

# BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

March 2020



Pacific Beach UMC once again prepares to enter into the season of Lent. In the Christian tradition, Lent is a time of prayerful introspection in preparation for the Easter celebration. The season begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days (not including Sundays). This year, **Lent runs from February 26 (Ash Wednesday) through April 11 (the Saturday before Easter).**

**Throughout the Lenten season,** we will continue to explore gratitude, guided by author and theologian Diana Butler Bass and her book *Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks*. Video-based small group studies organized by Adam M.-L. will have options for in-person and virtual connections, and our regular weekly communications will all focus on the central idea of gratitude. (See p. 5.)

**On Sunday, April 5, we will celebrate Palm Sunday,** beginning our worship gathering in our courtyard and processing (walking together) into the Sanctuary together as we sing and wave palm branches. The message will focus on Jesus' traditional procession into Jerusalem before the Passover holiday.

**Good Friday falls on April 10.** The church will be open from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm for an exploration of the meaning of Good Friday in our unique life of faith. Stations of interactive prayer and learning will be available for participants at an individual pace.

**On Easter Sunday, April 12,** we will gather once again for a **Sunrise Worship** at Crown Point Park on Mission Bay. We will join together with members of The Water's Edge faith community at 6:00 am for worship and a service of Holy Communion.



Back at 1561 Thomas Ave, our **Worship services** will take place as usual in the sanctuary at 9:00 am and 10:30 am. The **Easter Egg Hunt** for children will begin in the courtyard at 10:00 am.

Easter is a celebration of hope and new life. All are welcome to join in thoughtful reflection, prayer, community, worship, and celebration. Please be sure to invite family, friends, and neighbors to join this remarkable faith community as we continue to connect with one another and with God.

# Pastor Bob's Printed Blog

Dear Friends . . .

As I sit with my laptop on my lap and a television show clattering in the background of my attention, it is after 1:30 am on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. It's President's Day, and at this late (or early) hour, I just got home from the church.

I was called down shortly before midnight by news of a break-in on the north side of the Sanctuary.

If this is the first you've heard of this, please take a moment, and take a breath. Nothing was taken and the person responsible never entered the building before being stopped by our on-site security. When I arrived, police were there and had someone in the back of their vehicle. It was not someone I have ever seen before. But the break-in is not what I want to explore here.

We are incredibly blessed to have our capable on-site security person, Easy, who saw what was happening on a routine tour of the church grounds. He was able to reach me, and I got to the church shortly thereafter. While Easy was calling local police for assistance, a neighbor offered support, and stayed to speak with responding officers. When it became time to secure the Sanctuary, Maddie, the coordinator for our weekly dental clinic came to help. The ever-responsive Louis P. responded to a call for help and directed us to tools and plywood. We were even checked in on by one of our regular Project Grace volunteers, who walked by while pushing his bike.

Between us, we managed to board up the space where the glass had been kicked out. As of this writing, there is still work to be done to complete the cleanup and make the board-up job a bit prettier.

It occurred to me that this is an incredible illustration of community. In a time of need, people came together and worked together. There was connection. There was community.

This is not unlike what I suspect many of us have experienced in this congregation. Perhaps we have been in a time of crisis, and we have been supported and guided by our church family. Perhaps we have faced a difficult task, and we have been aided and counseled by members of our church family. Perhaps we have faced questions of life or of faith, and we have received guidance and care

from members of our church family.

I believe that connection and community are a critical part of our faith. Our recent sermon series, "Somos del Señor," reminded us that we already have the gifts we need; that we are called by God; that God's Spirit continues to empower and strengthen us; and that God joins us in the transformational work before us.

What more can we do together? How can we grow in our faith and discipleship, in our presence in—and service to—the Pacific Beach community? How can we look even beyond our own congregation toward cooperation and collaboration with other churches to do new things in new ways, and reach new people?

It can feel easy to isolate ourselves out of fear rather than to allow our loved ones and our faith community to see and acknowledge our authentic selves, but by courageously opening our hearts, I believe we find new strength and new hope. In the same way, it can feel easy for churches to separate our congregations into silos rather than to cooperate and collaborate in fresh expressions of faith, but in connecting and collaborating, I believe we can find new strength and new hope.

As we enter into this Lenten season, may God continue to call us toward connection, toward faith, toward growth, and toward community.



Pastor Bob



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

**T**he Labor of Love project has been making quiet progress over the last year. While we continue to face challenges, your faithful Labor of Love team in collaboration with the Board of Trustees has led us to the point that a contractor has been selected. We are nearing the beginning of construction!



