



# BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

July 2026

## Pastor April Has Retired

By Craig Roberts

Last month, Pastor April Herron, PB UMC's longest serving pastor, retired from UMC ministry.

Rev. Herron was first ordained as a United Methodist pastor in 1985. She holds degrees from Pomona College (B.A. 1982), the Pacific School of Religion (Master of Divinity, 1987) and Drew University (Doctor of Ministry, 2013). She served the Kekaha and Kaumakani United Methodist Churches (1987-1991) on the Hawaiian island of Kauai as her first official UMC posting.

Pastor April came to PB UMC in 1991. In 1995, the church became the first "reconciling" UMC in the San Diego area. In addition, the church grounds underwent several major improvements. The Wednesday night meal service, now known as Project Grace, began during her tenure here.

Rev. Herron served as PB UMC pastor until 2014, a total of 23 years: the longest of any pastor at PB UMC. Since 2014, she has served as an associate pastor at Rolling Hills UMC on the Palos Verdes peninsula in Los Angeles County.

Pastor April is married to Bob Chamberlin. They are looking forward to visiting their adult children in New York City, Colorado and the San Francisco Bay Area more often now that they are both retired.

Pastor April's personal message to PB UMC: "Thank you for our wonderful 23 years together! You are always with me."



### *In Memoriam: Jean Ellen Weinhold*

We give thanks for the life of Jean Ellen Weinhold, daughter of Jim and Margaret S. Jean Ellen was a member of PB UMC and lived most recently along the Colorado River in Arizona. Prayers of comfort and peace for Margaret and her family. For those who would like to extend condolences, a card would be welcome.

# Pastor Lori's Monthly Message

Beloveds in Christ,

Over the last years I have become more aware of the notion of “Christian Nationalism.” I have not only heard the phrase more frequently but I’ve been deeply disturbed when I’ve encountered it in the world around me. Publicly and privately, I’ve heard Christians speak of God and country in ways that are entirely counter to what I’ve learned about Christianity and what I know to be true about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Where did this theology come from? How can someone who claims the same name of “Christian” have beliefs so different than mine? While I’ve chewed on these questions, a number of you have asked me similar ones. What is Christian Nationalism? What do we need to understand about it? How can we equip ourselves to talk to others about it, with intelligence and love, in this modern day? Those questions and conversations led a small group of us including Rev. Adam Marshall, Rev. Dan Meyer-Abbott, Dr. David DeBus and myself to hatch a plan to give us an opportunity to explore, to talk, to study and to expand our understanding of Christian Nationalism and what it’s all about.

So this fall we will be offering an **“Inquiry Into Christian Nationalism”** with several different parts. On Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, Rev. Dan Meyer-Abbott will lead a seminar entitled, “Introduction & Overview: An Inquiry into Christian Nationalism.” Not only will Rev. Dan share essential information about the history and substance of Christian Nationalism, but he’ll provide us with some tools for our fall book study.

Between September 21<sup>st</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup>, we’ll have small group study opportunities using John Fanestil’s book, *American Heresy: The Roots and Reach of White Christian Nationalism*. We’ll have one or more classes meet weekly to read and discuss each chapter. On Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, we are honored to have Rev. Dr. Fanestil with us in worship as our preacher. Following church that same day, we’ll conclude the series with a Panel Forum Discussion.

I share this information with you now for several reasons. I am preparing for these topics this summer and I invite you to consider doing the same. There is

a lot of material to digest! We are suggesting several things that might help each of us prepare:

- Buy the book now and start reading.
- Attend an offering from our own Dr. Catherine Stratton on “Understanding the Atlantic Slave Trade: A Lecture and Discussion” on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.
- Watch a series of videos entitled “From Crown to Conferencing: Methodism and the New Republic.” (<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/crown-to-conferencing-250th-anniversary-video-series>)
- Watch the six-episode Ken Burns’ documentary “The American Revolution” available on PBS (<https://www.pbs.org/show/the-american-revolution/>)

I also share this information with you now because I anticipate that this is going to be HARD! The material is heavy, the reading is dense. And perhaps the hardest thing of all is an insight I’ve gained as I’ve started to prepare. I’m seeing more and more that this work of understanding Christian Nationalism isn’t just about what’s “out there” in the world around us. No, we’ve all been steeped in the notions of Christian Nationalism. And perhaps the hardest thing of all is looking inward to understand how those beliefs, consciously or unconsciously, have made their way into my own heart, mind and spirit.

