



BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

July 2021

Life in Covenant: We Offer Our Presence

by Pastor Lori

The language in our United Methodist Book of Worship talks about our covenant with God and one another in the life of the church, and invites us to live into that covenant by actively participating through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. We are lifting up one aspect of that covenant each month in the *Beach Breeze*. Last month we talked about *our prayers* and this month we are focusing on *our presence*.

I don't think it escapes any of us that our "presence" at church has looked very different in the last 15 months than it ever has before! Many of us have wanted to be "present" at church but, in light of COVID-19, accepted the fact that we could not be present...at least not in the usual ways. Some of us navigated the challenges of "new" technology and figured out how to be "present" at church via the internet. Others of us relied on more tried-and-true methods of staying present with one another, such as phone calls or letter writing. Many of us have been attending worship online and participating in church meetings, coffee hours, and classes via Zoom. While this has all been a tremendous gift and blessing, it has not felt exactly the same as being present in the same space. So, the first thing I want to lift up about "presence" is to acknowledge the fact that we've been unable to be physically present with one another for such a long time! Second, I want to extend the invitation to come back...in whatever ways and on whatever timeline you are comfortable. Whether you've connected virtually throughout the pandemic, were unable to connect via technology, or simply got into a rhythm of not connecting, I hope you'll come back when you're able. You are loved and missed and an important part of this faith community.

The second thing I want to say about presence is that the "presence" we strive for when in covenant relationship with a faith community is so much more than simply showing up at church. Our "presence" also implies a presence with one another and with the world, especially those who are hurting, suffering, or in need. So, when we reach out to a neighbor who needs a helping hand, we are "being present." When we serve at Project Grace on Wednesday evening, we are "being present." When we volunteer our time to support those who are vulnerable or struggling or in need, we are "being present." I know that so many of you are "present" to others—in your families, in your circles of friends, here at church and in the broader community. I rejoice in all that presence! May we continue to find new and meaningful ways to be "present" with one another, and for one another, as we live out our Christian faith.

A Message From Pastor Lori

Dear Friends,

After so many months of life tamped down by COVID-19, it feels as if we are waking up, stretching our limbs emotionally and spiritually, and coming back to new life as we enter into these upcoming summer months. So much is happening. There is much that we **know**, and much that we **don't yet know!** I thought I'd lift up a few of the highlights!

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW:

- *When our Labor of Love renovation project will begin.* We are in a holding pattern due to issues around supply and demand for construction materials. All of our materials have been ordered and we're anxiously awaiting the start of our project!
- *What date we'll return fully to indoor worship.* The worship team and Church Council are discussing this on a regular basis, and we anticipate that this will happen during the summer months. We are considering safety guidelines as well as the lives and schedules of all those who are part of making worship happen. While this is still up in the air, we will most likely return to indoor worship in the sanctuary rather than the Fellowship Hall. The service will then be livestreamed for those who wish to join from home.
- *What our PB UMC faith community will look and feel like going forward.* We are in a new place and a new time; unlike any we've ever been in before. Who are we? Who will we be? How will God call us to serve in new and different ways? All this is yet to be discovered!

WHAT WE DO KNOW:

- ♦ *Worship will begin at 10:00 am, starting July 4th.* This will be true whether you are gathering on campus or joining online from home.

- ♦ *We are continuing to wear masks for indoor worship...just for a little while longer.* We have made this decision out of deep care for the well-being of those who are not yet vaccinated, primarily our children under 12 who are not yet able to receive a vaccine. There are others who have not been vaccinated for a variety of different reasons, and we want to protect them as well. We will reassess this guideline on a regular basis and provide updates via flocknote as soon as they're available.
- ♦ *We will return to a PB UMC tradition and have Outdoor Church on Sunday, July 4th.* While this service has not traditionally been livestreamed, there will be an option to Zoom in and be present from home for those who feel most comfortable worshipping online. If you'd like to sit on the lawn, please bring your own lawn or beach chair! We'll have other chairs set up on the pavement. Many have asked about the potluck that traditionally accompanies this gathering. We know that sharing food in a potluck style is not yet advised. But we will feast on the grace of God via Holy Communion and the presence of one another.
- ♦ *God is good and faithful, and while we don't know exactly how things unfold from here, we know that God will show us the way.* God will use us—who we are and as we are—to share God's abundant love in this time and place.

