



Pacific Beach
United Methodist Church

BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

December 2021

Thanksgiving Offering Correction

by Hope A.



What is Metro? Even the Finance Team wasn't sure. We haven't had a representative to Metro in years.

In her Thanksgiving letter, Pastor Lori included Metro Community Ministries San Diego as one of three food ministries for the Thanksgiving Offering.

Metro GNC (good neighbor center) started out as a drop-in site offering services that included emergency food and clothing assistance. Since then, Metro has evolved into Metro Community Ministries, with a focus on education, employment assistance, and leadership development. While these are great ministries, they are not the food-related services we intended for our Thanksgiving Offering. So, this year we plan to split the Thanksgiving Offering between Project Grace and Community Christian Service Agency (CCSA). If you'd like to direct your offering differently, please contact the church office, and we'll make that happen.

Family Movie Night at PB UMC

by Craig R.

Join your fellow PB UMC movie fans for a special presentation of "Elf" (2003) the evening of Sunday, December 5. This is a family-friendly film for all ages (but most appropriate for those 10 and up). The movie will screen at or shortly after 5:00 p.m.

We will be outside in our courtyard, so dress warmly and bring blankets or lawn chairs. Feel free to bring your dinner too—we Methodists do like to eat, after all!

Santa and his helpers will probably provide some snacks such as popcorn and hot chocolate!

Join a Mahjong Group!

Join us for games before Movie Night on December 5. We'll gather in the PB UMC social hall at 2:30 pm to play games and socialize before the movie. Drop in anytime before the movie starts. If you've wanted to learn to play Asian-style mahjong, here is your chance. Kathy W. is an excellent mahjong teacher, and she will bring the games. You can bring the family. Kids are welcome!



A Message From Pastor Lori

Dear Friends,

What a year it's been. When we entered 2021, we were in total COVID lock down. We didn't know when, or if, the tide of the pandemic would shift. The year brought moments of hopefulness and anticipation as well as moments of discouragement and despair. As we've often said, we took two steps forward and one step back related to COVID-19 time and time again. But as we approach the end of 2021 and take a good look back, I am aware of how far we have come.

It is such a joy to have the option to worship together in person again. My spirit rejoices in being able to gather together to praise God, to sing, to support one another, to pray with one another, to love, and to be loved. We are anticipating our move back into the sanctuary in the next few weeks, following the completion of the Labor of Love Project. There is something about the bright, natural light that shines through the newly installed windows that reminds me of the fresh start that is ahead for us in 2022. We are on the threshold of Advent, a season of waiting. And oh, how our spirits have been "waiting" for new life for so long.

I am deeply grateful for the gifted and caring leadership in this congregation that has sustained us in this time of waiting. Our Church Council has done

a phenomenal job helping us navigate this difficult year with hearts and minds focused on our mission of sharing God's love and embodying the grace, peace, justice, and mercy of Christ in the world. Our staff, whether long-standing, recently departed, or newly arrived, has exhibited flexibility, warmth, humor, and an amazing amount of dedication over these last unimaginable months. And our congregation, as a whole, has exhibited the kind of resilience that comes when grounded in the love of our Creator.

As we enter this season of Advent, let us linger for a while in this holy period of waiting. It is rich with possibility. Let us trust in God who comes to us, not in ways we always anticipate, but in ways that most radically and meaningfully touch and transform our lives. Let us anticipate with hope, peace, joy, and love the coming of Christ who will enter into our hearts, our lives, and our world in new and life-giving ways.

In Christ,
Pastor Lori



Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service

Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at 7:00 pm

The Blue Christmas Service is held on the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. In a season that is supposedly cheerful, merry, and bright, there are many who struggle with pain, anxiety, depression, and loneliness during the holiday season. Fresh grief, as well as grief we carry from our past, can become pronounced against the backdrop of bright lights, upbeat music, and jolly holiday refrains. Our hearts and spirits need a holy, quiet place simply to be, and to receive the hope of Christmas as it comes to us once again in the Christ Child.

We are joining with La Jolla UMC to offer this meaningful service of prayer and reflection. This year it will take place at Pacific Beach UMC, and we will alternate locations in the years to come. Do you know someone who might appreciate this kind of service? Reach out to them and offer to bring them along! To all who yearn during this Christmas season for time and space to contemplate the simple and life-changing message of God's incarnational love: *you are welcome*. Hope to see you there.

