



BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

March 2022

Ash Wednesday Entering Into the Season of Lent

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and continues for forty days, excluding Sundays. Ash Wednesday is an important day in our lives of faith, helping us enter into this holy season of preparation with prayerful intention. Ash Wednesday is traditionally observed with “the imposition of ashes” which is the placing of ashes on the forehead in the sign of a cross as a symbol of mortality and repentance. This year we will have several Ash Wednesday opportunities and invite you to take part in any way that supports your spirit!

On Wednesday, March 2nd the sanctuary will be open from 7:30 to 9:30 am, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, and 4:30 to 6:30 pm, for those who would like to come by for a time of prayer and meditation. We’ll have periods of music and quiet. A printed sheet of prayers and reflections will be available, and Pastor Lori will be present to provide ashes for those who would like to receive them.

In addition, our congregation will participate in “Ashes to Go” at Mission Bay. This is a collaborative project of churches in the beach/bay area. We’ll be on the boardwalk west of Fanuel Park, distributing small bags of “ashes to go,” along with a little neighborly love, to folks who are walking by. Stop by between approximately 1:00 and 2:00 pm, to join Pastor Lori in distributing ashes or to pick up a bag of ashes “to go.”



Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday

Our Lenten class will be a six week study using brand new material by one of our favorite teachers, Amy-Jill Levine. Through this study, we will engage the meaning of Good Friday, an essential day in our Christian story, as we make our way toward Easter. Levine will guide us through the account of Jesus' crucifixion as it is told in each of the four gospels, prompting us to bring our curiosity and questions as we spend time with the "witnesses" who were present on that holy and difficult day. Who were they? Why were they included in the story? What can we learn from them? How does their experience make a difference to our experience today?

You are invited to join Pastor Lori and friends from Pacific Beach UMC and La Jolla UMC for this time of learning and fellowship! We will meet on Monday nights from 6:30 to 7:30 via Zoom, beginning Monday, March 7th. There will be a short video at the beginning of each session. A participant book is available for those who would like to do additional self-study. Books can be purchased through Cokesbury or Amazon.

Please e-mail Pastor Lori with any questions or to register.

A Message From Pastor Lori

Dear Friends,

We are on the threshold of the season of Lent, a season that invites us to spaces and places of vulnerability, trusting that new and abundant life is found as we wind our way through these quiet and sometimes tender days. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues for forty days, not including Sundays. Lent ends with Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. The colors and sights and sounds of Lent are usually more muted. Some folks observe the practice of “giving something up” for Lent in order to create space to reflect on the Holy. Lent is often thought of as rather stark and somber, deeply meaningful for some, and possibly a little dreary and depressing for others! But Lent is ultimately a season of preparation for Easter, something so joyful, miraculous, and inconceivable that there is truly no way to adequately prepare!

This year our Lenten theme is “Full to the Brim,” brought to us by a group called Sanctified Art. The lectionary readings for this Lent are in some ways surprisingly non-Lenty. They point again and again to God’s abundant and overflowing grace. When we allow our lives to be filled with that grace, all the way to the brim, we, as individuals and as a community, overflow with divine love in a way that touches lives and can change the world.

But often our lives are cluttered and “filled” with other things that crowd out grace. False beliefs, destructive habits, unhelpful patterns of thinking and/or doing can limit our capacity to give and receive grace. So, the questions I offer for Lent are these: How can we make more space in our hearts and spirits for the grace that Easter brings...the grace for which we so desperately yearn? How can our lives be, more and more, filled to the brim? I always like to have some kind of practice for Lent, but I have long ago given up the illusion that eliminating chocolate from my diet will bring me any

closer to God. Real life experience indicates quite the opposite! So, this year my practice is going to include placing a chalice in my prayer space. And instead of giving some THING up this year, I am going to spend part of my prayer time reflecting on what I might be able to release in order to make more space for God’s grace. What in my life is limiting my capacity to receive and, in turn, share God’s love with others? What do I need to put down or let go of, this particular Lenten season, in order to embrace the life of fullness that God offers?

