

# BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

May 2026

## *Easter Sunday 2026*

At right, around 90 people participated in the PB UMC Easter Sunrise service at Crown Point. (Photo by Louis P)

Below, the PB UMC sanctuary communion table is set for Easter Sunday service. (Photo by Louis P)

Below right, the Easter Bunny visits with a young PB UMC Easter egg hunter. (Photo by Tammy E)



# Pastor Lori's Monthly Message

Beloveds in Christ,

Some of you know that Les posts a daily question on Facebook called "White Horse." It's designed to prompt sharing and connection among people. Les is a community builder by nature and one of her community building questions recently shared on Facebook came from Barbara Brown Taylor's book, "An Altar in the World." Brown Taylor shares about an invitation, many years ago, to speak at a Catholic church in Alabama. "What do you want me to talk about?" she asked the priest. His response: "Come tell us what is saving your life now." Brown Taylor was enlivened by that question and it's a question that has great potential to enliven us as well. It's a spiritual question that comes in at a slant, inviting us to contemplate matters of faith in new and fresh ways. It gets to the very heart of things. *What is saving your life now?*

Each one of us might answer that question differently. For some, it might be the beauty of nature. For others, it might be activities, practices, work or play that bring meaning, peace, perspective and joy. Some of us might be leaning into what saves us through practices of prayer or protest. Others of us might be finding "salvation" or "wholeness" through music or silence or small acts of mercy, compassion and service...doing what we can, when we can, for whoever we can as those opportunities arise.

I recently attended a south district clergy event, a day of "rest and reconnection" for clergy after the busyness of Lent and Easter. I almost didn't go because I was "too busy." But I'm glad I did. The Rev. Dr. Mark Maddix, lead pastor at San Dieguito United Methodist Church, reminded us of the centrality of community in our Wesleyan tradition. He lifted up John Wesley's quote, "There is no holiness but social holiness," linking our lives of faith necessarily to the lives of others. We

don't find what saves us in isolation. We live into "what is saving us" in relationship with one another. Yes, there are individual practices and experiences that support our wholeness. But from a Christian and Wesleyan perspective, we are reminded that what saves us is God's grace. And we know and perceive and allow that grace to transform our lives most fully in and through loving, serving, supportive relationship with one another.

Of course, it's not just pastors who need opportunities for rest and reconnection right now. The world is exhausting and people are feeling disconnected from God, others, themselves, even the planet. What is happening? Where is God? What direction are we headed? I invite all of us to ponder this inviting question: What is saving your life now? Write about it in your journal. Pray about it. Connect and reconnect with whatever grounds you in the love of God and allows you to generously extend that love to others.

And then consider sharing your response with others, so we can be of support to one another in perceiving and touching the grace of God that comes to us in so many different ways. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, I'll post the question on our in-house Facebook page. Don't know what that is? Reach out to me and I'll get you connected! We'll also post the question, with space for answers, on the white board each Sunday in morning.

In Christ,  
Pastor Lori



## Hornswoggle "By Request!"



**Concert: Sunday, May 3, 2pm**



30 French horns playing in concert—and featuring our very own Liesl H: Hornswoggle (above) returns to PB UMC Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. You won't want to miss this concert!

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

## ***Join Us for Mahjong: May 24<sup>th</sup>!***

By Hope A

If you have plans for Memorial Day weekend, God bless you. If not, why not bless **us** with your presence in the social hall after worship on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>? Bring a lunch if you like. We'll start playing Chinese mah-jong about noon and play till about 3:00 p.m. Newcomers are always welcome. For more info, contact Kathy W or me via the church office at [www.pbumc.org/contact](http://www.pbumc.org/contact) for more information.



## ***May Communion Offering: Shoreline Community Services***

By Craig Roberts

Shoreline Community Services is a local non-profit founded by PB UMC members over ten years ago. In the ensuing decade, it has become a well-regarded organization that focuses on both short-term issues and long-term solutions related to the problem of homelessness.

