



Pacific Beach
United Methodist Church

BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

November 2020

Regathering Survey Results

We had a great response to our regathering survey. Thank you to all 50 people who responded!

Here is what we learned about how folks were feeling and thinking at that moment in time. Of the group of respondents, 38% indicated that they would return to in-person worship as soon as it was possible. The remainder of respondents had varying degrees of comfort or discomfort regarding returning to in-person worship. Nearly everyone expressed a willingness to make a reservation if necessary and to follow safety guidelines, including social distancing and wearing of masks. The majority of respondents felt comfortable with us returning to in-person worship in stages (56%), allowing those who choose to return earlier to do so and recognizing that there will be others who would not choose to return until a later time. A significant number of people (86%) said they would consider attending a small, outside worship service if safety measures were in place. It is clear that what people are missing *most* is worship and each other. In addition, people are missing the beautiful music of the choir. In response to the question about what element of worship is essential to have in place in order for it to feel like worship, 40% of respondents named the choir. In the comments section, many of you lifted up your thanks and appreciation for our music and technology folks who are going above and beyond, to shape a worship experience that is genuine and meaningful, and that can connect us safely in this challenging time. That is worth saying again—thank you to our music and technology folks for all you are doing!

There is a Regathering Committee that is working on our return to worship plan and the forms that must be approved by our Church Council and then by our District Office. We are monitoring the ever-fluctuating state of our county relative to COVID-19 and we are discussing, planning for, and praying about a safe return to campus! We are all eager to get there as soon and as safely as possible. If you are interested in helping with these efforts, we'd love to have you join us! Please contact Pastor Lori for more information on how to get involved.



Vacation Days

Pastor Lori Leopold will be on vacation from Monday, November 23 through Saturday, November 28. Adam Marshall-Lopez will be available for emergency pastoral care needs.

The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving day, Thursday, November 26.

A Message From Pastor Lori

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is nearly upon us, and this is a doozy of a year to contemplate gratitude. I have been reminded in these past months that it might seem easier to be grateful in times of joy and plenty. Wouldn't that make sense? When all is good, there is much for which to be thankful! And while that is absolutely true, I have to admit that when all is good, I sometimes fall into the trap of taking things for granted. I get comfortable, and complacent, and lose focus on the multitude of things for which I am truly grateful.

I have never lived in a global pandemic before, and I am guessing that is true for most of you as well. I have been surprised to find that COVID-19 has driven me to a place of deeper gratitude. I have known intellectually for many years that gratitude crowds out all kinds of smaller, meaner, more diminishing moods. If I am intentional about cultivating gratitude, there is less room available in the recesses of my heart and mind and soul for fear and angst to flourish. But living during this time has helped me experience the power of holding fast to gratitude during uncertain and tumultuous days. It is the slowing down and giving thanks that turns my heart away from the worries of the world, and reminds me of God's presence and grace that is with us and that will see us through.

And so in this season of Thanksgiving I have been especially purposeful about giving thanks for the big and little things. For example, as I sit here, I'm thankful for safe and secure shelter. I'm thankful for family and friends, near and far. I'm thankful for health. I'm thankful for my canine children, Sammy and Abby. I'm thankful for the ability to swim, well into October, marveling at the blissful quiet of the water and the beautiful, dappled sunlight on the bottom of the pool. I'm thankful for good books. I'm thankful for crisp mornings and the fragrance of the trees. I'm thankful for the bird songs that add music to my

days. I'm thankful for love. I'm thankful for people who smile with their eyes or lift a hand, making the extra effort to connect ever so briefly with another human being. I'm thankful for coffee and chocolate and a whole bunch of other delicious and necessary things! I'm thankful for the orange Gerber daisies that sit on my table brightening my day.

And I'm thankful for you. I'm truly thankful to be here at PB UMC. I'm thankful that you have welcomed me so kindly, and invited me to share in ministry with this remarkable congregation. Know that I am praying for you and yours in this holy season of gratitude. May the awareness of the blessings of our lives, big and small, ground us in faith, hope, and love, and ever turn our lives toward God and one another.

