

Pacific Beach Christian Church

The Front Porch

FEBRUARY 4, 2020



“They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’”

Acts 1:11

Do you think Jesus will return soon? I have been asked that question many times over the years, especially during times of great turmoil or calamity. When there is a steady drumbeat of bad news and the world seems to be spinning out of control, it is understandable that people of faith start interpreting these as signs of the ‘last days’...which in turn rekindles interest and even anticipation of Jesus’ imminent return. After all, it is when Jesus returns that all will be set right on the earth, at least for those who are believers. Right? I interpret that as hopeful longing. And who doesn’t need hope after all we have experienced and endured in the last year! The problem is there is a flip side to this hopeful longing. If our hope rests in Jesus’ future return, we can easily miss what God is doing here and now. We might also miss the invitation (dare I say command) to be a part of God’s redemptive work in the world here and now. Giving up on the world simply isn’t an option for disciples of Jesus. Our mission is to share and *be* the good news of the gospel. That requires us to be fully engaged in the present, not hoping and longing for Jesus’ future return. After all, Jesus has already come. Taking his teachings to heart and learning how to better love our neighbors is enough to keep us busy for awhile! That’s why I appreciate the question asked of the disciples in Acts 1:11 (see above). Why are you looking up? Jesus will return some day, but in the meantime you have work to do. So get to it! The rest of the book of Acts tells the story of the early Church and all the ways the disciples served as witnesses of God’s power to transform, heal, restore and break down dividing walls...here and now...not in some future time and place. It’s the story of a Church at work in the world...not the story of believers awaiting deliverance from the world. May it be our story as well. *“Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?”* Indeed, *“your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”* Has a familiar ring to it.

Brian

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/04 Leah Rippetoe
 02/05 Christopher Starker
 02/08 Pat Brounstein
 02/08 Jenny Wolford
 02/09 Jim Anderer
 02/11 Isla Vous Chowdhury
 02/11 Robert Laffoon
 02/12 Kathy Sly
 02/12 Christine Johnson
 02/13 Jillian Griffith
 02/13 Sophia Petersen
 02/13 Seth Podhorsky
 02/13 David Smith
 02/14 RJ Lucchesi
 02/18 Sussan Johnsen
 02/19 Allyson Linder
 02/19 Ruby Birts
 02/20 Stephen Sly
 02/25 Sophia Meyer
 02/27 Minnie Leitner



AMAZON SMILE

Shop at smile.amazon.com and they will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to Pacific Beach Christian Church if you list PBCC as your favorite charitable organization—no fees, no extra cost.

REMEMBER TO SMILE



Baptism in the time of COVID-19!

IN YOUR PRAYERS

Eric Delucien: prayers for Eric as he undergoes surgery today to repair a broken leg

Kurt Allen: prayers for Cameron Allen's brother who is currently hospitalized undergoing chemotherapy for bone cancer and fighting pneumonia

Sandy Roberts: prayers for Sandy as she recovers at home from a bout of acute asthma

Margaret & Dieter Steinrichter: prayers for Margaret & Dieter as they recover from Covid-19

Mike Neal: prayers for Mike as he undergoes further testing of a nodule on his lung

Sherry Schempp: prayers for Brenda McQueen's sister who was recently diagnosed with cancer

Rivera Family: prayers for the Riveras after Pastor Taurino died on Monday from complications related to Covid-19...and continued prayers for his wife, Silvia, who remains hospitalized

Steve & Staci Dickerson: prayers for Jill McIlwain's friends as Steve is battling an aggressive cancer and preparing for surgery and Staci injured her back and landed in the ER

Sonny Flores: prayers of Dawn Frost's daughter's father who was recently diagnosed with stage four stomach cancer

Howard Braun: prayers for Dawn Frost's daughter's father-in-law who is currently in ICU battling Covid-19

Josie Mendoza: prayers for Pete's mother after suffering a concussion in a recent fall

Yvette Comer: prayers for Dan Owens' friend who is battling Covid-19

Ron Ness: continued prayers for Ruby Birts' son-in-law as he is currently hospitalized with Covid-19

Ian Briski: continued prayers for a young man in our PB community who remains hospitalized following a severe brain injury resulting from a snow boarding accident

JANUARY GIVING UPDATE

We are grateful for your continued support of our ministry during this challenging time. The following are our giving totals through the end of January. The 2020-21 fiscal year began on July 1st.