We Care for One Another

Joy to the World!

by Dart Rhoades

Joy, why do we seek Joy at Christmastime? Why not all the time? Well, we *can* seek Joy all the time!

When Jesus was born, he brought JOY to the world. We wait excitedly for the joyous celebrations of Christmas! It's no secret that Christmas is my favorite time of the year! I love Christmas and start planning early each year to have a most joyous Christmas season. It's never too early for me!

J—Jesus **O**—Others **Y**—You
Joy to the World
Comfort and Joy
Peace & Joy
Repeat the Sounding Joy



My little friends, this Christmas season I wish you Joy. Much better than that, I pray for each of us to have a Joy-filled December. May the joy that only He can give be in our hearts today and always.

I love you, and you are One of God's Favorites! Merriest Christmas Wishes to you all! See you in church!

Children and Youth

by Jesse Hodge

Children's Ministry

Sunday School continues, and we're currently praying for more Sunday School teachers so that we have enough staff to open the nursery back up. The commitment is typically one Sunday a month, but this and your schedule can be discussed. Curriculum and resources are already in place. We simply need willing hearts! If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact Jesse Hodge at youth@pbumc.org.

Youth Ministry

We had a recent gathering with an outing for pizza and boba! We also went to see Eternals during Thanksgiving break. We have a few other events scheduled this month, including participating in the church movie night on December 5, and church Christmas caroling on December 12. We also plan to attend the district youth event for overnight bowling on December 29. We continue

to build, rebuild, and restructure. More events are being added. Youth 6th-12th grade are encouraged to attend and be part of our youth group family. For more information about our youth group, about any of these events, or if you know of a youth that could benefit from our ministry, please contact Jesse Hodge at youth@pbumc.org.



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

PB UMC Persons in Crisis Fund

Did you know that PB UMC has a special fund to provide assistance to members, neighbors, strangers, and friends in times of crisis or need? This is our Persons in Crisis Fund, and it has been used to provide much needed emergency assistance for those in need. Sometimes that need has been for a food or gas card. Sometimes the need has been for interview clothes for one of our Project Grace guests. Sometimes the need has been support for paying a utility bill. Life can throw all of us some challenging twists and turns, and it is meaningful for the church to provide support and assistance that not only addresses concrete and often urgent needs, but also through kindness and care, touches and sustains the soul.

Church Conference 2021 ***It's a Wrap!***

Thank you to all who attended our annual Church Conference! We were grateful to be joined by our new District Superintendent, Sandy Olewine, and District Lay Leader, Michael Mitchell. If you weren't able to attend, here are a few highlights:

- * We shared our Parable of the Pandemic Video. Many thanks to Pat and Lea Ann W. for their help in creating the video and to Cambria, Lucia, Beth, Ron, and Bruce for sharing some of our pandemic story!
- * We elected leaders for 2022. We are so glad to welcome Susie V. to Church Council in the Staff/Parish focus group. Terre F. is leaving the Staff/Parish focus group but rejoining Church Council as co-treasurer. Terre and Hope will work together throughout this year, transitioning that position from Hope to Terre. Many thanks to both of them for sharing in this vital ministry! We elected new members to the Nominating and Leadership Development Team, including JoAnne A., Betty J., Joan F., Amberlyn R., and Mary Margaret R.. This group is looking forward to identifying, inviting, and supporting leadership in our congregation. We are also grateful for the ongoing ministry of our Growing in Faith Team, led by Louis P. Ministry in 2022 is bright with possibility!
- * We adopted Pastor Lori's salary package and discussed the 2022, budget which will be finalized after the first of the year.

Many thanks to TennieBee Hall for once again serving as the Charge Conference Secretary. We are also grateful for technical support from Adam M-L. The meeting was recorded via Zoom. If you would like a link to that recording, please reach out to Ivey in the Church Office.

South District Prayer Group via Zoom ***Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 7:00 pm***

Our South District Lay Leader Michael Mitchell is hosting an informal time of prayer on the first Tuesday of every month. This time of sharing and praying is open to all. Watch for the Zoom link in the weekly PB UMC e-mail, or reach out to the church office for more information.

We Reach Out to Others

PB UMC Council Notes

Finance

by Hope A.

