identified two long-time ministries that define us as a congregation: our status as a reconciling congregation, and our care for the homeless including Wednesday Night, Storefront Shelter, CCSA, and Interfaith Shelter Network. We believe these two initiatives are central to our identity as PB UMC. Fortunately, they also line up well with our resources and strengths. We hope you will affirm that our passions remain strong for these ministries."

VUE met monthly using tools like The Committee, a video series from Chuck Knows Church, to plan how to serve and develop the church vision. We sponsored quarterly dinners & workshops to help keep focus on our vision. Notably,

- Acts Bible study (Feb 2015) was a Lenten study that morphed into ongoing sermon study groups that continue to meet by zoom today.
- Building an Inclusive Community Workshop (October 2015) with Reverend Izzy Alvaran of Reconciling Ministries Network fueled a desire by our neighboring churches to declare themselves reconciling congregations.
- Love For All commitment and recommitment ceremonies (October 2015) joined us with other reconciling congregations to celebrate same-sex marriage.
- Clobber passages: Debunking Biblical Myths About LGBTQ Identity and Relationships (Sept. 2017) dinner and panel discussion drew many from beyond our local church community.
- Women of the Bible (May 2017) brought to life characters of the bible in a one-woman presentation by our R360 coach, Rev. Julie Elkins.
- Tony the Movie (Feb. 2018) with filmmaker Dennis Stein and star Tony Rodriguez gave a personal look at homeless in San Diego. Its powerful message of "housing first" as a proven strategy to reduce homelessness, helped lead to creation of San Diego's Regional Task Force on the Homeless. We packed the sanctuary thanks to online advertising and a collaboration with Discover PB and PB Street Guardians. PB Street Guardians board members have recently joined and reinvigorated the Shoreline Community Services board of directors.

Most recently we realized there was a need to renew our church vision. We engaged Pastor Cedrick Bridgeforth, PhD, of 20/20 Leadership Lessons, to lead us through a congregational assessment. The assessment and follow-on discussions produced a wealth of information and ideas for the future, though not much that can be implemented in the middle of a pandemic. So we set aside our notes for a future time. Visioning for a church future is work that is never finished. VUE has run its course and now passes the baton to Church Council. May we all continue to envision a spirit-filled future.

VUE Team Photo From
April 2015 *Beach Breeze*



A Message From Pastor Lori

My first few weeks at PB UMC have been rich with learning and discovery! I've (almost) learned which key opens which door. Thanks to good tour guides, I've discovered the amazing number of nooks and crannies and storage spaces on our property. I've learned that we have smart, caring, funny, faithful, compassionate, and dedicated people who make up the staff and congregation of PB UMC. And I've discovered that worship at PB UMC is incredibly vibrant and rich and full of joy!

As we continue to deal with COVID-19, worship is a topic that is on all our minds. More specifically the question is, "When can we worship together and in person again?" We are committed to following the guidance of our county and annual conference. All plans to return to in-person worship must include detailed plans of how we will follow guidelines related to physical distancing and safety. Plans must be approved by our Church Council, and then by our District Superintendent. Because of the increase in COVID-19 cases, Bishop Hagiya and our California-Pacific Annual Conference have temporarily suspended the review of any plans to return to in-person worship, stating that the risk is just too high. I know this is challenging news for many of us, but I also know and trust our deep commitment to our United Methodist principle to "Do no harm." I am so thankful that PB UMC is phenomenally well equipped, in all kinds of different ways, to continue to be a vibrant, rich, and joyful worshipping community, virus or no!

Knowing that we don't know how long these COVID days will last, we're making a few modifications to our August worship schedule to give our very dedicated technology and music folks a chance to have a little respite and renewal. Rest assured, not a whole lot will change for most of us on Sunday mornings. Some of the liturgy and music pieces will be recorded in advance, and in the sanctuary. We hope to have one Sunday to walk down memory lane and highlight some favorite anthems and songs from the adult and children's choirs. I will preach and celebrate

Holy Communion in real time. We will also stream the entire service on Sunday morning at 9:00 am, continuing the tradition of our signing in and connecting with one another via the Chat function.

In addition, we're adding a few new things. Our worship leaders are demonstrating a great deal of flexibility, and returning to share our scripture passages via video offerings. We're also adding a weekly greeting from an individual or household. Another addition for the month of August is a weekly service of Holy Communion. On Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm there will be a Zoom service, giving us the opportunity to be together in real time, to see one another's faces, and partake of the elements that offer us grace and strength and peace in this time...in all times.

