



Pacific Beach  
United Methodist Church

# BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

April 2023



**Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> Palm Sunday**  
*10:00 am in Worship*

Voices of Praise will present Pepper Choplin's *Upon This Rock*

Join us for this marvelous musical depiction of the events of Holy Week!

**Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday U2charist Communion Service**  
*7:00 pm at La Jolla United Methodist Church*

The congregations of PB UMC and La Jolla UMC will come together to observe Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

District Superintendent Sandy Olewine will be preaching on Maundy Thursday and our very own Steve S. and Laura W. will be participating in special music featuring the band U2.

**Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday Service**  
*6:00 pm at Pacific Beach United Methodist Church*

PB and LJ UMCs will gather together to observe the somber day of Christ's death on a cross. Please join us for a simple, meaningful service of remembrance, reflection and repentance.

**Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunrise Service**  
*6:00 am at Crown Point*

Rise early to greet the sun as we celebrate the Risen Christ!

Dress warmly and bring a beach chair or blanket to sit on.

**Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, Easter Morning Service**  
*10:00 am at Pacific Beach UMC*

Join us for a meaningful message, beautiful music, gorgeous Easter lilies and more! We will be celebrating a baptism on Easter Sunday—what joy!

# *A Message From Pastor Lori*

## **When I Am Among the Trees**

by Mary Oliver

*When I am among the trees, especially the willows and the honey locust, equally the beech, the oaks and the pines, they give off such hints of gladness. I would almost say that they save me, and daily.*

*I am so distant from the hope of myself, in which I have goodness, and discernment, and never hurry through the world but walk slowly, and bow often.*

*Around me the trees stir in their leaves and call out, "Stay awhile." The light flows from their branches.*

*And they call again, "It's simple," they say, "and you too have come into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled with light, and to shine."*

Beloveds in Christ,

The pine tree in the middle of our courtyard is one of the first things I noticed about the PB UMC campus when I arrived here several years ago. While it was showing signs of age, it communicated a word of warmth and vitality with its gentle and lovely presence. It was some months later that I found myself sitting in front of it, really taking a good, hard look at it for the first time. I was, yet again, alone on campus as we were in the heart of the COVID lockdown. I was frustrated trying to videotape my sermon in the hot sanctuary, messing up, and starting again... and again...and again. I decided to step outside for some fresh air and sat down on one of the benches. As I looked at the tree, calmed simply by being in its presence, I was aware of the breeze as it made the tree dance and sway. I was mindful of the birds that flitted in and out of its branches, finding shelter and a place to sing or rest. In the words of Mary Oliver, our tree "saved me" that day.

Since that time, I have come to appreciate that tree more and more. It was around the tree that we had our first in person gathering during COVID. We spent about 20 minutes together, masked and outside, to light the tree for Christmas. We worshipped under and around that tree for months before we felt safe enough to move worship back inside. We have enjoyed Easter Egg Hunts, and Coffee Time, and all sorts of formal and informal fellowship under its watch and care.

As many have known and commented, our beloved tree has struggled. We have consulted an arborist,

treated the soil, done all we can to maintain and sustain it. We are at the point where our tree has come to the end of its natural life and it's been recommended that it come down. We are so grateful for its quiet, majestic presence among us. The tree will be removed the week following Easter. So this Easter it will preside over one last Easter Egg Hunt, and then we will gather for a short ritual of letting go and saying goodbye. If you have pictures or stories of our beloved tree, please send them to me. And please join us after the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday as we pay tribute to this beloved friend that has stood beside and among us for decades.

In Christ,

*the one who holds all our endings and new beginnings,*

Pastor Lori



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

## **Kidz Korner**

Hi My Friends,

As I write this, it is the middle of March and it's pouring rain outside—again. Still, I know that Spring is just around the corner, and I trust that we will have beautiful sunshine and blooming flowers very soon. How do I know that? Because God says it's so. God created the seasons and gives us the gifts of new life every Spring. Easter Sunday is on April 9<sup>th</sup>, and that is such a joyous celebration after the long months of winter. Even in San Diego we have stormy days! Jesus certainly had some dark and hard days as he prepared for the blessings of Easter. I look forward to the beautiful weather and the happy days of fun that are coming soon.



God Bless you all ways,  
Dart (One of God's Favorites, just like **You**)

PS: I hope you will come to church on Easter Sunday and enjoy our annual Egg Hunt!

### **Memory Verse for April**

**God, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of God's hands. God and I are one. (John 10:29-30)**

## **Children's Choir**

Children's Choir is resuming, and will be practicing during Sunday School in preparation for the next song performance, to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in April. The newly adopted name for Children's Choir is "God Squad," thanks to Ron Jessee, our Music Director. Thank you, Ron, for the awesome new name! See Jesse H. for details.



