

# Pacific Beach Christian Church

## The Front Porch

May 13, 2021



*“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate.”- Matthew 23:37-38*

Thanks to your generosity, I experienced the trip of a lifetime three years ago when Bear and I traveled to Israel-Palestine with a group of friends and family. We began our trip in Tel Aviv spending time with Bear's cousins who live there. I remember sitting at a rooftop lounge with them learning about their life and family history in Israel when we heard what sounded like a loud blast. Nobody seemed to pay any attention. Just another sound in a city filled with sound. I can't help but think of them now as rockets are being launched from Gaza into and around Tel Aviv. Are they taking notice this time? Are they spending time in a bomb shelter? I can't help but think of our time in Old Jerusalem. We arrived as Friday prayers let out at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam. Hundreds of Muslim worshipers filled the narrow streets literally forcing us up against the wall while they passed. We then made our way to the Western Wall, the remains of the temple built by Herod the Great. It is considered the holiest site in the world for Jewish prayer. It is also located just steps from the Al-Aqsa Mosque. I can't help but think of how these holy places of worship and prayer have been overtaken by violence, anger and hatred in recent days. I think of our time in the West Bank and being stunned as we witnessed the large number of Jewish settlements that dotted the Palestinian landscape. The message being sent by Israel to the Palestinian Christians and Muslims was very clear...this is not your land, nor will it ever be your land. I think about our gracious Palestinian hosts and their longing for peace, but their resignation that it likely will not come. Where are they now as Israeli missiles rain down on the Gaza strip and clashes between Israeli Defense Forces and locals erupt in the West Bank? The images grieve me. And I am reminded in the verses above that narrow thinking grieved Jesus too. Faith in God at its best inspires forgiveness, restoration, healing and hope. Faith in God at its worst inspires division, hostility, hatred and even violence. A place long considered holy by so many has too often inspired the latter. *“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).*

Brian

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES



05/03 Steve & Kathleen McHenry  
05/06 James & Alyssa Frazier  
05/31 Jeff & Elizabeth Schmied

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

05/06 Hannah Belvin  
05/08 Dieter Steinrichter  
05/10 Pamela Navar  
05/11 Sylvia Trenton  
05/11 Joseph Podhorsky  
05/18 Marilyn Zanchetta  
05/18 Alex Monteiro  
05/20 Howie Manheimer  
05/22 Nicole Chowdhury  
05/22 Jack Dapra  
05/25 Eileen Farrar  
05/26 George Podhorsky



## REMEMBER TO SMILE

### A little boy opened the big family Bible...

He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?"

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

## IN YOUR PRAYERS

**McHenry Family:** prayers for Rachel McHenry and family following the death this week of her stepfather

**David Smith's Family:** prayers for David's brother and family after recently being diagnosed with Covid-19

**Bill Sanders:** prayers of thanks that Bill has recovered well following his recent shoulder surgery

**Patricia Mann:** continued prayers for Patricia as she has grown weaker and has been moved into a residential care center

**Eddie Howard:** continued prayers for Janice Calabrese's brother who remains hospitalized in Central California

**Carl & Helen Koiner:** continued prayers for Liz Fotheringham's parents as her mother remains in hospice care

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

**Sherri Adams:** prayers for Casey Smith's aunt as she battles cancer

**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

## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

We celebrate two of our recent graduates who overcame the challenges of the last several years, including a pandemic, to forge ahead and complete their degrees. May God continue to guide you as you begin a new chapter in your life and journey of faith!

**Tim Daly:** graduated from Texas Christian University with a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Sports Broadcasting (with a minor in Journalism)

**RJ Lucchesi:** graduated from Claremont School of Theology with a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree and a Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree

Congratulations Tim and RJ! Your church family celebrates your accomplishments!!!