If you are already planning a Lenten practice of your own this year, I would love to hear about it! If not, I invite you to join me by finding a cup or container of your choice and letting it companion you this Lent. See where it leads you as you contemplate being “filled to the brim” with God’s grace. It could be a fancy goblet, your coffee cup, the cup you use to scoop water over your favorite little one (person or puppy!) during bath time, or even the cup you use to measure your laundry soap. We will invite any and all to bring their cups/containers to worship on Easter Sunday, the day our cups truly overflow with God’s grace. I pray God’s blessings for your Lenten journey. I pray that each one of us feels the love and companionship of one another in this beloved community, and the presence and peace of Christ as we explore these days of preparation with hope, humility, and joyful expectation.

In Christ,

Pastor Lori



We Care for One Another

Hi Friends,

We're back!

Well, we were never really gone, but now we are back in person! Sunday School with our friends is the *Best*.

During March we will be learning a lot and getting our hearts ready for Easter, which is in April this year. Come join us.

I'm looking forward to seeing you!

Love,
Dart

I am One of God's Favorites—*And So Are You!*

**Kidz
Korner**



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

If you would like to sign up for the electronic version of *Beach Breeze*, or have questions, comments, or requests, please email news@pbumc.org.



Children and Youth

by Jesse Hodge

Children's Ministry

Sunday School is back in person. We are still looking for Sunday School volunteers. Thank you to those that have volunteered so far; you will hear from us soon, as we iron out some details. Summer camp is now open for registration. There is an early registration discount. Scholarships are available on an as-needed basis. If you have any questions, or have any interest in participating in Children and Youth Ministries, please contact me at jesseh@pbumc.org

Youth Ministry

Youth will have the opportunity to experience Lent through prayer stations and a Labyrinth, set up around the campus at San Dieguito United Methodist Church in Encinitas on Sunday, March 13th, at 5:00 pm. Dinner will be provided. Summer camp is open for registration. There is a discount for early registration, and scholarships are available on an as-needed basis. Youth who are interested in attending either of these events should respond to the invite that was sent out, or send an email to youth@pbumc.org

We Grow in Grace & Faith



Prayer Ministry



Our in-person prayer group has begun, and meets Sundays at 9:30 am in the Lanai, with Chris B. leading. If you have a prayer request, praise to share, or any questions about this ministry, please send an email to prayer@pbumc.org



Stephen Ministry

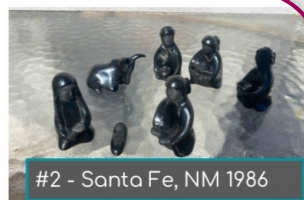
by Jesse Hodge

The Stephen Ministry training course is scheduled to begin Sunday, March 6th. If you are interested or would simply like more information about becoming a Stephen Minister, please let me know.

Stephen Ministry continues, and is still available to help those in need: stephenministry@pbumc.org

Pastor Lori's Vacation

Pastor Lori will be on vacation from Wednesday, March 16th through Saturday, March 19th. For urgent pastoral care needs during that time, please reach out to Jesse Hodge, Director of Education and Stephen Ministry Coordinator.



Dion Hurt's Nativity Sets

My mom collected nativity sets from all over the world and ended up with hundreds of them. We would like to share the wealth! If you are interested, please send me an email and I will send you the pictures so you can choose one.

Malea Sandstrom
maleasandstrom@gmail.com

We Reach Out to Others

PB UMC Council Notes

by Kenneth J. B., Council Chair

On January 18th, the Council approved Ken B. to serve as Chair, and Terre F. to serve as Council Secretary for the upcoming year.

The Church Council approved via email vote the re-opening of the Dental Clinic on Tuesdays.

In updates on the Labor of Love, as reported in January, we decided not to replace the Ingraham Street canopy with a wooden structure. Special thanks to everyone who showed up to help with the decision-making process regarding the canopy. We are making plans for a Spring celebration of the Labor of Love project.

David McC. continues to work on the light issues here on the church campus. There are ongoing repair issues on our Vickie Drive property. La Jolla UMC rents Vickie Drive to house their Senior Pastor and his family. We completed replacement repairs on the east side fence on the Reed Ave parsonage.

During the January 18th meeting, Council discussed at length the 2022 Church Annual Budget. The proposed 2022 expenditures (expenses and capital items) exceed pledges by approximately \$30,000. Finance worked on ways to cover the deficit, and I am happy to report that at the February 15th meeting, Council approved a balanced budget for 2022. Splendid work Finance team!

The SPRC Team reviewed four applications for the office administrator position. We offered the job to Beth Rhodes. Beth will be working 20 hours per week.

