



# BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

July 2023

## *Reflections on Annual Conference*

By Adam M-L, PB UMC Conference Delegate

This June marked the 39<sup>th</sup> annual session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Normally a blurb for the newsletter would be some variant of a highlight reel. However, at least for me, this year's theme of rest and renewal resonated strongly. In particular, the opening worship spearheaded by the Cal-Pac Young Person's Council held remarkable significance for me.

As part of the opening prayer, the lead pastor of the Native American UMC in Anaheim led us in a prayer in 7 directions—the cardinal directions of east, south, west, and north, followed by down, up, and inward. When the pastor asked us to start in the direction of “east” many of us froze. At a moment's notice, do *any* of us know which direction is East? I whipped out the compass on my trusty iPhone which made a *somewhat* educated guess. But even the electronic gizmo in my hand was not accurate. The body generally agreed that the back wall was east-ish; and at least to check Google maps, it was the safest bet.

This made me realize how disconnected we are from our surroundings—our buildings and sidewalks disconnect us from nature, our grocery stores disconnect us from the food we ingest and the workers who harvest it, our technological devices disconnect us from one another, and the endless clamor of news cycles and hype disconnect us from the spirit within our very bodies.

Psalm 46:10 admonishes us to “Be still and know that I am God.” In the Elijah story retold to us by Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Elijah experienced a windstorm, followed by an earthquake, followed by a raging fire. Yet God was not to be found in any of those events. God was found instead in the sheer silence.

It is my hope that as a faith community we would not only reconnect with everything around us, but that we would also make intentional space for rest and renewal, and in the process, may we encounter the living God.

## *Christmas in July!*

It's never too early to think about Christmas! And one of our favorite Christmas traditions at PB UMC is preparing food/gift baskets for local families in need. For many years we have worked with Community Christian Services Agency (CCSA), to offer this meaningful support during the holidays. Pam and Mike have graciously led and coordinated this effort for years and are at a place and time where they need to pass the baton to others. We are looking for one or two or three folks to coordinate our 2023 effort. Responsibilities include communicating needs to the congregation, collecting money donated for non-perishable foods and gift cards, and organizing the baskets. CCSA provides great instructions and Pam and Mike are always willing to answer questions and share their wisdom. If this is a way you feel called to serve, please reach out to Pastor Lori for more information.

Thank you!

## *A Message From Pastor Lori*

Beloveds in Christ,

Ken B., Adam M-L, and I recently attended the 39<sup>th</sup> annual session of the California Pacific Conference. The theme of this year's conference was "Nourish" and it took place at the Sheraton in L.A. It was the first Cal-Pac Annual Conference for our new bishop, Dottie Escobedo-Frank. She is a wise and kind leader, deeply attuned to the needs and hopes of clergy and laity and deeply intentional about our ministries of peace and justice in the world. If you would like to review any of the information from Annual Conference and/or watch any of the worship services, you may do so at [www.calpacumc.org/ac2023](http://www.calpacumc.org/ac2023).

There was much that happened during this Annual Conference (AC), and I'll share a few highlights:

The youth provided the opening worship service and began with a land recognition, naming the fact that we gathered on Tongva land. It was important and moving, and not at all a surprise that our young people led us in this necessary work.

Our AC continues to focus on the mission of "eliminating physical and spiritual hunger." As Ken reported in church, we are doing this by focusing time, money, and attention in the following areas: (1) Poverty, (2) Inequity, Discrimination and Oppression, (3) Conflict and War, (4) Climate Change and (5) Food Insecurity and Malnourishment. We spent the good part of an afternoon naming the ways that many of our congregations are participating in this focused ministry, and encouraging on-going work that tends to the physical and spiritual hunger of people and our world.

Adam shared on Sunday about the Racial Equity Audit that has been on-going in the last years in our AC. There was a "round table conversation" involving some of the leaders in this work, including the Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter, known to many in our congregation. We received preliminary results of the audit and heard reports in the following areas: (1) The complexities and challenges of cross racial and cross-cultural appointments, (2) Disparities in salaries, (3) Disparities in grant awards and (4) On-going trauma related to racism. As Adam reported, there is now much work to do. If you are interested in

learning more or doing more, please reach out to Adam, Ken, and/or Pastor Lori.

