

Pacific Beach Christian Church

The Front Porch



JULY 9, 2020

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews and Greeks, slaves and free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” – 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

One of the things I have most appreciated about this congregation is the diverse make-up of our church family. We are old and young...rich and poor...conservative and liberal (and points in between)...life-long Christians and those still exploring...differing races and mixed-race...many different Church traditions and no Church tradition at all...highly educated and those who graduated from the school of hard knocks...and on and on it goes. But something happens when we come together in worship that unites us. We are connected...and often in ways we don't fully comprehend. Perhaps Paul was onto something when he said, *“we were all made to drink of one Spirit”* (see above). Any unity we may experience or connection we may share probably has less to do with us and more to do with the work of the Spirit flowing in and through us when we gather together. But can the same be true when we aren't able to gather together? We are learning the answer to that question as we go. This will be our 17th Sunday apart (at least physically). And unfortunately the virus that has caused this separation is not dying down anytime soon. So what does that mean for you...me...our connection...our church? We invited you to help us discern that question with a congregational survey sent out via e-mail last month. We asked the following questions:

Would you like to come to the church on Sunday mornings for worship even with the current guidelines and restrictions?

No – 66.7% Maybe – 20% Yes – 13.3%

Would you prefer to wait to return to Sunday morning worship until the current restrictions are loosened or lifted?

Yes – 70.5% Maybe – 25% No – 4.5%

Are you currently worshiping with us on-line? If yes or sometimes, has the worship service been meaningful?

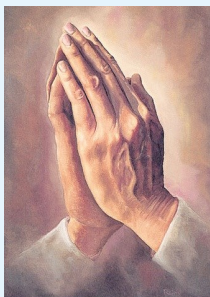
Yes – 91% Sometimes – 7% No – 2%

The survey was circulated even prior to the most recent spike in positive tests, but it is clear that most of you are in no rush to come back to the building for worship on Sunday mornings. While all of us are missing being together in worship, most of you are still feeling connected in meaningful ways. That is a work of the Spirit. But for those of you feeling disconnected from your church family, please reach out to us. The surveys were completely anonymous, so we have no way to follow up with those of you who expressed a desire for more people from the congregation to reach out to you. We don't want anyone to feel isolated from their church family. We need each other, especially now. So if we can help to connect you in more meaningful ways, we will. In the meantime, may the Spirit continue to find creative ways to knit us together, even from afar!

Brian

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 07/12 Kyle & Dani Griffith
07/13 Ken & Rina
Nordholm
07/14 Chris & Amanda
Gille
07/22 Darwin & Patricia
Mann



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 07/07 Erika Belvin
07/08 Howard Williams
07/10 Bill Morrison
07/11 Melba Page
07/14 Kira Johnson
07/14 Alyssa McMoran
07/15 Brian Daly
07/15 Sandy Roberts
07/19 Bob Davila
07/19 Kevin Osbourne
07/21 Kyle Griffith
07/21 Aurora Bishop
07/25 Mike Neal
07/26 Margaret McQueen
07/26 Marin VanNoord
07/28 Craig Johnson
07/29 Marta Morrison



MORNING DEVOTIONS

Pastors Brian and Rip continue to take turns sharing morning devotions via Facebook Live on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8am. We invite you to visit the church's Facebook page for all the videos of our previous morning devotions and worship services.

WORSHIP SERVICE NOW LIVE ON OUR WEBSITE

We are happy to announce that our worship services are now available on our website for those of you not on Facebook. Simply visit our website at www.pbchristian.com and click the "View" menu option on our homepage on Sundays at 10:30am. The services will then be posted for viewing later under the "Previous Services" menu option. This option will be in addition to Facebook Live for those who are not on Facebook or would prefer using the website.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

Don Hill: continuing his radiation treatments for a recurrence of prostate cancer

Jeff McDowell: has arrived back in San Diego to seek medical attention for congestive heart failure

Joanne Robbins: Laura Frazier's mother is awaiting surgery for lung cancer

Osbourne Family: as they navigate little Jack's recent diagnosis of autism

Dandy Family: good friends of Marcia Coles who contracted Covid-19. All are improving, including the little 6-month old baby who contracted the virus

Miller/Steward Family: also battling Covid-19 and in need of continued prayers

Farmer Family: please hold Polly's sons and family in prayer following her death last night (see below)

Baker Family: Pete Mendoza's friend thru Kairos lost his wife following a battle with cancer. Charlie was hospitalized as well with Covid-19, so was able to be with his wife when she died.

Remembering Polly Farmer

We just learned this morning that one of the long-time members of our church family, Polly Farmer, went home to be with our Lord overnight. Polly had been living in a long-term residential care facility the last several years as she battled dementia. But even with dementia she welcomed visitors with her characteristic warmth and smile. She was an elder here at PBCC, a long-time member of CWF and CWU, a faithful member of the choir, and an amazing gardener who had a knack for producing beautiful flowers, including orchids. We are grateful for the mark she has left on so many of us and on our church, including the pygmy palms that grace our prayer garden and planter opposite the front steps. God be with you till we meet again, Polly!

