



Pacific Beach  
United Methodist Church

# BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

October 2021

## *Life in Covenant: We Offer Our Witness*

by Pastor Lori

The language in our United Methodist Book of Worship talks about our covenant with God and one another in the life of the church and invites us to live into that covenant by actively participating through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. We are lifting up one aspect of that covenant each month in the Beach Breeze. In the last months, we talked about *our prayers*, *our presence*, *our gifts*, and *our service*. This month we are focusing on *our witness*.

To some of us, “witnessing” sounds like a bad word. It can evoke images of Christians pushing themselves and their beliefs, welcome or not, onto someone else. It’s our aversion to such things that makes more moderate and progressive Christians shy away from “evangelism.” We don’t want to be perceived as imposing ourselves or what we believe on others. But to “witness” to our faith is also fundamental to who we are as Christians. It essentially means to live our lives of faith “out loud.” To make visible, with actions, the beliefs we hold in our hearts and minds, and spirits. This language about “witness” was only added to the United Methodist membership vows in 2008. And the point was to emphasize the most public dimensions of our faith, and the ways we serve as a witness for Jesus in the world.

All of us will “witness” in different ways that suit our styles, gifts, personalities, and passions. There are ways in which we “witness” as individuals. This might be as simple as mentioning you are going to church when talking about your plans for the weekend. Whenever we live our lives in ways that reflect the Gospel **and** claim the name Christian, we bear witness to the love, mercy, compassion, and grace of Jesus.

We also “witness” in communal ways. Churches live their lives of faith “out loud” when they identify needs in the community and take action to be of consequence for good. PB UMC has a longstanding history of being a witness for LGBTQIA<sup>+</sup> justice and inclusion. We build on the witness of many who have come before us, and we continue to engage the larger church, the community, and the world as we participate in this on-going and essential work. PB UMC also serves as a faithful witness in extending care and support to those who are experiencing homelessness or food scarcity. In the spirit of Christ, we support some of the most vulnerable among us through Project Grace and through our relationship with UCSD and the free medical and dental clinics. We celebrate these ministries, and we continue to seek God’s will and guidance for our “next steps,” knowing that God will open our eyes and hearts to people and places in need. Let us continue to find loving and authentic ways to put our faith into action that we might be witnesses in the world on behalf of the one who brings justice and peace, the one who gives grace and mercy in abundance.

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

Dear Friends,

We are moving at what feels like full speed ahead into the busyness of the fall months. There is much to which we look forward! It especially warms my heart to think about being able to celebrate some of our “holy days” together...in person! We will be celebrating World Communion Sunday, a Blessing of the Animals, Laity Sunday, and All Saints Sunday in the weeks ahead. A little further down the road, we’ll be lighting Advent candles, gathering for “Blue Christmas,” and celebrating Christmas Eve. All of these are meaningful times in the life of our congregation.

And smack dab in the midst of all that goodness and holiness, we have a key and core event in the life of any United Methodist congregation: Charge Conference! Some of you are very familiar with Charge Conference and some of you may have no idea what I’m talking about. Charge Conference (or Church Conference as it is sometimes called) is the congregation’s annual meeting with our District Superintendent. We reflect on the ministry of the last year and look forward to all that is ahead. We make financial plans for the coming year, creating and adopting a budget. We also plan for changes in leadership and seek to align individuals with ministries that will use their gifts and hopefully bring them meaning and joy! Now, I’m not going to lie, there is much about Charge Conference that is a wee bit tedious. There are meetings to be held, statements to be written, and reports to be prepared. But ultimately it is a time of celebration, as we take stock of where we have been and where, with God’s help, we are going now.

One of the items that we address each year at Charge Conference is our membership report. We take a figurative snapshot of the congregation, recognizing those who have joined the church in the last year (by birth, baptism, or membership) and remembering those who have departed in the last year (by death, transfer to another church, or withdrawal from membership). Here at PB UMC, we have been undergoing an intensive review of our membership records, comparing our written records with our electronic

records. We have come across some glitches in our system and plan to share with you an updated membership report that will more genuinely reflect who we are at this point in time. We have found some contradictions between our written records and our electronic records so we will be reaching out to some of you for clarification. I have had several folks come to me to ask about the status of their membership. If you are unsure and/or would like to know your status, please reach out to me! We will welcome new members into the congregation early in November. Whether you are brand new, or have been here for years and years, if you are interested in formally affiliating with PB UMC in membership, please give me a call.