In moving us to this point, our leadership worked with Southern Cross Property Management to ensure we have progressed well into the permitting process before local building codes changed (again). Contracts are being written so that we can review them, and we will schedule carefully to avoid interference with Easter Sunday.

There will be a period of time that we will be unable to worship in the Sanctuary. Our leaders from the Growing in Faith team are planning for creative worship experiences in Hughes Hall during this time. Once the construction phase is complete, look for a capital campaign to replenish the resources spent on this progress so that we can fund important ongoing ministry.

Thank you for your prayerful support of this project. As we move into a more visible phase, please continue to pray for leaders, workers, and our congregation as we build on the generous gifts of those before us to make vital ministry possible into the future.

## **Last Call for Interfaith Shelter Program Volunteers at PB UMC**

by Ken B.

**P**acific Beach United Methodist church continues its longstanding ministry to the homeless community by hosting guests from the Interfaith Shelter Network March 21 to April 4, 2020. We have openings for volunteers in several areas.

### **What Can I Do?**

We still need some individuals or groups to serve as lunch and dinner hosts. Lunch sacks are prepared the evenings before the assigned date and are dropped off at the church around 6:00 pm. Dinner hosts prepare meals and serve the guests around 6:15 pm. The church's kitchen is available for use for all meal preparation. If you need to drop off lunches earlier, no problem. If you want to arrive at the church early to prepare your gourmet meal, there's no worries there, either. After our guests finish their meal, they help clean the kitchen, and then settle in for the evening. Each evening an overnight supervisor is there: another area where you can participate as a volunteer. Overnight supervisors get to eat dinner with our shelter guests.

### **Where, Do I Begin?**

Before and after worship services, look at the sign-up sheets located in the church lobby for the open volunteer opportunities. If you have any questions, just ask any of the coordinators (Betty, Ray, or Ken).

We are grateful for your continued support and service to this vital ministry to the community.

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***

## **March Youth Ministry Activities**

- **Thursday, 5 March 2020**  
**7:00 pm, Open Space San Diego, Coronado Brewery**

Gather at Coronado Brewery with other San Diego youth/adults. We strive to be an open-minded group that invites all to spark deep conversation and find spiritual meaning in a safe and diverse environment.

Coronado Brewing Co.  
1205 Knoxville Street,  
San Diego, Ca 92110.

Every first Thursday of the Month.  
Follow on Facebook and Instagram: openspacesd.

- **Sunday, 8 March 2020**  
**12:30-2:30 pm, Youth Group**
- **Saturday, 14 March 2020**  
**Erich & Amanda get MARRIED!!!**

Youth & families may attend the ceremony and share in this celebration. Send an email to Erich Schmitt to receive details.

- **Sunday, 22 March 2020**  
**4:00-6:30 pm, District Olympics, San Dieguito UMC**

Friendly and fun competition with other district youth! Participate in whacky games, and work as a team. Wiffle Ball Challenge? Extreme Tic-Tac-Toe? Maze Runner? Who knows which games we will have this year?  
Cost: \$5.00 to cover food.

- **Sunday, 29 March 2020**  
**11:30 am, Youth Group Brunchin' and Munchin'.**

## **Children's Choir**

**C**hildren's Choir is underway, and we are meeting between services from 10:00-10:20 am. Our Spring Children's Choir performance is set to take place for both services on Sunday, May 17. Please plan to attend as our children sing their hearts out!



## **Church Council News**

by Hope A.

**C**hurch Council gathered for our first meeting on February 11. We elected officers: Ken B., chair; David McC., vice chair; and Terre F., secretary. Hope A. was previously elected treasurer at the church conference.

For the next part of the meeting, the Council members split into subject area groups of Trustees, Staff-Parish Relations (SPRC), and Finance.

The trustee group reported that demolition has started at the house that the church owns on Reed Ave. Reconstruction from the fire could take a year. Fortunately, as has been reported previously, our insurance coverage includes lost rent. The staff-parish group is seeking an additional nursery worker. Finance prepared a budget to be voted on at the next Church Council meeting on March 10, 2020.

