

# Pacific Beach Christian Church

## The Front Porch



November 25, 2020

*“...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

I spent a lot of time with my grandparents growing up. My mother was a single mom working full-time, but her parents lived about a mile from our elementary school. So my sister and I would walk over to their house after school each day. There were some things I loved about that arrangement. There was always a tasty snack awaiting us upon arrival. I also learned some fun card games from my grandparents. But there were some things I didn't enjoy. My grandmother was a task master when it came to homework. One of my best friends lived across the street, but a lot of days I wasn't allowed to go play with him because of homework. I remember feeling the frustration (more like anger) welling up inside me when I told my grandmother I was finished with my assignments, only to have her quiz me on them. If I didn't pass the quiz, back to work I went. It's just not fair! I muttered that phrase to myself many an afternoon. But truth be told, I loved my grandmother dearly and was grateful I got to spend so much time with her. With the benefit of a wider lens this many years later, it is clear that everything she did, including forcing me to do things I didn't want to do, was always an expression of her love for me. Paul tells us we are to be thankful "in all circumstances." That's not always so easy to do, especially now. This year's Thanksgiving will be different than any I can remember. Our plans to spend it with family have all been cancelled in an attempt to keep everyone safe. No traveling. No gathering. No time with family (unless you count Zoom). There's still some of that little boy in me that wants to grumble, "It's just not fair!" But with the benefit of a wider lens, can we still be thankful? Is it enough to know God's love for us is never-changing, even when we don't get what we want? In fact, maybe like my grandmother, not always giving us what we want might actually be an expression of God's love. So it's in that spirit I would like to wish you and yours...Happy Thanksgiving!

Brian

**DECEMBER  
ANNIVERSARIES**

- 12/01 Pete & Minnie Leitner
- 12/18 Dick & Susan Ganz
- 12/23 Samir & Nicole Chowdhury
- 12/26 Ron & Janice Calabrese

**DECEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS**

- 11/25 Patricia Mann
- 11/28 Steve McHenry
- 11/28 Wendy Lloyd
- 12/01 Andrea Lucchesi
- 12/03 Bill Sanders
- 12/10 Randy Wolford
- 12/12 Lyn Beattie
- 12/13 Robbie Frazier
- 12/14 Charlene Hill
- 12/19 Margaret Steinrichter
- 12/20 Tom Deitz
- 12/21 La Donna Dwyer
- 12/26 Debbie Sehlhorst
- 12/26 Gary Hernandez
- 12/28 Annie Kelley
- 12/28 Don Hill
- 12/29 Kelley Dapra



**REMEMBER TO SMILE**



**IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**Andi Sanders:** continued prayers for Andi as she undergoes testing for some health-related challenges

**Bishop Family:** prayers for Jeff's mother and brother (and for Jeff and Aurora) as they address some difficult family matters

**Don Hill:** prayers of thanks that Don's radiation treatment was successful and no further treatment is needed at this time

**Juni Hill:** prayers for Don's brother following emergency heart surgery last weekend

**Bob Hudson:** continued prayers for Bob as he recovers from heart surgery

**Rae Adam:** prayers for Susan Linder's friend battling liver cancer

**Wright Family:** prayers for Brian and Bear's extended family following the death of Brian's step-brother

**Thomas-Kosik Family:** prayers for the family following the death of Bill Thomas

**RIC MEETINGS**

Now that the County of San Diego has been dropped to the purple tier our Recovery in Christ meetings will no longer be meeting at the church. The group will continue to meet on Zoom every Friday night at 7:15pm. The Zoom meeting ID is 259886364. Should you have any questions about the group or how best to log on you are encouraged to contact Liz Fotheringham at (619)417-0202.

*HAPPY THANKSGIVING!*

**THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING**

Every Thanksgiving we take up a special offering in support of Disciples of Christ colleges and seminaries across the United States. Here in Southern California we are blessed to have both Chapman University and the Disciples Seminary Foundation educating DOC undergraduate and graduate students. Your gift can make a difference in the life of a student. Should you want to give a gift in support of this year's Special Thanksgiving Offering simply give a gift to the church and designate it for that purpose. On behalf of those who will benefit from your generosity...thank you!

