

BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

February 2023

Ash Wednesday Service Invites Us Into the Season of Lent



We'll mark the beginning of Lent with a special service on Ash Wednesday. On February 22nd, we'll gather in the sanctuary at 7:00 for a quiet, meaningful service as we contemplate our mortality and God's invitation to repentance. As is traditional on Ash Wednesday, we'll offer the imposition of ashes. All will have the opportunity to receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads, symbolizing our human frailty and dependence on God.

During the six Sundays of Lent, we'll gather in worship and spend time with different biblical ancestors who were known for their seeking. Inspired by the journeys of our foremothers and fathers, we'll open our minds and hearts to explore that which our spirits truly seek as we draw near to Easter once again this year. Stay tuned for details about Holy Week services, the Easter Cantata, the Annual Egg Hunt and our Easter Sunrise Service on the Bay. May we feel companioned by God's guiding Spirit as we turn into this meaningful season of prayer, confession and reflection.

Children and Youth Room Renovation Project

By Jesse Hodge, Director of Education

One of the projects that we were busy with last year was updating the rooms and creating a dedicated youth room downstairs next to the nursery. All the rooms (Children's Choir, Director of Education Office, Sunday School, Nursery, Youth Room, and what is now known as The Den) were repainted. The Den is a room across from the office where volunteers, staff, and church members can have a space to use the computer or kick up their feet for a bit! We still have a way to go with the Sunday School room, but we've come a long way overall!



A Message From Pastor Lori

Beloveds in Christ,

Each Sunday in worship, there seems to be a particular moment when I am surprised by an unexpected grace, by a moment of kindness, by a sense of joy. This past Sunday I found myself almost moved to tears even before the service began. I sat up front and watched as folks entered the sanctuary. I realized that I knew some part of the “story” of almost every person who walked through the doors. I was aware of grief, of hope, of celebration, of struggle, of ways in which we are all holding on and hanging in the best we can. I was overcome by a sense of awe and gratitude that we can bring all of who we are, all of what we are experiencing, into God’s presence and into the caring presence of one another as we gather for worship. Church is an extraordinary experience. A small group of us from PB UMC went to a workshop late in January entitled, “Relaunching Your Church.” We were reminded of what we know to be true—that what we share, what we have to offer, is priceless. We know what it means to have a safe, caring space where we can grow in our faith, companioned through life’s joys and sorrows by caring and compassionate friends. And our purpose as a church is to offer that gift to others.

We were also reminded at this workshop that these are challenging times for churches. Coming out of the pandemic, churches are struggling with decreased membership, giving, and involvement. Paul Nickerson, the leader of the workshop, talked about how folks have “lost the Sabbath rhythm” during the pandemic. In addition, faith communities are all trying to navigate the reality of inflation and a struggling stock market. We at PB UMC are not immune. Just to give you one example, our food/supply budget for Project Grace in 2022 was \$12,000. By year’s end, we spent \$19,000 on food/supplies due to drastic increases in food and packaging costs. As we enter into 2023, we find ourselves in financially challenging times. Costs are up and dividends from our endowment funds are down. At the Church Conference on February 21st, we’ll vote on a budget that has an approximately \$40,000 deficit.

I share this with you not as a message of doom and gloom but as an invitation for all of us to be hopeful

and creative! God’s grace is abundant in this place. We have something priceless to share. What can we do amid this current financial challenge in order to be the best of who God calls us to be as PB UMC? While there is a minimum salary requirement for clergy, set by the Annual Conference, what I’ve decided to do is donate back to the church the amount of my raise. This is something I’m able and happy to do to help us get back on solid financial ground this year. As we’ve discussed these concerns at Church Council, others have offered to be creative with their giving as well. One member of your Council offered to give an additional \$295 in 2023 AND find 49 other people who might do the same. Another member of your Council offered to increase her giving by \$25 per month. Will you give some prayerful consideration as to how you might be creative in your giving...perhaps give a one-time additional gift in 2023 or make a small increase in your monthly giving? We understand that not everyone is able to give more financially. There are so many other ways to “give back” and support the ministry of this church. Are you able to volunteer some time? Come and help in the office. Are you a good writer? Find and write a grant for environmentally friendly packaging for our to-go meals at Project Grace. Do you use church space during the week? Help us conserve by turning off lights when not in use. And best of all, do you know someone whose life might be enriched by being a part of a faith community like PB UMC? Invite them to church!

I have no doubt that we will move through these challenging times. God calls, equips, and inspires us, and as we know, all things are possible with God. Thank you for your commitment to sharing the loving, inclusive, life-giving grace of God in and through PB UMC. You make a difference. Together, we are making a difference!

In Christ,

Pastor Lori



We Care for One Another

Kidz Korner

Hi my friends,

It's almost February, that means it's just about time to celebrate Love on Valentine's Day! When I think of everyone I love, I always think of my family, my friends, all the wonderful children at PB UMC, our Pastor, my dogs, my co-workers, neighbors, even a few famous people who I've never met but I just love them so much! What about you? Who do you love?