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***



## ***Camp On The Go***

Camp on the Go is April 15<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 pm-3:00 pm. This is a great way for children and youth to get a snapshot of camp. There will be games, crafts, archery, an inflatable obstacle course, and worship. All ages are welcome, and participants will be connected to groups by grade.

## ***Family Camp***

Family Camp is May 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> (Dinner to Breakfast). Check-in is from 5:00-6:30 pm on May 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be an All-Church Service on Sunday at 10:30 am at Camp Cedar Glen. All are welcome at the church service, and we encourage participants to invite their congregation. Children and Youth may attend with a Youth Director, or congregation member (1:4 ratio).

**Summer camps** are just around the corner, and registration is open. The camp dates are listed below. Feel free to contact Jesse H. with questions on how to sign up.

### **Camp Cedar Glen**

Younger Elementary (Grades 1-3) July 9-12

Older Elementary (Grades 3-6) July 9-14

Junior High (grades 6-9) July 2-7

Senior High (Grades 9-Grad) June 25-July 1

*More Information: [campcedarglen.org](http://campcedarglen.org)*

### **Lazy W Summer Camp**

Adventure Camp (Grades 7-10) July 2-7

Little Canyoneers (Grades 1-3) June 28-July 1

Elementary Camp (Grades 3-6) July 9-14

Junior High (grades 6-9) July 16-21

Senior High (Grades 9-Grad) July 23-29



## ***Games to Follow Lunch With The Pastor***

Thursday afternoon seems to be a good fit with some of our regular mahjong players. So, in April we will follow our second Thursday lunch with the pastor with an afternoon of Chinese mahjong (and any other games you'd like to bring) in PB UMC's social hall. Please gather at about 1:30 pm on Thursday, April 13. Bring snacks if you like. We'll play until we get tired. If you want to play mahjong but this is not a good day, please talk to Kathy W. or Hope A. so that we can consider other days and times that work. Don't know how to play? No worries! We love to teach new players.

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

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

### ***Finance***

We reported last month the plan to move \$200,000 that remained in the Frank Gooden Memorial Account after the completion of Labor of Love to a fund at the United Methodist Foundation. That transfer is complete, and we are grateful for the opportunity to maximize the benefit and longevity of that remarkable gift.

2023 will continue to be a year of stabilizing our financial situation, using our resources wisely and trusting in God who provides. Please join your Church Council members in finding creative ways to go an extra step in supporting the mission and ministries of PB UMC.

Need a few examples? We'll provide one each month! For example, Pastor Lori is donating her mandatory salary increase for 2023 back to the church on top of her regular giving.

Is there something financial or in kind that you might consider and be able to do? Please share your ideas with Pastor Lori or one of the Council Members so we can inspire one another!

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

SPRC is back to work on the Employee Manual and firming up policies around vacation and sick leave.

## ***Vision Forward Update***

On Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 30 of us gathered to share our hopes and dreams related to how PB UMC wants to be in ministry in this current day and age. We were fed a delicious lunch provided by the extraordinary Dart and Amberlyn R.

We recognized changing trends in our culture related to how church and religion are viewed and we acknowledged the challenges that COVID-19 heaped on an already struggling church. We also named and celebrated how precious it is to be part of a faith community in which we can worship, study, play, laugh, cry and walk alongside one another through all of life's seasons.

Knowing we want to extend that life giving opportunity to others, we tossed around questions like, "What are our strengths? What do we want to be known for in our community? Who is around us? How do we connect with them? What are their real and particular needs?" We reviewed recent demographic information and looked for trends that might inform our next steps. And we talked about an opportunity to take some literal steps to help us get a sense of the invitations and opportunities around us.

Over the next months, we are hoping that many of us will participate in Prayer Walks around our community. A Prayer Walk (or drive) is a way of walking attentively through the neighborhoods around us, making note of what we see, and being in prayer for each household. We'll post a map of our surrounding area on the back of the white board at church and invite folks to highlight the areas where they've walked. In addition, we'd love for you to send us your Prayer Walk observations. We'll list those on the white board as well. We get to know the people around us and their needs not only through data but by placing ourselves in those places and spaces and asking for God's guidance as we move forward. Look for the map on Sunday morning as well as more detailed instructions about how to participate in the Prayer Walks!