From a modest beginning to a current-day annual budget of hundreds of thousands of dollars, SCS provides numerous services at its Compass Station at Cass and Chalcedony, including medical treatment, laundry and showers.

Their Community Care team provides a structured environment to reintegrate participants into the workforce. And they are in the process of installing six small private homes, Compass Commons, to provide no-cost housing for its Community Care team.

Our May communion offering will go to support this worthy organization.

For more information:  
[shorelinecs.org](http://shorelinecs.org)



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).

*Beach Breeze* Editor:  
Craig Roberts

# ***We Grow in Grace & Faith***

## ***Protect Yourself from Fraud***

### ***Top 20 Tips on How to Reduce the Risk of Becoming a Fraud Victim***

By Mark B  
(Church Information Technology Consultant)

On Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m., we are privileged to welcome retired Deputy District Attorney Paul Greenwood for an in-person presentation on recognizing and avoiding fraud. Fraud may go back to Biblical times, but modern technology makes it increasingly common and increasingly difficult to detect. It can arrive by text, email, phone call, video, social and messaging apps, or in person. It can look and sound exceptionally “real.” How does one distinguish between the real and the fake? How can you protect yourself?



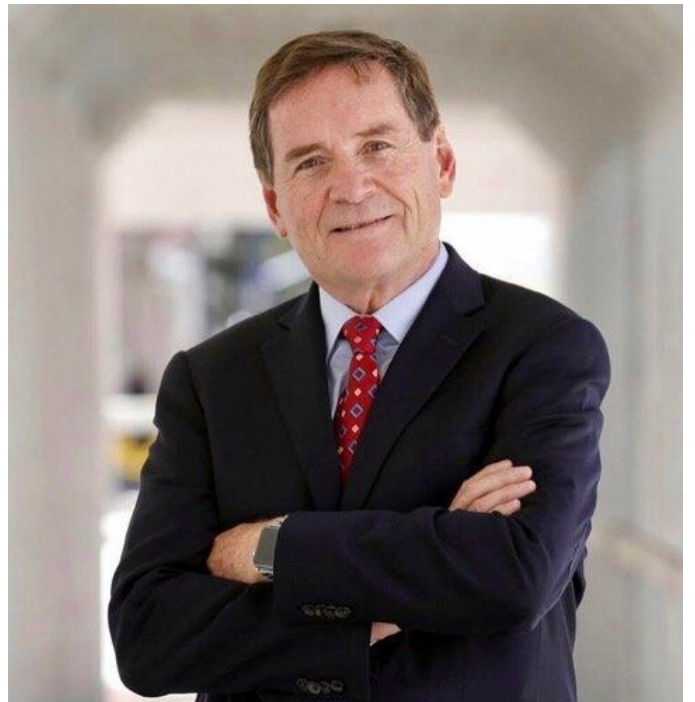
This seminar is valid for all ages but is especially important for older adults who are frequently the target of fraud. Bring your parents, bring your (adult) children, and bring your friends!

#### **About Paul Greenwood**

Paul Greenwood was a solicitor in England for 13 years. After relocating to San Diego in 1991 he passed the California Bar and joined the District Attorney’s office in 1993. For 22 years, Paul headed up the Elder Abuse Prosecution Unit at the San Diego DA’s Office. In 1999, California Lawyer magazine named Paul as one of their top 20 lawyers of the year in recognition of his pioneering efforts to pursue justice on behalf of senior citizens.

In March 2018, Paul retired from the San Diego DA’s office to concentrate on sharing lessons learned from his elder abuse prosecutions with a wider audience. In October 2018, he was given a lifetime achievement award by his former office.

Paul now spends much of his post retirement time speaking on behalf of AARP nationally, consulting on elder abuse cases, testifying as an expert witness, and providing trainings to law enforcement and Adult Protective Services agencies across the country and internationally. He is also involved as the criminal justice board member of National Adult Protective Services Association.