## **Honoring Bishop Grant J. Hagiya**

**B**ishop Grant J. Hagiya will be retiring from active service in the United Methodist Church this September. In preparation for the official recognition at the close of the Cal-Pac Annual Conference on Saturday, June 20, members and friends are asked to share in the plans to honor him. Letters to acknowledge the impact the Bishop has made on individual lives may be sent by April 30, 2020, to Rev John Farley, Dean of the Cabinet, 2231 Camino del Rio South, Ste 303, San Diego 91208-3612. These letters will be assembled in a book of letters. Photos, notes, and other items will be made into a video scrapbook. Video tribute material should be sent to James Kang via the online form, [www.calpacumc.org/tributes](http://www.calpacumc.org/tributes), no later than April 30. Donations to a Scholarship fund should be sent to the Conference Treasurer in Pasadena; a special offering will be received at Annual Conference at the conclusion of the Bishop's Awards.



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



**O**ur Stephen Ministry training is coming to an end as our first class is about to graduate! We will commission our first Stephen Ministers on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at both services. Please attend to be part of this celebration!



## **Lenten Small Group**

by Adam M.-L.

**T**his year during Lent, we will be coordinating an exciting study series by Diana Butler Bass. In these videos, Bass explores how God repeatedly calls us to gratitude, and how that practice calls us to live as Christians. Licensing permits us to make these videos available digitally for congregants to watch individually, but we intend to make space for deeper conversation via in-person and online discussion groups. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex or call the church office. Find more info at [pbumc.org/groups](http://pbumc.org/groups), and register for updates at [flocknote.com/pbumc](http://flocknote.com/pbumc) or by texting PBUMC to 84576.

Watch the 6-minute teaser trailer at <http://bit.ly/2RGwChv>. We hope you can join us!



## **Out at the Park: Padres vs Rockies**

**J**oin San Diego Pride as they team up with the Padres on Friday, March 27, 2020, at Petco Park.

Pre-game activities include a "Tailgate Party" happy hour event in Gallagher Square, beginning at 4:30 pm.

Enjoy an exciting evening of entertainment and baseball, beginning at 7:10 pm.

\$25 tickets for Out at the Park include seats in the Out at the Park section, a commemorative Padres hat, a \$5 donation to San Diego Pride, and access to the pre-game space in Gallagher Square (food and drinks not included). Find single tickets at [padres.com](http://padres.com).

# Circle of Support

## January 2020 Record of Generosity

	Budget	Actual
January giving	\$21,456	\$13,604
January other sources of income	\$9,788	\$8,788
January total available for ministry	\$31,244	\$22,392
January expended in ministry	\$34,907	\$27,871
January income minus expenses	(\$3,663)	(\$5,479)
YTD giving	\$21,456	\$13,604
YTD other sources of income	\$10,143	\$8,788
YTD total available for ministry	\$31,599	\$22,392
YTD expended in ministry	\$34,907	\$27,871
YTD income minus expenses	(\$3,308)	(\$5,479)
Year 2019 budget	\$415,889	

### Sharing the Grace of God in Worship

Jan 26—117 persons  
Feb 2—105 persons  
Feb 9—123 persons  
Feb 16—89 persons

Avg. Weekly (2020) – 106 persons

### Joined at Christ's Table on Wednesday Nights

Jan 29—227 persons  
Feb 5—158 persons  
Feb 12—185 persons  
Feb 19—177 persons

## Reflections From the Finance Team

Finance submitted a draft budget to Church Council for review and approval at the March council meeting. Since we don't yet have a 2020 budget, the table includes the January 2019 budget as a reference point. The insurance proceeds and expenses related to the Reed Ave. house fire are excluded from the totals as "extraordinary items."

## March Communion Offering



UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief. It is a program by the General Board of Global Ministries taking action when disaster strikes around the globe. UMCOR acts as the hands and feet of Christ's church, moving towards the most vulnerable in their time of need: helping refugees in Clarkston, GA, earn a living wage and get job training, delivering food, water, shelter, and long-term recovery assistance to help many of the 68.5 million people displaced by war, persecution, and natural disaster, distributing relief kits to those in need following the U.S. hurricanes of 2017. We hope that you will give generously so that along with our United Methodist congregations around the globe, we can share compassionate relief in the midst of devastation.

