

Pacific Beach Christian Church

The Front Porch



August 26, 2021

“And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’” – John 1:51

Our water heater went out this morning. Nothing like discovering the problem while taking an early morning ice cold shower. Turns out there was a leak on the inside of the water heater that kept the igniter from doing its job. That little igniter is what fires off the flame that heats up a 40-gallon tank filled with water. No ignition, no flame, and no hot water. Might there be a parallel in our spiritual lives? I think of the Spirit as the ‘igniter’ that fans into flame our faith and life. When it is working well that Spirit life and energy goes out in all directions to bring warmth and life to those around us. We literally become conduits between earth and heaven as the Spirit moves in and through us. I wonder if that’s what Jesus meant in his exchange with Nathanael in John 1:43-51. Nathanael was impressed Jesus seemed to know who he was without having met him before. In essence, Jesus said that’s nothing. Just wait until you see heaven opened up and embodied in and through him (*see John 1:51 above*). But was that unique to Jesus or was he also modeling what was possible for his followers? Might they (we) also be conduits of the Spirit in such a way that the portals of heaven are opened here on earth? Jesus seemed to think so. He told them they would be able to do the things he did and even greater things. And they did. And they still do. But it requires us to be plugged into the Spirit. And that takes intentionality and work. We need to spend time in the presence of God through meditation, prayer, or even listening to uplifting music...read our sacred Scripture in a way that allows God to speak...connect with others in meaningful ways in and through a community of faith...serve in ways that make a difference to someone...share our resources in ways that are life-giving...and break bread around tables with neighbors, especially those who are more isolated or alone. This is not an exhaustive list by any means, but these are simply some of the ways *“heaven is opened and the angels of God (ascend) and (descend)”*...and the igniter within you fires up spreading life, light and warmth in all directions!

Brian

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



09/02	Mike & La Donna Dwyer
09/11	Mike & Peggy Neal
09/17	Rick & Marilyn Zanchetta
09/21	Don & Charlene Hill
09/22	Ed & Kathy Sly

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/08	Pam Deitz
09/0	Debbie Bishop
09/08	Raquel Osbourne
09/09	Dick Ganz
09/09	Brett Daly
09/13	Jan Julian
09/16	Chris Gille
09/18	Mike Sly
09/18	Lily Rose Osbourne
09/21	Art Montoya
09/21	Kay Orsini
09/21	Elizabeth Schmied
09/21	Brenda Mc Queen
09/23	Andi Sanders
09/25	Amanda Gille
09/26	Devin Pelletier
09/27	James Frazier
09/30	Ronnie Calabrese



Worship in the Park and Picnic September 12

We invite you to join us for our annual Worship in the Park and Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 12th, at 10:30am. We will gather in the same location as previous years at Kate Sessions Park (under the trees at the north end of the park near the children's play area). It was cancelled last year due to Covid-19 and postponed two years ago when we shared in a joint worship service with Christ Lutheran and Sojourn Grace to celebrate our partnership in the Neighbors Together program. So don't miss this opportunity to enjoy worship and fellowship in the relative safety of the outdoors at one of our beautiful neighborhood parks. If you are unable to join us in person at the park, we will be livestreaming the worship service on our Facebook page and website.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

Denny Dwyer: prayers for Denny as she undergoes a heart procedure today

Eric Delucien and Family: prayers for Eric following his mother's death last week

Jan Julian: prayers for Jan following a recent surgery to repair a broken leg and ankle

Leitner Family: continued prayers for Minnie and her family following Pete's recent death

Milli Palaferri: continued prayers for Milli as she prepares to transition to a longer-term care facility

Patricia Mann: continued prayers for Patricia as she remains bed-bound and very weak

Kurt Allen: continued prayers for Cameron's brother as he undergoes treatment for cancer

Eddie Howard: continued prayers for Janice's brother who has battled infection for several months

Jasmine Gilmore: prayers of thanks that Tiffany's daughter has recovered from Covid-19

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

Marilyn Traynar: prayers for Margaret Steinrichter's cousin as she battles Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma

Christiansen Family: prayers for Marjorie Swailes' family following the sudden death of her great nephew

Pam Glass: prayers for Ruby Birts' good friend who recently had lung surgery as a result of cancer

Danielle: prayers for Susan Linder's niece who has been hospitalized during the last trimester of her pregnancy

Garman Family: prayers of thanks that Marilyn, Michelle, and Uri have healed from Covid-19

Ian Briski: continued prayers for Ian and his family as he continues his long recovery from a brain injury

Leadership Retreat – Sept. 25th

We encourage all board members, elders, ministry leaders and staff to mark your calendars now for our annual Leadership Retreat at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside. There will be time for personal reflection and retreat as well as corporate sharing and visioning as we seek together to address the changing landscape of church in the midst of pandemic. The retreat will be from 10am -2pm and will include lunch. A more directed communique will be going out soon along with a request to RSVP, but for now please set aside the time for this important day of retreat together. Thank you.

