



Pacific Beach  
United Methodist Church

# BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

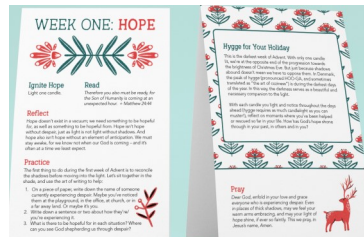
December 2020

## ***Advent at PB UMC***

### **Lighting of the Christmas Tree!**

Dick V S and friends have been hard at work preparing for the lighting of our tree in the church courtyard. It was sans lights last year in order to promote its health and well-being. This year, we are adding some modified lighting. Like everything else in 2020, it'll be a little bit different, but it will be lit, and lovely, and bright...a beacon in and for our neighborhood.

On Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm, we will have a brief outdoor gathering to light the tree and sing a few carols. We plan to limit the gathering to 50 people and will ask folks to make advance reservations so we can keep our gathering safe for all. Masks and social distancing will be required. Watch for opportunities to sign up coming soon!



### **Advent Resources for Home**

One of the many wonderful traditions of Advent is the Advent Wreath, which invites us to light a candle each week and reflect on the anticipated coming of Christ at Christmas. This year we have Advent "Table Tents" that are available for you to use at home. You may use them with an Advent Wreath, or choose to use them all on their own. Each week, a new Table Tent provides a brief scripture, an invitation for reflection during the week, and a prayer. The Advent Table Tents will be available for pick up at the Lighting of the Christmas Tree on the First Sunday of Advent, November 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00. If you would like an Advent Table Tent set but do not plan to attend the lighting of the tree, please contact the Church Office. You may arrange to pick up a set, or Pastor Lori or another elf will deliver them to you!

### **Advent Study and Small Group: "Almost Christmas"**

There's still time to sign up for an Advent Small Group! We'll be using a study that's grounded in our Wesleyan/United Methodist tradition to explore ways that we can experience not just an "almost Christmas," but an "altogether Christmas" in these challenging times. Groups start November 30<sup>th</sup>, and run for four weeks. There are three groups to choose from, so we hope there's a day and a time that will work for you! Two of the groups will be using a study book, and one group will use the video series, with no advance preparation necessary. All groups will be on Zoom. You can find more information and sign up at:

[www.pbumc.org/almostchristmas](http://www.pbumc.org/almostchristmas).

Please contact Adam M-L or Pastor Lori for more information.

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

Dear Friends,

When I think back to the beginning of this year, recalling my hopes and expectations for 2020, I can say that nothing has turned out in quite the way I anticipated. COVID-19 descended early in the year and turned just about everything on its head. I can't think of anything that has remained "business as usual" in 2020. We enter into this Christmas season with hearts that perhaps long for "business as usual." The holidays are the time when we sometimes yearn to return to our traditions. We find comfort in doing things the way we've always done them. We find solace in the patterns that are so familiar. And yet, we know that Christmas, like everything else in our lives, will be a little different this year.

One of the traditions around Christmas that has been important for me has been to offer a Blue Christmas or "Longest Night" Service. This is a service that recognizes that, amid the regular festivities of Christmas, there are many who find the holidays difficult. At a time of year that is supposed to be "the happiest," there are some among us who struggle with sadness, grief, depression, even despair. How much more might that be true this year when all of us have experienced grief related to changes and losses around this pandemic?

The Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service is traditionally held on the Winter Solstice, the day of the year with the most hours of darkness. It is a quiet, reflective service that focuses our attention on the heart of the Christmas message: that light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot and will not overcome it. Emmanuel, God with us, comes into the places of shadow and loss and need to bring healing, hope, and transformation.

I have offered this service for many years at La Jolla UMC, and this year, I am excited to say, PB UMC and LJ UMC will join together for this special time. Pastor Bob and I are working out the details, but know that it will be held on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> in the evening. Please consider joining us to light a candle in the darkness and to remember, together, the Good News of God's outpouring love that comes to us in the Christ Child.

In Peace,  
Pastor Lori



## ***Pastoral Intern Update***

by Adam M-L

Greetings, beloved members of Pacific Beach United Methodist Church! In November, my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program entered its full swing. I began reading my first book, and meeting with my CPE educator and colleagues. My educator gave me a few compliments as well as some areas for potential growth. I was thrilled to work with Pastor Lori in co-leading our Esther study, and also in selecting and planning our Advent study. If you have not yet joined one of our small groups, I hope you will choose to do so in the coming months. I recognize how stressful and unusual this time is for most of us. Please reach out to me if I can support you in any way! As we enter into the season of Advent, it is my hope that you will open yourself to experience the gifts of this preparation time in new and more expansive ways—Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love.