General Fund (Jan.)
 Budgeted: \$18,290
 Received: \$23,238

General Fund (YTD)
 Budgeted: \$113,398
 Received: \$ 105,735

Building Fund (Jan.)
 Budgeted: \$2,168
 Received: \$1,435

Building Fund (YTD)
 Budgeted: \$15,176
 Received: \$14,649

REFLECTION

May the sun
bring you new energy by day.
May the moon
softly restore you by night.
May the rain
wash away your worries.
May the breeze
blow new strength into your being.
May you walk
gently through the world and know
its beauty all the days of your life.



FEBRUARY 18

We encourage you to mark your calendar now for our next PBIC event on Thursday, February 18th at 6:30pm via Zoom. The evening will include “Music, Poetry and Chant for the Soul”. We have valued opportunities to share with our Interfaith partners these last three years at our annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast. But since we have not been able to meet in person since our breakfast together last February, virtual events have allowed us to continue to stay connected during this pandemic. Please make plans to join us as we celebrate that which unites us in music and poetry.

GAME NIGHT

We invite you to join us for a Zoom Games Night on February 13th at 6:00pm. The evening will be hosted by Christian Julian. It's a great way to see church family members and have a fun evening.

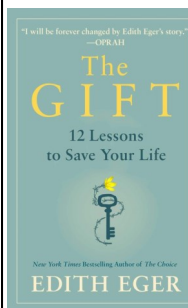
ALL CHURCH GAME NIGHT



Randy Wolford
December 10, 1955-November 30, 2020

Laurie and Jenny Wolford invite you to attend a Live Stream **Memorial Service** for Randy Wolford on February 21st at 3:00pm. The service will stream on our website pbchristian.com and on the PBCC Facebook page. Please join us as we honor and celebrate the life of our dear Randy.

BOOK CLUB— FEBRUARY 8TH



We invite you to join our next book club this coming **Monday at 6pm**. The book we will be discussing is entitled The Gift by Edith Eger. In The Gift, Eger expands on her message of healing from The Choice, and provides a hands-on guide that gently encourages us to change the thoughts and behaviors that may be keeping us imprisoned in the past. Please join us!

PB KIDS & YOUTH ZOOM EVENTS

PB KIDS VALENTINE'S DAY ZOOM BAKING EVENT

GRIFFITH SNICKERDOODLES &
VALENTINE'S DAY CRAFT!

FEBRUARY 14 - 1 PM

ZOOM LINK AND INFO WILL BE SENT TO PB KIDS EMAIL LIST!

PB Kids...On Sunday, **February 28th at 1:00pm** we will be having another Crafting Event! Details will be revealed soon!

PB YOUTH FEBRUARY EVENT

Join in on Sunday, February 21st for a Virtual Board game night. Fun! More information to follow.

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 the book of Numbers.

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.

“Eternity is Now in Session” – New Series Begins Feb. 20th

We will be launching a new Saturday morning Lenten Series entitled “Eternity is Now in Session” on February 20th from 10-11am via Zoom. Most of us think of eternity as something that begins after we die. However, Jesus doesn’t talk about eternity that way. In fact, Jesus defines “eternal life” only once, with great precision, and in a way that has been largely lost in our day. This series will help to recover that original definition while trying to answer questions like:

What if we stopped thinking about eternal life as something we can only experience after we die?

What if we stopped thinking of Christians as people who profess beliefs about God and instead focused on becoming disciples who know God?

What if salvation isn’t mostly about getting into heaven but about getting heaven into us?

The series was inspired by a book written by John Ortberg with the same title, [Eternity is Now in Session](#). So make plans to join us. Simply contact Brian or Janice in the church office to let us know you are interested and we will be happy to send you the Zoom link.

New Lenten Devotionals Available

The season of Lent begins in two weeks with Ash Wednesday on February 17th. Lent invites us into a time of reflection and prayer during the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter (not including Sundays) to better prepare us for the gift of resurrection and new life available in and through Jesus. This year’s devotionals are entitled “Go to Jerusalem”. We are invited to place our hand in the hand of Jesus and journey with him to Jerusalem. Pastor and scholar, Mary Alice Mulligan, will lead us on a self-reflective journey to discover what it means to truly follow Jesus. Entries begin with the darkness of Ash Wednesday and culminate with the glory of Easter morning. Each brief devotion includes scripture, a reflection, journaling prompts, suggested spiritual practices, and a prayer. The devotionals are currently available for pick-up at the church office, but if you prefer to have a copy mailed to you then simply contact Janice or Brian in the church office.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Saint Brigid, in partnership with Catholic Charities and the San Diego Food Bank is distributing free food. 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 Tuesday from 9:30-11:30am. 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. You can also register at:

saintbrigidparish.org/food-distribution-covid-19.

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.

