



Pacific Beach
United Methodist Church

BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

September 2026

Storefront Shout Out... and a Request

By Susie Virgilio

Storefront is a youth overnight shelter located in Hillcrest, providing a safe place for homeless teens with no safe place to call home. Since 1999, PB UMC has been continuously supporting the Storefront Teen Shelter, delivering dinner once a month. All year long, our financial and food donations keep this ministry spinning.

When Pastor Lori arrived in 2020, she didn't realize Storefront was a PB UMC ministry. Recently, I was speaking to a new member and told her about our Storefront ministry as she had no idea it existed. The Storefront ministry has been the quiet cousin of Project Grace, yet just as vital. And part of our PB Outreach Ministries for about as long.

First, a huge Thank You to our most recent Storefront coordinators, Pam and Mike Rice. On PB UMC's behalf, they have been taking care of the Storefront shelter teens once a month since Covid time, about five or six years! We appreciate all that they did, and we appreciate that they now need to hand over the reins.

Second, we appreciate all our past coordinators and Storefront ministry team members.

Chris, Hans and Kendall, who really started PB's involvement, and Dee and Joey and Joan & me and Craig and Rick & Scott and David and Jack & Betty and Kelley & Dan and Jamie and David and Kathy and Jo and Lynn & Diane and Sally - the list goes on and on - thank you.

Which brings this article to the **Third and Most Important Point**:

Will YOU take over the Storefront ministry coordination?

Or will YOU consider joining our team of Storefront coordinators?

As a ministry team member, the obligation is minimal - it's not you every month; the team schedule would rotate so that your turn is a few times a year. Please contact the church office for all the details and to volunteer.

THANK YOU for taking care of the Storefront teens!



SAN DIEGO
YOUTH SERVICES

Pastor Lori's Monthly Message

Beloveds in Christ,

It does not matter how old I get, there is something about September that always makes me feel like I'm going back to school! I feel a little sad about summer coming to an end, but it's also a season that feels hopeful—like a fresh start. We are kicking off the unofficial fall season with a first Sunday in September that promises to be full of fun and joy!

On Sunday, September 6th, we'll do **Outdoor Church** at our regular time, gathering under canopies in the courtyard. During the service, we will celebrate the **Blessing of the Animals**. (Communion will be moved to the second Sunday of September.) All are invited to bring pets who will be comfortable and happy in a group setting. If you are remembering a pet who has died, or your pet would be happier staying at home, please feel free to bring a picture to place on our "critter table."

After church, we'll enjoy our traditional **Labor Day BBQ and Potluck**. We'll have hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill and invite everyone to bring a side dish or dessert to share. (Please make a small

sign if your potluck item is vegan, vegetarian, or gluten-free.) Plates, napkins and silverware will be provided.

We'll also have drinks from **The Tap Truck**! Our own Wesley D. will staff the vintage VW van, serving a variety of sodas, lemonade, and iced tea. We are so thankful to have this fun addition to the BBQ and invite folks to bring a little cash for the tip jar if you'd like to show your appreciation to Wes.

I hope you can join us as we move into the fall season and all it has to offer—as we delight in the community of PB UMC and renew our bodies, souls, and spirits for a new season of learning and living God's love for all.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Lori



Game Day Returns!

By Hope A

Play Chinese Mahjong with us in the social hall after worship on Sunday, September 20th. We bring lunches to eat and usually start play by noon. Beginners and newcomers are always welcome. Please let Kathy W or me know by that morning if you are coming so we set up enough tables—or contact the church office prior to the Thursday before (www.pbumc.org/contact).

We start play at about noon and play till about 3:00 pm. You are welcome to come later or leave earlier.



Hot Or Cold? October PB UMC Potluck

By Dyan Pitts

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church invites you to a potluck lunch on Sunday, October 4th, following the 10:00 a.m. service. Please bring a hot dish or cold salad to share. Sign-up sheets will be in the church entryway. See me for any questions.

We Care for One Another

Inquiry into Christian Nationalism Begins This Month

Introduction and Overview: An Inquiry into Christian Nationalism

On September 13th, from 1:00–2:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, the Rev. Dan Meyer-Abbott will lead “Introduction and Overview: An Inquiry into Christian Nationalism,” the opening gathering in our Inquiry into Christian Nationalism series.