## 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 Advent-Christmas

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

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

## PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB

Our next book is entitled Be Kind to Yourself by Cindy Bunch. It's not uncommon when we experience road blocks or frustrations to blame ourselves. Self-criticism is often our default setting. In this book Cindy Bunch reminds us we can have a more gracious posture toward ourselves by practicing some spiritual disciplines that can lead to self-kindness and even grace. The book was just published in July and is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target and many other on-line platforms. Our discussion will be on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. So give yourself a holiday gift and join us!

## FROM CCSA

Our annual Christmas Basket Program will be different this year due to Covid-19. We are asking for funds only - no shopping on your part. We will be providing gift cards to families in Clairemont and to the homeless in PB. Dollar amount of the cards will depend upon the funds we receive by December 11th. Please mail a check with "Christmas Program" in the memo to:

CCSA  
4167 Rappahannock Ave  
San Diego, CA 92117-5714

## ROAD TO TRANSFORMATION

The board made the difficult decision to suspend all in-person groups and meetings during this current spike in coronavirus cases in our community. This includes the Road to Transformation group that has been meeting on Saturday mornings in the Prayer Garden. We hope to resume meeting once the County is moved back into the red tier. Thank you for your patience in the meantime. This is a good time to continue practicing what we have learned during the first 14 sessions!

## 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 or website for all the videos of our previous morning devotions and worship services.

## 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](http://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](http://ccdsd.org/efdn).



## BEST LOOKIN' TURKEY CONTEST

Thanksgiving 2020



**What:** Cook, Craft, Draw or Paint a picture of a turkey

**Where:** Submit your photos via text to Christian (858) 997-8585 or email him at: [c.julian@yahoo.com](mailto:c.julian@yahoo.com) by 11/27/20

\*Pictures will be uploaded to PBCC social group in Facebook on 11/27/20 for voting. Winners will be announced on 11/29/20.

Prizes for the most festive!

## ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Advent's scripture passages call us to imagine a new world, one free from fear, not one based on a "return to normal." In this new daily devotional for Advent, Terri Hord Owens, leader of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), delves into Advent lectionary texts to reflect on God's vision for our world and how we might find the courage to imagine, permission to change, and freedom to fear no more. Daily, five-minute devotions and prayers, beginning the first Sunday of Advent through Christmas Day, invite you to reflect on the new visions the season of Advent inspires in you and your community for the new year.

**Advent devotionals** are available for pick-up at the church. We are open M-F from 9am-12pm. Let us know you'll drop by and we will pass off one of the devotionals to you.

## WEEK OF COMPASSION

Those wishing to give in support of the relief efforts for those who have been impacted by the devastating wild fires and by the recent hurricanes are encouraged to do so. Should you direct your gift to PBCC for that purpose, simply designate in the memo "WOC". Thank you.



*For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you.*

**HOPE and a FUTURE.**

**Jeremiah 29:11**

## REFLECTION

We all want change at times in our lives, but we don't always want to go through the process it takes to get there. It usually takes longer than we think it should, and there are always periods of waiting along the way. The question is, are we going to wait the wrong or right way? If we wait the wrong way, we'll be miserable; but if we decide to wait God's way, we can become patient and actually enjoy the wait. It takes practice, but as we let God help us in each situation, we develop patience, which is one of the most important Christian virtues. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit. It's developed only under trial, so we must not run from difficult situations. Because as we develop patience, the Bible says we finally feel completely satisfied—lacking nothing (see James 1:2-4). Even our relationship with God involves progressive changes. We learn to trust Him in a deeper way by going through many experiences that require us to wait longer than we'd like. Trust me, the waiting may be hard, but it will make you stronger. The benefits that patience brings are certainly worth any uncomfortable wait!

-Joyce Meyer

*"But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting] ..."*

— Galatians 5:22

**Pooh?  
Yeah Piglet?  
I'm tired of all this.  
I am too Piglet. I am too.**



*And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen*

-1 Peter 5: 10-11