REFLECTION

Do It Anyway

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. *Forgive them anyway.*

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. *Be kind anyway.*

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. *Succeed anyway.*

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. *Be honest and sincere anyway.*

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. *Create anyway.*

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. *Be happy anyway.*

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. *Do good anyway.*

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. *Give your best anyway.*

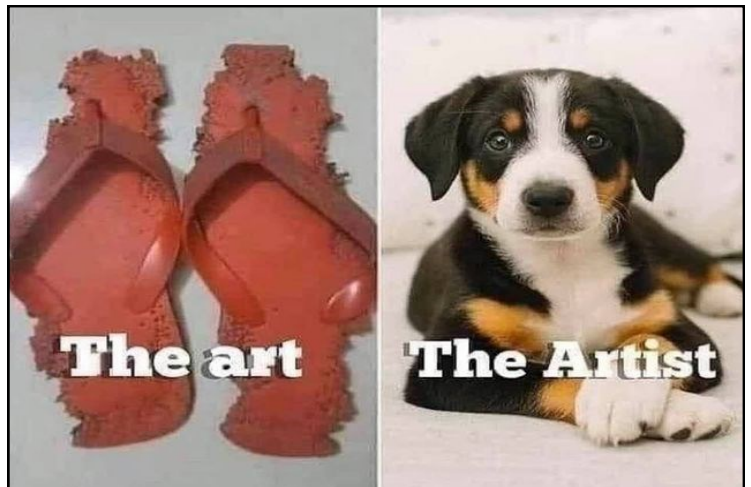
In the final analysis, *It was never between you and them anyway.*

– Mother Teresa –

REMEMBER TO SMILE

I hired a pool boy
for the summer.

Next year I'm hoping
to afford the pool.



Choose Joy!

Don't wait for things to get easier, simpler, better. Life will always be complicated. Learn to be happy right now. Otherwise, you'll run out of time.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS

As we look ahead to the Advent-Christmas Season we would love to include any of your donated handiwork in this year's Alternative Gift Fair. Each Christmas we try to provide a fun and creative way for people to do their Christmas shopping that will also benefit a mission or ministry somewhere in the world. Would you consider making something for our gift table? If so, please contact our Outward chair, Jan Julian, or feel free to contact our church office for more information. Our Alternative Gift Fair is a win-win-win...blessing the gift buyer, the recipient of the gift, and the mission supported by the gift. So let us know if you are interested in participating. Thank you!

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.

STAYING CONNECTED

Our small groups continue to meet during the week via Zoom. RIC meets both on Zoom and in person at PBCC. We encourage you to stay connected by joining any of our small groups.

Tuesday Evenings (6pm): Sermon-based small group discussion

Wednesday Evening (7pm): Bible study on the book of Joshua

Friday Evening (7:15pm) Recovery In Christ

RIC RETURNS TO CHURCH

Our Recovery in Christ group has returned to meeting at the church on Friday nights. The group has been meeting via Zoom throughout much of the pandemic, but now that the church has entered Phase Two of the Re-opening plan, the group has begun meeting in the fellowship area with the windows and doors open, appropriately spaced, with masks optional. If you or someone you know could benefit from a Christ-centered recovery group, join us here at the church on Friday evenings at 7:15pm.

New Bible Study

Our Wednesday evening Bible Study group started a new study in August on the book of Joshua. The group meets on Wednesday evenings at 7pm via Zoom. All are welcome, whether just opening the Bible for the first time or those who have studied it for many years. The host is Carolyn Hernandez, so you are encouraged to reach out to Carolyn directly or to our church office should you want to receive the Zoom link.

PB KIDS & YOUTH

Sunday

School is Back!

- Currently available for grades K-5
- Socially distanced, outdoor learning with a weekly craft
- Reserve your spot with Debbie at: dbishop@pbchristian.com

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

THIS SUNDAY - Craft Day immediately after worship (on patio) - **PB Kids**

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

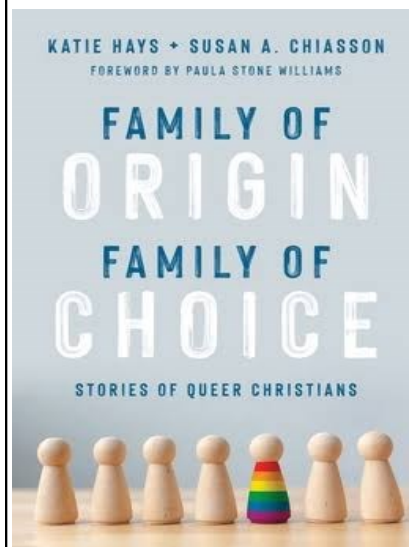
9/19- **PB Kids** Baking Day! Immediately following worship outside on the patio

9/26 - **PB Kids** Craft Day! Immediately following the service outside on the patio

Please contact Debbie Bishop if you will be attending. Thank you.

PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB- Oct. 10th

Becoming an Open and Affirming congregation is one thing, but taking the time to listen to the stories of LGBTQ+ Christians and how their coming out impacted their families and faith is another. So I invite you to hear these stories in a book entitled *Family of Origin, Family of Choice - Stories of Queer Christians* by Katie Hays and Susan Chiasson. Katie Hays is a Disciples of Christ pastor in Fort Worth, Texas and Susan Chiasson is a Social Scientist and member of the church. Together they interviewed 15 members of their congregation to hear their stories and to share them with others.



If you have ever wondered how families deal with a loved one's coming out and how it impacts their faith, then this might just be the book you have been searching for. Copies of the book will be available at the church or can be ordered on-line via Amazon.