Thank you for your patience, grace, grit, and kindness over these many months. Blessings for your summer... may it be abundant with all that will feed your heart and soul.

In Christ,
Pastor Lori



In response to the July sermon series, "I've Been Meaning to Ask," Pastor Lori invites you to participate in summertime conversations around these questions with a focus on "where do we go from here?" Pastor Lori will host the first gatherings at church. We'll set up a dining area outside on Tuesday, July 27th at noon, and Wednesday, July 28th at 6:00 pm. If you would like to join in one of these gatherings for lunch or dinner, please e-mail Pastor Lori or the Church Office. This will be a brown bag, bring your own lunch or dinner. Drinks and dessert will be provided. If you would like to host a gathering in your home during the month of August, that would be so welcome! Please coordinate a date with Pastor Lori and we'll add additional conversation times to the August calendar!

We Care for One Another

July Youth Ministry

by Erich Grimm-Schmitt

July is an important month for our youth. It is a time where our South District Youth Groups gather in fellowship for Beach Days and Summer Camp. It's an opportunity to reflect, and to be reminded that our community is much larger than ourselves and our home church of PB UMC. It is a time where we can share stories, or laughter and heartache with many youths within the South District. This allows us to grow in discipleship by creating bonds and seeing the spirit live in each of us. How can we continue to include others and draw our circle wider? What are some ways we can grow into being in a relationship with those who aren't exactly like "us?"

Camp Cedar Glen has opened their Younger Elementary Camp. Young leaders going into grades 1-3 are now able to register for 2021 Summer Camp.

Visit campcedarglen.org for more information.

Upcoming Activities

Children & Family, @ 10:30am
July 4, 2021, No Sunday School
July 11, 2021, Sunday School
July 18, 2021, Sunday School
July 25, 2021, Sunday School

Youth 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
July 1, 2021, Day at the Beach (DAB)
July 8, 2021, DAB
July 15, 2021, DAB
July 22, 2021, DAB
July 29, 2021, DAB

Summer Camp

July 6-10, Senior High Camp
July 11-14, Junior High Camp

July 15-18, Younger Elementary Camp
July 15-18, Older Elementary Camp

New Little Library

If you've been on campus during the last several weeks, you might have noticed our new Little Library. The Little Library was constructed by our very own Dave S. It was donated by the Kiwanis Club of Scripps Ranch via the efforts of Dave and Patty, and it's a great addition to our campus and neighborhood! There are books for adults and children. Anyone is invited to take a book, leave a book, or simply sit in the courtyard and enjoy a few moments of reading. The neighborhood folks are already using the Little Library and expressing appreciation for this kindness.

We'll collect any "overflow" books in the church office so feel free to drop some books off in the library itself or leave them in the designated box in the office. Pastor Lori will be the temporary librarian for the Little Library, but would love to share that ministry with someone else. Those of us on campus will keep a regular eye on the library to make sure it's well used and maintained, but it would be wonderful to have an official "librarian" to monitor the library content and rotate books as needed. If that is something you'd enjoy, please reach out to Pastor Lori.

We will dedicate our new Little Library at church on Sunday, July 4th.

Blessings for your summer reading! We hope you'll stop by soon to pick up a book or drop something off to share with others!

See photos on page 7.

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



We Grow in Grace & Faith

Annual Conference Report

by Adam M.-L., PB UMC Delegate


The 37th Annual Conference of Cal-Pac was just as informative and inspiring as last year. So many good things are happening in our local geographical region of The UMC.

The Annual Conference Lay Leader, Mele Maka, reported the creation of a lay listening program—one which will collect feedback from our churches to ascertain what their most urgent needs are, and how they can be re-sourced. Another report was given on an ongoing program called “C2” in which pastors receive training on how to interface with nonprofits and community organizers for mission and ministry. This hasn’t been as much of an emphasis in the institutional church, and its addition is encouraging. Perhaps of unique interest to PB UMC was a report on the camping ministries of Cal-Pac, and how the new director of camping plans to center justice and leadership development in camps and retreats coordinated by our camp settings. Reports were also brought by the Conference Committee on Race and Religion, as well as a summary from various churches on how they are continuing in ministry during the pandemic. These were particularly moving because even as we have seen in our own congregation, the face of worship and church events has been radically changed in this trying season.