In Gratitude,
Pastor Lori



Photo by Pastor Lori Leopold

2020 Church Conference

PB UMC is required to hold a meeting each year where church leaders are elected, the membership rolls are reviewed, the pastor's compensation package is approved, and other business matters pertaining to property and assets can be carried out. This year, our church conference will be on Sunday, November 15, 2020, at 3:00 pm. Our presiding officer will be the Reverend Page Eaves, Assistant District Director, and pastor at La Mirada UMC.

All members are welcome to attend and vote; friends who are not yet members may attend and participate, but not vote; the presence of church leaders is needed and strongly encouraged.

We Care for One Another

November Youth Ministry

by Erich Grimm-Schmitt

November may be a heavy month that is full of mixed emotions. Emotions are good! The 2020 election, as well as figuring out how to celebrate Thanksgiving, can be a bit much, maybe too much. Though with all the change and all the planning, I am here to help.

For the month of November, we are going to try something new!

Sunday School will be held every first and third Sunday at 10:30 am. This gives time for young leaders to grab a snack and finish up their Whirl Worksheets. Sunday School offers an opportunity for us to check in, have some fun, and share in joys and concerns. It will last for about 30 minutes.

Youth Group will be every second and fourth Sunday at 4:00 pm. This is a time to connect with each other, share in discussion and a game, and build relationships. Youth Group will be about 45 minutes to an hour long.

Drinks and Discuss will be for the parents! The last Friday of the month, we will informally gather over zoom and talk about what the young leaders and youth enjoyed or didn't enjoy, updates for next month, and possibly a fun little devotion. Who knows? The meeting time is yet TBD.

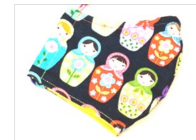
"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."—John F. Kennedy



Mask Repair



Do you have a face mask that you like, but it's not wearable? We can fix rips and tears. We can replace ties with elastic or vice versa, including adjustable elastic loops, and head straps with pony beads. We have lots of supplies left over from our summer mask-making project and would love to keep yours in good repair. Contact Hope A. or the church office for repairs.



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

Advent is Right Around the Corner

Advent is the four-week season just prior to Christmas when we prepare for the coming of Emmanuel, God with Us, in the Christ Child. Even if you have never considered participating in an Advent small group before, this year might be the year! The year 2020 has been unlike anything we could have anticipated at the beginning. And now we find ourselves turning into a holiday season that is supposed to be “merry and bright.” Perhaps our faith has been challenged by this pandemic and perhaps it has been strengthened. For all of us, surely our faith has somehow been engaged as we have tried to make sense of all that has happened and continues to happen to us, within us, and around us.

Adam Marshall-Lopez and Pastor Lori are preparing for Advent small groups utilizing a study called “Almost Christmas.” It will guide us through the Advent season, pausing to reflect on the traditional themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. It is a Wesleyan study that reminds us that during Advent we hold the tension of preparing for Christ’s coming while acknowledging that Christ is already here. Likewise, as people of faith we experience real and tangible signs of hope, peace, joy, and love in the world, yet we know they have not fully arrived in our realm. How do we live in the in-between time and how will we welcome Christ in the midst of that?

We hope to offer several small groups at different times during Advent. Watch for coming information, and feel free to order a participant book now if you know you would like to be a part of a small group or if you’d like just to do the reading on your own. You can view and purchase the book at Cokesbury using the following link: <https://www.cokesbury.com/Almost-Christmas-1>. If assistance with ordering or covering the cost of a book would be helpful, please reach out to Pastor Lori or Adam for support. We hope you will join us!



Project Grace and the Holidays

The holidays are quickly approaching, and we have made plans for celebrations for our Wednesday night guests. Given the changes for all, we have altered the arrangements for the meals and give-aways.

The Thanksgiving meal will be held Wednesday, November 25. Donations of cooked turkey are welcome. Chef Ben tells us they will need ten cooked whole turkeys, or 12 cooked half turkey breasts. The cooked turkey should be at the church no later than Sunday, November 22. If you can furnish uncooked turkeys, they should be at the church by November 18, so they can be prepared in time for the meal.

The Project Grace Christmas meal will be Wednesday December 16. For this meal, Chef Ben asks that this year’s support be offered monetarily, due to current health regulations and the ever-changing landscape of holding the meal each week.

