



Pacific Beach  
United Methodist Church

# BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

September 2020

## *Revised Church Office Hours*

Congratulations to office administrator Ivey Merrill as she begins the MBA program at Point Loma Nazarene University.

The new hours for the church office will be:  
Monday through Thursday from 12:45 pm to 6:00 pm.

## *Good-Bye Sharp, Hello BizHub*

by Mark B.

A sophisticated multi-function color copier has become a key component of PB UMC communications. It prints bulletins and newsletters; it copies Sunday school materials and music; it scans important correspondence for archiving.

On July 22, PB UMC accepted delivery of a new Konica-Minolta BizHub copier to replace its four-year-old Sharp. Former pastor Rev. Bob Rhodes was especially instrumental in negotiating a favorable lease. Office Administrator Ivey Merrill coordinated the details of payment, pickup, and delivery. IT Admin Mark B. came to help with the technical setup.

We look forward to many years of enhanced communications with our new BizHub!



Photo by Mark B.

## ***A Message From Pastor Lori***

### ***Thanks to All Who Participated in the “Meet and Greet” Zooms***

It was great to see some familiar faces as well as some new ones! I loved hearing your stories, learning about how you got to PB UMC, and discovering what is most important to you in terms of our ministry in this unique place. If we have not had a chance to connect, I hope you'll reach out and we can set something up. I'm happy to talk on the phone or schedule an individual Zoom session. I am delighting in getting to know the creative, caring, intelligent, passionate people of this congregation!

In addition to getting to know you a little better, I was also glad to have a chance for you to get to know me a little better as well. I thought I'd share a few of the questions that were asked of me during the Zooms, along with my answers.

#### **How are you adjusting to your new role at PB UMC?**

I'm loving it! While the pandemic makes everything a little more challenging, I feel like I'm getting familiar with the people and the processes of this church. The more acquainted I get with this community of folks and the ministries that happen in this place, the more grateful and inspired I feel. I will admit that I tend to want to “have a handle on” *everything*...and I want that to happen *right now*! So I've had to remind myself on more than one occasion to take a deep breath and have a little grace and patience with myself and the process. There is no other place that I'd rather be settling into, and I'm thankful for all of your kindness and support.

#### **What kind of preacher do you consider yourself?**

I generally think of myself as a lectionary preacher. I see preaching as an opportunity for praise, inspiration, education, spiritual formation, and pastoral care. My goal in preaching is to stay grounded in the scripture passage *and* explore a relevant connection to the realities of our daily lives.

#### **Do you have a sense of vision for PB UMC?**

##### **A sense of where you see us going?**

I come with my “pillars” or “priorities” for ministry, and I very much want to know the “pillars and priorities” of everyone who is a part of this congregation.

Our vision will emerge from our shared sense of calling and desire to be instruments of grace, justice, and peace in the world. I believe that the way we'll move into the future will be shaped by who we are—our gifts and passions and graces—as well as by the ever-changing needs of the community and the world around us. So while I don't have a set vision for how we'll live into that, I am committed to discern with you how God is inviting us into the next steps and phases of our ministry.

#### **Is there any hope of us gathering together as the church again?**

There is EVERY hope. It will happen. While we are still living in this altered reality due to COVID, we are also looking toward the time when we can begin to offer some in-person gatherings on campus. We will continue to follow the recommendations of local government as well as the recommendations of our California-Pacific Annual Conference, and move forward as soon as we are able to do so safely and responsibly. There is a small group of people who are participating on a “re-opening committee.” If you have a special interest in this area and would like to join us, please let me know. That committee will be meeting on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm, and we'll schedule an additional meeting for the month of September. You should have already received a survey designed to gather your thoughts, hopes, and concerns related to moving back toward in-person worship/gatherings. If you haven't completed it, please do so if you're able. We want your input!

Be well, stay well, and know that you have a place of connection and belonging with your faith community. Let us pray for one another and reach out in all the ways we can to share love, grace, companionship with one another and all God's children.

In Peace,  
Pastor Lori



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

## **Youth Ministry**

by Erich Grimm-Schmitt

### **Survey for Parents of Children and Youth**

I know the school year has started for some children and youth, and it is quickly approaching for all of them. If you haven't done so already, follow the link below, and fill out the survey. This will help provide direction on how we can better support our children and youth and help our young disciples grow.

