

Pacific Beach Christian Church

The Front Porch



December 17, 2020

“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” – Psalm 139:14

I stumbled upon a Christmas movie classic last Friday night, “It’s a Wonderful Life” starring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed. What a great film! Jimmy Stewart’s character, George Bailey, is beloved by many in his small town, but can’t ever seem to get ahead. No matter how hard he works or how many people he helps along the way, he and his family barely seem to get by. One day he decides to end it all by jumping off a bridge, but an angel by the name of Clarence intervenes. George tells Clarence he wishes he had never been born. He just couldn’t see how his life really mattered. Many of us have found ourselves in dark holes like that at various times in our life. Does any of it really matter anyway? Would I even be missed if I was gone? The angel, Clarence, decides to honor his wish and wipe the slate clean, as if he had never been born. Everything in that town is different as a result. The younger brother he saved from a near-drowning experience when they were kids dies instead. And as a result his brother isn’t alive to save his squadron during a battle in World War II. All of the men from that squadron perished. That is just one example of how his life mattered in ways he never even comprehended. He touched one person after another in that small town. And they in turn did the same in such a way that his generosity and good will had a cascading effect that went far and wide. You and I were born for a reason. Our lives matter. We have an impact that goes out in all directions in ways we may never see or fully comprehend. The psalmist believed that God designed us on purpose (see Psalm



139:13-16). Our challenge is to live with a similar kind of purpose. Blessing even one person may start a ripple effect that helps to bring a little (or even a lot) more light into our world. What better way to honor the birth of Jesus who came to bring light into the world. May the light continue to shine in the darkness (John 1:5).

– Brian

**DECEMBER
ANNIVERSARIES**

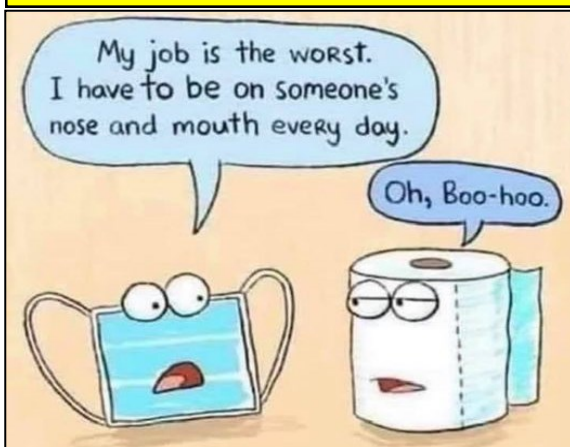
- 12/01 Pete & Minnie Leitner
- 12/18 Dick & Susan Ganz
- 12/23 Samir & Nicole Chowdhury
- 12/26 Ron & Janice Calabrese

**DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**



- 12/01 Andrea Lucchesi
- 12/03 Bill Sanders
- 12/09 Marilyn McGirr
- 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



Inspiration



IN YOUR PRAYERS

Bill Rippetoe: prayers for Rip's father who has been hospitalized near his home in Oklahoma
Wolford Family: continued prayers for Laurie, Jenny and Steve following Randy's death
Mike Dwyer: continued prayers for Mike during his rehab and recovery from a knee replacement surgery
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
Glenn Clarke: prayers for Debbie Sehlhorst's father after a recent diagnosis of metastatic cancer
Keith Blackman: prayers for Charlene Hill's cousin as he is currently hospitalized with Covid-19
Rae Adam: prayers for Susan Linder's friend battling liver cancer
Ian Briski: prayers for a young man in our PB community who remains in a medically induced coma following a snow boarding accident

Holiday Activity for All!

**Christmas Zoom
Baking Party!**

**December 20, 2020
12:30pm**

email dbishop@pbchristian.com
for zoom link and ingredients

STAYING CONNECTED

Our **worship services** will continue to be live streamed on Sunday mornings at 10:30am via our Facebook page, and 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.

