



# BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

September 2021

## *Life in Covenant: We Offer Our Service*

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*. In the last two months, we talked about *our prayers*, *our presence*, and *our gifts*. This month we are focusing on *our service*.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, called each one of us to “do good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all people.” Our Wesleyan heritage strongly emphasizes the importance of putting our faith into action and serving those who are most in need. And while many of us have a strong desire to serve God and others, it’s sometimes easier said than done. We may find ourselves asking questions like: “What skills do I have?” “What can I do?” “I want to serve but I’m already so busy...how can I find the time?”

It’s helpful to remember that we serve in the most life-giving ways when we serve in a way that suits our gifts and feeds our passion. What do you love? What makes you tick? Where is your heart particularly moved as you look up and out at the world around you?

And then it’s helpful to ask, “What are the gifts that I have to offer?” Frederick Buechner, American writer and theologian, once said, “Vocation is the place where our deep gladness meets the world’s deep need.” When we find the place where our deep joy meets the world’s hunger, we find a meaningful, sustainable, and life-giving way to serve.

But what if we don’t have time to add one more thing to our schedule? The truth is that some of our best opportunities to be in service are right in front of our noses: in our homes, in our workplaces, in our neighborhoods, and in our communities. When we extend the love of Christ and the grace of God, in small and large ways, to the people around us, we are “doing good” on behalf of God who loves us all and who asks us to tend to one another, extending care and support in every way we are able.

### *Update on Office Hours*

We are shifting our office hours to the morning!  
Starting Tuesday, September 7, 2021, the church office will  
be open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday through Thursday.

# *A Message From Pastor Lori*

Dear Friends,

Fall is quite possibly my favorite season. Despite the fact that we are still dealing with grave concerns, locally and globally, related to COVID-19, my heart stirs with anticipation as I think about all of the wonderful aspects of this approaching season! In the life of the church, September has traditionally been a time to regather and welcome folks back “home.” We are honoring that tradition at PB UMC with Homecoming Sunday on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Whether you’ve been gone a few weeks to do some traveling and relaxing, or gone a few years related to the pandemic or other life circumstances, you are invited to “come home.” Either way, you have been missed. Join us in person or online for a special worship celebration as we rejoice in the fact that each one of us finds our true home in the heart and the love of God and that each one of us, in all our uniqueness and diversity, is welcome “home” in this community of faith.

Each Sunday during the month of September, I will offer an hour class/conversation after worship from 11:30 to 12:30 about what it means to make Methodism our denominational “home.” It will be a time of learning about our Wesleyan history and heritage, our unique emphases as a denomination and the current joys and challenges of being a United Methodist. This class is open to all, whether you have been a long time United Methodist or are brand new to this denomination. For those who decide they’d like to make PB UMC their “church home,” we will schedule a New Member Sunday in October. There is

no need to pre-register for the class/conversation but if you’d like to attend via Zoom, please reach out to me so I can provide you with the Zoom link.

One more note on home: I am getting settled into my new home, the Reed Avenue parsonage. This church property underwent a year-long renovation after a serious fire in the garage. I moved in during the month of March and while it’s still a work in progress, I wanted to give you a chance to see the fruit of this last year’s labor! On Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, I’ll host an Open House from 2:00-4:00 pm. Please feel free to drop by to take a tour, have a little snack, and say hello!

Blessings for all that is ahead for your fall season. May we continue to take care of ourselves and one another, may we be renewed and revitalized for ministry and service in this community, and may we find ourselves at “home” whenever our hearts, our breath, our spirits return to God, the Source of our strength, life, and love.

In Christ,  
Pastor Lori



## *New Church Directory*

by Ron Jessee

Hello Church Family,

We are long overdue for a church directory. The “Growing in Faith” team has been discussing the idea of putting together a home-grown document that will be available both on-line and in print. To that end, we would like for you to do the following:

1. Send us a picture or pictures of you and anyone else you’d like to include in your family orbit.
2. Send information you’d like published, e.g., name(s), and optional info such as Address, Phone, Text, and/or e-mail addresses.
3. E-mail all information to [admin@pbumc.org](mailto:admin@pbumc.org)

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

## **September Youth Ministry**

by Erich Grimm-Schmitt

Young Leaders, Youth, and Families:

Welcome back! We have a new school year, with new ways and new ideas to bring about new life. What I like about new beginnings is that we have another opportunity to be innovative. We take original plans, ditch the things that didn't work so well, and continue with the things that were a success. Or, sometimes even better, bring something new to the table.

August brought about rest and renewal, leaving September open to new plans waiting to come to fruition. We are going to take the next few months to focus on intention and impact.

Every conscious decision that we make as a church brings a physical act that has an effect on our ministry (small or large). This can be daunting and freeze anyone from moving forward. Though what the early Israelites taught us in Exodus is that leaving something that was familiar, which can be scary, can be rewarding later in life. My hope is that we step up and step forward into this journey together.

I will be reaching out to our young leaders, youth, and parents this month to schedule time and to ask each of you to join me in this journey.