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

## **Outreach Is for Everyone: Join the Team!**

By Tammy E

I didn't know I needed a hug. Back in Ohio, I thought all was well with me. I walked with peace, confidence and intention. Yet a quiet grandmother, who was attending my former UMC's Trunk-or-Treat event with her daughter and granddaughter, sought me out before she left. Dressed as a cow, I was easy to spot. She walked right up to me through the crowd and hugged me, lovingly, like I was someone close. Then she thanked me, said good-bye, and walked away.

What had prompted such a response? It could have been the chair that I provided for her to rest while her granddaughter collected treats, or the small chocolate candies and water that I gave her. Or maybe it was the three-minute conversation we had, or perhaps my smile or costume. I don't know. But without even trying, I had somehow made a connection, so she hugged me, and I was mystified.

The feeling of her hug stayed with me for hours. It surprised me. It lifted me – when I didn't know I needed lifting. Later, I realized that it had been six months since anyone had hugged me, but that was by design. Following a bilateral mastectomy, due to cancer, I tried to keep a certain distance from people. I remained guarded and hypersensitive.

Then along came this woman, Patty, a “stranger” to the church, and she hugged me. All I felt was her warmth and tenderness. No pain or discomfort. No awkwardness. Just love and joy. And it felt freeing, healing, like a “Holy Spirit moment.” I rediscovered the power of human connection, and I looked forward to sharing this gift in my role as a new member of my former UMC's outreach team.

As it turned out, my time serving in outreach would impact me as greatly as it could anyone else. It's seemingly inconsequential moments like these that “move mountains,” where “nothing will be impossible,” as long as we have faith.

And now, here at Pacific Beach UMC, my new home, the church offers the same invitation and opportunity to you, too. No matter your age, background or ability, you can make a difference. No experience is necessary. With a willing heart, God finds a way.

So Pastor Lori and I graciously ask you to **consider joining the new PB UMC Outreach Team**. Help bring God's love to our local community through new outreach projects. Help us expand our circle of family and friends. There's a place for you.

The team will meet once a month to plan, organize, and coordinate events and activities, new ways that our church can extend our mission and increase our connection with our neighbors. Day and time are to be determined, based on the group's availability.

Please contact Pastor Lori or me via the church office with questions or to join the team: [www.pbumc.org/contact](http://www.pbumc.org/contact).



# Circle of Support

March 2026

## Record of Generosity

	March 2026	
	Actual	Budget
Giving Income	\$ 24,868	\$ 26,751
Other Income	\$ 20,098	\$ 20,489
Total Available for Ministry	\$ 44,966	\$ 47,241
Total Expended for Ministry	\$ 35,055	\$ 42,704
Income Minus Expenses	\$ 9,911	\$ 4,537

	2026 Year-to-Date	
	Actual	Budget
Giving Income	\$ 90,069	\$ 80,253
Other Income	\$ 42,490	\$ 41,836
Total Available for Ministry	\$ 132,559	\$ 122,090
Total Expended for Ministry	\$ 117,597	\$ 127,675
Income Minus Expenses	\$ 14,963	(\$ 5,585)

## Reflections From the Finance Team

By Heide T

Giving has been generous for the year – thank you for your gifts! Spending is under budget this month due to some March expenses that will be paid in April.

Our 2026 budget forecast a deficit for the end of March. Instead, thanks to our generous donors, we have a surplus, keeping us ahead of the year-to-date budget. This will continue to allow us to support our ministries solidly into 2026.

Thank you for the many ways you support the mission and ministries of PB UMC!

## Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch is a monthly gathering of good souls, enjoying food and fellowship at one of our wonderful local restaurants. On Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> we'll meet at noon for a no host lunch at the IHOP at 3335 Midway Drive in Loma Portal (they have great gluten-free pancakes). You can read about the restaurant and peruse their menu at their web site: [ihop.com](http://ihop.com).



Planning to attend? Please RSVP to the church office by Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> so we can reserve a table big enough for all!