This introductory session will help us explore the origins of Christian nationalism, how it manifests in our faith and thinking today and why it is an important topic for Christians and all communities of faith in the United States. Rev. Dan will provide historical and theological context, as well as guidance and tools to help us engage thoughtfully and faithfully with conversations that will follow throughout the series.

Join us as we begin this important inquiry together, approaching a complex topic with curiosity, openness, and a commitment to thoughtful conversation.

Understanding the Atlantic Slave Trade: A Lecture and Discussion

On September 19th, from 10:00–11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary, Dr. Catherine Stratton will offer a presentation exploring the history of the Atlantic Slave Trade and its profound impact on the formation of Black communities throughout the Americas.

The presentation will examine the economic and political motivations of the European nations that organized and profited from the trade, as well as the knowledge, skills, and agricultural expertise of the West African peoples who were forcibly transported to the Americas. Together, we will consider this tragic history and its enduring impact on our world today.

Dr. Stratton is a retired Professor of History and Geography at Iona University, where she taught African history and culture for 47 years.

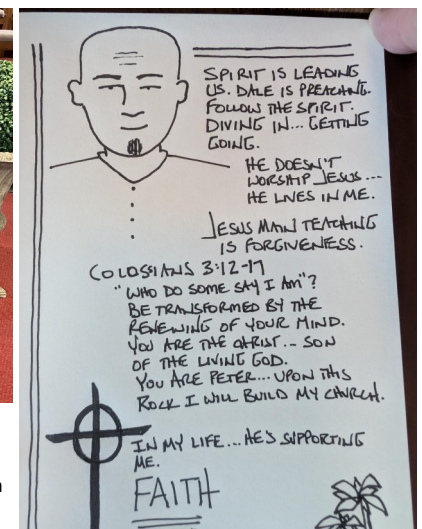
The *Beach Breeze* is a monthly publication of the Pacific Beach United Methodist Church. Please visit our website at www.myPBchurch.org.

Beach Breeze Editor:
Craig Roberts



Above, the backpacks donated by PB UMC members. (Photo by Pastor Lori)

On August 23rd, Rev. Dale Blackford was PB UMC's guest preacher. At right is a sketch Ron Jessee made during Rev. Dale's talk.



We Grow in Grace & Faith

Good News - Just What the Doctor Ordered

By “Doc”

Yosemite CA - The *Eyes* Have It

Here's the story...

When only 20 years old, Eitan Armon thought he needed glasses. However, his trip to the optometrist ended up with a diagnosis of a rare eye disease which would result in complete blindness—with no cure. Eitan went through a period of adjustment, self-doubt, anger and uncertainty.

But eventually, he began to see things more, well...clearly. He stopped focusing on what was being taken away, and thinking about what mattered most to him: challenging himself, spending time with good people, giving to something bigger than himself and finding adventure. But what could he do without sight?

How about climbing El Capitan in Yosemite? A 3000-foot granite monolith, “El Cap” is frequently featured in scenic views of Yosemite Valley. It challenges the best rock climbers—with vision.

By the time he was ready to climb, he had only 5% vision left. His team customized his gear with tactile markers so he could tell what he was holding. On the bright side, Eitan reported the fear many feel from the view had no effect on him. He simply couldn't see how high up he was. He did, however, say on the second day when he had to unclip a piece of gear to move to the next anchor point, his heart was racing. But he trusted the system and completed the climb.

Eitan said sitting around waiting for something to change showed a lack of appreciation for what he already had. Sounds to me like he sees things pretty clearly.

Source: Amber Harding, OutKick Outdoors on FOX NEWS

Laugh often & live healthy!



On August 2nd, Rev. Jerry H and his wife Donna (pictured at left with Ron Jessee) visited PB UMC for our Sunday worship service.

Rev. Jerry was PB UMC's Associate Pastor from 1971 to 1977. He and Donna were married in PB UMC in 1976.

Photo by Pastor Lori

SAVE THE DATE:

PB UMC at Pacific Beachfest

The festival takes place on **Saturday, October 3rd**, from roughly 9:00 am until 7:00 pm—and we need folks to staff our booth!

Look for more details from the Outreach Team this month via our weekly emails and in next month's *Beach Breeze*.

We Reach Out to Others

September Communion Offering

Hispanic/Latino and Border Ministries

From the California-Pacific Annual Conference website:

We, the California-Pacific Annual Conference, being faithful to our call by Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior to bring the good news of the Gospel to each and all in our world, are committed to broaden our capacity to witness to the growing Hispanic's population at this time in our history and to do so by (1) identifying and equipping transformational accountable leaders, (2) to grow healthy Hispanic churches and ministries, and (3) to broaden our connectional life, as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our church's September communion offering will support these important ministries.