For detailed notes and materials, and to watch recordings of the Zoom webinars; go to www.calpacumc.org/secretary/.

Pride 2021

“Pride is a time we come together to celebrate the beautiful diversity of our community, honoring the struggles we’ve overcome and the work we have yet to do. 2020 didn’t stop us, and in 2021 our resilience will continue to shine!”




PB UMC looks forward to participating with our community in Pride 2021. We will join in the Resilient Community March on Sunday, July 11th at 11:00 am. (sdpride.org/march) While we are not back to having a parade, our community will participate in a march from Balboa Park to Hillcrest. The focus of the march is “strength, resilience, and resolve to continue the fight for justice and liberation.” If you would like to participate in the march, please reach out to Pastor Lori.

You are invited to attend Light up the Cathedral at St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral on Wednesday, July 14th at 7:00 pm. (sdpride.org/lightup) This is an in-person event, and we have reserved a small number of seats. Please let Pastor Lori know if you’d like to attend this interfaith celebration of faith and resilience.

We’ll celebrate Pride during worship at PB UMC on Sunday, July 18th. We hope you can join us for that special day! For a full listing of San Diego Pride 2021 activities, please see sdpride.org. We give thanks for our LGBTQIA+ siblings and recommit ourselves to working for the liberation and well-being of all of God’s diverse and beautiful children.

Sign Up for Regular Church Updates

by Ivey Merrill, Office Administrator

Are you signed up to receive our email alerts via flocknote? If not, now is the perfect time to do so! We send prayer messages, weekly news, and other announcements throughout the week, but the volume usually doesn’t exceed three emails a week. Given the anticipated changes in the life of our church as COVID restrictions evolve, receiving our Flock Notes will be the fastest and easiest way to stay up to date with changes to worship, such as mask guidelines, sanctuary worship, and outdoor worship opportunities. To sign up, go to pbumc.flocknote.com! 

We Reach Out to Others

Greetings from PB UMC Council

by Kenneth J. B., Council Chair, Lay-Leader, Head Usher

It has been almost two years since the church moved to one governing body that combines the duties of Trustees, Finance, and Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) into one board, aka PB UMC Council. Many may wonder what is discussed during the meetings. Though some of the business discussed is confidential, especially SPRC-related issues, I will try to provide monthly news of the general issues to help keep you informed. The Council still has the three sub-groups (Trustees, Finance, and SPRC). These smaller sub-groups often meet prior to the Council meetings to prepare specific items for the Council to consider. Please note: this “Greetings from PB UMC Council” will usually present action items from approved minutes (official records). However, individual reports submitted separately from Trustees, Finance, and SPRC sub-groups may be more timely or recent.

From the minutes of the May 11, 2021, meeting:

Council approved allowing UCSD to make some electrical upgrades to help with the clinics held on our property as part of our collaborative ministries for the unhoused, or others in our community who are less fortunate.

Special thanks to Dave and Patty S. for the little library that was approved by the Council, and has been built on church grounds.

Thank you to Mark B. for creating IT access forms to use when employees and volunteers request access to PB UMC’s computer system.

The Labor of Love project is moving forward, although we have yet to see any actual construction activities happening at the church.

Council is aware of the safety concerns regarding lighting and security cameras.

We are moving closer to in-person worship, and I am looking forward to this.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

by Patty R.

SPRC has hired a Project Grace Volunteer Coordinator, who has ideas about improvements in directing the volunteers. As Wednesday night meals slowly transition from to-go meals to actual sit-down meals, this Coordinator will have increasing amounts of work to do. No date has been set yet for resuming the sit-down meals, but when they happen, we will be ready.

Finance

by Hope A.

We wrote our first big check for Labor of Love in May: \$75,000 toward the window system. We are still waiting for a project schedule to help manage our funds on deposit at the credit unions and at US Bank, but we stand ready to cover construction costs as they come in.



