

BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

December 2024

Good News: Just What the Doctor Ordered!

By “Doc”

After September 11th, I felt the world needed to laugh. There were many reasons, but it was the tipping point for me. By March the next year, we had Patch Works up and running, sharing laughter wherever needed. Now, I find myself at a similar crossroads—let me explain. It’s my practice to limit myself to 30 minutes of news a day, typically something more local-community focused. I stopped watching hours of news when retiring from the Navy. I’d seen too much, up close and personal, and didn’t need the reminder.

A while back, Pastor Lori mentioned how, after digesting material for the coming sermon, she always asks herself, “What’s the good news?” That stuck with me, and recent realities (pandemic, persecution, politics, to name a few) have inspired me to once again find a way to counter reality in the name of mental health. So, starting in January, I’ll be sharing a morsel of good news in the *Beach Breeze*. That does two things: first, it keeps me digging for positive news (good for me); and I get to share it with you for mental health’s sake (good for you). So, join me here each month for a positive spin on the world. It may be a recent medical break-through, a scientific discovery, or simply a story about folks being good neighbors. You know, things that bring a smile to your face. Until then...

Laugh often & live healthy!
:Doc



Cookies Needed for Christmas Eve

By Ray M

Our Christmas Eve worship service (Tuesday, December 24th) is going to be at 7:00 pm ONLY this year. In keeping with tradition at PBUMC, please bring your favorite Christmas cookies or refreshments, for a time of fellowship after the service. Also, we will be serving hot apple cider.

Pastor Lori's Monthly Message

Beloveds in Christ,

Advent begins this year on December 1st, and I hope you can join us in worship, study, service and/or fellowship as we prepare for the coming of Christ once again this Christmas. In worship, we'll make our way through the Advent season using a sermon series called "Words for the Beginning." A few weeks ago in a sermon, I shared that I struggle with endings. Many of you said you could relate! Well, our Advent series reminds us that we can struggle with beginnings too. We stand on the threshold of something new and we can simultaneously hold fear in one hand and hope in another. Advent is a time of "beginning" again and throughout the season, we will remember together some of the core messages of our faith that help us to live into beginnings with less cynicism and more hope. We always hope to see you in worship but especially hope you will be able to join us for this meaningful Advent series.

Other great Advent happenings:

- Adam M is leading a wonderful four-week study on John the Baptist, beginning December 2nd.
- Sunday School will have a special guest Sunday School teacher, Pastor Lesley, who will lead the kids through their own version of "Words for the Beginning."
- Project Grace, our Wednesday meal for folks experiencing hunger or homelessness ***falls on Christmas this year.*** If you'd like to help with the preparation, serving or clean-up of this to-go style meal, please reach out to me. If you're not able to do that but want to extend some Christmas kindness to our guests, we'll be collecting black and white crew socks as well as beanie hats throughout the month of December. Watch for a collection box at church or feel free to ship socks

and hats directly to the church.

- Ron Jessee and the Voices of Praise will offer the wonderful Christmas musical, "Christmas at Home" during worship at both 10:00 a.m. and again at 6:00 p.m. on December 8th. You will be moved and inspired! Consider inviting family and friends!
- PB UMC will once again have a float in the PB Holiday Parade. There will be opportunities to help with the decorations in advance and all are invited to join on parade day, December 14th, to either ride on the float or walk alongside. This is not only a load of fun but it's a great way to remind our immediate community of the joyful and inclusive nature of PB UMC!
- On Saturday, December 21st, the longest night of the year, we will be joining La Jolla UMC to offer our annual Blue Christmas Service for those struggling with grief, depression or "the blues" during the holiday season. This year La Jolla UMC will host this special service at 7:00 p.m. on the Winter Solstice.

Watch for more information about all these opportunities in the weekly church email. In this season that can be busy for some, I pray that you give yourself the gift of tending to your spirit over these holy-days. Emmanuel, God with us, draws near in the midst of all our endings and beginnings and seeks to be born anew in us, in our world, this Christmas. May it be so.