Christmas Special Offering

Your Christmas Offering supports our Pacific Southwest Regional Ministries, which are dedicated to building leaders, programs and services to support a regional community of faith. With your support, our region works through the year to make meaningful, tangible impacts by:

- **Empowering** over 110 diverse congregations and their clergy, in 3 states and 15 counties.
- **Serving** Disciples who represent the diverse and vibrant life of our region, including working with our Recognized Groups – African American Convocation, North American Pacific Asian Disciples (NAPAD), and Hispanic Convencion - and all congregations across the Pacific Southwest.
- **Planting** new churches through work with New Church Development.
- **Transforming** our churches and our leaders into life-giving expressions of new ministry for this era of God's mission.
- **Promoting** social justice through movements, programs and missions that make critical impacts to the environment, our society and those facing exceptional barriers to success.
- **Encouraging** those called by God who seek ministry as a vocation as ordained clergy through resources, leadership development and pastoral care.
- **Developing** a new generation of leaders through quality and diverse children & youth ministries
- **Inspiring** fellowship through regional worship and educational events.

Please consider the impact your Christmas Offering will make in our Region through the Disciples Mission Fund this year! Rejoice!

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.

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 month. 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 all those who meet the income guidelines.

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.

SHORELINE COMMUNITY SERVICES

We have a Humanitarian Crisis happening right here in our neighborhood!

It's cold outside and we've got hundreds of people sleeping outdoors in the central beach area. If you would like to make a donation to Shoreline's Emergency Supplies and Services Fund the cost of needed items is listed below:

Sleeping Bag \$18

Knit Hat and Glove Sets \$6.00

Tarp \$10

Blankets \$10

Lined Flannel Shirts \$15

Plastic Rain Pants and Jacket \$25

Waterproof lined jacket \$25-\$30

Hand Warmers \$28 (20 sets)

Motel room for medical recovery \$80/night.

Full recovery is a minimum of 7-10 days. We provide meal support and connect them to a case manager who can use the time to do a full intake and begin to explore services.

To donate go to: ShorelineCS.org and scroll down to the donation button. Please leave a note designating the donation to our Cold Weather Supplies Drive. Thank you for your generosity!



ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR

PBCC is offering an opportunity for you to give from the heart to assist people Around the World through Church World Service's **Best Gift Offering 2020**. Go to: <https://fundraise.cwsglobal.org/pacific-beach-best-gift> and you will be transported directly to our giving site. There are 6 featured gifts, but you are not limited only to those. You can still purchase through the regular CWS Best Gift website:

<https://cwsbestgift.org/gifts/> Please include our congregation name during check out so PBCC is credited. You can pay with a Credit Card or PayPal. Please call Andi Sanders at (760) 717-3331 or email me at: Sandersclan1972@yahoo.com if you have ANY QUESTIONS or you need more information. Thank you for your gift to CWS. I know times are hard for everyone during this pandemic but any amount you can give will be a blessing!!! CWS Best Gift Offering 2020 has gifts to fit any budget. Please give from your heart, thank you!!! God Bless You All...and I'm sending you all virtual hugs!

Andi

REFLECTION

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Suess

...So he paused. And the Grinch put his hand to his ear.

And he did hear a sound rising over the snow.

It started in low. Then it started to grow.

But the sound wasn't sad! Why, this sound sounded merry!

It couldn't be so! But it WAS merry! VERY!

He stared down at Whoville! The Grinch popped his eyes!

Then he shook! What he saw was a shocking surprise!

Every Who down in Whoville, the tall and the small,

Was singing! Without any presents at all!

He HADN'T stopped Christmas from coming! IT CAME!

Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the Grinch, with his grinch-feet ice-cold in the snow,

Stood puzzling and puzzling: "How could it be so?"

"It came with out ribbons! It came without tags!"

"It came without packages, boxes or bags!"

And he puzzled three hours, till his puzzler was sore.

Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!

"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store."

"Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"...

LIVESTREAM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We invite you to join us for our traditional Intergenerational Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, albeit in a non-traditional way. We will be livestreaming the Christmas Eve service this year on December 24th at 6pm on both our Pacific Beach Christian Church Facebook page and on our website at www.pbchristian.com. While we can't gather together in the sanctuary, members of our church family will be participating from their homes via video. We will sing the familiar carols, share the familiar Christmas story, and celebrate the gift of the Christ child. So have a candle ready to light and "*may every heart prepare him room*".