Will you be signing Valentine cards to take to school in February? If so, will you give a card to everyone in your class? Your best friend, the new kid in school, the student who usually eats lunch all alone, the best dodgeball player in the class, and the one who doesn't play so well? I hope you will include every single person! Do you know why? That's what God tells us to do: love each other, care for each other. God loves every one of us, and He wants us all to know His love. Make sure to tell everybody that you love them. It will make a difference!

I love you,
Dart (Sunday School Coordinator)
One of God's Favorites—Just like You are.



If you would like to sign up for the electronic version of *Beach Breeze*, or have questions, comments, or requests, please contact the Church Office at www.pbumc.org/ contact 858-274-6573

February Memory Scripture Verse

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. – Psalm 23:56

This is the final verse of the 23rd Psalm. If you've been following along, by the end of this month we can recite all of the verses! If not, you can use this month to catch up! Our children have done an excellent job of learning the 23rd Psalm. I'm so very proud of them!

Psalm 23 1-6:

- 1: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3: He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
- 4: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- 5: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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

Lenten Bible Study

During Lent, Adam M. will be leading us through a Bible Study in the Gospel of John. Each week we will meet to discuss the scripture as well as correlated commentary readings. The twist is that *each participant will be reading a different commentary*. By way of analogy, one participant may read about the virtues of vanilla ice cream. Another, chocolate. And yet another strawberry. And a fourth may read about Neapolitan or Rocky Road. Though we all read about "ice cream," we gather together to share with each other the sweetness and goodness that we receive. A few details (in the weeds):

- We hope this study will be fun and enriching, not merely daunting.
- Adam will meet with each person who signs up, get a feel for their interests, and assign a commentary that would suit them best.
- This will be a somewhat intensive study. Assigned readings may range from 30 to 50 pages.
- We will have weekly "office hours" via Zoom to discuss concepts and terms not evident from the commentaries themselves.
- We hope to make this available to everyone. If you feel you can only read the gospel passages or you have a financial hurdle, please sign up and we will make plans to accommodate you.

The small group will meet on Thursday nights at the church, beginning on March 2nd. To determine which book to order or ask questions, please email AdamM@pbumc.org.

Children's Ministry

We always appreciate the opportunity to serve and get involved, as there is something for everyone. Our Sunday School took a Sunday in January to help move items in preparation for Interfaith Shelter, January 28th to February 11th. We want to encourage giving back of our time and talents and teach that to our young ones as well.



Youth Ministry

We're excited about our new youth room, but we also need two to three volunteers that are willing to be part of our devotion time. This will happen during the sermon time in the sanctuary, and will only involve one to two Sundays a month where you can be part of the devotion conversation with youth, or simply be with us during this time. Please see Jesse H. for more information or to discuss the program further.

We Reach Out to Others

PB UMC Council Notes

Finance

by Hope A.

Council approved the 2023 budget for presentation to our church conference on February 21 for full approval by the congregation. We will also confirm our newest members of the Finance focus group: Training Treasurer Karen R-S, and Council Member Heide T. If you have an interest, we encourage you to attend this zoom meeting.

Our budgeted deficit for 2023 is a loss of about \$43k, with no expectation of further pandemic stimulus income. We've identified the kind of cuts in expenditures that would be needed to balance the budget. These would be painful. Instead, we choose to look at 2023 as a continuation of our recovery from the attendance and economic effects of the pandemic. Pastor Lori and several council members have made generous offers to increase their pledges this year. We hope you might prayerfully consider doing the same, as you are able.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

by Patty R.

The SPRC focus group is looking forward to this year with the intention of completing the update of our employee manual and some of our policies and procedures. We are delighted to have Malea S. joining us!



Third Thursday Dessert Potluck and Hymn Sing
at the parsonage
January 19, 2023

Photo by Betty J.

Game Day Resumes in February

Please join us at noon in the social hall on Sunday, February 19th for Mahjong, Rummikub, or other games you'd like to bring. It's a great way to get to know each other, a few people at a time. We'll play until about 3:00 pm, or when we get tired. Bring snacks if you like. For more info, talk to Kathy W. or Hope A.



Circle of Support

Reflections From the Finance Team

By Hope A.

There is no financial table this month, as we are still making year-end adjustments. We expect a net loss for the year of about \$15,000. It's a great improvement from our last report, due to receiving our final Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) refunds. ERTC refunds in 2022 totaled \$43,383, less a cost of \$7000 for filing assistance from Paychex.



February Communion Offering The Black College Fund

One of the most significant ways The United Methodist Church helps make quality education accessible to all is through the Black College Fund.

The eleven UM-related black colleges and universities, far beyond proportion to their numbers and financial resources, are responsible for educating some of the world's most effective and recognized leaders.