<https://forms.gle/BYobr8NR7WdmwsKa8>

### **VBS**

PB UMC and Mission Hills UMC youth coordinators had a ton of fun leading Vacation Bible School: Compassion Camp, by Illustrated Ministries. The curriculum provided ways to engage through bible stories, focusing on compassion and empathy. Activities included fun, easy-to-do crafts, meditation/yoga, and exciting music.



### **Looking Forward**

The new school year brings new ideas. Amanda, Reverend. Lea (Youth Directors from St. Marks UMC and La Jolla UMC), and I are collaborating and aligning our calendars. Being intentional with our time, ideas, and with children and youth, we are gearing up to provide some opportunities for all our young leaders to build relationships with one another, engage through dialogue, and maybe have just a little bit of crazy fun. Keep alert for more information!

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***

## ***Sunday Morning Greetings***

Have you noticed the greetings from church members and friends at the beginning of the worship service? Many thanks to those who have already participated by making a short video and sharing a word of welcome, connection and encouragement! If you would be willing to provide a short greeting, we would love to see your face and hear your voice! If you or a loved one are not able to do the filming, no worries! Pastor Lori would be happy to mask up, drive to you and film you outside. It's easy to do, and a great way for us to stay connected. Please e-mail Pastor Lori or the Church Office if you'd like to participate!



While this may not be the traditional way to do a hymn sing, we are not going to let COVID silence the songs of our hearts and spirits! We want to hear from you about your favorite hymns. We'll be incorporating them into worship during the month of September, and perhaps beyond. Please ponder your *top two all time favorite hymns* and e-mail Ron Jesse ([RonJ@pbumc.org](mailto:RonJ@pbumc.org)) with your input. We look forward to hearing, humming, and singing some of the songs that uplift, challenge, nurture, and sustain us!

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

## ***Church Council News***

### **Trustees**

by Kurt L.-K.

The Trustees report that a new one year home warranty has been placed on the parsonage to make it easier for our tenants, as well as potentially have broken components covered under warranty.

The big tree in the parsonage back yard fell over without causing damage. Pastor Bob is going to rent a chain saw and keep the wood for the fire pit.

We had a major tree pruning at the Thomas St. rentals to keep our neighbor to the west happy. Fortunately, the trees were due to be trimmed anyway, so we should be good for the next three years.

Trustee Dave McC. has been studying the outside lighting situation for our church. He is looking at it from both safety and promotional vantage points. He will be presenting to the Church Council soon.

The Reed Street house is still under construction, and we are moving along as planned.

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

by Patty R.

If you would like to have an opportunity to get to know Pastor Lori, please attend the weekly Zoom Coffee with the Pastor on Thursdays at 1:00 pm. The Zoom link is: [zoom.us/j/94372871938](https://zoom.us/j/94372871938). Enter the password 043216.

### **Finance**

by Hope A.

Project Grace is pursuing a grant from Las Patronas to cover the cost of a new oven. We are also reviewing compensation for our Wednesday night workers. More to come.

## ***Attendance Statistics from 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!



# Circle of Support

## July 2020 Record of Generosity

Excluding extraordinary items*	Budget	Actual
July giving	\$18,800	\$15,289
July other sources of income	\$11,799	\$8,549
July total available for ministry	\$30,599	\$23,838
July expended in ministry	\$31,926	\$33,941
July income minus expenses	(\$1,326)	(\$10,104)
YTD giving	\$131,600	\$111,663
YTD other sources of income	\$82,596	\$80,905
YTD total available for ministry	\$214,196	\$192,568
YTD expended in ministry	\$226,489	\$212,218
YTD income minus expenses	(\$12,293)	(\$19,650)
Year 2020 budget	\$386,129	

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

## Reflections From the Finance Team

The pandemic continues to affect both income and expenses this year. The net loss in the month of July is distorted by the timing of other income received (quarterly) versus budget (monthly), so the YTD number paints a better picture. We have not yet recognized as income the forgivable portion of our Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan, which is likely to cover our YTD losses. That is not to say that the PPP loan will be sufficient to cover all losses by year end. US Bank is waiting for Congress to finish changing the rules before publishing a loan forgiveness application.

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.