We nominated reserve delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference as many who were elected pre-pandemic are no longer able to serve. The next General Conference meeting will be in April of 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina. There are approximately 20 congregations seeking to disaffiliate from the California Pacific AC. There were several motions and a protest by churches seeking disaffiliation, asking for the conference Board of Trustees to reconsider the requirements to disaffiliate, specifically the requirement to pay 50% of the value of the church property. That motion was defeated. There will be a special session of the Annual Conference in November of 2023 to approve the disaffiliation of congregations and to adopt the Annual Conference budget for 2024.

One of my favorite parts of the Annual Conference is worship. Even though I missed being in the chapel at Redlands, it was a joy to worship with siblings from across the conference. Much of the music and motion of worship reflected the multicultural diversity of our conference. We remembered those clergy who died in the past year, we celebrated retirements, we baptized the infant of a clergy family, and we rejoiced as a wonderful class of folks was commissioned and ordained. All offerings at this year's services went to the United Methodist Immigration Crisis Fund to support welcome centers, care packages, and ministries among migrants across our conference. If you'd like to make a donation, you can find the link to donate at [www.calpacumc.org/donate](http://www.calpacumc.org/donate).

We were reminded in word, music, and action of our calling and purpose to love one another as Christ loves us. I left the Annual Conference feeling a little weary in body but joyful in spirit. May we continue to build beloved community...for one, for all, in our corner of the world.

In Christ,

Pastor Lori



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

## **Kidz Korner**

### ***Children's Time***

By Jesse Hodge, Director of Education

We have recently been blessed with some new people sharing their love and talents as they lead our Children's Time for us. These fresh faces include Diane, Wes, Madison, and Rusty! We're thankful that we had a chance for Rusty to do Children's Time with us on Sunday, May 28, before he and his family move to Oregon. If you would be interested in leading a Children's Time or being part of our Children's Time rotation, please reach out to me (Jesse).



Children's Time With Rusty

Photo by Jesse Hodge

### ***Vacation Bible School***

We are partnering up with La Jolla United Methodist Church and will have Vacation Bible School (VBS) August 7-11. It will be from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at La Jolla UMC. If you would like to send your school-age child or would like to volunteer, please let Jesse H. know.

### ***Children and Youth Volunteers Needed***

As Dart has recently departed our Children's Ministry to pursue another chapter in her life, we are left with shoes to fill, and our children and youth need individuals to volunteer their time. We need volunteers for both Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry Sunday School. Just one Sunday a month is all we ask. There are opportunities to lead a lesson, or simply be present with us. We need at least 2 adults any time that we're working with children. If you have even a hint of desire to work with our Sunday School ministries, or if you have any questions, please let me know so that we can discuss it together.

### ***Gently Used Toys for Children and Youth Rooms***

We are cycling through some of the toys that we currently have in the nursery, children's Sunday School room, and youth room. If you have any gently used toys that you would like to donate, please let Jesse know.

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***

## ***3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Hymn Sing and Potluck— Summer Style***

We've loved our 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Hymn Sing and Dessert Potlucks. For the summer months, we plan to expand. Please join us at the parsonage on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, anytime between 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm for a time of food, fellowship, and singing! The church BBQ now resides at the parsonage, so we'll fire it up and provide some hotdogs and hamburgers. Please bring a side dish or a dessert, and anything you'd like to drink. You're also welcome and encouraged to bring an instrument. All ages are very welcome. No singing is required! Please RSVP to Pastor Lori or the church office so we can plan accordingly.

## ***July Movies for All Ages***

by Craig R.

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, we'll screen a hilarious movie that celebrates its 35th anniversary this year: "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," starring Michael Caine and Steve Martin.



Two weeks later, on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, we'll see our "all ages" movie, "The Parent Trap" (1998), rated PG-13.



All movies are screened in Hughes Hall at 5:00 p.m. - join us for the laughs and fellowship!

## ***Dog Days of Summer?***

By Lynn "Doc" N.



