

# Pacific Beach Christian Church

## The Front Porch

May 20, 2021



*“And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: and after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.”*

*1 Kings 19:11-12 (KJV)*

Early in my ministry while serving as a Youth Director at Church of the Valley I lived with a woman from the church. No, not in the way you may be thinking. Mabel was well into her 80's and widowed. She suffered from macular degeneration of her eyes, which limited her vision significantly. Mabel was also a strong believer in God's power to heal. The only television station she ever watched (or listened to is more accurate) was TBN, the Christian station. While listening one day she learned that a well-known faith healer was coming to Los Angeles and would be hosting healing services at a neighboring charismatic church. She asked with great enthusiasm if I would take her. I had never been to a faith healing service before, and quite honestly, I was very much a skeptic. I confessed my skepticism to Mabel, but I also told her that if this guy could restore her vision, I would happily be converted. It was quite a service. Lots of music, lots of praying, lots of energy, lots of people speaking in strange tongues, lots of people raising their hands and calling down the Spirit to move. This was a service like no other I had ever experienced before. And, frankly, it was a real stretch for me. But Mabel soaked it all up...and when it came time for healing, she was one of the first to raise her hands to receive the gift! Unfortunately she left that service as blind as when she got there. And it surely wasn't for lack of faith. She believed with all her heart that God had the power to heal her. But when she wasn't healed, she concluded it simply wasn't God's will, and she had no problem accepting that. I, on the other hand, left with a bad taste in my mouth. There was a lot of talk about that being a Spirit-filled church...the pastor being a Spirit-filled leader and healer...and the miraculous signs all around us signifying the movement of the Spirit. But my experience of the Spirit is more like Elijah's (see above). God wasn't in the powerful wind or earthquake or fire...all traditional signs of God's presence in those days. Elijah encountered God in the *“still small voice”*. The Message version describes it as *“a gentle and quiet whisper”*. I am convinced that is most often how we hear God's voice and experience the movement of the Spirit. So consider this an invitation to open your ears (and hearts) as we prepare to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church this Pentecost Sunday.

Brian

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES



- 05/03 Steve & Kathleen McHenry
- 05/06 James & Alyssa Frazier
- 05/18 Alex & Priscila Monteiro
- 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



## IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Jeff Fotheringham:** prayers for Jeff as he goes in for eye surgery next week

**Patricia Mann:** continued prayers for Patricia while in a residential care center

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

**David Smith's Family:** prayers for David's brother and family as they do battle with Covid-19

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

**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

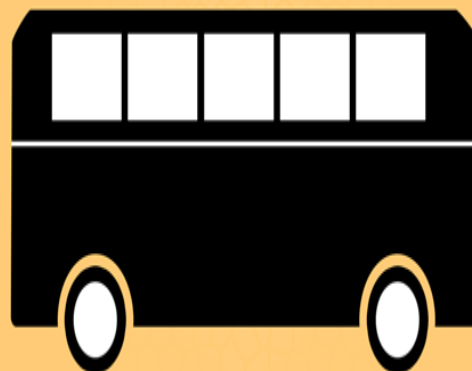
**Dayna Marin:** prayers for a friend of the Bishops and her family as they navigate some significant challenges

**Clay Buntrock:** prayers for Ginny Buntrock's ex-husband as he battles leukemia

**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

## PUZZLE

In which direction is the bus going and why?  
(Left or right are the only possible answers)



## 2021-22 Board Nominees

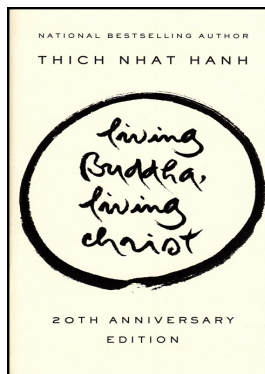
Our Nominating Committee has been hard at work to present a slate of nominees to serve on our board of directors. The following people have graciously agreed to serve in leadership roles for the next two years if elected:

- President – Sandy Roberts
- Secretary – Pamela Pelletier (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
- Upward – Laurie Wolford
- Outward – Charlene Hill
- At-Large – Christine Johnson

Our bylaws also allow for write-in candidates should you want to submit the name (s) of other potential nominees. You simply need approval from the potential write-in candidate and the signature of five other members of the church. Write-in candidates must be submitted in writing by May 30<sup>th</sup>. Once the final slate of nominees is confirmed, we will send out mail-in ballots to all active members prior to the Congregational Meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>, which will be conducted via Facebook Live again this year. Questions about nominees can be directed to our Nominating Committee: Howard Williams, Jan Julian and Lyn Beattie. We thank you Howard, Jan and Lyn for all of your hard work!

## PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB

The next book in our Book Club series is an Interfaith classic from 1995: **Living Buddha, Living Christ** by Thich Nhat Hanh. Hanh is a Vietnamese Buddhist monk who has also spent a great deal of time with Christian leaders. In this beautiful book he explores the common ground between Buddhism and Christianity, and in the process, demonstrates a genuine and meaningful grasp of Christianity. The book offers simple yet meaningful ways to enhance our spiritual journey. Our discussion of the book will take place on July 11 at 6pm. So join us as we explore ways to expand our understanding while also deepening our faith.



## REFLECTION

**BETWEEN A THOUSAND  
YESTERDAYS AND A  
MILLION TOMORROWS,  
THERE IS ONLY ONE TODAY.  
SO COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS,  
BEGIN AND END EACH DAY  
WITH HOPE, JOY, LOVE  
AND PEACE.  
AMEN!**

**THIS SUNDAY**

## **PB Kids Zoom Baking Party!**

**May 23 – 1pm**

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

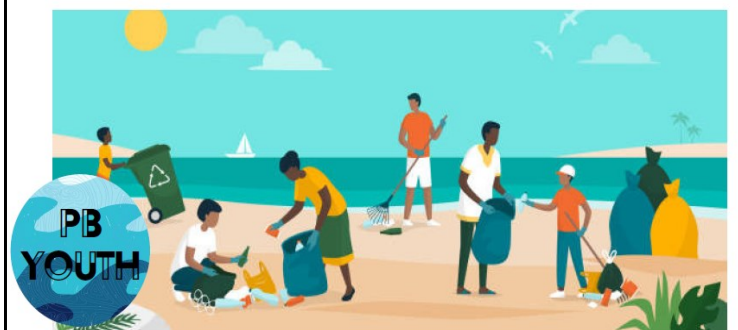


## **PB YOUTH**

## **BEACH CLEAN UP!**

**MAY 30 - 2PM**

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



## 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!

### Come, Holy Spirit

and fill my heart with Your gifts.

Let my love be true

and my charity be generous.

Help me in all my needs,

and grant me knowledge

to do what is right.

Advise me in my doubts,

strengthen me in my weakness,

protect me when I am tempted

and console me when I am afraid.

Graciously hear me, O Holy Spirit,

and pour Your light

into my heart, mind and soul.

Help me to live a holy life

and grow in goodness and peace.

AMEN.

## 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"*.



## 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.

\*Puzzle answer: Left, the entry door isn't showing.