Why should we do this hard thing? Because important things are often hard. But when we engage them together, empowered by the Holy Spirit, the load is lighter. And, if you’re anything like me, silence feels less and less like an option these days. As Christians we are called to follow Jesus and equip ourselves to the best of our ability to be the body of Christ in and for the world. I hope you’ll consider joining us for all or part of this series. Watch for more information in the weekly church emails. And please reach out with any questions.

In Christ,  
Pastor Lori



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

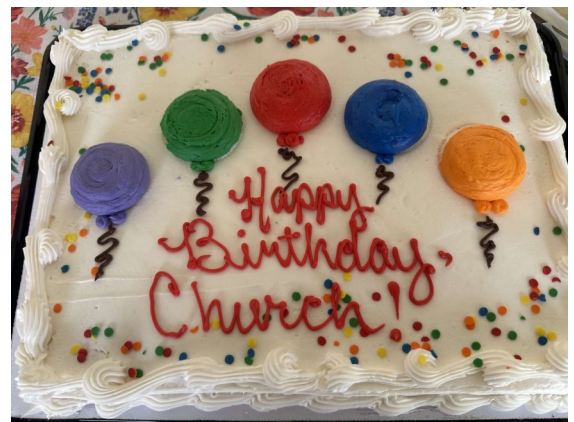
## ***Celebrate America with Game Day!***

By Hope A

What better way to cap the weekend celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday than playing games with a fun group of people? Join us after the worship service on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

We gather in the social hall after worship to eat our lunches, then start play at about noon and play till about 3:00 pm. You are welcome to come later or leave earlier. It helps to let Kathy W or me know you are coming so that we can set up enough tables. See us in person or contact the church office ([www.pbumc.org/contact](http://www.pbumc.org/contact)). Newcomers are always welcome-- we love to teach.

P.S. It's not the same as that tile-matching solitaire game you see on the web. ;-)



On May 21<sup>st</sup>, PBUMC celebrated Pentecost Sunday, the day on which we remember the birth of the church and the arrival of the Holy Spirit.

Above, Louis P uses the Children's Sermon to discuss floating soap bubbles as a metaphor for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Above right, the church had a birthday cake after the worship service.

Worship service attendees were asked to wear red to signify the vibrancy of the Holy Spirit. At right, Na Pali models her red tie with paw prints.



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***

### **Good News - Just What the Doctor Ordered**

By “Doc”

Istanbul, Turkey - Good sport saves seagull's life

Here's the story...

Earlier this year, an amateur soccer match in Turkey suddenly stopped after a strong goal kick accidentally hit a seagull, knocking it down to the field.

Instead of continuing the game, team captain Gani Catan, a 32-year-old accountant and captain of amateur club Yurdum Spor, ran straight to the bird. The seagull had stopped breathing. With teammates and fans watching in shock, Catan began CPR on the bird right there on the pitch—and amazingly, the bird began to breath again.

The seagull was then taken to a veterinary clinic. It had an injured wing, but it was alive because Catan chose kindness over competition.

Even though his team lost, Catan said saving the bird meant more to him than winning any trophy.

Sometimes the greatest win isn't on the scoreboard... it's in the heart.

Source: Perdue Exponent

*Laugh often & live healthy!*

*:Doc*



## ***July Communion Offering***

### ***Reconciling Ministries Network***

Reconciling congregations, communities and campus ministries (reconciling ministries) who affiliate with the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) embrace RMN's commitment to achieving LGBTQ+ justice and full inclusion in the life and leadership of the United Methodist Church, both in policy and in practice.

PB UMC has been a reconciling church for over 30 years. We're pleased to support this ministry with our July offering.

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



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

## **Outreach Team Begins Meeting in July**

By Tammy E

The new Pacific Beach UMC Outreach Team will meet every second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m., beginning July 13<sup>th</sup>.