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."—Lao Tzu

### Upcoming Activities

#### **Children & Family@ 9:00am**

September 5, 2021 - Sunday School  
September 12, 2021-Sunday School  
September 19, 2021-Sunday School  
September 26, 2021-Sunday School

#### **Youth@ 4:00pm**

September 5, 2021-Youth Group  
September 19, 2021- Youth Group

#### **District Events@ 5:00pm**

September 26, 2021-Youth Paint Night



Summer Fun!

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***

## ***Back to School Backpack Donations***

by Pam R.

Success, once again!

Thanks to your generosity, we donated 7 backpacks—3 for ages K-2 and 4 for ages 3-9—to the CCSA back-to-school drive. Each backpack was completely loaded with the required school supplies.

How rewarding it is to think of these packs and supplies being used and appreciated every day.



## ***Ministry Opportunities...Is God Calling You?***

**Labor of Love Aesthetics Team:** Do you have a keen eye for that which is beautiful? Do you have a knack for lighting or landscaping or creating life-giving space? If yes, consider being a part of a short term team assessing our current landscaping and making recommendations about final touches after the construction portion of our Labor of Love Project is complete. Contact Ken B. or David McC. if you'd like to lend a hand!



**Sunday Morning Livestream Volunteer:** No previous experience is required! We are in need of volunteers to help make our livestream happen on Sunday mornings! This is a great way to share your time and talents at church if you have limited availability and would like to volunteer just once or twice a month. We are looking for folks to help with different aspects of the livestream, including working with the sound, video, and projector. Maintaining our ability to connect through worship with our church family who are home-centered or living out of the area is essential. Please give this some prayerful consideration and let Bruce T. or Pastor Lori know if you're interested in joining our tech team!



**Little Free Library Librarian:** Our new little library is a place to share the joy of reading by dropping off a book you've read or picking up something "new" to you. We have books for children and adults. We are hoping to find someone to oversee the Little Library, checking in on it once or twice a week in order to monitor books that are coming and going, and keeping things clean and orderly. If you love books and live in the neighborhood, this might be the perfect ministry for you! Please reach out to Pastor Lori if you're interested in more info about being the Little Library Librarian!

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

## ***PB UMC Council Notes***

### ***Finance***

by Hope A.

We are beginning to receive donations via text. Please let us know if you like this option! We are also reviewing options to pay for some repairs at our Thomas Ave. rental property as well as landscaping and windows for the parsonage on Reed Ave. above what was covered by insurance.

### ***Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)***

by Patty R.

At the end of August, Malea Sandstrom is stepping down from her position as Sunday School coordinator after many years. SPRC is planning a celebration of her ministry for one Sunday in September. More details to come!

## ***Labor of Love Has Begun***

by Pastor Lori



We are thrilled to announce that construction is underway for our long awaited Labor of Love Project. Demolition began on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Work has begun on the Ingraham side of the church and will continue for the next 6-8 weeks.

Labor of Love  
Day 1; Demolition!  
August 23, 2021



Photo by Pastor Lori Leopold

## ***Worship Is On the Move***

Beginning September 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be taking worship outside! Given our beautiful weather and on-going concerns about COVID-19, it was determined that this would be the safest and most enjoyable option for our temporary worship space! Worship will continue to be at 10:00 am, and we will have livestream available for those worshipping from home. We'll have chairs set up on the cement, and you are invited to bring a lawn chair or a beach blanket if you'd like to sit on the grass. We are looking forward to the completion of this project that will add beauty to the campus and support our engagement with those around us. Stay tuned for more information about plans to bless our space and celebrate the ministry of the past, present, and future!

## ***Congratulations Ivey!***

Please join us in congratulating Ivey Merrill, our Office Administrator, upon the completion of her MBA from Point Loma Nazarene University. Please send a card, write a note, or give her some kudos and congratulations when you see her!

# Circle of Support

## July 2021 Record of Generosity

<i>Excluding extraordinary items*</i>	Budget	Actual
July giving	\$17,730	\$22,053
July other sources of income	\$10,059	\$9,409
July total available for ministry	\$27,789	\$31,462
July expended in ministry	\$30,476	\$35,709
July income minus expenses	(\$2,686)	(\$4,247)
YTD giving	\$124,110	\$116,804
YTD other sources of income	\$100,116	\$94,177
YTD total available for ministry	\$224,226	\$210,981
YTD expended in ministry	\$218,383	\$217,987
YTD income minus expenses	\$5,844	(\$7,006)
Year 2021 budget	\$380,390	

\* Reed Avenue fire in 2019, covered by insurance.

### Reflections From the Finance Team

Both income and expenses for July are above budget. Income included an employer matching grant, and expenses included a two-month catchup for our apportionments.

For August, we will report a Justice and Compassion grant from the Cal-Pac conference for Project Grace.

## September Communion Offering Christian Education

Faithful discipleship is a lifelong journey. Christian education comes in many forms—traditional face-to-face class and Bible studies, small groups, online groups—and uses many places to find curriculum and other study material. Innovative leaders are constantly providing new models and resources.

On Christian Education Sunday we recognize the many members of our congregation who take on the important task of educating not only our children, but our adults as well. With intentional learning and Christian formation, we become the people God calls us to be, and we develop gifts and strengths for encouraging and leading others to the same strong faith.