As many of you know from your own home projects, there has been a significant backlog of building materials due to the pandemic. All of the building materials for our Labor of Love renovations have been ordered, and we’ve been advised by Southern Cross Property Consultants and our contractor that it is likely to be the end of August before all of the materials will be delivered. It is possible that we will begin with smaller portions of the project before that time. Stay tuned for updates! We have digital images of the project available for those who would like to view them. Please e-mail the church office if you would like to take a look!

Circle of Support

May 2021 Record of Generosity

Excluding extraordinary items*	Budget	
May giving	\$17,730	\$17,393
May other sources of income	\$10,059	\$11,019
May total available for ministry	\$27,789	\$28,412
May expended in ministry	\$30,976	\$25,614
May income minus expenses	(\$3,187)	\$2,798
YTD giving	\$88,650	\$83,303
YTD other sources of income	\$71,389	\$70,851
YTD total available for ministry	\$160,039	\$154,154
YTD expended in ministry	\$156,931	\$148,409
YTD income minus expenses	\$3,108	\$5,745
Year 2021 budget	\$380,390	

* Reed Avenue fire in 2019, covered by insurance.

Reflections From the Finance Team

We still owe two months' apportionments to the Cal-Pac conference—about \$6,000—so expenses are understated. Year to date we are running below budget in giving and Project Grace income, but May income was close to budget.

July Communion Offering Reconciling Ministries



Since 1984, Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) has worked to transform hearts, churches, and communities through grass-roots organizing, resourcing, and educating. This network has played a central role in shifting the conversation about LGBTQ+ justice and inclusion. Now, over 30 years later, the Reconciling movement spans four continents, over 1,000 churches, and more than 40,000 individuals. And it is still growing.

Pacific Beach UMC has been a Reconciling Congregation since the mid-1990s. Each year we receive one special communion thank offering in support of the national and global advocacy and education work carried out by the RMN.

Summer Small Group

by Adam M.-L.

Our next small group at Pacific Beach UMC promises to be an interesting and engaging book study. We will be reading a book by Rev. Elizabeth M. Edman titled, "Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know About Life and Love and How It Can Revitalize Christianity." As a Lesbian Episcopal priest, Rev. Edman walks through her intersecting identities—particularly her queer identity—and draws correlations with the transgressive nature of the followers of Jesus. You can find the book on Amazon here, www.amazon.com/dp/0807059080/. I tackled this book first as elective reading in a seminary class, and it moved me to tears. I do hope that you can join us for the conversation! The group starts July 19th. If you are interested, please email AdamM@pbumc.org.

CHURCH STAFF:

Lead Pastor: The Rev Lori Leopold
Sojourning Pastor: The Rev Christopher Carter, PhD
Office Administrator: Ivey Merrill

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

Calendar of Events

Worship Times

10:00 am, Worship Celebration

Week 1

Thurs, July 1 10:00 am, Youth DAB (p.3)
1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor
7:00 pm, Choir Zoom Chat



Breaking Ground for Our Little Library

Photos by Pastor Lori Leopold

Week 2

Sun, July 4 Independence Day
10:00 am, Outdoor Church and Communion
10:00 am, Livestream Worship
11:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour
Children and Family
No Sunday School This Week(p.3)
Mon, July 5 Church Office Closed
6:30 pm, Small Group
Living Our Worship
Tues, July 6 Senior High Camp Begins (p.3)
6:00 pm, Choir Practice
Wed, July 7 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, July 8 10:00 am, Youth DAB (p.3)
1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor