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

## ***November Youth Ministry***

by Erich Grimm-Schmitt

December is usually my favorite month. The brisk, cozy mornings, mixing with crisp, wintry smells, provide a sense of familiar comfort. I get a feeling of calm joy as I have carols playing in the background every minute of the day. I enjoy walking with loved ones around neighborhoods that are decked out with Christmas lights and cheer. I savor singing subdued tunes at the midnight service. It promotes a feeling that all is right with the world. Though the question still lingers: What are we going to do in this season of COVID-19? Friends, perhaps this season calls us to be challenged in the wait and the preparedness that Advent calls us to do. Things may be different, and different can be fun. How are you preparing your home? How are you inviting and making space for this Christmas season, as well as setting a place for the spirit to be welcomed? This month I invite you to follow along with our Youth Instagram account (@pacificbeachyouth) as we explore what that means for each of us.

<u>Children &amp; Family</u>	<u>Youth</u>
Dec 6, 10:30 am, Sunday School	Dec 6, 12:00 pm, Instagram Advent Video Post
Dec 20, 10:30 am, Sunday School	Dec. 9, Instagram Advent Devotional
Dec 27, 11:00 am, Netflix Party	Dec 13, 12:00 pm, Instagram Advent Video Post
	Dec 13, 4:00 pm, Youth Group
	Dec 16, Instagram Advent Devotional
	Dec 20, 12:00 pm, Instagram Advent Video Post
	Dec 23, Instagram Advent Devotional
	Dec 27, 11:00 am, Netflix Party



Stephen Ministers are available to serve you as Care Providers. All you need to do is ask! We are a trained group of loving, accepting Christians, with compassionate hearts, who are willing to lend a socially distanced hand or an ear. During this difficult year of isolation and uncertainty, it is nice to have someone who cares for you and about you. PB UMC has reached out to the congregations at St Mark's and La Jolla UMC to offer **Stephen Ministers** to their church community, as well.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to talk to or pray with a Stephen Minister, please contact Jesse H. or Dart R.

We all wish you a safe, loving holiday season. Be blessed.

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***

## **Church Conference 2020**

by Pastor Lori Leopold

We had twenty-seven participants attend the annual Church Conference on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful to our presiding elder, Rev. Paige Eaves, for guiding us through a time of business and a time of celebration/affirmation as we reflected on this past year and began to look toward the year ahead. Many thanks to TennieBee Hall for serving once again as our capable recording secretary. Here are a few of the highlights in case you missed it:

♦ Our lay leader, Ken B. shared a meaningful devotion based on the Beatitudes, highlighting some of our core values and commitments at PB UMC.

♦ Pastor Lori directed folks to the Disciple Making Report and Pastor's Report in the Church Conference booklet, offering a word of thanks for the warm and caring welcome she's received at PB UMC.

♦ An update was provided on efforts to review our membership records and fine tune our processes for keeping those records. We remembered two of our members, Frances Selleck and Al Hermann, beloved family who left our membership rolls in the last year to join the church triumphant. We give thanks for their lives and witness.

♦ We reviewed the Nominating Committee Report, recognizing that it's a work in progress. We look forward to welcoming Tom B. onto Church Council as he will be serving as our incoming Financial Secretary. We said a big thank you to Linda A., Kurt I.-K., and Vicki T. who are rotating off of Church Council at the end of 2020. Their service has been invaluable! We are still working to fill openings on Church Council in the focus areas of Staff Parish and Trustees. We are also filling positions on Nominating Committee. Please contact Pastor Lori if you would like to nominate yourself or someone you love for one of these important positions!

♦ Terre F. gave an update from the Staff Parish focus group, thanking our staff for dedicated ministry during this challenging year.

♦ We approved the Pastoral Salary and Benefits Package/Housing Allowance.

♦ We voted unanimously to continue our support for candidate for ordained ministry, Adam M.-L. We lifted up and delighted in the many ways Adam offers love, ministry, and support in this community!

♦ Hope A. provided a financial update, and turned our attention toward a draft of the budget for 2021. The budget will be finalized in January.

♦ Ken B. provided a report on behalf of the Trustees focus group. PB UMC is now renting the Vickie Drive house to La Jolla UMC. The house on Reed Avenue is being repaired and renovated after the fire earlier this year. It is likely to be completed in early 2021. Upon completion, Pastor Lori will move into the Reed Avenue property, and it will become our active parsonage. Ken also shared that our Labor of Love Project has experienced delays due to the difficulty of getting permits during the pandemic. Once our permits are in place, the project is ready to move forward. We anticipate the completion of this project in 2021 and look forward to a big celebration!

If you did not receive the link for the Church Conference materials and would like to review them, please send an e-mail to Ivey at [admin@pbumc.org](mailto:admin@pbumc.org). Thanks to all who made this a productive and joyful event!



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

## ***Church Council News***

### ***Trustees***

by Kurt L.-K.