To start, the meeting format will be hybrid, so join us either in person at the church or online via Zoom. Down the road, as we settle in, we will switch to online-only for convenience.

Come help us build connections and further serve our community. No experience necessary!

Please contact me through the church office with questions or to participate: [www.pbumc.org/contact](http://www.pbumc.org/contact).

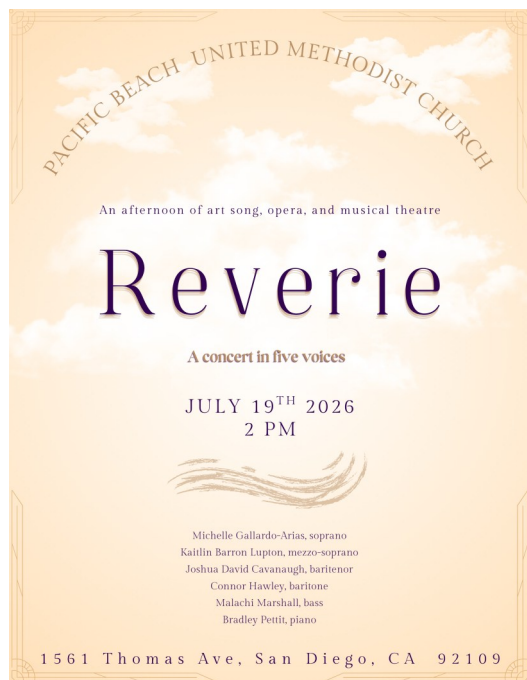
## ***Light Up the Cathedral: LGBTQIA+ Interfaith Pride Service***

You are invited to join LGBTQIA+ Faith Leaders and Faithful as we gather together, in person, to celebrate our faith and thrive. Join Dean The Very Reverend Allisyn Thomas LGBTQIA+ Faith Leaders and Allied Faith Leaders for an Interfaith Pride Celebration at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral. Our own Pastor Lori will be one of the speakers.

After the service, the Cathedral will be lit in rainbow colors.

When: Wednesday July 15, 2026 7:00 p.m.

Where: St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral (2728 Sixth Avenue, enter on Fifth Avenue side)



PB UMC Lay Leader Ken B and Pastor Lori attended the annual conference in La Quinta.

# Circle of Support

## May 2026 Record of Generosity

	May 2026	
	Actual	Budget
Giving Income	\$ 27,386	\$ 26,751
Other Income	\$ 8,791	\$ 8,667
Total Available for Ministry	\$ 36,177	\$ 35,418
Total Expended for Ministry	\$ 33,861	\$ 43,272
Income Minus Expenses	\$ 2,316	(\$ 7,854)
	2026 Year-to-Date	
	Actual	Budget
Giving Income	\$ 148,008	\$ 133,756
Other Income	\$ 59,583	\$ 59,169
Total Available for Ministry	\$ 207,591	\$ 192,925
Total Expended for Ministry	\$ 204,390	\$ 213,347
Income Minus Expenses	\$ 3,201	(\$ 20,421)

### Reflections From the Finance Team

By Heide T

Giving has been generous for May and for the year – thank you for your gifts!

Spending is under budget this month because some May expenses will post in July.

We remain ahead of our 2026 year-to-date budget. Thank you to our generous donors and to all those involved in managing resources! And 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, July 30<sup>th</sup> we'll meet at noon for a no host lunch at the Fig Tree Cafe, at 5119 Cass Street. You can check out their menu at <https://figtreeeatery.com/menu/>.

Planning to attend? Please RSVP to the church office by Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup> so we can reserve a table big enough for all!

P.S. Lunch Bunch will be taking the month of August off.