The Christmas celebration will also be a bit different. Monetary contributions toward the meal and the gifts are requested. Although new or freshly washed, gently used items will be accepted, the following will be received, or will be purchased with donations:

Christmas cards and stamps
Socks
Hygiene products
Adult hoodies or coats

Blankets
Tarps
Giant trash bags

Since the clinic is not open regularly to patients yet, and the health climate is not stabilized, toys and gift items are not being accepted or given away this year.

Thank you for your help in making this a season to remember!

We Reach Out to Others

Church Council News

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

by Patty R.

SPRC is working on completing the necessary staff evaluations, forms, and paperwork for our upcoming Charge Conference (November 15, 2020, at 3:00 pm). Also, hiring for the Project Grace Volunteer Coordinator is in process.

Finance

by Hope A.

We've received a check for \$12,764 from Philadelphia Insurance for the embezzlement loss incurred in 2019. This covers our cash losses and closes the issue from a financial point of view. Our Las Patronas grant application for replacement of the freezer, range, and microwave, and a new deep fryer has proceeded to the site visit stage. We are hopeful of receiving an award in early December.

Trustees

by Kurt L.-K.

Due to the precautions around COVID-19, progress on the Reed Avenue house has halted. We are not able to get an inspector to come out and sign off on the work.

The Church Council elected to pay our Reed Avenue neighbor for repairs. Their deck was damaged in the fire on our property. Our insurance company said it was not our responsibility, but the Council felt being a good neighbor was worth covering the \$2,500.00 in damage.

Each of the Thomas Avenue properties is rented.



Be Like Vicki

Over the summer months Youth Ministry Coordinator Erich Grimm-Schmitt and Office Administrator Ivey Merrill have been doing some extra work monitoring and improving our social media presence and outreach. Their focus was primarily on Instagram and Facebook.

In a nutshell, what they discovered was that Instagram has greater flexibility and more capacity for us to connect with other people and entities. They also discovered that our posts related to social justice issues received the strongest response.

Their recommendation coming out of this short period of experimentation? ***BE LIKE VICKI!***

Hands down, Vicki T. is doing the best job at extending our PB UMC presence on social media. She is “liking” and “commenting” and “sharing.” Each time a page is liked, a comment is posted, or a post is shared, it impacts the algorithm that allows for greater viewing of our information and invitations. It increases the chance that our outreach just might connect with someone who is hoping to connect with a church just like us.

So, if you don't already follow PB UMC on Facebook and Instagram, please do! Help us get the word out on social media that we are a loving, inclusive church, here for all!

Circle of Support

September 2020 Record of Generosity

<i>Excluding extraordinary items*</i>	Budget	
September giving	\$18,800	\$12,766
September other sources of income	\$11,799	\$32,538
September total available for ministry	\$30,599	\$45,304
September expended in ministry	\$31,926	\$33,607
September income minus expenses	(\$1,326)	\$11,697
YTD giving	\$169,200	\$142,233
YTD other sources of income	\$106,195	\$134,850
YTD total available for ministry	\$275,395	\$277,083
YTD expended in ministry	\$290,340	\$280,218
YTD income minus expenses	(\$14,945)	(\$3,135)
Year 2020 budget	\$386,129	

* Fire and fraud in 2019, covered by insurance.

Reflections From the Finance Team

In September we recorded almost six months replacement rental income from insurance for the Reed Ave. house. This includes an accounting reclass from a non-budget account titled "insurance proceeds," and explains the unusually high "other sources of income" number for September. It's not the last big item that will be posted by year end. Please expect more changes, hopefully good news.

We are keeping an eye on things but have more accounting corrections to work through. With the help of Covid-19 relief, we expect to come out in pretty good shape at year end.

We'd love to receive your estimate of 2021 giving by pledge card, online at pbumc.org, or by email to Linda A. It's not too late to help us put together a good estimate for next year's budget.



November Communion Offering Interfaith Shelter Network

The goal of Interfaith Shelter Network is to eliminate homelessness in the urban communities of San Diego County through a cooperative partnership with faith-based communities, related government programs, and social service agencies. The Interfaith Shelter Network does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or disabilities both in hiring practice or provision of services.

Corporate and private donations are the single biggest income source of their annual budget. Your communion offering this month will help to provide shelter and other resources to homeless individuals and families, and enable them to move toward self-sufficiency.