Why is it important that we have a good handle on, and understanding of, our membership? I think there are a couple of reasons. On a very practical level, if folks have moved on, left the church, or connected with another congregation, we don’t want to burden them with more communication than they want. But, more important, it helps us to tend to one another in more meaningful and effective ways *and* it allows us to know who we are—with all our different gifts and grace—as we seek to be in effective ministry in our community and in the world.

This year’s Charge Conference will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm, via Zoom. All are invited and each church member has a vote. Please pray for this process and for the ministry of the church as we seek to grow in love and life with each other, and in service and care to those around us.

In Christ,  
Pastor Lori



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

## **October Youth Ministry**

by Erich Grimm-Schmitt

Young Leaders, Youth, and Families:

This month we are using the Illustrated Ministries curriculum, Mini-Revolutions! Just like how the earth orbits the sun, the Christian Church centers around the anticipation and celebration of Jesus's birth. These grand revolutions, or great changes, are made up of smaller changes: Mini-Revolutions. These great changes do not happen overnight, even though it might seem like that. Each week will focus on reflecting on the small impacts that we do every day.

The focus for this month is to go back to the basics: fellowship and fun. What does it mean to be an individual that is part of a larger community? In September, I have had meetings with many youths and parents to discuss their emotional/physical/spiritual needs. Anytime is a great time to recommit and walk hand-in-hand in this faith journey of ours. Let's continue this journey. . .

"Fall is here, hear the yell. Back to school, ring the bell. Brand new shoes, walking blues. Climb the fence, books and pens. I can tell that we are going to be friends. Yes, I can tell that we are going to be friends."

—*We Are Going to Be Friends*, Jack Johnson

### Upcoming Activities

#### **Children & Family @ 9:00am**

October 3, 2021 - Sunday School  
October 10, 2021 - Sunday School  
October 17, 2021 - Sunday School  
October 24, 2021 - Sunday School  
October 31, 2021 - Sunday School

#### **Youth @ 4:00 pm**

October 3, 2021 - Reset  
October 17, 2021 - Youth Group

#### **District Event @ 5:00 pm**

October 24, 2021 - District  
Halloween Dance



## ***Remembering the Saints of Our Lives***

On Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday. It is on this day that we are especially mindful of the great cloud of witnesses and all those who have gone before us. At that service we will honor and remember loved ones and friends who have died in the last year. If there is someone special to you who has died in the last year and you would like to have their name included in this time of remembrance, please talk to, text, e-mail, or call Pastor Lori before Sunday, October 31.

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***

## ***Blessing of the Animals***

As we turn into the fall season, there is so much about the natural world for which we give thanks! On Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, we will lift up one aspect of God's creation that gives us joy, comfort, laughter, and unconditional love: our critters! We will be sharing in a special Blessing of the Animals during the Sunday morning worship service at 10:00 am. Please feel free to bring your pet of any variety, shape, or size, as long as they will be comfortable in the worship setting and get along well with people and other critters. If you know your beloved pet/family member would be better off staying at home and receiving a blessing from afar, please feel free to bring a toy, blanket, or something else that represents them. We are so grateful for the connections we share with our furry, fuzzy, scaly, winged family members. We look forward to celebrating that connection together on October 10<sup>th</sup>.



## ***Compassionate Community Cleanup***

Join friends from PB UMC along with other faith communities, neighbors, and friends as we work together on Saturday, October 9, to clean up targeted areas of Pacific Beach and Mission Beach. This is a project of Shoreline Community Services that allows us to bring help and compassion to areas of our community that need a little TLC.

From Caryn Blanton, director of Shoreline: "Some of the areas are in need of care due to people living on the street without means to keep things maintained in a way that is best for everyone. This is simply a time to tidy up, make (another) fresh start, and even offer necessary resources/services to those we may run into as we work. Trained Shoreline Community Outreach Volunteers will be a part of the team who can address those as needed."