## CHURCH RE-OPENING

### PHASE ONE

Phase One Re-Opening of the sanctuary for partial in-person worship has begun. This first phase allows for 50% of our current worshiping capacity. Those wishing to attend are being asked to contact us in the church office either by phone or e-mail so we can plan accordingly. The following Covid-19 safety protocols will be in place:

Any pre-service or post-service fellowship will take place outside

The doors will open at 10:15am

A check-in procedure will include a contact tracing sign-in sheet, temperature check, and use of hand sanitizer

Masks will be required throughout the service

Ushers will help to insure appropriate physical distancing while in the sanctuary

Individual communion baggies will be provided at check-in

We would ask that congregants refrain from congregational singing during the service

Offering plates will be placed at the door rather than passed

The service will also be live-streamed on our Facebook page and website for those who prefer to worship from home. Please call or e-mail us asap if you plan on attending this Sunday. And thank you for helping us to keep one another safe!

## REFLECTION

"PRIDE IS THE OLDEST AND MOST COMMON OF SINS. HUMILITY IS THE RAREST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL OF GRACES."

J.C. RYLE

## PB YOUTH Beach Day!

**TODAY 2PM**

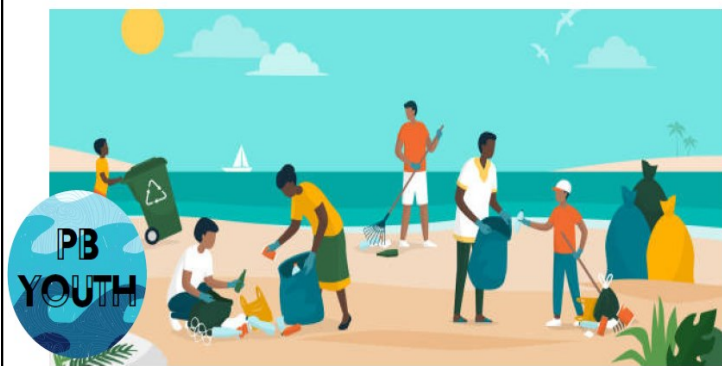
email [dbishop@pbchristian.com](mailto:dbishop@pbchristian.com)



## PB YOUTH BEACH CLEAN UP!

**MAY 30 - 2PM**

EMAIL [DBISHOP@PBCHRISTIAN.COM](mailto:DBISHOP@PBCHRISTIAN.COM)



## PB Kids Zoom Baking Party!

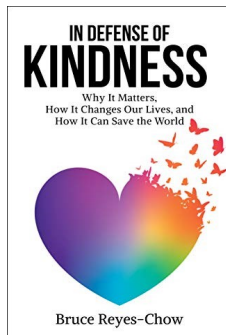
**May 23 - 1pm**

email [dbishop@pbchristian.com](mailto:dbishop@pbchristian.com)  
for more info!



## PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB THIS SUNDAY

Our next Book Club will feature a book entitled In Defense of Kindness by Bruce Reyes-Chow. In a world that is so often fragmented and even hostile, can kindness really make a difference? In this recently published book Pastor Reyes-Chow argues it can change our lives and even save our world. The author is a Presbyterian pastor, leadership coach, spouse and parent to three children. He has also spent 25 years working with individuals and organizations helping them to work through conflict and change having to do with technology, race, relationships, religion, leadership and change. You can find the book via Chalice Press or on Amazon.



## 2021 PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING

The 2021 Pentecost Offering is a special offering given in support of the New Church movement in our Region and across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We currently have 19 new churches under care in the PSW Region, including three churches right here in San Diego. Your gifts will help to support these congregations as they seek to share and to be the Good News in their communities. To support this year's Pentecost Special Offering simply designate your gift "2021 Pentecost Offering". Thank you for helping to expand our Disciples of Christ (DOC) witness "*from our doorstep to the ends of the earth*".

## NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

We are grateful to all of you who have donated items for the children and youth currently being housed at the Convention Center as they await being united with sponsoring families and friends. We have received several donations of clothing, backpacks, blankets, toiletries, books and games. Your compassion and generosity for these unaccompanied children here in the U.S. seeking asylum speaks volumes about your willingness to live out our mission statement: "*Open wide your hearts...to God, to one another, and to the world.*" We have been informed recently, however, that donated items are no longer needed. Should that change we will let you know. In the meantime, thank you again for demonstrating the love of God in such tangible ways for these children.

## 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.