# Circle of Support

## February 2023 Record of Generosity

	Budget	Actual
Feb giving	\$18,550	\$21,577
Feb other sources of income	\$8,570	\$8,433
Feb total available for ministry	\$29,650	\$33,387
Feb expended in ministry	\$37,084	\$42,959
Feb income minus expenses	(\$7,434)	(\$9,572)
YTD giving	\$9,833	\$7,946
YTD other sources of income	\$17,139	\$17,772
YTD total available for ministry	\$64,072	\$61,552
YTD expended in ministry	\$74,167	\$74,727
YTD income minus expenses	(\$10,095)	(\$13,175)
Year 2023 budget	\$448,651	

### Reflections From the Finance Team

It's still early in the year, but February brought increased giving—a trend we hope will continue as the year unfolds. Giving in all areas was above budget for February but below budget in January. In addition, our 2023 budget was adopted with a deficit in income of approximately \$43,000 so there is work to do. We had higher than anticipated expenses in February, some of those expected and part of routine operations. For example, we completed our annual maintenance of our fire extinguishers as well as the semi-annual test of our Fire Suppression System. We had unexpected expenses related to a roof leak in the sanctuary as well as the repair of the dryer used for Project Grace and Interfaith Shelter.

## April Lunch Bunch

Join us on Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> for lunch at The French Gourmet in Pacific Beach. 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...* May 11<sup>th</sup>

#### 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/](http://www.pbumc.org/who-we-are/contact/) phone: 858-274-6573

## April Communion Offering

### Native America Ministries

The Native American Ministries offering serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and in our communities. There are more than 20,000 Native Americans within the denomination, and the fund allows The UMC to partner with existing native ministries to develop new programs. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology. When you give generously, you equip seminary students who honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries.

# Calendar of Events

## Worship Times

10:00 am, Worship Celebration  
Child Care Available

### Week 1

Sat, Apr 1 10:00 am, Al-Anon

### Week 2

Sun, Apr 2 **Palm Sunday**  
9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Upon This Rock Cantata (p.1)  
Mon, Apr 3 6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, Apr 4 6:00 pm, Choir  
7:00 pm, So Dist Prayer Meeting  
Wed, Apr 5 7:00 am, AA  
11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Apr 6 7:00 pm, Maundy Thursday Service (p.1)  
7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Fri, Apr 7 6:00 pm, Good Friday Service (p.1)  
Sat, Apr 8 10:00 am, Al-Anon

Happy  
Easter!



### Week 3

Sun, Apr 9 **EASTER**  
6:00 am Sunrise Service (p.1)  
10:00 am, Easter Morning Service (p.1)  
Easter Egg Hunt  
Mon, Apr 10 6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, Apr 11 9:30 am, Prayers and Squares  
Quilt Group  
6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, Apr 12 7:00 am, AA  
11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Apr 13 Noon, Lunch Bunch (p.6)  
6:30 pm, Lenten Study  
7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Sat, Apr 15 10:00 am, Al-Anon

### Week 4

Sun, Apr 16 9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship  
11:30 am, Interfaith Spiritualities  
5:00 pm, Movie Night,  
"The Three Musketeers" (p.8)  
Mon, Apr 17 *Beach Breeze* Deadline  
6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, Apr 18 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
6:30 pm, Church Council via Zoom  
Wed, Apr 19 7:00 am, AA  
11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Apr 20 6:30 pm, Hymn Sing and Dessert  
7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Sat, Apr 22 10:00 am, Al-Anon



Vision Forward  
March 19, 2023, 2023

### Week 5

Sun, Apr 23 9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship  
11:30 am, Growing in Faith  
Mon, Apr 24 *Beach Breeze* Posted Online  
6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, Apr 25 9:30 am, Prayers and Squares  
Quilt Group  
6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, Apr 26 7:00 am, AA  
11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries  
7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Thurs, Apr 27 6:30 pm, Shoreline Bingo Fundraiser  
Fri, Apr 28 10:00 am, Al-Anon  
Sat, Apr 29

### Week 6

Sun, Apr 30 9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship  
5:00 pm, Movie Night,  
"Charlotte's Web" (p.8)

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

## ***March Scriptures***

- April 2** Palm Sunday  
Matthew 21:1-11
- April 9** Easter Sunday  
John 20:1-19
- April 16** John 20:19-31
- April 23** Luke 24:13-35
- April 30** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship  
Guest Preacher: Jesse Hodge  
Romans 8:31-39; 12:10-15

## **Pacific Beach United Methodist Church**



1561 Thomas Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92109

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**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

## ***Movie Time in April***

by Craig R.

Our April movies celebrate the golden anniversary of two films released in 1973!

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday following Easter, we'll screen the raucous comedy adventure, "The Three Musketeers," featuring an all-star cast including Charlton Heston, Faye Dunaway, Michael York, and Raquel Welch.

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, we'll screen our "all ages" animated movie "Charlotte's Web," featuring the voice work of Debbie Reynolds, Paul Lynde, and Henry Gibson.

Come join us and share the joy as we watch these movies based on beloved books. Screenings begin in Hughes Hall at approximately 5:00 pm (after some previews!). We'll have popcorn and other snacks, but bring whatever you like to enjoy during a movie. Hope to see you there!

