

Pacific Beach Christian Church

The Front Porch



AUGUST 27, 2020

*“Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of the destitute.
Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”
Proverbs 31:8-9*

We are knee-deep into yet another presidential election cycle. Politicians are masters at telling their constituencies what they want to hear. Too often the primary goal is to get elected, no matter what it takes...in hopes of one party dominating the other party and taking control. And far too often people of faith are used as pawns in the political game. But our allegiance is not tied to any political party, even though politicians try to convince us otherwise. We have a higher calling...and we are charged with holding our political leaders (who profess to be people of faith) to that higher calling as well. Holding a bible or taking an oath on a bible is one thing, but taking its words to heart is quite another. The verses above come from an interesting exchange between King Lemuel and his mother. We know nothing of King Lemuel or his mother. It is very possible King Lemuel stands as a representative of any leader with authority or power that professes to be a person of faith. “Lemuel” literally translated means “belonging to God”. So what does a leader who “belongs to God” do with their power and authority? According to Lemuel’s mother (and who would argue with a Jewish mother) they speak out for those who have no voice and defend the rights of those in need. That is a higher calling. And should you think I am simply cherry-picking a few verses to make a point, I would suggest you read the book of Proverbs (what is referred to as Wisdom literature) in full. You will see this same theme repeated over and over again. *“Those who despise their neighbors are sinners, but happy are those who are kind to the poor” (Proverbs 14:21).* Or *“Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but those who are kind to the needy honor him” (Proverbs 14:31).* Or *“If you close your ear to the cry of the poor, you will cry out and not be heard” (Proverbs 21:13).* I could go on, but you get the point. We have a higher calling as people of faith. Our natural instinct is to make decisions, including political decisions, that are in our best interest. But is that our calling? We might be able to debate how best to speak out for those who cannot speak or how best to judge righteously and defend the rights of the poor and needy, but there is no debating whether or not it is a part of our calling as people of faith. May this high calling be ever before us in the weeks and months ahead.

-Brian

**SEPTEMBER
ANNIVERSARIES**

09/02 Mike & La Donna Dwyer
09/11 Mike & Peggy Neal
09/17 Rick & Marilyn
Zanchetta
09/21 Don & Charlene Hill
09/22 Ed & Kathy Sly

**SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**

09/05 William Morrison Jr.
09/08 Pam Deitz
09/08 Raquel Osbourne
09/09 Dick Ganz
09/09 Brett Daly
09/13 Jan Julian
09/16 Chris Gille
09/18 Mike Sly
09/21 Art Montoya
09/21 Kay Orsini
09/21 Elizabeth Schmied
09/23 Andi Sanders
09/25 Amanda Gille
09/26 Devin Pelletier
09/27 James Frazier
09/30 Ronnie Calabrese



REMEMBER TO SMILE

This is Buddy. I bought him as a surprise present for my husband but it turns out he is allergic to dogs. So unfortunately, I am going to have to find a new home for him, and I'm just wondering if anyone out there can help? His name is Alan, he's 61, great at DIY, drives a nice car and plans wonderful holidays.



IN YOUR PRAYERS

McQueen Family: prayers of comfort and peace following Margaret's death last week

Morrison Family: prayers of comfort and peace following their Aunt Clara's death last week

Lee Higgins and Family: prayers of comfort and peace following Lee's sister, Bonnie's, death this week

Ruben Arbues: Amanda Gille's father is in ICU after suffering a pulmonary embolism

Darlene Cooper: Aurora Bishop's good friend has been sickened by E. Coli

Lindsey Thompson: Carolyn Hernandez's daughter-in-law is still recovering from Covid-19

Art Montoya: we give thanks that Art celebrated three years of sobriety last week



IN MEMORIAM



Our beloved Margaret McQueen went home to be with our Lord after living for almost 14 years in a skilled nursing facility. We celebrated Margaret's 98th birthday last month and give thanks for her light, love and long life. She loved her church family and has now joined our balcony of saints.



Margaret McQueen
July 26, 1922 – August 20, 2020

Cards or notes can be sent to her son and daughter-in-law:
Mac and Brenda McQueen
42 Banner Spring Circle
Stafford, VA 22554

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.

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

The City of San Diego has recently approved the use of parks for outdoor worship services. So we would like to invite you to a special outdoor service at Kate Sessions Park on Sunday, September 13th, beginning at 8:30am. The early hour will allow us to avoid the crowds and make it possible for our worship team to get back to the church for the on-line worship service at 10:30am. We will meet at the north end of the park under the trees. So please bring a chair or blanket and adhere to safe practices by wearing a mask, resisting the urge to give hugs and handshakes, and maintaining the appropriate physical distance from one another. But let's also enjoy the opportunity to come together to worship our amazing God in the outdoor beauty of Kate Sessions Park!

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.

NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

We are excited to Welcome Debbie Bishop onto our ministry team. Debbie is passionate, knowledgeable and brings a wealth of experience working with children and youth in both ministry and secular settings. In addition to serving as a youth group leader to both middle and high school aged teens, she has also coordinated children's ministry programs with elementary aged kids. She has also worked with kids coordinating programs for the YMCA and she has worked at summer camps both at the Y and our DOC camp at Loch Leven. Debbie also spent a year living and working with children in Rwanda. She has a heart for sharing the love of Jesus with children and youth and is grateful to have an outlet to serve here at PBCC. We in turn are grateful to have her!



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.

REFLECTION

You may not be able
To bury your hardest times
Forgetting that they happened,
Or change them down the line,
Because those times were hard,
They'll endure the moments when
You realize you are strong enough
To stand on top of them.
So wear your strongest posture now
And see your hardest times
As more than just the times you fell
But a range of mountains
You learned to climb.

-Morgan Harper-Nichols

INSPIRATION

Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the
courage to continue that counts.

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not
be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with
you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9 (NIV)*

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.



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.