Our re-opening committee is working on a survey that will come to you in the next few weeks in order to hear your voice, your opinions, your hopes and concerns, as we plan for returning to in person worship when we are able. We are dreaming, and hoping, and planning for some first steps that will most likely include an outdoor service. Stay tuned. We are stretched by the many challenges of COVID-19, but we are certainly not broken. We lean on the everlasting knowledge that God is at work, and that God will see us through. We lean into circles of family and friends to give and receive love and support. We lean toward the ties that bind us together as a community of faith, knowing that rooted in love, uplifted by the Spirit, we are well, that all will be well.

In Peace,
Pastor Lori



WELCOME!

Meet Our Own Pastor Lori Leopold

Come meet Pastor Lori through COVID-intimate Zoom sessions this month and the next. We know you'll find Pastor Lori as warm and as inviting as we do.

Your Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has created time slots for 8 people in 45-minute sessions on the following dates and times:

8/5 (Wednesday) 6:00pm

8/10 (Monday) 6:00pm

8/15 (Saturday) 10:00am

8/18 (Tuesday) 6:00pm

8/22 (Saturday) 10:00 am Children and Youth Zoom...younger kids from 10:00 to 10:45 am and youth from 10:45 to 11:30 am

We hope you can find a time that fits your schedule. When you do, please sign up using the following link:
<https://calendly.com/pbumc/pastorlori>

We Care for One Another

PB UMC Stephen Ministry

Dear PB UMC friends and family,

I am Dart R., and I am a Stephen Minister. In these isolated and trying times we can sometimes get overwhelmed, lonely, stressed, and worried. It's common to feel all alone. Stephen Ministers are here for you. We can support you in whatever you are going through, pray for you, and encourage you. We are not therapists or counselors. However, we have completed the Stephen Minister training, and are available to be your caregiver for a short time or a longer time, depending on your needs and circumstances. There is a process for matching care givers to care receivers. If you are interested in finding out more about Stephen Ministry, contact Jesse H. (stephenministry@pbumc.org) or me, Dart R. (dart_r@pbumc.org). During this cautious time, we will connect with you via phone, text, Zoom, or other means. There is no charge for this service – just know we care about you, and we know that God is with us even in our socially distanced world!



August Youth Ministry

by Erich Grimm-Schmitt

Zoom Call with Parents of Children and Youth

For the month of August, and in preparation for the new school year, I would like parents of PB UMC to schedule an individual zoom call with me. This call will help me understand what PB UMC can do to help support you and your youth as we plan for our children and youth and discuss safety, genuine connection, and growing in faith with each other.

If you are interested, email me at erichs@pbumc.org and schedule a 30-minute time slot.



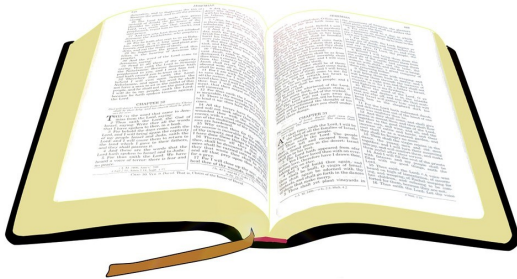
The Pacific Beach Interfaith Coalition, in collaboration with the National Conflict Resolution Center, will be presenting a free program and dialogue opportunity entitled “Our Common Home: Healing and Hope in the Midst of Suffering.” This Zoom event will take place on Saturday, August 15th, from 10:00 to 11:30 am. As we lean into these challenging times we are invited to lean in with one another, giving and receiving strength, encouragement, and hope. Save the date, and watch for registration information coming soon!

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

Summer Bible Study

by Adam M.-L.



Starting the second week of August, we will be kicking off an eight-week study in Psalms! This study will explore the literary features of this classic book in our scriptures, and we will hopefully learn more about ourselves in the process. If you have been looking for an in-depth traditional Bible Study, this is the group for you!

Email AdamM@pbumc.org to register your interest. You can follow along with the material yourself, or join us in scheduled group discussions via Zoom.