### CHURCH STAFF:

Lead Pastor: The Rev Bob Rhodes  
Sojourning Pastor: The Rev Christopher Carter, PhD  
Office Administrator: Ivey Merrill

Music Director: Ron Jessee  
Sunday School Coordinator: Malea Sandstrom  
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Erich Schmitt

# Calendar of Events

## Worship Times:

9:00 am, **Worship Celebration**

10:30 am, **Worship Celebration**

## Sunday Music Rehearsals:

8 am, **Voices of Praise**

(Adults & Youth)

10 am, **Children's Choir**

## Week 1

Sun, Mar 1      Worship and Communion  
10:00 am, Children's Choir Rehearsal  
Mon, Mar 2      6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Wed, Mar 4      11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Mar 5     7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 pm, Youth-Adult Open Space (p.4)  
Fri, Mar 6      7:30 pm, Narc Anon  
Sat, Mar 7      9:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters

## Week 4

Sun, Mar 22     Worship  
10:00 am, Children's Choir Rehearsal  
4:00 pm, District Youth Olympics (p.4)  
Mon, Mar 23     April *Beach Breeze* Deadline  
5:30 pm, Scripture & Sermon Study  
6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Wed, Mar 25     11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace  
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries  
Thurs, Mar 26    7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal  
Fri, Mar 27      7:10 pm, Padres "Out at the Park" (p.5)  
7:30 pm, Narc Anon



## Week 2

Sun, Mar 8      Daylight Savings Time Begins  
Worship  
10:00 am, Children's Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am, Photo Directory Meeting  
12:30 pm, Youth Group (p.4)  
Mon, Mar 9      5:30 pm, Scripture & Sermon Study  
6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, Mar 10     6:30 pm, Church Council Meeting  
Wed, Mar 11     11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Mar 12    7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal  
Fri, Mar 13      7:30 pm, Narc Anon  
Sat, Mar 14      Erich and Amanda Wedding (p.4)



Bi-weekly Monday Night Bible Study Group

## Week 3

Sun, Mar 15      Worship  
Stephen Ministry Commissioning (p.5)  
10:00 am, Children's Choir Rehearsal  
Mon, Mar 16      6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Wed, Mar 18      11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Mar 19     7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal  
Fri, Mar 20      7:30 pm, Narc Anon  
Sat, Mar 21      9:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters  
Interfaith Shelter Set up

## Week 5

Sun, Mar 29      Worship  
10:00 am, Children's Choir Rehearsal  
11:30 am, Youth Brunchin' & Munchin'  
Mon, Mar 30      6:00 pm, Al-Anon  
Tues, Mar 31      9:00 am, *Beach Breeze* Folding Party



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

## **March Scriptures**

Series: "Grateful"

**Mar 1, 2020**

"Where Is God?" John 3:1-17

**Mar 8, 2020**

"A Table of Gifts" Luke 6:27-38

**Mar 15 2020**

"Table Ethics" Exodus 16:2-15  
John 6:1-15

**Mar 22, 2020**

"Grace, Gratitude, and Gifts"  
1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

**Mar 29, 2020**

"Gratitude and Abundance"  
Luke 7:36-50

## **Pacific Beach United Methodist Church**



1561 Thomas Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92109

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## **Meet Pianist Judy B.**

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

I recently met our newest piano player, Judy B. She told me, "Ron Jessee was my Master Teacher back in the late 70's at Spring Valley Junior High. Recently he invited me to sing with the PB UMC choir whenever he needed someone to fill in. Then, when a pianist moved out of town, he asked if I was interested in accompanying the choir, and I took the opportunity."

I asked her if playing the piano in our church had been what she expected. She told me, "I have to work harder than I have previously, because I haven't accompanied in a while. But I love it."

She told me she first learned to play the piano and read music when she was in kindergarten. "Of course, I hated to practice, and my parents didn't want to force me into music, so I stopped taking lessons. However, I would come home from Sunday school and play songs by ear, eventually learning to play with both hands. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade our pastor's wife, who was a phenomenal musician, saw something in me and nurtured that gift. When they moved on to another church a year later, I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and became the church pianist until they could find a college student to play regularly. God kept putting me in places that would stretch me as a pianist, because He had a plan for me. Little did I know that I would be teaching most of my choirs from the piano."

I asked if there is something special music means to her, and she told me, "It is so much a part of who I am. It brings me such joy, whether I'm singing, playing, or directing. It was one of the greatest sources of healing in a very difficult time in my life. God speaks to me and through me using music."

When I asked her what she does for a living, she told me. "For my day job, I work as an Accountant for a Cyber Security company, and for fun, I direct Musical Theater with Scripps Theatre Arts." I asked if she had something else to share with us and she told me, "I am married to a great guy, Wes, and have two beautiful grown daughters, who have given us three energetic grandsons."

Judy shared with me, "If the Lord opens a door for me to minister in music, I will be there."