In Christ,
Pastor Lori

*Pastor Lori will be on vacation
December 26 - January 3.*



December Communion Offering Shoreline Community Services

Shoreline Community Services (shorelinecs.org) is a non-profit created by PB UMC members ten years ago to address the problems experienced by the beach communities' vulnerable populations. In the last five years, it's grown into a powerhouse organization with numerous success stories, most notably its creation and maintenance of the Compass Station in PB. Our communion offertory will benefit this worthwhile local force for positive change.

We Care for One Another

Advent is around the corner! What's Advent, you ask? It's the season that leads up to Christmas. It's a season that helps us "get ready" for Christmas. Oh sure, we get ready by decorating our houses and singing Christmas carols and eating delicious Christmas cookies! But Advent helps us get ready in a different way. It helps us prepare our hearts and lives for the greatest gift we receive at Christmas...Jesus!

**Kidz
Korner**

In church, we're doing a special series called "Words for the Beginning," and Sunday School is going to have its own version of this too! On certain Sundays (12/1, 12/15 and 12/22), Pastor Lesley will be our guest Sunday School teacher. She's looking forward to exploring so many special things about Advent with you. We hope you can join us for one or all of the Sundays in this special season that leads up to Christmas!

Caring Ministry Need for December: Snicky Snacks!

Over the last months, we've been exploring our needs related to Caring Ministries. We want to match the interests and talents of every person to a ministry where each one can let their light shine AND be involved to the extent they desire and are able. Each month we will feature a caring ministry need in the Beach Breeze and weekly church e-mail. Last month we put out a call for all those who might be willing and able to serve as a "greeter" on Sunday mornings. We'll circle back to that opportunity again in the new year as we didn't have any takers. For any who might be interested, please contact Pastor Lori.

The need for December is **SNACKS**. Cookies or fruit or any other goodie you'd like to share! Each Sunday we provide coffee and a little something for folks to nibble on to show hospitality and create a space for fellowship. You may sign up for just one Sunday or pick several throughout the year! The sign-up sheet is on the white board as you're walking into church. If you'd like to provide goodies (store bought or homemade), add your name to the list anytime! And if this isn't quite the right fit for you, is there something else that might suit your time and interest? Give it some prayerful consideration and reach out to Pastor Lori with your ideas!



Former US Bank Parking Lot No Longer Has Free Parking

PB UMC no longer has permission to park at this lot (NE corner of Grand and Ingraham) for free—please plan accordingly!



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

Circle of Support

October 2024

Record of Generosity

| | Actual | Budget |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Activity in October | | |
| Giving | \$ 29,965 | \$ 21,540 |
| Other Income | \$ 8,070 | \$ 7,948 |
| Total Available for Ministry | \$ 38,036 | \$ 29,488 |
| Total Expended for Ministry | \$ 37,011 | \$ 35,799 |
| Income Minus Expenses | \$ 1,025 | (\$ 6,311) |
| 2024 Year-To-Date | | |
| Giving | \$ 217,268 | \$ 215,400 |
| Other Income | \$ 128,939 | \$ 123,288 |
| Total Available for Ministry | \$ 346,207 | \$ 338,688 |
| Total Expended for Ministry | \$ 365,527 | \$ 359,990 |
| Income Minus Expenses | (\$ 19,321) | (\$ 21,302) |

Reflections From the Finance Team

By Heide T

Giving was generous for October, thank you for your faithful dedication! As we enter the Holidays and close of 2024, we will continue to use and plan our resources wisely and trust in God who provides. We are grateful for your ongoing generosity in prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Thank you for the many ways you support the mission and ministries of PB UMC!

Prayers, Pastry and Polish

By Pastor Lori

We gathered for the first time in September, had a lot of fun and felt great about making our space cleaner, safer and more lovely! In preparation for Christmas, we're gathering again on Thursday, December 5th from 10:00am to 12:00pm. We'll begin with a devotion and some goodies, then spend 90 minutes or so cleaning and tidying around the church. Do you love to dust? Bring your duster! Are you a pro at cleaning table tops? Bring a rag and your favorite spray! Is vacuuming your spiritual practice? We'll show you where we keep the vacuum! Do you like to organize? We'll let you loose to sort through shelves of books! Do you prefer being outside? Bring your garden gloves and pull some weeds. There's something for everyone! No RSVP necessary...join us if you can!