The Interfaith Shelter Network (IFSN) decided to cancel the rotational shelter program again this year. They will continue to serve the unhoused within our community by renting hotel rooms. Although this is an expensive option IFSN had no other choice, due to COVID. The PB UMC Council approved sending \$1,000 of allocated funds to IFSN to support the shelter program.

Every year, one of our church communion offerings is designated for the Interfaith Shelter Network. As always, I thank everyone who has volunteered and supported our collaborative efforts with IFSN. The communion offering for IFSN is scheduled to occur in the Fall of 2022, but you are welcome to make contributions via offerings throughout the year by indicating your choice on your offering envelope.

Finance

by Hope A.

Council approved a 2022 budget with higher revenue and expenses than in recent years. The expenses are due to construction projects at the Reed Avenue parsonage, and the Vickie Dr. house (the old parsonage, now rented to La Jolla UMC). We've budgeted extra income from the Sabatka legacy and the Prewitt "Pastor's Discretionary Fund" to cover the extra construction costs.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

by Patty R.

Jesse Hodge has stepped into an expanded role at PB UMC, taking on the title of Director of Education. This includes developing, implementing, and managing the activities of the youth ministry program and overseeing the Sunday School and nursery. Because Dart, our Sunday School Coordinator, is still recovering from a horrible car crash, Jesse's ministry currently includes direct coordination of children's Sunday School. We have appreciated Jesse's imaginative presentations for Children's Moment during Sunday church service, and enjoyed signing Valentine's Day cards for veterans—an idea he implemented. He also provided the sermon message for our first "5th Sunday" of 2022. In addition to all of this, he is eager to oversee the children's choir, Stephen Ministry, and our soon to be resurrected "Building Community" Committee, which will now be called "Discipleship." SPRC is trying to corral his energy so he does not explode, but he tells us he is fine, and we really appreciate his strength, courage, and energy.

Circle of Support

January 2022 Record of Generosity

	Budget	Actual
January Giving	\$19,280	\$11,659
January other sources of income	\$15,994	\$13,536
January total available for ministry	\$35,274	\$25,195
January expended in ministry	\$36,492	\$34,356
January income minus expenses	(\$1,218)	(\$9,161)
YTD giving	\$19,280	\$11,659
YTD other sources of income	\$15,994	\$13,536
YTD total available for ministry	\$35,274	\$25,195
YTD expended in ministry	\$36,492	\$34,356
YTD income minus expenses	(\$1,218)	(\$9,161)
Year 2022 budget	\$437,898	

Reflections From the Finance Team

January is typically a slow month for both income and expenses, so it's hard to get a read on how the year will turn out. For one example, your treasurer has yet to make her annual contribution from an IRA. ☺



Gratitude and Celebrations

There has been good work going on around the church in the way of cameras and lights. We are so grateful to the diligent planning and work of Mark B., Eazy McG., and Bruce T. A special thank you as well to our Trustees and Church Council whose careful discernment has led the way in such improvements. Our campus is well monitored, well lit at night, and safer than it ever has been. Our neighbors are noticing and love the added safety they feel on our block. As we continue our return to normal activities on campus, we can do so with a peaceful spirit.

CHURCH STAFF:

Lead Pastor: The Rev Lori Leopold
 Sojourning Pastor: The Rev Christopher Carter, PhD
 Office Administrator: Beth Rhodes

Music Director: Ron Jessee
 Sunday School Coordinator: Dart Rhoades
 Director of Education: Jesse Hodge

March Communion Offering



As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need.

UMCOR assists those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters, be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire, or other events. Through grants, it helps to alleviate suffering and to be a source of hope for those who are most vulnerable. The grants provide relief, response, and long-term recovery when events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.