For more information: www.calpacumc.org/hispaniclatino/



**CALIFORNIA-
PACIFIC
CONFERENCE**

Volunteer Opportunity: Help PB UMC Support Our Immigrant Neighbors

By Pastor Lori

PB UMC is seeking a volunteer to represent our congregation at the monthly **South District Immigration Ministries Team** Zoom meeting. This is a meaningful way to help our church stay informed about local immigration issues, community resources, advocacy opportunities, and ministries that support our immigrant neighbors.

The representative would attend a monthly evening Zoom meeting (days vary), share relevant updates with the congregation, and help connect PB UMC with opportunities to participate in local efforts of welcome, justice, and compassion.

If you have a heart for hospitality and advocacy, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the church office or Pastor Lori if you're interested or would like to learn more.

Help us find our new Sunday School Coordinator

Do you know someone who has the gifts, time and interest for this special ministry? Please share!

Job Details:

Part-time (4-8 hours per week), hourly

Pay: \$20-25, based on experience

Job Description:

We are looking to hire someone with a passion for Christian education and a heart for kids to join our team at PB UMC. The Children's Sunday School Coordinator will work with and report to the lead pastor. Responsibilities will include oversight of the children's Sunday School experience, including curriculum selection, training and support of volunteers, maintenance of supplies and records and management of Sunday School rooms related to safety, organization and décor. For more information about the position and/or to apply, please contact Pastor Lori Leopold at www.pbumc.org/contact.

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation and a proud member of the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN), working for the full participation of all LGBTQ+ people throughout the life and leadership of the Church.

Circle of Support

July 2026 Record of Generosity

	July 2026	
	Actual	Budget
Giving Income	\$ 24,863	\$ 26,751
Other Income	\$ 8,845	\$ 8,667
Total Available for Ministry	\$ 33,708	\$ 35,418
Total Expended for Ministry	\$ 48,468	\$ 42,704
Income Minus Expenses	\$ (14,759)	\$ (7,286)

	2026 Year-to-Date	
	Actual	Budget
Giving Income	\$ 223,173	\$ 214,009
Other Income	\$ 109,136	\$ 108,815
Total Available for Ministry	\$ 332,308	\$ 322,824
Total Expended for Ministry	\$ 328,781	\$ 340,987
Income Minus Expenses	\$ 3,527	\$ (18,163)

Reflections From the Finance Team

By Heide T

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

Spending is over budget this month because some June expenses posted in July.

We remain ahead of our 2026 year-to-date budget. Thank you to our generous donors and everyone involved in managing resources!

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, September 17th we'll meet at noon for a no host lunch at the Mandarin Wok, at 4227 Balboa Avenue in Claremont. You can check out their menu at <https://mandarinwok.menutoorder.com/>. They have many delicious gluten-free options!

Planning to attend? Please RSVP to the church office by Tuesday, September 15th 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/contact/ phone: 858-274-6573

Calendar of Events

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

Week 1

Tues, Sept. 1 6:00 pm, Choir Practice
Wed, Sept. 2 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study
Narthex and via Zoom
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Sept. 3 7:00 pm, Narc Anon
Fri, Sept. 4 Church Office Closed
Sat, Sept. 5 10:00 am, Al-Anon
5:30 pm, Narc Anon

Week 2

Sun, Sept. 6 9:30 am, Prayer Circle
10:00 am, Worship (Outdoor Church)
Blessing of the Animals
11:30 am, PB UMC Labor Day Picnic
and Potluck
Mon, Sept. 7 LABOR DAY
Church Office Closed
6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Sept. 8 6:00 pm, Choir Practice
Wed, Sept. 9 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study
Narthex and via Zoom
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Sept. 10 9:30 am, Prayers and Squares Quilters
4:00 pm, Finance Focus (via Zoom)
7:00 pm, Narc Anon
Fri, Sept. 11 Church Office Closed
Sat, Sept. 12 10:00 am, Al-Anon
5:30 pm, Narc Anon