While clean-ups will take place in multiple areas, PB UMC has committed to help at Rose Creek. We'll gather at 8:00 am at 2904 Diamond Avenue. If you'd like to meet up at church and drive together, Pastor Lori will be there at 7:45 am. Come on by! This is a great opportunity to spend part of just one day making a difference for our community! Register in advance at: <https://bit.ly/CompassionateCommunityCleanup>.



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

## ***PB UMC Council Notes***

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

by Patty R.



On Sunday, September 19, 2021, we celebrated Malea Sandstrom's many years of service as our Sunday School Coordinator. We will miss her in that role but we look forward to continuing to see her at PB UMC. We know she will do wonderful things in her new job. We send good energy for her as Malea visits her father, Harrell, in his new assisted living setting.

Thank You, and Best Wishes, Malea  
September 19, 2021

We are posting the Children's Sunday School Coordinator position and invite you to share this information and ministry opportunity with others.

The position of Children's Sunday School Coordinator is a non-exempt, hourly position that will require four to six hours per week. This will include two hours on Sunday morning and additional time, as needed, during the week for planning and communication. Primary functions include, but are not limited to, selecting Sunday School curriculum, recruitment and training of Sunday School teachers, and general management of the Children's Sunday School program. Pay will be \$17-\$20 an hour, based on experience.

For a complete job description and to apply, please contact Ivey Merrill at [admin@pbumc.org](mailto:admin@pbumc.org).

### ***Finance***

by Hope A.

Our stewardship campaign begins in October. We hope you will send in an estimate of giving card, as these estimates help us set a meaningful 2022 budget. Please remember that an estimate is not a bill or invoice, but rather your best estimate of what you will be able to give in the coming year. Prayer is a good way to discern how you might respond.

## ***Save the Dates!***

Sunday, November 7, 2021—All saints Sunday

Sunday, November 14, 2021, 4:00 pm—PB UMC Charge Conference

Thursday, December 30, 2021—Celebration of Life for Ken Herron

The Herron family is grateful for the many gestures of encouragement and consolation we received upon the death of Dr. Kenneth Herron. Friends, clients, and companions in faith are invited to a memorial service honoring his life on Thursday, December 30, at 2:00 pm at the Pacific Beach United Methodist Church.



# Circle of Support

## August 2021 Record of Generosity

<i>Excluding extraordinary items*</i>	Budget	Actual
August giving	\$17,730	\$24,045
August other sources of income	\$10,059	\$15,314
August total available for ministry	\$27,789	\$39,358
August expended in ministry	\$30,476	\$23,852
August income minus expenses	(\$2,686)	\$15,506
YTD giving	\$141,840	\$140,848
YTD other sources of income	\$110,176	\$117,407
YTD total available for ministry	\$252,016	\$258,255
YTD expended in ministry	\$248,858	\$241,943
YTD income minus expenses	\$3,158	\$16,312
Year 2021 budget	\$380,390	

\* Reed Avenue fire in 2019, covered by insurance.

## Reflections From the Finance Team

August above-budget income includes the \$3500 Justice and Compassion grant for Project Grace. Expenses continue to be below budget, which is typical for PB UMC. Although the numbers fluctuate, we look really good this month.



## Ask the Treasurer

by Hope A.

- Q. Do I recall that Labor of Love had a program where we said we would give a certain dollar amount?
- A. Our initial Labor of Love campaign was replaced by the very generous bequest from the Steve Frank and Russ Gooden estates. We realized that it would be difficult to raise the money we needed from a capital campaign with the congregation. If you made a commitment in the early days, you are not obligated to fulfill it, and we are not tracking it.

That said, the pandemic has driven up the cost of materials. If we have any money left over from the estate and our Labor of Love funds, it will be invested at the United Methodist Foundation for future maintenance costs. So, you are encouraged to contribute to Labor of Love if you wish to.

