

Pacific Beach Christian Church

The Front Porch



AUGUST 20, 2020

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”—Galatians 3:28

I spent some time at a group home in Logan Heights this week. The home houses 11 men, many of whom have struggled with both addiction and mental health-related issues...often referred to as “dual diagnosis”. The live-in house manager is a strong Black woman with the word “Lioness” tattooed on her forearm. It seemed an apt description. She can’t be a pushover given her oversight role in this house filled with men who have struggled. But never once did I feel anything but welcomed. She spoke of those living in the house as “family”...this despite the diverse racial make-up and varied experiences of the residents there. That’s not easy to pull off. The Apostle Paul reminded the Church in Galatia some 2,000 years ago that no matter how diverse their make-up, they were “one in Christ Jesus”. Turns out it is easier to preach than it is to live out...both then and now. Even disciples of Jesus can be ruled by tribal instincts. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us of that when in 1963 he spoke of the most segregated hour of the week in Christian America as Sunday mornings at 11am...the hour when many Christians gathered together for worship...but usually with those who looked like them. Frankly, I’m not sure it is that much different in most churches almost 60 years later. Perhaps that’s why I was moved last Saturday during a Regional Board meeting to take a picture of my computer screen. I was struck by the diversity of the church as represented on this Board. Look closely at the picture. We are Black, White, Latino, Bi-Racial, Korean, Filipino, Samoan, male, female, young, old (er)...a kaleidoscope of colors and cultures and theology and experience and sexuality...and yet committed to working together as one Church. At our best we transcend the prejudices, biases, and divisions reflected in our world and see each other as equals...as sisters and as brothers. At our best we develop meaningful relationships with one another and learn from one another. At our best we provide a witness of life in the kingdom of God. At our best we get to experience what it looks and feels like to be “one in Christ Jesus”. Now is the time for the Church to be “at our best”!

-Brian



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

08/06 Cory & Debbie Tedford
 08/13 Brian & Laura Daly
 08/19 Doug & Lucie Sovinsky
 08/22 Craig & Christine
 Johnson

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

08/02 Brody McMoran
 08/04 Linda Bergstedt
 08/04 Kai Widmark
 08/05 James Bishop
 08/09 Pete Mendoza
 08/10 Freda Lyman
 08/10 Tim Daly
 08/12 Nick Dimakos
 08/17 Casey Smith
 08/24 Debbie Tedford
 08/25 Jay Williams



REMEMBER TO SMILE



IN YOUR PRAYERS

Margaret McQueen: placing her in God's hands as she nears the end of her earthly journey

Doug Trenton: his skin-cancer related procedures and surgery his week

Jim Solinsky: transition into a group home this week

Rick Thornberry: transition from the hospital into a shelter

Hill Family: following the death of Don's brother, Evan, last weekend

Baum Family and friends: Susan Linder's dear friend has gone home to be with our Lord

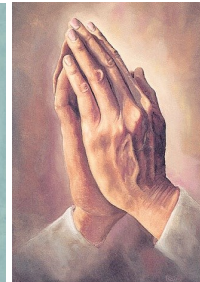
Lindsey Thompson: Carolyn Hernandez's daughter-in-law was recently diagnosed with Covid-19

Nancy Holton: Marilyn McGirr's sister who is battling cancer

Cody Beattie: we give thanks that Lyn's grandson has returned safely to the U.S. after serving overseas in the Navy for the last several months

We have to pray
with our eyes
on God, not on
the difficulties.

-Oswald Chambers



IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL
HAVE TROUBLE.
BUT TAKE HEART!
I HAVE OVERCOME THE
WORLD.

JOHN 16:33

Joni

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.

CENSUS

**EVERYONE
COUNTS** Census 2020

Everyone Counts!

There is a San Diego Census Question and Answer Assistance Line. They will help you complete the Census. Please call 619-695-5657 if you have questions regarding the 2020 United States Census.

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.