Thank you for your excellent response rate so far to the stewardship campaign and request for 2022 giving estimates. Several people have asked whether special offerings and designated giving should be included in these numbers. The answer is, we would like your estimate to include only unrestricted giving to the general fund. If you want to estimate other giving as well, please mark it separately so we don't overestimate our income for the 2022 budget. If you haven't yet responded, we welcome estimates all the way up to our January 18, 2022, council meeting when we plan to finalize the budget.

Committees and staff, please review your proposed 2022 budget areas. It's not too late to request changes for next year.

Christmas Caroling

by Jesse Hodge



Christmas caroling is back, and the season is upon us! We are going to meet in the social hall at 6 pm on Sunday, December 12, to enjoy about an hour of walking and singing around our PB neighborhood. We'll then come back to the social hall for some refreshments. This event is open to anyone and everyone. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Jesse Hodge at jesseh@pbumc.org

CCSA Christmas Baskets

by Pam R.

It's almost Christmas, and time to collect our donations for the 200 food/gift card baskets Community Christian Service Agency (CCSA) will be distributing to low income families. We will be accepting donations from Sunday, November 28, to their deadline, Sunday, December 12.

You can write a check to the church with "CCSA baskets" on the memo line, place cash in an envelope with "CCSA baskets" written on it, or donate on-line with the note/memo box indicating "CCSA baskets." You may also donate \$35.00 gift cards purchased from Target or Walmart.

If you would like to contribute specific food items, the requests are for canned fruit, canned green beans and corn, canned cranberry sauce, canned chicken or vegetable broth, a box of stuffing mix, a box of mashed potato mix, a box of cake or cookie mix, or a bag of rice. There will be a food collection box in the church lobby.

Thank you for your thoughtful gifts to help others.

Circle of Support

October 2021 Record of Generosity

<i>Excluding extraordinary items*</i>	Budget	Actual
October giving	\$17,464	\$19,328
October other sources of income	\$10,326	\$7,588
October total available for ministry	\$27,789	\$26,916
October expended in ministry	\$30,476	\$34,081
October income minus expenses	(\$2,686)	(\$7,166)
YTD giving	\$177,300	\$174,744
YTD other sources of income	\$138,903	\$139,874
YTD total available for ministry	\$316,203	\$314,618
YTD expended in ministry	\$309,810	\$307,344
YTD income minus expenses	\$6,393	\$7,274
Year 2021 budget	\$380,390	

* Reed Avenue fire in 2019, covered by insurance.

Reflections From the Finance Team

We are doing well this year financially. Year to date income and expenses are each a few thousand dollars below budget, putting our net revenue a little better than what we had budgeted for this time of year. With continued generous giving and careful stewardship of resources, we can hope to break even at year end.



Stephen Ministry

by Jesse Hodge

Stephen Ministry continues to be an active part of our church. It is a caring ministry especially for those that are going through a life event where having another person there to share God's love may be helpful. At this time, we have a goal of offering Stephen Ministry training in January 2022 for those that are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister. The training is 8 weeks, 1 hour per class, and some outside reading in preparation for each class. La Jolla United Methodist Church has also reached out and is interested in joining our Stephen Ministry efforts and will send interested members over for training and participation. If you or someone you know could possibly benefit from a Stephen Minister, if there is interest in becoming a Stephen Minister, or if you'd simply like more information, please contact Jesse Hodge at stephenministry@pbumc.org

December Communion Offering

Persons in Crisis Fund

Our Persons in Crisis Fund is nearly depleted, so our Communion Offering for December will be designated for this special account. The account is overseen by Pastor Lori and the Church Council. If you are able to give even a small amount, please know your gift is appreciated and will make a *big* difference to someone in need. You can donate to the December Communion Offering by making that designation on your check or envelope or you can give online at pbumc.org/give. Thank you for your generosity and care!

See page 4 for more information.

Greetings From the Carter Family

Christopher, Gabi, and Isaiah recently checked in, and wanted to send their greetings to all at PB UMC. They are doing well and are busy with work, ministry, and life! Christopher continues to teach at USD and is now working at The Loft at Westwood UMC in Los Angeles. Take a listen to [The Loft podcast](#)

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: Dart Rhodes
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Jesse Hodge

Calendar of Events

Worship Times

10:00 am, Worship Celebration

Week 1

Wed, Dec 1 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Dec 2 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor
Fri, Dec 3 6:00 pm, Narc Anon

