

Pacific Beach Christian Church

The Front Porch

March 4, 2021



“Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid and went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’”

– Matthew 25:24-25

I loved playing Little League Baseball when I was growing up. One of the reasons I enjoyed it so much was that I had good coaches. I played for Coach Bauer two years in a row as an 11 and 12 year old. He was a great teacher of the game, he knew how to challenge us to get better, and he was also quick to affirm and encourage us. In fact, I played on his team with Jamie Dixon, the current men’s basketball coach at TCU. In talking to Jaime a few years ago on the TCU campus, turns out it was Coach Bauer that inspired him to become a coach. But I was mindful that not everyone had the same experience. Coach Guthrie coached another team of 11 and 12 year olds. He was a hot head. He was constantly yelling at his players. I remember seeing him so angry he threw a bat against the fence...directly over the head of one of his players! I felt sorry for the players on his team. None of them looked like they were having fun. Even at that age it was obvious in their body language that most of them were afraid to make a mistake. I learned early on that fear and intimidation are not the best motivators. What a difference a good coach makes. I can’t help but wonder if the same is true in our perception of God. Those of us who have been introduced to a God of love, compassion, grace and mercy are often moved to draw closer to God. Those who perceive God to be a harsh judge who is keeping an accounting of our mistakes and sins are often uninterested in drawing close to God...understandably. The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) serves to remind us that not everyone understands the Master to be merciful and generous. One of the servants had such a harsh view of the Master, he lived his life in constant fear of making a mistake. What a hard way to live. Jesus invited us to relate to God in a whole different way. Turns out love is also a powerful motivator. Fear or love. We get to choose which team we are 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 Soutworth
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

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

Liz Fotheringham: prayers for Liz as she goes in for hand surgery next Tuesday

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

Meredith Hopkins: prayers for Andi Sanders' sister as she recovers from back surgery

Margaret Rippetoe: prayers of thanks that Rip's mother has fully recovered from Covid-19

Rivera Family: prayers for the Rivera family and their church following the deaths of Pastor Taurino and Silvia Rivera a few weeks apart after contracting Covid-19

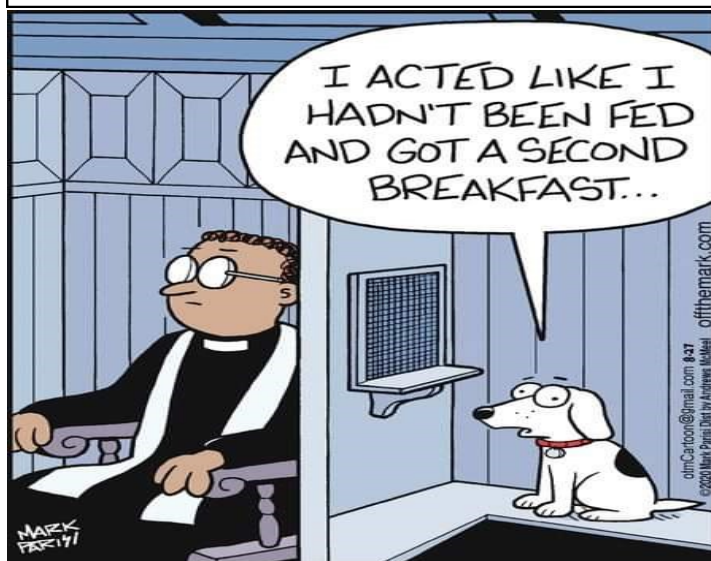
Ian Briski: continued prayers for Ian and his family as Ian remains hospitalized and has a very long road of recovery ahead following a severe brain injury resulting from a snow-boarding accident

FEBRUARY 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 February. The 2020-21 fiscal year began on July 1st.

General Fund (Feb.)	General Fund (YTD)
Budgeted: \$14,632	Budgeted: \$128,030
Received: \$11,665	Received: \$117,400
Building Fund (Feb.)	Building Fund (YTD)
Budgeted: \$2,168	Budgeted: \$17,344
Received: \$2,110	Received: \$16,759

REMEMBER TO SMILE



REFLECTION

Great things are done by
a series of small things
brought together.

- Vincent Van Gogh

KIDS AND YOUTH EVENTS

PB KIDS ZOOM BAKING PARTY!

The Osbourne's oreo cream cookie

MARCH 14th- 1:00pm

Zoom link will be sent.

Email [dbishop@pbchristian](mailto:dbishop@pbchristian.com) for more information.



PB KIDS ZOOM BAKING PARTY:

*The Monteiro's
Boscoitos!*

MARCH 28- 1 PM

A zoom link will be sent. Email

dbishop@pbchristian.com for more information.



A LETTER OF THANKS FROM LAURIE WOLFORD

Dear Church Family,

There are no adequate words to express our gratitude for all that you have done for Jenny and me these last three months, since we lost Randy. You have checked in, sent beautiful cards and gifts of love, comforted, listened, prayed for us, and loved us. You have given us hope when I couldn't see there was any, given me respite from tears, made me laugh a little, and kept me from feeling so all alone. You also gave of your time and energy to help with the beautiful service for Randy. Jenny and I love you and appreciate you more than you know. I may not be out of the shadows yet, but I already know I will be looking for ways to give this outpouring of love right back to you.

Forever grateful,

Laurie and Jenny

PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB "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 on Sunday evening, March 21st, at 6pm via Zoom. All are welcome to join us for this important and timely discussion.

"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.

PB Youth Video Game Night !

SUNDAY, March 21st, 6:00 pm

Virtual Video Game Night

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

Email dbishop@pbchristian.com to RSVP



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.

CHAPMAN FOUNDER'S DAY 2021

Next Saturday, March 13

The Office of Church Relations is very pleased to bring **Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre** to present at this year's virtual Founders Day. His topic is **Decolonizing Christianity**, helping us see and understand the unholy linking of racist white supremacist ideas and American Christianity.

Dr. De La Torre is a professor of social ethics and Latinx Studies at Iliff School of Theology in Denver. A modern Amos-like prophet who speaks a clarion message against myopic American Christianity, he has written more than two dozen books, including Liberation Theology for Armchair Theologians and Doing Christian Ethics from the Margins.

Founders Day is an annual event sponsored by the Office of Church Relations connecting students, faculty, staff and community members with an outstanding scholar in the area of religion. The event highlights Disciples on Campus students and provides an opportunity to support DOC Scholarships.

You must register in advance to receive the virtual event link which will be emailed the day before Founders Day. Register at:

Chapman.edu/founders-day or call 714-997-6760.

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.