## September Communion Offering Christian Education

Faithful discipleship is a lifelong journey. Christian education is not just for children. Neither is it a “been there, done that” experience. Christian education comes in many forms — traditional face-to-face Bible studies, small groups, Zoom, and other online groups — and pulls from many places to find curriculum and other study material. Innovative leaders are constantly providing new models and resources.

The hope is you will continue your God-inspired learning for the rest of your life.

This offering helps to strengthen programs in the United Methodist church that nurture religion.



## Missing the Birthday List?

Some members and friends of PB UMC have asked about the birthday list that appeared each month in the printed *Beach Breeze*. Because of privacy issues, we have deleted birthdays from electronic versions. If you wish a copy that includes the birthdays, please get in touch with the church 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



## Week 1

Tues, Sept 1 6:30 pm, Re-opening Committee Meeting  
Wed, Sept 2 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study Online  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Sept 3 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor

## Week 3

Sun, Sept 13 9:00 am, Livestream Worship  
10:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour  
Mon, Sept 14 6:30 pm, Study of Psalms via Zoom  
Wed, Sept 16 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study Online  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Sept 17 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor

*Labor Day*

## Week 2

Sun, Sept 6 9:00 am, Worship and Communion via Livestream  
10:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour  
Mon, Sept 7 Labor Day — Church Office Closed  
6:30 pm, Study of Psalms via Zoom  
Tues, Sept 8 6:30 pm, Church Council Meeting  
Wed, Sept 9 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study Online  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Sept 10 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor

## Week 4

Sun, Sept 20 9:00 am, Livestream Worship  
10:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour  
Mon, Sept 21 October *Beach Breeze* Deadline  
6:30 pm, Study of Psalms via Zoom  
Wed, Sept 23 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study Online  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries  
Thurs, Sept 24 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor

## Week 5

Sun, Sept 27 9:00 am, Livestream Worship  
10:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour  
11:00 am, Growing in Faith Meeting via Zoom  
Mon, Sept 28 October *Beach Breeze* Posted Online  
6:30 pm, Study of Psalms via Zoom  
Wed., Sept 30 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study Online  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace

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

## **September Scriptures**

**Sept 6, 2020** "Taking the Initiative"  
Matthew 18:15-20

**Sept 13, 2020** "An Eye for an Eye"  
Matthew 18:21-35

**Sept 20, 2020** "Grumblers"  
Matthew 20:1-16

**Sept 27, 2020** "Leaning Into Yes"  
Matthew 21:23-32

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



1561 Thomas Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92109

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## **Meet Beach Breeze Singer Diego L.**

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

We now have a special choir, known as the Beach Breeze Singers, for the pandemic period. I recently got a chance to get to know Diego L., our talented Beach Breeze tenor. I asked him when he started singing. "In 2013, I started singing in Mexico City where I was studying at the National Conservatory of Music, the largest music school in Mexico. In 2017 I moved to San Diego to finish my studies at SDSU.

"Music has been part of my life since I was very young. My mother worked as chair of the cultural and artistic department for a large university in Guadalajara. Because of this, I got to see lots of different performances, and I fell in love with that world. My family has always been very musical. My grandmother was a pianist and a couple of my uncles are composers. It was that love of music that motivated me to become an opera singer."

He is dating one of our singers, Cambria M. "We have been together for over a year and a half now. She is a wonderful, caring, and loving person and a talented, hardworking musician. I am very privileged to be sharing life with her. We met in a production of Jonathan Dove's *Flight* at SDSU, which brought us together."

In addition to singing, he contributes to other parts of our church service. Music Ministries Director Ron Jessee has inspired him. Diego said, "Ron is a wonderful person to work with. He is a very passionate musician that loves what he does. He puts a lot of care in selecting music that not only showcases the strengths of his musicians, but can also connect and be meaningful to the congregation. Ron wants for the Beach Breeze Singers to be more involved in the church. This has been very special for me. Before joining the PB UMC music team I had been searching for a spiritual community that resonated with me. Singing, and reading prayers for the people of this community has meant a great deal to me; it makes me feel like I found something that was missing in my life."

I asked him if he had anything else he'd like to share with us. "I want to thank everyone for making me and the singers feel at home. It has been very special finding this place so diverse and welcoming, full of people committed to a community they love. It's a love that is contagious and I am glad I can be a small part in it."