We are at a standstill on the Reed Avenue Property. We are awaiting city inspections which have been delayed indefinitely. Based on the current status of the home, once it is cleared, we are looking at construction for a solid three months, potentially longer, to finish out the property.

All Thomas Avenue units are rented out at market rents.

The Vickie Drive property is in need of tenting for termites. We have yet to determine a time that will be best for the Rhodes family to vacate for a few days.

We are in need of two more council members as one Trustee and one SPRC member have terms ending in 2020. If you have interest in serving, please contact Ken B. or Pastor Lori.

### ***Finance***

by Hope A.

Church Council continues to refine the 2021 budget. The version presented to the November 15, 2020, all-church conference is a work in progress. We have moved Labor of Love construction funds from US Bank to Mission Federal and California Coast Credit Unions in order to ensure that all our deposits are fully insured. FDIC and NCUA have limits of \$250,000 per depositor per financial institution.



## ***CCSA Christmas Basket Donations***

by Pam R.

It is that time of year again to think about helping out low income families for the Christmas holidays.

Community Christian Services Agency (CCSA) wants to continue to offer this service, but due to the pandemic, they will be organizing differently. They are requesting cash donations only. Based on the amount received from the community, they will distribute gift cards in equal amounts to each family as a virtual Christmas basket.

How can you help? You can donate to the church with a check noting “CCSA Christmas baskets” on the memo line, and send it to the church office. Or, you can donate on our website by specifying the gift is for “CCSA Christmas baskets.”

This program helps 200 or more families each season. In these trying times any help we can offer is so greatly appreciated. The deadline for donations is December. 9. We thank you in advance for your generosity.



# Circle of Support

## October 2020 Record of Generosity

<i>Excluding extraordinary items*</i>	Budget	Actual
October giving	\$18,800	\$15,433
October other sources of income	\$8,611	\$9,121
October total available for ministry	\$27,411	\$24,554
October expended in ministry	\$31,926	\$22,928
October income minus expenses	(\$4,515)	\$1,626
YTD giving	\$188,000	\$157,666
YTD other sources of income	\$116,494	\$131,901
YTD total available for ministry	\$304,494	\$289,568
YTD expended in ministry	\$322,266	\$306,402
YTD income minus expenses	(\$17,772)	(\$16,834)
Year 2020 budget	\$386,129	

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

## Reflections From the Finance Team

Our income and expenses continue to be well below budget in the pandemic. With help from the expected Payroll Protection Program loan forgiveness—not yet booked to the accounting system—we should end the year in pretty good shape. No federal assistance is expected for 2021, though, so next year may be a lot tougher.

## December Communion Offering UM Student Day

Across the country, the people of The United Methodist Church are serving the people God loves. We're doing it at home, but so often we'd like to do more.

- We want to serve those in other places who are suffering.
- We want to offer spiritual words of hope and life.
- And we want to be well-equipped to do both.

The reality for most of us is that our responsibilities—home, family, work—don't allow us to engage with every need we'd like to meet.

Right now there are UMC young people who might not have had the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all, who've been sent by you into the world God loves because of your giving to United Methodist Student Day. When you give generously you are supporting these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge.

## Stewardship Update 2021

As of mid-November, we've received 31 pledge cards with estimates of giving for the year 2021. If you haven't had a chance to send yours in, there's still time. Please return them to the office via mail, or you can submit your pledge online at [www.pbumc.org/give2021](http://www.pbumc.org/give2021). If you turned in an estimate of giving and have NOT received an acknowledgment, please reach out to Financial Secretary Linda A. at [LindaA@pbumc.org](mailto:LindaA@pbumc.org). Our planned giving helps our faith community prepare for how we can best be in mission and ministry in 2021. Thank you for your on-going commitment and generosity as we seek to be instruments of God's peace, justice, and mercy in the world around us.

**Over 70%? Use Qualified Charitable Contributions to Save on Taxes.** Generally, a qualified charitable distribution is an otherwise taxable distribution from an IRA (other than an ongoing SEP or SIMPLE IRA) owned by an individual who is age 70½ or over that is paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity. Your qualified charitable distributions can satisfy all or part the amount of your required minimum distribution from your IRA.