Calendar of Events

Worship Times

10:00 am, Worship Celebration



Week 1

- Tues, Mar 1 10:00 am, Prayers and Squares
Quilt Group
6:00 pm, Choir Practice
7:00 pm, So. District Zoom
Prayer Meeting with Michael Mitchell
- Wed, Mar 2 7:30–9:30 am; 11:30 am–12:30 pm;
4:30–6:30 pm—Ash Wed. Prayer &
Meditation (p. 1)
11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
1:00–2:00 pm “Ashes to Go” with
Pastor Lori at Mission Bay (p.1)
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
- Thurs, Mar 3 1:00 pm, Coffee with Friends

Week 2

- Sun, Mar 6 9:30 am, Prayer Circle (p.4)
10:00 am, Worship and Communion
12:00 pm, Stephen Ministry Training (p.4)
2:00 pm, Celebration of Life
for Jo and Rick Cree
- Mon, Mar 7 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
6:30 pm, Lenten Study via Zoom (p. 1)
- Tues, Mar 8 6:00 pm, Choir Practice
- Wed, Mar 9 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
- Thurs, Mar 10 1:00 pm, Coffee with Friends

Week 3

- Sun, Mar 13 Daylight Saving Time Begins
9:30 am, Prayer Circle (p.4)
10:00 am, Worship
- Mon, Mar 14 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
6:30 pm, Lenten Study via Zoom (p. 1)
- Tues, Mar 15 10:00 am, Prayers and Squares
Quilt Group
6:00 pm, Choir Practice
6:30 pm, Church Council Meeting
- Wed, Mar 16 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace



Labor of Love: New Lighting on
Ingraham Street Side of Sanctuary. Photo by Easy

Week 4

- Sun, Mar 20 First Day of Spring
9:30 am, Prayer Circle (p.4)
10:00 am, Worship
- Mon, Mar 21 April *Beach Breeze* Deadline
6:00 pm, Al-Anon
6:30 pm, Lenten Study via Zoom (p. 1)
- Tues, Mar 22 6:00 pm, Choir Practice
- Wed, Mar 23 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries
- Thurs, Mar 24 1:00 pm, Coffee with Friends

Week 5

- Sun, Mar 27 9:30 am, Prayer Circle (p.4)
10:00 am, Worship
- Mon, Mar 28 April *Beach Breeze* Posted Online
6:00 pm, Al-Anon
6:30 pm, Lenten Study via Zoom (p. 1)
- Tues, Mar 29 6:00 pm, Choir Practice
- Wed, Mar 30 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
- Thurs, Mar 31 1:00 pm, Coffee with Friends



Labor of Love: Pouring the Cement Foundation for the New
Screen in Front of the Admin. Building. Photo by Mark B.

We Love and Worship God

March Scriptures

- March 6** Holy Communion
“The Power of Empty”
Luke 4:1-13
- March 13** Daylight Savings Time Begins
“Gathered In”
Luke 13:31-35
- March 20** Guest Preacher:
Adam Marshall-Lopez
Luke 13:1-9
- March 27** Guest Preacher:
Bailey Brawner
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church



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Meet Music Director Ron Jessee

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

Ron Jessee told me a story. “In 1985, I met Bob and TinnieBee Hall in Mission Valley Shopping Center. They shared with me that our church needed an organist. So, I came to be the organist. Then, in ‘87 the Music Director left, and I found myself directing the choir. I became both director and organist. Jobs I still hold and love.”

“I was energized by 1991 pastors April and Andy Herron-Sweet who changed our service from strictly traditional worship into blended worship. It blends the best of traditional and contemporary. As a team we worked to change everything. We started doing shows that helped grow the music program. Folks really loved the plays we added. The choir developed a sense of community and went from a performing group to ministers of music. We are now ministering in a meaningful way through music.”

“For 12 hours on Tuesdays, I put together music for Sunday, including leading a choir practice. Pastor Lori and I meet to make sure we are collaborating for Sunday. Saturdays, Louis and I go to the flower market in Carlsbad to get flowers for Sunday. Sundays, Louis and I arrive at 7:00 am to make sure everything is ready for the service and the final choir rehearsal. The choir arrives at 9:00 am; we practice, then minister in music at the 10:00 am service.”

Ron and Louis have been together for 25 years, and have been married the past 20 years. They are proud parents of a dog named Diesel and a cat named Butters.

When I asked him what he did besides the PB UMC tasks, he told me, “I’ve been in education for 46 years. I started by teaching junior high for 6 years; then senior high for 15 years; and then became assistant principal until 2001 when I became The Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator for 42 school districts in San Diego County. I retired from that job in 2012 and am now teaching future teachers at Cal State San Marcos.”

He finished our get together telling me, “Being here is my true calling. The 36 years of fellowship with the people of PB UMC has provided a rich spiritual journey. My life has purpose and meaning through the love and care of both my husband and this community.”