Ever hear of the "dog days of summer?" Sure, we all have. Typically, those are the days from around July 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 11<sup>th</sup>, give or take. It's the time of year when it's just too stinking hot to do anything but lay on the couch and chill out like a big dog, right? Well, believe it or not, that time wasn't named for the tendency of dogs (and us) to lay around lazily in the heat of the summer—even though that happens! They were named for one of the brightest stars and its position in the sky. Canus Major (or "Big Dog"), is prominently visible during those days. Even so, it does tend to be a time of inactivity for many of us and our canine pals. But this year I'm challenging you to beat the heat by getting footloose and hitting the dance floor. Consider it your own Dancing with the Stars and pay tribute to Canus Major by stepping it out instead of couch surfing. I mean, what dog doesn't enjoy a good romp when the time is right? Well, the right time is Fridays in August from 7:00-8:30pm in the social hall. Paws your couch surfing, invite friends and family, and join us for **FOOTLOOSE FRIDAYS**.

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

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

### ***Finance***

Your finance team and Church Council continue to closely monitor our financial resources to use faithfully the gifts that you have shared so generously. As is generally the case, the income to support Project Grace, our meal service feeding those who are experiencing homelessness, comes in sporadically throughout the year. We recently applied for two grants through the United Methodist Church and hope to receive additional funds by the end of July to support that important ministry. Watch for updates. Thank you for the many ways you support Project Grace and all the other aspects of our ministry!

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

By Patty R.

With Jesse's help, SPRC is updating the job description of our Nursery Workers from "Nursery Worker" to "Childcare Worker" to better reflect the job that our dedicated staff are doing with the children.

During June were blessed to hear Sunday messages delivered by Rev. Dan Meyer-Abbott and Rev. Lesley Brogan.

Pastor Lori's birthday was June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The children gave her a lovely gift during worship on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday, Pastor Lori!

It was announced during the June 18<sup>th</sup> worship service, the new Bishop and the Annual Conference made a re-appointment of Pastor Lori to return to us at PB UMC. This was joyful news to hear.

## ***First Aid Course: Mental Health Awareness***

Mental Health Awareness Month was in May, but mental health awareness is an ongoing thing. We are still working toward bringing awareness by offering a Mental Health First Aid course to our congregation and neighboring community. There is an instructor training course that must take place first, so we are trying to raise funds up to \$3,000 for this to be a possibility. If you or someone you know would like to donate towards this, you can designate the offering to "Mental Health Awareness."



## ***July Lunch Bunch***

Join us on Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> for lunch at Café Athena in Pacific Beach. We will meet at noon for a time of tasty 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...August 10<sup>th</sup>!***

# Circle of Support

## May 2023 Record of Generosity

	Actual	Budget
<b>Activity in May</b>		
May Giving	\$25,032.84	\$21,080.61
May Other Income	\$7,501.45	\$8,569.50
Total Available for Ministry	\$32,534.29	\$29,650.11
Total Expended for Ministry	\$35,482.95	\$37,083.70
Income Minus Expenses	<b>(-\$2,948.66)</b>	<b>(-\$7,433.59)</b>
<b>Activity Year-To-Date</b>		
YTD Giving	\$120,936.75	\$120,936.75
Other Income	\$41,774.42	\$42,847.50
Total Available for Ministry	\$162,711.17	\$162,174.05
Total Expended for Ministry	\$180,338.12	\$185,431.50
Income Minus Expenses	<b>(-\$17,626.95)</b>	<b>(-\$23,257.45)</b>

### Reflections From the Finance Team

As you can see from this month's finance table, year-to-date we continue to outspend our income. The good news is that we are not doing this to the extent anticipated in the original budget. In May, giving exceeded what we anticipated, and expenses were slightly below what we anticipated. That's good news but year-to-date, we have overspent our budget by \$17,627. We had anticipated overspending by \$23,257 at this point in the year, so we're moving in the right direction. We are grateful for your ongoing and generous support of the mission and ministry of PB UMC. You make a difference!

### July Communion Offering

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church (PB UMC) is a Reconciling Congregation and a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN). As a part of being a Reconciling Congregation, PB UMC is a safe place for LGBTQ+ persons and allies to be in worship and service together.