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/who-we-are/contact/ phone: 858-274-6573

Calendar of Events

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

Week 1

Sun, Dec. 1 9:30 am, Prayer Circle
10:00 am, Worship and Communion
Mon, Dec. 2 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Dec. 3 9:30 am, Prayers and Squares Quilters
6:00 pm, Choir Practice
Wed, Dec. 4 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Dec. 5 10:00 am, Prayers, Pastry & Polish (p. 4)
7:00 pm, Narc Anon
Fri, Dec. 6 Church Office Closed
Sat, Dec. 7 10:00 am, Al-Anon

Week 2

Sun, Dec. 8 9:30 am, Prayer Circle
10:00 am, Worship: "Christmas at Home" musical (p. 2)
6:00 pm, "Christmas at Home" musical Reprise (p. 2)
Mon, Dec. 9 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Dec. 10 6:00 pm, Choir Practice
Wed, Dec. 11 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Dec. 12 7:00 pm, Narc Anon
Fri, Dec. 13 Church Office Closed
3:00 pm, Finance Focus (via Zoom)
Sat, Dec. 14 10:00 am, Al-Anon
Noon, PB UMC in the PB Christmas Parade (p. 2)

Week 3

Sun, Dec. 15 9:30 am, Prayer Circle
10:00 am, Worship
1:00 pm, Movie: Mystery Science Theatre 3000 presents "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians" (1964) (p. 8)
Mon, Dec. 16 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Dec. 17 9:30 am, Prayers and Squares Quilters
6:00 pm, Choir Practice
7:00 pm, Church Council (via Zoom)
Wed, Dec. 18 11:30 am, Scripture and Sermon Study
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
Beach Breeze Materials Due
Thurs, Dec. 19 7:00 pm, Narc Anon
Church Office Closed
Fri, Dec. 20
Sat, Dec. 21 10:00 am, Al-Anon
7:00 pm, Blue Christmas Service
LJ UMC (p. 2)

Week 4

Sun, Dec. 22 9:30 am, Prayer Circle
10:00 am, Worship
Mon, Dec. 23 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Dec. 24 7:00 pm, Christmas Eve Service (p. 1)
Wed, Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
Church Office Closed
4:00 pm, SD Project Grace
5:30 pm, Storefront
Church Office Closed
Thurs, Dec. 26 7:00 pm, Narc Anon
Church Office Closed
Fri, Dec. 27
Sat, Dec. 28 10:00 am, Al-Anon

Week 5

Sun, Dec. 29 9:30 am, Prayer Circle
10:00 am, Worship
Mon, Dec. 30 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Dec. 31 9:30 am, Prayers and Squares Quilters
6:00 pm, Choir Practice
NEW YEAR'S EVE



Louis P has ensured months of communion bread with his order of a massive box of Kings Hawaiian Bread!

Photo by Pastor Lori

We Love and Worship God

December Worship/ Scriptures

- December 1** Holy Communion
Isaiah 43:1-7
Luke 1:26-38
- December 8** “Christmas at Home” Musical
10:00 a.m. AND 6:00 p.m.
Ruth 1:10-18
- December 15** Isaiah 58:9b-12
Luke 3:7-16
- December 22** Luke 1:46-55
Matthew 1:18-25
- December 24** Christmas Eve Service
at 7:00 pm
Isaiah 6:9
Luke 2:1-20
- December 29** Fifth Sunday Worship
Guest Preacher Dale Blackford
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Colossians 3:12-17

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church



1561 Thomas Avenue
San Diego, CA 92109

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A Christmas Movie So Bad, It's Good

By Craig Roberts

Have you ever watched a movie that was so awful you had to keep watching just to see how bad it could get? Our December movie is like that.



On Sunday December 15th, we'll celebrate the 60th anniversary of the infamous 1964 Christmas/science fiction “classic” “Santa Claus Conquers the Martians.” According to Wikipedia, it regularly appears on lists of worst films ever made!

But we are actually going to watch the 1991 episode of the Comedy Central show “Mystery Science Theater 3000” that screened the movie. If you aren’t familiar with MST3K, you’re in for a treat as we watch its characters watch the movie and hurl well deserved insults at the screen. Trust me, it’s a hoot.



All movies screen at 1:00 pm in Hughes Hall. Popcorn and other snacks are always available but please bring anything you like!