### 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:  
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Erich Grimm-Schmitt

# Calendar of Events

## Worship Times

10:00 am, Worship Celebration



"Jesus Loves Me"  
Sept. 19, 2021

## Week 1

Fri, Oct 1 6:00 pm, Narc Anon

## Week 2

Sun, Oct 3 World Communion Sunday  
9:00 am Children and Family  
Sunday School in Person and on Zoom  
10:00 am, Worship and Communion  
In Person and Online  
Outdoor Child Care Available  
4:00 pm, Youth—Reset  
Mon, Oct 4 6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
6:30 pm, Small Group  
"New Testament"  
Tues, Oct 5 10 am, Prayers and Squares Quilt Group  
6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, Oct 6 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Oct 7 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor  
Fri, Oct 8 6:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Sat, Oct 9 8:00 am, Compassionate Community  
Clean-Up

## Week 3

Sun, Oct 10 Blessing of the Animals  
9:00 am Children and Family  
Sunday School in Person and on Zoom  
10:00 am, Worship  
In Person and Online  
Outdoor Child Care Available  
Mon, Oct 11 6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
6:30 pm, Small Group  
"New Testament,"  
Tues, Oct 12 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, Oct 13 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Oct 14 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor  
Fri, Oct 15 6:00 pm, Narc Anon

## Week 4

Sun, Oct 17 Laity Sunday  
9:00 am Children and Family  
Sunday School in Person and on Zoom  
10:00 am, Worship  
In Person and Online  
Outdoor Child Care Available  
4:00 pm, Youth Group  
Mon, Oct 18 November *Beach Breeze* Deadline  
6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
6:30 pm, Small Group  
"New Testament,"  
Tues, Oct 19 10:00 am, Prayers and Squares  
Quilt Group  
6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
6:30 pm, Church Council Meeting  
Wed, Oct 20 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Oct 21 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor  
Fri, Oct 22 6:00 pm, Narc Anon

## Week 5

Sun, Oct 24 9:00 am Children and Family  
Sunday School in Person and on Zoom  
10:00 am, Worship  
In Person and Online  
Outdoor Child Care Available  
Mon, Oct 25 November *Beach Breeze* Posted Online  
6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, Oct 26 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, Oct 27 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries  
Thurs, Oct 28 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor  
Fri, Oct 29 6:00 pm, Narc Anon

Labor of Love  
Construction at Ingraham  
Street Doorway

Photo by Mark B.



## Week 6

Sun, Oct 31 Halloween  
9:00 am Children and Family  
Sunday School in Person and on Zoom  
10:00 am, Worship  
In Person and Online  
Outdoor Child Care Available

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

## **October Scriptures**

- October 3**      **World Communion Sunday**  
Galatians 3:23-29
- October 10**    **Blessing of the Animals**  
Genesis 1:20-25
- October 17**    **Laity Sunday**  
Guest Preacher: Ken B.  
Lay Leader/Church Council Chair  
Mark 10:35-45
- October 24**    Mark 10:46-52
- October 31**    Mark 12:28-34

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



1561 Thomas Avenue  
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**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **Meet Active Nursery Worker/ Child Care Provider: Madison R.**

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

Recently, I got to talk to Madison R., who is active with our youth during Sunday services. During normal times, she is a church Nursery Worker, but she is doing childcare now during the pandemic. Madison has always loved kids. She told me, “While in middle school, I babysat a lot, and still do occasionally. Kids are wonderful, and I found working a day care unit a lot of fun. I do enjoy the work with our church youth now. Before the pandemic, there were usually five or more kids each Sunday. Now, there are fewer. Still, I went online during the pandemic and found ways to help with Sunday school. I found fun games like *I spy*.”

She told me, “I am currently attending Mesa College, studying social work,” and that she is working to become a Youth Advocate, which is a job that helps with mental health conferences.

I asked her for the source of her email address which includes “Maddy Happy Thursday.” She answered, “Obviously, Maddy is short for Madison. Thursday is significant because it indicates that the weekend is coming soon. On Happy Thursdays, happy face stickers are given out. I do Happy Thursdays where I give out the happy face stickers to everyone I see to spread happiness and get everyone excited for Friday.”

I asked her if there is anything else she’d like to share with us. “I’d like for folks to know that I want to make sure church day care is safe for all kids. I am constantly trying to come up with ideas like what should we be doing. Other ideas include what should I say, and what kinds of toys should we have. I know this will lead to fun, safe times. Also, I like providing a variety of toys for the kids such as motor skill toys and books!”