Week 2

Sun, Dec 5 10:00 am, Worship and Communion
In Person and Online
Child Care Available
2:30 pm, Mah Jong (p.1)
5:00 pm, Outdoor Movie, "Elf" (p.1)
Mon, Dec 6 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
6:30 pm, Small Group
"Lenses of Advent"
Tues, Dec 7 10:00 am, Prayers and Squares
Quilt Group
6:00 pm, Choir Practice
7:00 pm, So. Dist Prayer Group (p.4)
Wed, Dec 8 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Dec 9 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor
Fri, Dec 10 6:00 pm, Narc Anon



All Saints Sunday
November 7, 2021

Week 4

Sun, Dec 19 10:00 am, Worship
In Person and Online
Child Care Available
Mon, Dec 20 January 2022 *Beach Breeze* Deadline
6:00 pm, Al-Anon
6:30 pm, Small Group
"Lenses of Advent"—Final
Tues, Dec 21 10:00 am, Prayers and Squares
Quilt Group
6:00 pm, Choir Practice
6:30 pm, Church Council Meeting
7:00, Blue Christmas Service (p.2)
Wed, Dec 22 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries
Thurs, Dec 23 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor
Fri, Dec 24 Church Office Closed Until Jan 3, 2022
5:30 and 7:00 pm, Christmas Eve
Services
6:00 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 25 Christmas



Trick-or-Treat for the Neighborhood
October 31, 2021

Week 3

Sun, Dec 12 10:00 am, Worship
In Person and Online
Child Care Available
6:00 Christmas Caroling (p.5)
Mon, Dec 13 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
6:30 pm, Small Group
"Lenses of Advent"
Tues, Dec 14 6:00 pm, Choir Practice
Wed, Dec 15 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Dec 16 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor
Fri, Dec 17 6:00 pm, Narc Anon

Week 5

Sun, Dec 26 10:00 am, Worship—Casual Sunday
In Person and Online
Child Care Available
Mon, Dec 27 November *Beach Breeze* Posted Online
6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Dec 28 6:00 pm, Choir Practice
Wed, Dec 29 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
District Youth Bowling (p.3)
Thurs, Dec 30 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor
2:00 pm, Ken Herron Memorial Service
Fri, Dec 31 6:00 pm, Narc Anon
New Year's Eve

We Love and Worship God

December Scriptures

- December 5** **2nd Sunday of Advent**
Holy Communion
"The Power of Blessing"
Luke 1:57-80
- December 12** **3rd Sunday of Advent**
"A Home for All"
Luke 3:1-18
- December 19** **4th Sunday in Advent**
"Safe Havens"
Luke 1:39-45
- December 21** **Blue Christmas**
Psalm 121; John 14:1-4, 25-28
- December 24** **Christmas Eve**
"Holy Invitations"
Luke 2:1-20
- December 26** Casual Sunday (Details to Come)

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church



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Meet PB UMC's Biggest Man: Mike H.

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

I recently got to know Mike H., who, at 6ft 9in, is our biggest man. In addition to getting his height, I learned a lot from him.

Upon moving to Pacific Beach about 2 years ago, Mike was walking around the neighborhood one Sunday morning. At first, he found that not one church had its doors open. Then, he says, "I was walking down Ingraham, and there, on the cement, was someone's writing stating, 'ALL ARE WELCOME.' I looked up to find that a set of doors to a church were wide open. That church was PB UMC."

"The setback COVID-19 hit that week, and everything was shut down. So, the next Sunday with PB UMC wasn't to happen for me anytime soon. Even so, shortly after that I was welcomed to be a regular weekday volunteer here at PB UMC." The pairing of Mike and PB UMC has been more than just a minor success.

At this same time, Mike became his own boss by starting up a concrete cleaning business. He gives the credit to PB UMC, for without them, he says, "it never would have happened." You might have also seen him at the following retailers in Pacific Beach: The Valeros, and VP gas station. He now works at both locations. He is also a "self-employed concrete cleaner." "I am a bit of an overachiever and do tasks when they need extra help." Mike was recently told he needs knee replacement surgery, which will limit some of his activities.

He shared his pandemic time with me. "I haven't been to a church service since the COVID outbreak. I watch Southern Baptist services on TV (John Hagee), as I was raised a Southern Baptist. The services are very motivational. Even so, I will probably attend PB UMC services at the church when the pandemic ends."

He ended our conversation telling me, "I am hoping for things to get back to normal. Maybe I'll become part of our church again." We hope so, too, Mike!