For a sneak peek, check out <https://yalebiblestudy.org/courses/psalms>

Youth Ministry Activities

by Erich Grimm-Schmitt

Prayer Workshop

Amanda, from St. Marks UMC, and I had a wonderful time learning and growing with all of our youth in what it means to pray. Simply, prayer is how we talk to God and it can be in any form that works for you: building, drawing, writing, or moving. At the end of the workshop, we delivered some goodie bags to each participant with our specially made booklet that recapped everything we did. Anyone is welcome to this booklet, so if you want to get your hands on one just email me and let me know! erichs@pbumc.org



June Zoom! — A First-Hand Report

During June, Erich and Amanda led a four-week small group for kids and teens which focused on prayer. The group was divided by age, and meetings were held online using Zoom. Devin R. was one of the participants in the teen group. When asked what his experience was like he wrote the following:

"Erich and Amanda found a fun and easy way to learn about God. They were using Play-Doh to symbolize how things are, and what they represent. They used 2 Truths and A Lie to help us get to know each other better. I had a lot of fun, and I look forward to doing more activities with them. (Devin R. age 16)

We Reach Out to Others

Church Council News

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

by Patty R.

With honking horns and sign-bedecked cars, on Sunday, June 28, members of PB UMC staged a car parade past Pastor Bob's house, and joyously, but sadly, bid him farewell. Pastor Bob handed the baton to Pastor Lori Leopold on July 1, 2020.

Pastor Lori has been busy getting to know people through COVID-intimate computer screens during Coffee with the Pastor sessions on Thursdays, at 1:00 pm. For information on how you can attend these sessions, please see the PB UMC website. Because not all church members can attend those sessions, SPRC will soon be setting up additional Zoom meetings for church members to meet Pastor Lori "in person." Please be on the look-out for the opportunity to join one of these meetings! We are very excited to get to know her, and will be even happier when we are able to meet her (and each other) in person.



Photo by Betty J.

Finance

by Hope A.

Heide T. has begun the audit of 2019 books. We thank Heide for this service, especially in a year with extra QuickBooks entries due to our many accounting corrections at the end of 2019.

Trustees

by Kurt L.-K.

The Trustees reviewed the home inspection for the parsonage, and authorized up to \$1,000.00 for crucial repairs. We also approved a lease with La Jolla United Methodist Church for Pastor Bob and his family to continue to reside in the Vickie Drive house.

Two proposals for reconstruction of the Reed Street property were reviewed, and work is progressing rapidly.

Safety and security have been discussed at length. Exterior lighting is needed to help keep the church and grounds safe. Dave McC. is leading the investigation; much of the effort may be covered in the Labor of Love remodel.

Upon the request of a neighbor on Thomas Avenue, we have approved trimming of one of our trees which was on the roof of the house.



Got Trivia?

If you haven't noticed yet, we start each Sunday worship service with about seven trivia questions that range from biblical and official UMC facts, to sometimes silly or informative material about your church leaders and members! If you have trivia questions that you would like to share, please send them to josephp@pbumc.org with "Trivia" in the subject line and we'll get them in line for upcoming weeks!

Circle of Support

June 2020 Record of Generosity

<i>Excluding extraordinary items*</i>	Budget	Estimated
June giving	\$18,800	\$14,366
June other sources of income	\$9,161	\$21,644
June total available for ministry	\$27,961	\$36,010
June expended in ministry	\$32,426	\$34,295
June income minus expenses	(\$4,465)	\$1,715
YTD giving	\$112,800	\$96,374
YTD other sources of income	\$70,797	\$72,356
YTD total available for ministry	\$183,597	\$168,730
YTD expended in ministry	\$194,563	\$178,276
YTD income minus expenses	(\$10,997)	(\$9,546)
Year 2020 budget	\$386,129	

*Fire and fraud in 2019, covered by insurance.

Emergency board-up fees have been corrected in this table, and will be reclassified as extraordinary expenses in our accounting system in June.

Reflections From the Finance Team

Our June net income minus expenses was in the black, thanks in part to the \$5,000 Georgia Lynch grant that was posted in June for Project Grace. We received our quarterly draws from the Sabatka and Prewitt legacies, which also boosted June's other sources of income. We continue to hold expenses below budget. Giving income for the year has also held up pretty well compared to the budget and pandemic expectations-- 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.

Joined at Christ's Table
on Wednesday Nights

June 24 — 110 persons
July 1 — 100 persons
July 8 — 100 persons
July 15 — 57 persons

Sharing the Grace of God in Worship Via LiveStream

We continue to see robust attendance at our online service. On July 19, our updated digital friendship pad yielded almost double the sign-ins from the previous version. We know from YouTube statistics that quite a few people "attend" service after the live event, watching the recording on Sunday afternoon or during the week. What we don't know is how many people are behind each screen. All this makes it challenging to calculate the total number of people who are participating in worship each week, so we are not publishing attendance stats for the time being. Thank you for your participation, and please keep signing the friendship pad!