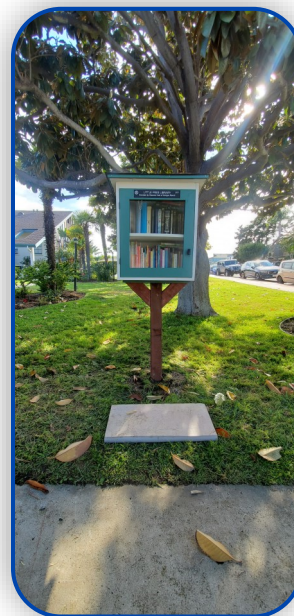
Week 3

Sun, July 11 10:00 am, Worship
On Campus and Online (p.2)
11:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour
10:30 am Children and Family
Sunday School (p.3)
11:00 am, Pride March (p.4)
Junior High Camp Begins (p.3)
Tues, July 13 6:00 pm, Choir Practice
Wed, July 14 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
7:00 pm, Light Up The Cathedral (p.4)
Thurs, July 15 Younger and Older Elementary
Camps Begin (p.3)
10:00 am, Youth DAB (p.3)
1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor
7:00 pm, Choir Zoom Chat

Week 4

Sun, July 18 10:00 am, Worship
Celebration of Pride (p.4)
On Campus and Online (p.2)
11:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour
10:30 am, Children and Family
Sunday School (p.3)
2:00 pm, Communion in the Courtyard
Mon, July 19 August *Beach Breeze* Deadline
6:30 pm, Small Group, "Queer Virtue" (p.6)
Tues, July 20 6:00 pm, Choir Practice
6:30 pm, Church Council Meeting
Wed, July 21 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, July 22 10:00 am, Youth DAB (p.3)
1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor
7:00 pm, Choir Zoom Chat

Our
Little Library →



Week 5

Sun, July 25 10:00 am, Worship
On Campus and Online (p.2)
11:00 am, Post-Worship Coffee Hour
10:30 am Children and Family
Sunday School (p.3)
Mon, July 26 August *Beach Breeze* Posted Online
6:30 pm, Small Group, "Queer Virtue" (p.6)
Tues, July 27 12 noon, Summertime Conversations (p.2)
6:00 pm, Choir Practice
Wed, July 28 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries
6:00 pm, Summertime Conversations (p.2)
Thurs, July 29 10:00 am, Youth DAB (p.3)
1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor
7:00 pm, Choir Zoom Chat

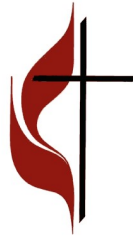
We Love and Worship God

July Scriptures

Series: I've Been Meaning to Ask

- July 4, 2021** Outdoor Church and Communion
*"I've Been Meaning to Ask...
Where are you from?"*
Genesis 2:4b-15; John 1:35-51
- July 11, 2021** *"I've Been Meaning to Ask...
Where does it hurt?"*
Mark 5:21-43
- July 18, 2021** Celebration of Pride
*"I've Been Meaning to Ask...
What do you need?"*
Job 2:11-13; 2 Timothy 4:9-18
- July 25, 2021** *"I've Been Meaning to Ask...
Where do we go from here?"*
Ruth 1:1-22

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church



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Meet Church Member Kathy W.

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

I recently got a chance to talk to Kathy W. She told me that she has been coming to PB UMC for 60 years. She said, "I moved to San Diego in 1960 when my then husband joined the first faculty at UCSD. While searching for a church home, we found PB UMC close by, and felt very welcome there. So, we chose it as our church home."

I asked her what tasks she has assumed with PB UMC. She answered, "Over the years I served on several committees, including the Trustee/Finance committees. I taught third grade Sunday school for a few years, and served on the flower committee for over 20 years. I am glad that my basic sewing skills were put to use when I sewed children's costumes and church curtains."

I had been told that she was born in China and left there for the US. She told me: "I was born in Shanghai, and went through 8 years of moving about China when China was involved in WWII. I went to Hong Kong in 1949 where I had my high school and college education. (I was a sociology major.) In 1956 I immigrated to the US."

"After moving to the US, I lived in Seattle four years. Then I got married and moved to San Diego in 1960. I have since gotten divorced. After raising 2 children, I went to work at UCSD as administrative assistant until retirement in 1993. My daughter, a 58-year-old architect, lives in Oakland. My son, a 56-year-old medical researcher, lives in Del Mar. My five grandchildren are ages 24-28; four of them are working, and one is in graduate school."

I asked if she had anything else she'd like to share with us. She answered, "I wish more people knew about our wonderful church. I love getting to know all kinds of people here."

Note: Photos of the curtains Kathy created for the Sunday school rooms are in last month's newsletter.