More than 95 percent of all proceeds of the fund flow directly to campuses, where they help to strengthen programs, provide vital infrastructure and keep tuition costs low.

Through The Black College Fund, we're working together to ensure that the institutions that have equipped some of our nation's finest leaders continue for years to come.

Labyrinth

We are thankful to First United Methodist Church for graciously allowing us to borrow their amazing floor labyrinth during December. We had many people take advantage of both the floor and finger labyrinth after church for the four Sundays of the Advent season.



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained to offer care to people who are hurting. If you know of someone that can benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please contact Jesse H.

CHURCH STAFF:

Lead Pastor: The Rev Lori Leopold
Music Director: Ron Jessee
Office Administrator: Susie Virgilio

Director of Education: Jesse Hodge
Sunday School Coordinator: Dart Rhoades

Church Office: www.pbumc.org/who-we-are/contact/ phone: 858-274-6573

Calendar of Events

Worship Times

10:00 am, Worship Celebration
Child Care Available

Week 1

Wed, Feb 1 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Feb 2 7:00 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Feb 4 10:00 am, Al-Anon

Week 2

Sun, Feb 5 9:30 am, Prayer Circle
10:00 am, Worship
Mon, Feb 6 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Feb 7 6:00 pm, Choir
Wed, Feb 8 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Feb 9 Noon, Lunch Bunch (p 7)
7:00 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Feb 11 10:00 am, Al-Anon

Week 3

Sun, Feb 12 9:30 am, Prayer Circle
10:00 am, Worship
2:00 pm, Second Sunday Concert
6:00 pm, Movie Night,
"Sleepless in Seattle" (p 8)
Mon, Feb 13 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Feb 14 Valentine's Day
9:30 am, Prayers and Squares
Quilt Group
6:00 pm, Choir Practice
Wed, Feb 15 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Feb 16 6:30 pm, 3rd Thurs Sing & Dessert
7:00 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Feb 18 10:00 am, Al-Anon

Week 4

Sun, Feb 19 9:30 am, Prayer Circle
10:00 am, Worship
11:30 am, Growing In Faith
Noon, Game Day (p 5)
Mon, Feb 20 *Beach Breeze* Deadline
6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Feb 21 6:00 pm, Choir Practice
6:30 pm, Charge Conference via Zoom (p 7)
Wed, Feb 22 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries
7:00 pm, Ash Wednesday Service (p 1)
Thurs, Feb 23 7:00 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Feb 25 10:00 am, Al-Anon
Interfaith Shelter Guests Arrive



Week 5

Sun, Feb 26 First Sunday in Lent
9:30 am, Prayer Circle
10:00 am, Worship
6:00 pm, Movie Night,
"Bedknobs and Broomsticks" (p 8)
Mon, Feb 27 *Beach Breeze* Posted Online
6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Feb 28 9:30 am, Prayers and Squares
Quilt Group
6:00 pm, Choir Practice

Special Charge Conference

On February 21st at 6:30 pm, the beginning portion of our Church Council Meeting will be a special Charge Conference to approve our 2023 budget and elect our final slate of leaders. All are welcome to attend and all church members have a vote. A zoom link will be available prior to the meeting. Please reach out to Lay Leader, Ken B., or Pastor Lori with any questions.

February Lunch Bunch

Join us on Thursday, February 9th for lunch at Taco Surf PB. We will meet at noon for a time of good food and fellowship! If you plan to join us, please contact the Church Office and/or Pastor Lori so we know how many to anticipate! Do you have a favorite spot for lunch? Let us know and we'll schedule a future Lunch Bunch in your neck of the woods!

Save the date for next month: March 9th.

We Love and Worship God

February Scriptures

- February 5** Communion Sunday
1 Corinthians 1:1888-31
- February 12** 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
- February 19** Transfiguration Sunday
Guest Preacher:
Rev. Lesley Brogan
- February 22** (Ash Wednesday)
7:00 pm, In the Sanctuary
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- February 26** 1st Sunday in Lent
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Matthew 4:1-11

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church



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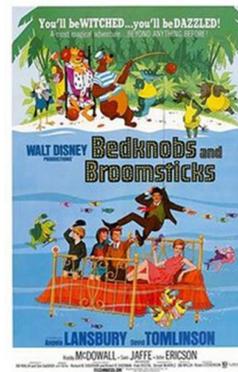
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

February PB UMC Movies

by Craig R.

Our first February movie "Sleepless in Seattle," starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan, will screen Sunday the 12th. We'll be celebrating the 30th anniversary of this romantic comedy's release just before Valentine's Day.



Our February family movie will screen Sunday the 26th. "Bedknobs and Broomsticks" stars Angela Lansbury and David Tomlinson.

All movie nights begin at 6:00 pm in Hughes Hall. We show three trailers for upcoming films prior to the main event. I hope you can join us!