August Communion Offering

Strength for the Journey

The Strength for the Journey program provides information, education, and support for those living with HIV/Aids. Program planning for this year is moving forward with the expectation that individuals will soon be able to gather in person to discuss, in a caring, safe environment, the challenges that come from an HIV diagnosis. A Strength for the Journey-San Diego fund is maintained in a special designated account at the Cal-Pac office.

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

Sat, Aug 1

Week 2

Sun, Aug 2 9:00 am, Worship and
Communion via LiveStream
Wed, Aug 5 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
6:00 pm, Meet Pastor Lori on Zoom (p. 2)
7:00 pm, Communion via Zoom (p. 2)
Thurs, Aug 6 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor

Week 4

Sun, Aug 16 9:00 am, LiveStream Worship
Mon, Aug 17 September *Beach Breeze* Deadline
Tues, Aug 18 6:00 pm, Meet Pastor Lori on Zoom (p. 2)
Wed, Aug 19 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
7:00 pm, Communion via Zoom (p. 2)
Thurs, Aug 20 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor
Sat., Aug 22 10:00 am, Children and Youth Meet
Pastor Lori on Zoom (p. 2)

Week 5

Sun, Aug 23 9:00 am, LiveStream Worship
Mon, Aug 24 September *Beach Breeze* Posted Online
Wed., Aug 26 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries
7:00 pm, Communion via Zoom (p. 2)
Thurs, Aug 27 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor

Week 6

Sun, Aug 30 9:00 am, LiveStream Worship



PB UMC Virtual Coffee Hour

Week 3

Sun, Aug 9 9:00 am, LiveStream Worship
Mon, Aug 10 6:00 pm, Meet Pastor Lori on Zoom (p. 2)
Wed, Aug 12 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
7:00 pm, Communion via Zoom (p. 2)
Thurs, Aug 13 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor
Sat, Aug 15 10:00 am, Meet Pastor Lori on Zoom (p. 2)



Pride Sunday Zoom July 19, 2020
(Thank You, Mask Elves!)

Screenshots by Mark B.

We Love and Worship God

August Scriptures

Aug 2, 2020 "The Bread Which We Break"
Matthew 14:13-21

Aug 9, 2020 "Go Scared"
Matthew 14:22-33

Aug 16, 2020 "Crossing Boundaries"
Matthew 15:21-28

Aug 23, 2020 "Solid Enough?"
Matthew 16:13-20

Aug 30, 2020 "Finding Life"
Matthew 16:21-28

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church



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Meet Our Project Grace Chef: Ben M.

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

I recently had the opportunity to get to know our Project Grace chef, Ben M. He became our chef about six and a half years ago. He told me, "I create menus and go to the store to pick up some stuff. (Dick V. S. does the main grocery shopping.) After that, I cook the meals with some of our volunteers. Now we are packaging the meals to go. I make sure everything is ready for when our guests show. I have a great support team."

He added, "With everything that is going on now, we have 35-50% fewer attendees. There are a number of possibilities for the reduction in attendance. For one thing, the weather has been so hot. Lots of homeless folks have been relocated and those probably live too far away to show up for dinner. Also, because of funding the government has been doing, they may have income and can get their own dinners."

Discussing what we do besides feed people, he told me, "In normal times, we have a full medical staff onsite to help our Project Grace guests. During this pandemic, we only have one pharmacist who can help with prescriptions. We do have a medical staff off site who will talk to them on the phone."

Ben has not been a professional chef for six years. He is now a roofer. "I fell out of love with the kitchen, just like one might fall out of love with a wife. I do love my roofing job now. But I also love the tasks for Project Grace, making sure everyone is fed. It's not just one night a week."

He told me what he did as a professional chef. "Once, I was assigned to the kitchens at UCSD Hospitals and Palomar Medical Center. Other times I opened restaurants like World Famous and El Crab Catcher. I assisted in the transition of Lotsa Pasta from a small to a large restaurant. I also worked at downtown restaurants."

"When I opened restaurants, I setup production, recipes, and menus. I had to learn lots of types of food for different types of restaurants. I was never able to go to culinary school, so I learned on the job."

"I love what I do for this church. We are providing a lifeline for our homeless friends and often have groceries for them to take home that they couldn't buy." And, Ben, we love what you do for our homeless friends.