PB UMC welcomes all people, regardless of age, race, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, physical condition, sexual orientation, ethnic background, or economic situation. We do so keeping in mind our sacred scriptures, the creativity of our universal God, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.

Your contribution helps promote inclusive love in a worship community that reflects the beautiful diversity of God's creation. All persons are welcome.

#### CHURCH STAFF:

Lead Pastor: The Rev Lori Leopold  
Music Director: Ron Jessee

Director of Education: Jesse Hodge  
Office Administrator: Susie Virgilio

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

## CCSA Backpacks

By Pam R.

It is that time of year again for us to think about collecting backpacks and school supplies for low-income families that will be distributed by Community Christian Services Agency (CCSA). We do not have an exact date yet, but their collection dates are always somewhere in mid-July. Watch for an upcoming list of the requested supplies. We appreciate the kindness and generosity of our church friends which help many families to meet this need.

# Calendar of Events

## Worship Times

10:00 am, Worship Celebration  
Child Care Available

### Week 1

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

### Week 2

Sun, July 2 9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Outdoor Church  
Worship and Communion  
Mon, July 3 (Church Office Closed)  
6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, July 4 **Independence Day** (Church Office Closed)  
9:30 am, Prayers and Squares  
Quilt Group  
7:00 pm, District Prayer Meeting  
Wed, July 5 7:00 am, AA  
11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, July 6 7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Sat, July 8 10:00 am, Al-Anon



Guest Preacher June 4, 2023  
Dan Meyer-Abbott

Photo by Vicki T.



### Week 3

Sun, July 9 Elementary Camp Begins—Cedar Glen  
9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship  
5:00 pm, Movie Night, “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels” (p. 4)  
Mon, July 10 6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, July 11 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, July 12 7:00 am, AA  
11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
7:00 pm, Light up the Cathedral (p.8)  
Thurs, July 13 Noon, Lunch Bunch (p. 5)  
7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Sat, July 15 10:00 am, Al-Anon  
PRIDE Parade (p. 8)

### Week 4

Sun, July 16 9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship  
Mon, July 17 *Beach Breeze* Materials Due  
6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, July 18 9:30 am, Prayers and Squares  
Quilt Group  
6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
6:30 pm, Church Council via Zoom  
Wed, July 19 7:00 am, AA  
11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, July 20 Hymn Sing and Dessert (p. 4)  
7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Sat, July 22 10:00 am, Al-Anon

### Week 5

Sun, July 23 9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship  
11:30 am, Growing in Faith  
5:00 pm, Movie Night,  
“Parent Trap” (p.4)  
Mon, July 24 6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, July 25 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, July 26 7:00 am, AA  
11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries  
Thurs, July 27 7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Sat, July 22 10:00 am, Al-Anon

### Week 6

Sun, July 30 5th Sunday Worship  
9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship  
Mon, July 31 6:00 pm, Al-Anon

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

## ***July Scriptures***

- July 2** Outdoor Church  
Independence Day  
Baptism and Holy Communion  
Matthew 14:13-21
- July 9** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
- July 16** Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
- July 23** Romans 8:26-39
- July 30** Fifth Sunday worship  
Guest Speaker: Adam  
Marshall-Lopez  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

## **Pacific Beach United Methodist Church**



1561 Thomas Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92109

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## ***Pride Happenings***

PB UMC is looking forward to participating in San Diego Pride. All are invited to join Pastors Lori and Les at the Pride Interfaith Worship Service, Light Up the Cathedral, on Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral. After the service, the Cathedral will be lit in rainbow colors. Livestream options will also be available. For more information, go to <https://sdpride.org/lightup/>.

On Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, we'll participate in the Pride parade. All are welcome to engage in the building of our PB UMC float. We like to make a good impression by showing our support to the LGBTQ+ community. All are welcome to walk in the parade. Pick your favorite color of the rainbow and wear it with pride as we bring PB UMC to life on that Saturday. Watch for sign-up sheets on Sunday morning or contact Pastor Lori or Louis for more information.

2022 Pride Float



Photo by Pastor Lori