

Pacific Beach Christian Church

The Front Porch

March 18, 2021



“Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.’” – Genesis 12:1

So often people of faith are taken on unplanned journeys. I suspect Abram was rather content living comfortably on his sizable piece of land with his wife, servants, animals and an abundance of food. Yet when he welcomes God into his heart and life, living in comfort and contentment gives way to an adventurous journey. “Go” is the word he hears from God. Go where? Apparently God didn’t think Abram needed that little detail. No destination was given. No map to guide him. Simply a “Go”...*to the land that I will show you.*” And in great faith, Abram went. And you can bet the journey was not without its challenges. For it’s always in the challenges that our faith muscle is more fully developed. When we can’t see or understand what God is doing, but continue to faithfully journey on anyway, that’s when our faith grows strong enough to sustain us through anything the journey may bring. We have all been on quite the journey this last year. Last Sunday we marked one full year since the church doors were closed for in-person worship, small groups, and fellowship. I must admit I am grateful God didn’t make it clear exactly how long we would be on this journey...or what kind of challenges we would encounter along the way. Had I known a year ago everything that laid before us, I’m not sure I would have been as faithful as Abram. But God is often gracious that way. We’re not always given a glimpse of what lies ahead. That’s probably a good thing. We would spend a lot of time and energy whining and worrying. Instead we have simply been forced to take each day as it comes...each week as it comes...each month as it comes...until we discovered we have made it through a full year of enduring a global pandemic and all that comes with it...and learning how to trust in God to see us through. And there are signs...glimmers of light...that inspire hope we have made it through the darkest and longest part of the journey and are nearing our destination. The doors have been locked for a year, yet the church has not only survived, but in some ways even thrived as we have expanded our reach through the gift of technology. Isn’t that just like God. Leading us where we did not plan to go...where we did not want to go...and providing for us in ways we could not ever have asked for or even imagined. So while we don’t know everything that still may lie ahead, let’s follow Abram’s lead and...journey on!

Brian

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



03/20 Doug & Sylvia Trenton
03/28 Gary & Carolyn Hernandez

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/04 Jackie Alcott
03/09 Malia Butler
03/11 Susana Clark
03/12 Mike Dwyer
03/14 Janice Calabrese
03/17 David Lloyd
03/18 Anna May Southworth
03/19 Carolyn Hernandez
03/25 Bobbie Davila
03/26 Doug Sovinsky
03/27 Karen Ruberg



COVID-19 PROTOCOL UPDATE

With the recent Supreme Court decision that now allows churches in California to worship indoors at 25% of their worshipping capacity, some have asked about our plans for re-opening PBCC. The church's board recently approved the following guidelines based on the State's color-coded tiered system:

Purple: the church will not have indoor or outdoor gatherings of any size

Red: the church will re-start our monthly Worship in the Park services and allow other small groups to meet outdoors at the church

Orange: the church will begin indoor worship in the sanctuary provided we are allowed up to 50% of our worshipping capacity

Yellow: the church will continue to allow for indoor worship up to 50%

We hope this helps to clarify the church's plans for re-opening. Should you have further questions we welcome you to contact our church office.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

Liz Fotheringham: continued prayers for Liz as she recovers from hand surgery

Eric Delucien: continued prayers for Eric as he recovers from a broken leg and subsequent surgery

Jill McIlwain: continued prayers for Jill as she recovers following shoulder surgery

Sandy Roberts: continued prayers for Sandy as she recovers from acute asthma

Sussan Johnsen: prayers for Sussan as she undergoes additional cancer treatment

Ruben Arbues: prayers for Amanda Gille's father as he recovers from back surgery

Kim Hairston: prayers of thanks that Charlene Hill's sister is feeling better

Meredith Hopkins: prayers of thanks that Andi Sanders' sister is now recovering well from her recent back surgery

Rivera Family: continued prayers for the Rivera family and their church

Ian Briski: continued prayers for Ian and his family as Ian remains hospitalized and has a very long road of recovery ahead following a severe brain injury

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday: join us for our virtual Palm Sunday service on Sunday, March 28th at 10:30am

Maundy Thursday: join us for our virtual Maundy Thursday service on April 1st at 7pm

Good Friday: join us for a special virtual Good Friday service on April 2nd at 12pm

Easter Sunday: we invite you to a celebratory in-person Worship in the Park service at Kate Sessions Park at 8:30am which will include a Children's Easter Egg Hunt following the service. We will also have our virtual Easter service at 10:30am.

REMEMBER TO SMILE

Sister, when you get on that scale, remind yourself that you are wearing the full armor of God and that stuff is HEAVY!

REFLECTION

MAY THE STRENGTH OF GOD
PILOT US,
MAY THE WISDOM OF GOD
INSTRUCT US,
MAY THE HAND OF GOD
PROTECT US,
MAY THE WORD OF GOD
DIRECT US.

- SAINT PATRICK

KIDS AND YOUTH EVENTS



PB KIDS ZOOM BAKING PARTY:

The Monteiro's
Boscoitos!

March 28 at 1 PM

A zoom link will be sent. Email

dbishop@pbchristian.com for more information.



PB Youth Video Game Night !

THIS SUNDAY at 6:00 pm

Virtual Video Game Night

You vote for the game-we'll play together!

Email dbishop@pbchristian.com to RSVP



“Eternity is Now in Session” – New Saturday Series

We invite you join our Saturday morning Lenten Series entitled “Eternity is Now in Session” 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. A Zoom link will be sent out via e-blast each Friday.

PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB THIS SUNDAY

“Letter from Birmingham Jail”

Our next Book Club offering is not a book, but a letter written by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We will be reading his now famous “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (the full text of which can be found on-line). The letter was written by Dr. King in response to “A Call for Unity” which was published by some of Birmingham's white clergy following Dr. King's arrest at a peaceful protest in Birmingham. Dr. King's letter challenges the clergy (and us) to reflect on the ways faith should inform and move us to action when our ‘neighbor’ (regardless of color) is being unjustly oppressed. Our discussion will be this Sunday evening at 6pm via Zoom. All are welcome to join us for this important and timely discussion. The Zoom link will be sent tomorrow via e-blast.

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 Deuteronomy.

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.

Lenten Devotionals Available

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.