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

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sun, Nov 1 9:00 am, Worship and Communion
10:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour
10:30 am, Youth Sunday School (p.3)
Mon, Nov 2 6:30 pm, Esther Study
Tues, Nov 3 Election Day
Wed, Nov 4 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Nov 5 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor
7:00 pm, Choir Practice, via Zoom

Week 2

Sun, Nov 8 9:00 am, Worship
10:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour
4:00 pm, Youth Group (p.3)
Mon, Nov 9 6:30 pm, Esther Study
Tues, Nov 10 6:30 pm, Church Council Meeting
Wed, Nov 11 Veterans Day
11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Nov 12 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor
7:00 pm, Choir Practice, via Zoom



Photo by Mark B.
October 11, 2020

Week 3

Sun, Nov 15 9:00 am, Worship
10:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour
10:30 am, Youth Sunday School (p.3)
3:00 pm, All Church Conference (p.2)
Mon, Nov 16 6:30 pm, Esther Study
Tues, Nov 17 6:30 pm, Grief Group
Wed, Nov 18 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Nov 19 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor
7:00 pm, Interfaith Thanksgiving
Service
7:00 pm, Choir Practice, via Zoom

Week 4

Sun, Nov 22 9:00 am, Livestream Worship
10:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour
4:00 pm, Youth Group (p.3)
Mon, Nov 23 December *Beach Breeze* Deadline
Wed., Nov 25 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
Online
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thanksgiving meal (p.4)
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries
Thurs, Nov 26 Thanksgiving: church office closed (p.1)
Fri, Nov 27 Parents' Drinks and Discuss (p.3)



Week 5

Sun, Nov 29 9:00 am, Livestream Worship
10:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour
Mon, Nov 30 December *Beach Breeze* Posted Online



Photos in this column by Pastor Lori Leopold
Sunday, October 11, 2020

Looking Ahead

Wed, Dec 16 4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Christmas meal (p.4)

We Love and Worship God

November Scriptures

- Nov 1, 2020** **All Saints Sunday with Holy Communion**
"Blessed in the Not Yet"
Revelation 7:9-17
Matthew 5:1-12
- Nov 8, 2020** "Being Prepared"
Matthew 25:1-13
- Nov 15, 2020** "Entrusted"
Matthew 25:14-30
- Nov 22, 2020** **Christ the King Sunday**
"Royal Living"
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46
- Nov 29, 2020** **1st Sunday of Advent**
"The Advent Journey"
Mark 13:24-37

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church



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Meet Project Grace Program Manager Beth R.

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

Recently I got a chance to talk to Beth R., our Project Grace Program Manager. She told me, "The meal and services program has been running and changing at PB UMC for more than 25 years. I took over as the program manager about six years ago. With a degree in Non-Profit Management, I set up a new non-profit organization, and took over management of the Wednesday Night Services. I worked closely with then-church-admin Aimee, the volunteer and clinic teams, and newly hired Chef Ben, to learn everything about the meal and the work-and-benefit program for our volunteers. In consultation with the church and the Wednesday night team, we adopted the new name, Project Grace. This marked the transition, and the renewed spirit of collaboration and grace offered in our work.

"For the last six years I have run the program entirely. I established new alliances with community organizations both independently and through our relationships with UCSD. It was absolutely controlled chaos, and I owe everything to the incredible team. They always keep things running like clockwork. The team of volunteers from the unhoused community are committed and extremely hard-working individuals who have done this for so many years they could do it in their sleep. The clinic team members are professional and always willing to work with me and compromise to allow the most benefit to our guests on a given night.

"Presently, during COVID-19, we have had to make some extreme changes to accommodate necessary safety standards. We are making no move to adjust back to a seated meal, and we don't know when we will."

Beth and I talked about her sons, who have both provided tapes of themselves playing the piano for our Sunday morning livestreams. Cameron, who is 16, is looking to graduate from high school a semester early, and is currently working hard toward that goal in his junior year. Zach, who is 11, is doing very well, and is excited to show his parents his teacher's complements. However, Zach is currently missing playing soccer.

As a church member, I was only vaguely aware of what goes on in Project Grace, and was thrilled to find out.