Week 3

Sun, Sept. 13 9:30 am, Prayer Circle
10:00 am, Worship and Communion
1:00 pm, Introduction and Overview:
An Inquiry into Christian
Nationalism (p. 3)
3:00 pm, Movie: "Car Wash" (1976),
starring Richard Pryor and
George Carlin (p. 8)
Mon, Sept. 14 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
6:30 pm, PB UMC Outreach Committee
(In Person or via Zoom)
Tues, Sept. 15 6:00 pm, Choir Practice
7:00 pm, Church Council (via Zoom)
Wed, Sept. 16 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study
Narthex and via Zoom
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Sept. 17 12:00 pm, Lunch Bunch (p. 6)
7:00 pm, Narc Anon
Fri, Sept. 18 Church Office Closed
Sat, Sept. 19 10:00 am, Al-Anon
10:00 am, Understanding the Atlantic
Slave Trade: A Lecture and
Discussion (p. 3)
5:30 pm, Narc Anon

Week 4

Sun, Sept. 20 9:30 am, Prayer Circle
10:00 am, Worship
11:30 am, Nominating Committee (Lanai)
11:45 am, Game Day (p. 2)
Mon, Sept. 21 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
7:00 pm, Book Study: John Fanestil's
"American Heresy: The Roots
and Reach of White Christian
Nationalism" via Zoom
Tues, Sept. 22 1:00 pm, Book Study: John Fanestil's
"American Heresy: The Roots
and Reach of White Christian
Nationalism" at church
6:00 pm, Choir Practice
Wed, Sept. 23 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study
Narthex and via Zoom
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
5:30 pm, Storefront
Thurs, Sept. 24 Beach Breeze Materials Due
9:30 am, Prayers and Squares Quilters
7:00 pm, Narc Anon
Church Office Closed
Fri, Sept. 25
Sat, Sept. 26 10:00 am, Al-Anon
5:30 pm, Narc Anon

Week 5

Sun, Sept. 27 9:30 am, Prayer Circle
10:00 am, Worship
11:30 am, Growing in Faith
1:00 pm, Movie: "The First Wives'
Club"(1996), starring Diane
Keaton, Goldie Hawn and
Bette Midler (p. 8)
Mon, Sept. 28 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
7:00 pm, Book Study: John Fanestil's
"American Heresy: The Roots
and Reach of White Christian
Nationalism" via Zoom
Tues, Sept. 29 1:00 pm, Book Study: John Fanestil's
"American Heresy: The Roots
and Reach of White Christian
Nationalism" at church
6:00 pm, Choir Practice
Wed, Sept. 30 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study
Narthex and via Zoom
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace



We Love and Worship God

September Worship/ Scriptures

September 6 Outdoor Church
Blessing of the Animals
Picnic + Potluck
Numbers 22:21-35

September 13 Holy Communion
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20 Matthew 20:1-16

September 27 Matthew 21:23-32

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church



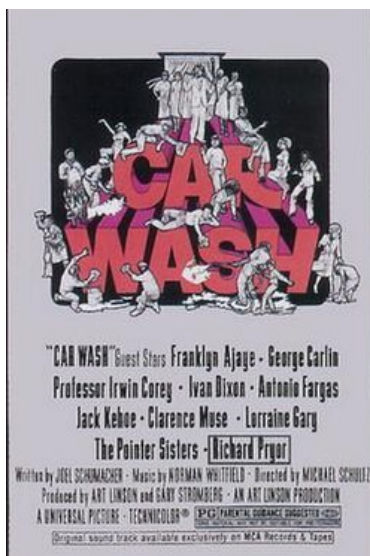
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September Movies: Minimum Wage and Maximum Revenge

By Craig Roberts



Our September movies don't have much in common with one another. The first concerns minimum wage workers just trying to get through the day and the second showcases upper class women pursuing a specific kind of revenge.

On September 13th we'll celebrate the 50th anniversary of a movie whose title song (a #1 hit for Rose Royce in 1977) might be more famous than the actual movie. But we will enjoy watching Richard Pryor, Garrett Morris, George Carlin and the Pointer Sisters, amongst many others, deal with a crazy day at a Los Angeles "Car Wash." (Note that this movie will screen at **3:00 p.m.**)

On September 27th, we'll celebrate the 30th anniversary of "The First Wives Club," a comedy that teams up Oscar winners Diane Keaton and Goldie Hawn with Oscar nominee Bette Midler as they plot revenge on their insensitive ex-husbands.

This movie will screen at our normal time of 1:00 p.m.

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)!