### CHURCH STAFF:

Lead Pastor: The Rev Lori Leopold  
Music Director: Ron Jessee  
Director of Technical Arts: Michael Beu

Office Administrator: Susie Virgilio  
Assistant Director of Technical Arts: Brian Kaplan  
Campus Maintenance Coordinator: Troy McGarrity

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

# Calendar of Events

Every Sunday: **10:00 am, Worship Celebration**  
Child Care Available

## Week 1

Fri, May 1 Church Office Closed  
Sat, May 2 10:00 am, Al-Anon  
5:30 pm, Narc Anon

## Week 2

Sun, May 3 9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship  
2:00 pm, Hornswoggle in concert: "By Request" (p. 2)  
Mon, May 4 6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, May 5 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, May 6 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study, via Zoom  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, May 7 7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Fri, May 8 Church Office Closed  
Sat, May 9 10:00 am, Al-Anon  
5:30 pm, Narc Anon

## Week 3

Sun, May 10 Mothers Day  
9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship  
Mon, May 11 6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, May 12 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, May 13 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study, Narthex and via Zoom  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, May 14 9:30 am, Prayers and Squares Quilters  
4:00 pm, Finance Focus (via Zoom)  
7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Fri, May 15 Church Office Closed  
Sat, May 16 10:00 am, Al-Anon  
10:00 am, "Protect Yourself from Fraud," Sanctuary (p. 4)  
5:30 pm, Narc Anon

## Week 4

Sun, May 17 9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship  
1:00 pm, Movie: "Florence Foster Jenkins" (2016), starring Meryl Streep, Hugh Grant (p. 8)  
Mon, May 18 6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, May 19 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
7:00 pm, Church Council (via Zoom)  
Wed, May 20 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study, Narthex and via Zoom  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
*Beach Breeze* Materials Due  
12:00 pm, Lunch Bunch (p. 6)  
7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Church Office Closed  
Fri, May 22 Church Office Closed  
Sat, May 23 10:00 am, Al-Anon  
5:30 pm, Narc Anon

## Week 5

Sun, May 24 9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship  
11:30 am, Growing in Faith (Lanai)  
11:45 am, Game Day (p. 3)  
Mon, May 25 MEMORIAL DAY  
Church Office Closed  
6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, May 26 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, May 27 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study, Narthex and via Zoom  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries  
9:30 am, Prayers and Squares Quilters  
7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Church Office Closed  
Thurs, May 28 Church Office Closed  
Fri, May 29 Church Office Closed  
Sat, May 30 10:00 am, Al-Anon  
5:30 pm, Narc Anon

## Week 6

Sun, May 31 9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship  
1:00 pm, Movie: "Midnight in Paris" (2011), starring Owen Wilson, Rachael McAdams (p. 8)



At left, the witnesses at the ordination of Rev. Adam M lay their hands upon him immediately prior to the reception of his ordination relics.

Photo by Craig Roberts

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

## ***May Worship/Scriptures***

- May 3** Holy Communion  
John 14:1-14
- May 10** John 14:15-21
- May 17** John 17:1-11
- May 24** Acts 2:1-21
- May 31** Matthew 28:16-20

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



1561 Thomas Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92109

**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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San Diego, CA  
Permit No. 174

## ***May Movies Focus on Artistic Endeavors***

By Craig Roberts

Both our May movies concern the difficulty in creating great art.



The first movie we'll screen (on May 17<sup>th</sup>) stars Oscar winner Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant in "Florence Foster Jenkins" (2016). Streep garnered yet another Oscar nomination for portraying Jenkins, a real-life arts paragon who loved to perform as a singer. The only problem: she really couldn't sing.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, we'll screen Woody Allen's 2011 classic "Midnight in Paris," starring Owen Wilson. Wilson plays a writer vacationing in the City of Lights with his fiancée (Rachel McAdams) when he discovers he has the ability to travel back in time to the 1920s thanks to a mysterious, late night taxi. A host of great actors show up in supporting roles, including Oscar winners Kathy Bates, Adrian Brody and Marion Cotillard.

Movies screen at 1:00 p.m. in Hughes Hall. Popcorn and other snacks are always available but bring anything else you might like to snack on (such as a late lunch)!

And if you can't attend in person, consider putting our screened films on your personal watchlist and let me know if you enjoyed them (or if you didn't)!