NEW WEBSITE



Given all of the changes we have made over the last several months to make better use of technology to stay connected to one another during the pandemic, we also recognized the need to upgrade our website to make it more user-friendly. We are happy to announce that we are well on our way to completion. We encourage you to visit the website to become more familiar with the tools available to you there. We also welcome your suggestions for changes or additions.

You can check out the new site at the old address: www.pbchristian.com. And special thanks to our Associate Pastor, Rip Rippetoe, for all of his work on this project.

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.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Saint Brigid, in partnership with Catholic Charities and the San Diego Food Bank is distributing free food each week. You can request a food package for pick-up or home delivery by ordering online at:

ccdsd.org/efdn or by calling 619-323-2841. Food packages can also be picked up as a drive through service in the Saint Brigid church parking lot each week. Registration is required, and allows recipients to identify a distribution site most convenient for them. If you show up on distribution day, you can also register onsite. Register online at: ccdsd.org/efdn. There is plenty food available and it is available to anyone in the county.

INSPIRATION



What if...
Everything
you are going through
Is preparing you for
what you asked for?

RACE RELATIONS- A PATH FORWARD

The National Conflict Resolution Center is hosting an important conversation on racial justice-related issues tonight at 7pm via Zoom. The discussion will include some of our nation's leading scholars and two New York Times #1 Best Sellers, Ibram X. Kendi and Robin DiAngelo, with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Wesley Lowery. Join us as we seek to build bridges across the racial divide through our listening and our sharing. If you are interested in participating please use the link below for registration information.

<https://events.handbid.com/auctions/a-path-forward>

REFLECTION "God sent His Angel to Help Me"

This is my true life story. It starts with my being down on my luck in Los Angeles and ending up homeless for 3 1/2 years sleeping in alleyways, the subways, homeless shelters, in abandoned buildings, and just on the sidewalks of Los Angeles.

One frigid night I was trying to sleep in between some office buildings in the city of Toluca Lake, but because I had not eaten in three days, I could not get to sleep. I was suffering so much, and I was so hungry that I said to myself that if I didn't get any food today, I was going to get it over with by killing myself.

So I got up around 6 am and hid my sleeping bag in the bushes, and it also was a very foggy day. I remember thinking to myself that if I could just get \$3.45, it would allow me to go over to the red building breakfast place on Riverside Blvd. and buy breakfast to eat, but where and how could I get the money.

I started walking down the alley in the thick fog, and out of nowhere an older man with a cane came walking toward me, stopped, and said hello. I speak back to him, and then he turns towards the direction he just

REFLECTION (continued)

came from and tells me that there is some money by the tree in the direction that he just came from by the red bricks on the left side of the alley. He then tells me that he can't get the money because he can't bend down due to his bad back.

I was so excited that I started walking past him about five or six steps, and then remembered that I didn't say thank you, but when I turned back to say thanks, he was gone. I tried my best to find him by going up and down the alley, but he had just vanished. He was walking more slowly than an old Turtle with that cane, so how could he disappear like that?

So I went to the location that he told me about and found the tree in someone's front yard. I walked over to the tree and looked and looked and nothing was there at all, so I gave up and walked across the street, but a little voice in my head told me to go back to the tree and try again.

So I turned around and went back to the tree and got on both knees. On the ground spread all around the tree were those red woodchips that people put down, but as I looked again for the money, I saw nothing. That was it, and I had made up my mind, today was the day that I was going to kill myself.

Weak, tired, cold, and still sleepy, I got up and made my way across the street again. But again that small voice spoke to me and said, go back and try one more time, so I turned in the middle of the street and went back for one last try.

As I made my way back to the tree, I had a quick vision of myself jumping off an office building somewhere or of jumping off the freeway overpass in Burbank.

When I got to the tree again, I got down on both knees and looked, but saw nothing. But just then that small voice said to me, why don't you take your hands and move some of the red woodchips out of the way, and so I did, and to my great surprise, there were some coins.

After quickly garbing up the coins and heading across the street to count it, and to my happiness, the total amount was \$3.45, just enough for my first meal in three days and saving my life!

-Ray: United States

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."

Hebrews 13:2