This month's offering helps to strengthen programs in the United Methodist church that nurture religion.

## Project Grace Receives Grant From Cal-Pac Conference

by Beth R. and Hope A.

We are pleased to receive a Cal-Pac Justice & Compassion grant in the amount of \$3750 for Project Grace. Pastor Lori and Beth R. put together a grant application on short notice in June. Expenses for takeout containers this year have increased. The grant will cover these extra pandemic costs. In general, costs of Project Grace Wednesday night meals are covered by grants, specific donations from individuals (thank you so much!), in-kind donations, and the church general operating budget.

And we couldn't operate without our dedicated volunteers. Feeding the hungry is a team effort.

#### 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

Wed, Sept 1 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Sept 2 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor

## Week 2

Sun, Sept 5 9:00 am, Children and Family  
Sunday School (p.3)  
10:00 am, Worship & Communion  
Outdoors at Church and Online  
11:30 am, Inquirer's Class (p.2)  
"What is a United Methodist?"  
4:00 pm, Youth Group (p.3)  
Mon, Sept 6 **Labor Day**  
Church Office Closed  
Tues, Sept 7 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, Sept 8 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Sept 9 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor  
Sat, Sept 11 2:00 pm-4:00 pm, Parsonage Open House

## Week 3

Sun, Sept 12 **Homecoming Sunday** (p.2)  
9:00 am, Children and Family  
Sunday School (p.3)  
10:00 am, Worship  
Outdoors at Church and Online  
11:30 am, Inquirer's Class (p.2)  
"What is a United Methodist?"  
Mon, Sept 13 6:30 pm, Small Group  
"New Testament,"  
Tues, Sept 14 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, Sept 15 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Sept 16 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor

## Week 4

Sun, Sept 19 9:00 am, Children and Family  
Sunday School (p.3)  
10:00 am, Worship  
Outdoors at Church and Online  
11:30 am, Inquirer's Class (p.2)  
"What is a United Methodist?"  
4:00 pm, Youth Group (p.3)  
Mon, Sept 20 October *Beach Breeze* Deadline  
6:30 pm, Small Group  
"New Testament,"  
Tues, Sept 21 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
6:30 pm, Church Council Meeting  
Wed, Sept 22 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries  
Thurs, Sept 23 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor

## Week 5

Sun, Sept 26 9:00 am, Children and Family  
Sunday School (p.3)  
10:00 am, Worship  
Outdoors at Church and Online  
11:30 am, Inquirer's Class (p.2)  
"What is a United Methodist?"  
5:00 pm, District Youth (p.3)  
Mon, Sept 27 October *Beach Breeze* Posted Online  
6:30 pm, Small Group  
"New Testament,"  
Tues, Sept 28 6:00 pm, Choir Practice  
Wed, Sept 29 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Sept 30 1:00 pm, Coffee with the Pastor



## Save the Dates!

October 9<sup>th</sup> 8-2: Compassionate Community Clean Up with Shoreline Community Services

October 10<sup>th</sup> during worship: Blessing of the Animals

November 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00: Charge Conference/Church Conference

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

## ***September Scriptures***

- September 5** Labor Day  
Holy Communion  
“God Talk”  
James 2:1-17
- September 12** Homecoming Sunday  
“Coming Home”  
Luke 15:11-24
- September 19** “First Place”  
Mark 9:30-37
- September 26** “Allies”  
Mark 9:38-50

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



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## ***Meet Long Time Church Member Harrell H.***

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.



Recently our Sunday School Director Malea Sandstrom and I went to visit her father, Harrell H., at his home. I totally enjoyed getting to know this long time PB UMC member.

The first thing I learned was that he started attending PB UMC in 1950 and is the longest PB UMC member alive today. I asked him what PB UMC means to him. He told me, “I love the church. One Sunday, a lady named Dion came to the church. I saw her and immediately said, ‘That’s a woman for me.’ We quickly became close and got married. We then started our family. We had two kids (Malea and Brian). Later, we had 2 grandsons and a granddaughter, and even later, twin great grandsons. My kids now share the house they grew up in, but Brian is about to move into their grandparent’s home, the one their parents lived in for years.”

Recently a 98<sup>th</sup> birthday party was thrown for Harrell at his home. Several PB UMC members attended, and a couple of others sent flowers to help celebrate his birthday. Also in attendance were Harrell’s 2 grandsons and his two great grandsons. His home is a Board and Care Facility in University City. He is frequently visited by PB UMC members.

When Harrell started attending PB UMC, he became active. His activities included joining the choir. He said, “In addition to church services, the choir put on concerts at a local junior high school and the San Diego United Service Organizations (USO).”

He then told me about his continued activities at PB UMC. “I was a lay leader, and I worked with the youth in our choir. I also enjoyed getting to know all the ministers we’ve had since I started here. Reverend Robinson, who was my first PB UMC minister, had a boat and took members of the choir out on it. I really enjoyed those boat trips.”

We really appreciate having Harrell as a member of PB UMC, and I really enjoyed getting to know him better.