#### 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

- Wed, July 1 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study,  
via Zoom  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, July 2 Church Office Closed  
7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Fri, July 3 Church Office Closed  
Sat, July 4 250<sup>th</sup> Independence Day!  
10:00 am, Al-Anon  
5:30 pm, Narc Anon

## Week 2

- Sun, July 5 9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship and Communion  
11:45 am, Game Day (p. 3)  
Mon, July 6 6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, July 7 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, July 8 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study,  
Narthex and via Zoom  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, July 9 9:30 am, Prayers and Squares Quilters  
7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Fri, July 10 Church Office Closed  
Sat, July 11 10:00 am, Al-Anon  
5:30 pm, Narc Anon

## Week 3

- Sun, July 12 9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship  
11:30 am, Belonging Gathering  
1:00 pm, Movie: "Time Bandits (1981),  
starring John Cleese, Sean  
Connery and Shelly Duval  
(p. 8)  
Mon, July 13 6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
7:00 pm, PB UMC Outreach Committee  
(In Person or via Zoom) (p. 5)  
Tues, July 14 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, July 15 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study,  
Narthex and via Zoom  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
7:00 pm, Light Up the Cathedral  
Interfaith Service: St. Paul's  
Episcopal Cathedral,  
2728 Sixth Avenue  
Thurs, July 16 4:00 pm, Finance Focus (via Zoom)  
7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Fri, July 17 Church Office Closed  
Sat, July 18 San Diego Pride Parade  
10:00 am, Al-Anon  
5:30 pm, Narc Anon

Ron Jessee and Louis P look on as Pastor Lori inducts Todd W  
as a new PB UMC member on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Photo by Craig Roberts

## Week 4

- Sun, July 19 9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship  
2:00 pm, "Reverie—A Concert in Five  
Voices" (Sanctuary) (p. 5)  
Mon, July 20 6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, July 21 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
7:00 pm, Church Council (via Zoom)  
Wed, July 22 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study,  
Narthex and via Zoom  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
5:30 pm, Storefront  
Beach Breeze Materials Due  
Thurs, July 23 9:30 am, Prayers and Squares Quilters  
7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Church Office Closed  
Fri, July 24 10:00 am, Al-Anon  
Sat, July 25 5:30 pm, Narc Anon

## Week 5

- Sun, July 26 9:30 am, Prayer Circle  
10:00 am, Worship  
11:30 am, Growing in Faith  
1:00 pm, Movie: "Legally Blonde"  
(2001), starring Reese  
Witherspoon, Jennifer  
Coolidge and Luke Wilson  
(p. 8)  
Mon, July 27 6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, July 28 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, July 29 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study,  
Narthex and via Zoom  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, July 30 12:00 pm, Lunch Bunch (p. 6)  
7:00 pm, Narc Anon  
Church Office Closed  
Fri, July 31



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

## ***July Worship/Scriptures***

**July 5** Holy Communion  
Guest Preacher:  
Rev. Lesley Brogan  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

**July 12** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**July 19** Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**July 26** Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

## **Pacific Beach United Methodist Church**



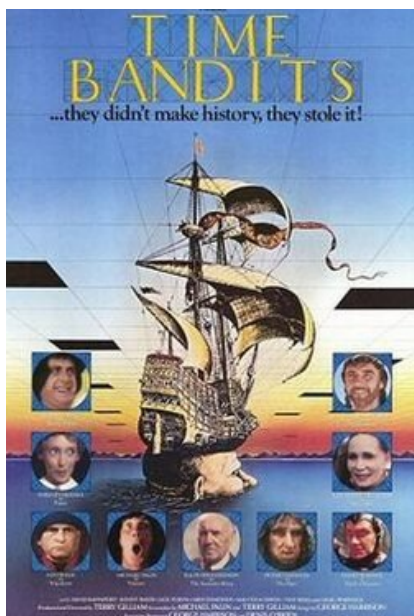
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## ***July Movies: Bandits and a Blonde***

By Craig Roberts



Our July movies concern time travel and law degrees.

On July 12<sup>th</sup> we'll screen the mindblowing "Time Bandits" (1981), which reunites Monty Python director Terry Gilliam with fellow Python alumni John Cleese and Michael Palin, with Sean Connery and Shelly Duval along for the ride. A young boy named Kevin becomes an accidental companion to a group of rogues who can travel through time, usually screwing up history along the way.

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, we'll screen the classic 2001 film "Legally Blonde," featuring Oscar-winning actress Reese Witherspoon in one of her best and most beloved roles. Witherspoon stars as sorority girl Elle Woods, who decides to attend Harvard Law School for all the wrong reasons, but learns strength and self-respect along the way. Luke Wilson and Jennifer Coolidge also star.

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 nosh 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)!