Ron and Linda Farmer
1940 Circle Park Lane
Encinitas, CA 92024

THE ROAD TO TRANSFORMATION

One of the primary goals for us as people of faith is to experience transformation in our hearts, minds and lives. The Apostle Paul describes it as becoming a 'new creation'...***“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new”*** (2 Corinthians 5:17). But truth be told, we don't always feel like a 'new creation'. Sometimes old habits, hurts and hang-ups still have their way with us. So how do we experience transformation that is real and also lasting? If that's a question you would like answers to then come join us on Saturday mornings for an outdoor summer series that will meet in our prayer garden from 10-11am. Bring a chair, a hat, some sunscreen, sun glasses, a bible, a note pad, a pen, and an open mind and heart. We will also practice social distancing, and please also bring a mask. If you have been longing for some personal connection and interaction with your church family, this group might help to satisfy that longing. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Brian.

Melba Page turns 98!



Please join us on Saturday, July 11th to congregate in our vehicles, drive to Melba's home and wish Melba a happy birthday. The Birthday Brigade will meet in the church lot at 11:00am. Everyone will stay in their own cars and wave and shout and sing in celebration of a very special woman. Make a poster if you'd like. Bring a card or flowers. Please wear a mask. Social distancing guidelines will be observed. Melba's address is:



4321 Mt. Hukee Ave., SD CA 92117



REFLECTION

Go into this week
with the attitude that
your peace,
your health of mind,
and your heart
mean more than
getting everything else done.
That your smile matters,
That feeling rested matters.
That holding the hand
of your loved ones matter.
So pause lots,
function at a pace
that doesn't pull you apart.
Honor the things that
make you feel good inside,
the things that make you feel alive.
Give time to those things this week.
Make time the gift it is,
by giving it to what really matters to you.
— S.C. Lourie

INSPIRATION

On the 50th anniversary of the publishing of On Death and Dying, by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross M.D., her daughter Barbara Ross Rothweiler wrote:

“Her lessons to us, her children, were taught in fearless love and by example and were consistent with her approach to life and death. We remember some of her most frequent quotes”:

Every experience-painful or not-is an opportunity to learn and grow. Everyone has something to teach you. Don't live life in perpetual fear. Don't be afraid to make and acknowledge mistakes. Work hard, but don't forget to play. Do what you love and you will do a wonderful job.



STAYING CONNECTED

Our **worship services** will continue to be live streamed on Sunday mornings at 10:30am via our Facebook page, and **now** also on our website (click on LIVE) to view. The services are then posted on the page thereafter for anyone who would like to access them later or share them with a friend or family member.

We are also grateful to those of you who have been posting on the **Pacific Beach Christian Church Social page**. This is a separate Facebook page that allows you to share pictures and videos with your church family. And finally, our **small groups** continue to meet during the week via Zoom. We encourage you to stay connected by joining any of the following groups:

Tuesday Evenings (6pm): Sermon-based small group discussion

Wednesday Evening (7pm): Bible study on the book of Exodus.

Friday Evening (7:15pm): Recovery in Christ

Saturday Morning (10:00am): The Road to Transformation (meets in the Prayer Garden)

If you are interested in joining one of these groups, simply call the church office and we will help get you set up.

SHORELINE COMMUNITY SERVICES – A Recap of Last Week’s Community Meeting

We started by talking about the realities in our community, specifically the frustration with issues of homelessness and crime. I shared that homelessness and crime are not the same thing and we need to keep them separate. It is not a crime to experience homelessness—it is a crime to steal, to abuse/sell drugs, to assault people and to destroy property. We need to eliminate crime and we need to care for those who are suffering from homelessness with compassion and equity—and the only way we can do that is if we have relationships with people. Broken relationships equal a disconnected community where people become fearful of each other and want to stay away, ignore each other, or worse—push folks even farther out to the margins. If we want change in our community, we need to stay connected because ***change can only happen within relationship***. Unfortunately, in our Central Beach Area, there are a lack of services for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Often these are places where people go to find connection, resources and relationships. Shoreline Community Services has been standing in the gap of these services by bringing together businesses, organizations and individuals who can provide resources that will begin the journey for people to get off the streets. We’ve been helping coordinate meal services, offering resources and providing opportunities for housing. *(This is an excerpt from Caryn Blanton’s summary – more to follow next week)*

REMEMBER TO SMILE

Corona Virus - explained in craft terms. You and 9 friends are crafting. 1 is using glitter. How many projects have glitter?

PASTOR’S BOOK CLUB

The next book in our Pastor’s Book Club series is entitled The Choice by Dr. Edith Eger. She was sent to Auschwitz as a 16-year old along with the rest of her family. Hours after her parents were killed, Nazi officer Dr. Josef Mengele forced Edie to dance for his amusement...and her survival. She was later pulled from a pile of dead bodies when American troops liberated the camp in 1945. She then spent decades struggling with flashbacks and survivor’s guilt. But some 35 years later she returned to Auschwitz and was finally able to fully heal and forgive the one person she’d been unable to forgive...herself. In this book Edie weaves her remarkable personal journey with moving stories of those she has helped to heal as a clinical psychiatrist. She explores how we can be imprisoned in our own minds and shows us how to find the key to freedom. We’ll meet on Sunday, Aug. 16th, at 5pm to discuss the book. We would welcome you to join us.