### 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

## Advent Happenings Begin in November.

(See Page 1)

- Sun, Nov 29 First Sunday of Advent  
6:00 pm, Tree Lighting and Carols  
in Courtyard  
(Please make reservations in advance.)  
Pick Up Advent Table Tents for Home.
- Mon, Nov 30 11:00 am, "Almost Christmas"  
Study begins (p.1)  
6:30 pm, "Almost Christmas" Study



### Week 1

- Tues, Dec 1 7:00 pm, "Almost Christmas" Study (p.1)
- Wed, Dec 2 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
Online  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
- Thurs, Dec 3 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor  
7:00 pm, Choir Zoom Chat

### Week 2

- Sun, Dec 6 9:00 am, Worship and Communion  
10:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour  
10:30 am, Children & Family  
Sunday School (p.3)  
12:00 pm, Youth Advent Post (p.3)
- Mon, Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day  
11:00, "Almost Christmas" Study  
6:30 pm, "Almost Christmas" Study
- Tues, Dec 8 6:30 pm, Church Council Meeting  
7:00 pm, "Almost Christmas" Study
- Wed, Dec 9 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
Online  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Youth Advent Devotional (p.3)  
Deadline for CCSA Donations (p.5)
- Thurs, Dec 10 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor  
7:00 pm, Choir Zoom Chat

### Week 3

- Sun, Dec 13 9:00 am, Worship  
10:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour  
12:00 pm, Youth Advent Post (p.3)  
4:00 pm, Youth Group (p.3)
- Mon, Dec 14 11:00, "Almost Christmas" Study  
6:30 pm, "Almost Christmas" Study
- Tues, Dec 15 6:30 pm, Grief Group  
7:00 pm, "Almost Christmas" Study
- Wed, Dec 16 January *Beach Breeze* Deadline  
(note change)  
11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
Online  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Christmas Meal  
Youth Advent Devotional (p.3)
- Thurs, Dec 17 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor  
7:00 pm, Choir Zoom Chat

### Week 4

- Sun, Dec 20 9:00 am, Worship  
10:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour  
10:30 am, Children & Family  
Sunday School (p.3)  
12:00 pm, Youth Advent Post (p.3)
- Mon, Dec 21 11:00, "Almost Christmas" Study  
6:30 pm, "Almost Christmas" Study  
Blue Christmas Service with LJ UMC
- Tues, Dec 22 7:00 pm, "Almost Christmas" Study
- Wed, Dec 23 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
Online  
January *Beach Breeze* Posted Online  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Youth Advent Devotional (p.3)  
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries
- Thurs, Dec 24 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor  
Christmas Eve Worship Services
- Fri, Dec 25 Christmas: Church Office Closed

### Week 5

- Sun, Dec 27 9:00 am, Livestream Worship  
Special Cal-Pac Service  
10:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour  
11:00 am, Children & Youth  
Netflix Party (p.3)
- Wed, Dec 30 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
Online  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
- Thurs, Dec 31 New Years Eve!

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

## ***December Scriptures***

**Dec 6, 2020**    **Second Sunday in Advent**  
**Holy Communion**  
“Preparations”  
Mark 1:1-8

**Dec 13, 2020**    **Third Sunday in Advent**  
Choir Christmas Program  
“A Baby Changes Everything”

**Dec 20, 2020**    **Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
“Impossible”  
Luke 1:26-38

**Dec 21, 2020**    **Blue Christmas Service**  
Pacific Beach UMC  
and La Jolla UMC  
Details coming soon!

**Dec 24, 2020**    **Christmas Eve Services**  
Isaiah 9:2-7  
Luke 2:1-20  
Details coming soon!

**Dec 27, 2020**    Special Service offered by our  
California-Pacific Annual  
Conference



## ***Meet Financial Analyst Tom B.***

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

I recently got a chance to talk to Tom B., who was elected to be the church's new Financial Secretary at the November 15, 2020, Church Conference. The Financial Secretary sends out quarterly reports, and keeps track of each individual donation in a special report that only he or she sees. A teller's report is sent out to church officials, and by contrast only shows the total amounts given to the many different accounts that the church has. Tom is ready to take over these tasks.

Tom and his family started attending PB UMC in 1994. He and his wife, Sally, have two children. Their son, who lives locally, is an air traffic controller, and their daughter is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in Northern California. They have three grandchildren, with one granddaughter living in San Diego, and the other two living in Northern California. Tom and Sally travel to northern California to see the grandkids three or four times a year.

Tom has been retired since 2012, and has been assisting our Financial Secretary since 2013. First, he worked with Dick V S, and then with Linda A.

Prior to the pandemic, Tom, Dick, and Linda, along with Margaret S. and Toni W., met on Monday morning to count the cash receipts from the offering plates, review the checks, and perform online deposits. Then they balanced the accounts, and prepared checks and cash for deposit. They entered the information into the computer and sent the teller's report to the church treasurer, bookkeeper, pastor, youth minister, and secretary.

Since March, the routine has changed. No cash to worry about! Now, Dick enters the information into our accounting system; Linda comes in later and enters the information into Power Church, another accounting system. The results from the two systems are compared and differences are corrected. Linda then emails out the report, and Dick deposits the checks. Tom has been the backup for both Linda and Dick since March.

I really enjoyed getting to know Tom. I had no idea how complicated our financial activity is, and I am very happy that we have someone so dedicated taking care of it.

