

PBPC news

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DEAR PBPC FAMILY & FRIENDS

At my January training weekend with the Navy and Marines, I hosted a devotion service mid-morning on Sunday and heard an interesting comment from one of our company's doctors. She compared Christianity to other major religions and said that she is glad the Christian faith is so much simpler than other faith traditions. At the heart of our faith is the word LOVE and the commandments to love God and love our neighbors as we love ourselves. If we can follow those commandments, said Jesus, we are faithfully living out God's law and the message of God's prophets.



Simple? Well, yes and no. I'd say that the message is fairly simple to know and understand, but living it out with consistency proves to be more challenging and more complex. Amen?

Since it's February, a month of expressing love to others, let's focus on the command to love our neighbors. Do we know the neighbors of PBPC... the local residents; the unhoused and transient; the business owners, employees, and customers; the public servants and community caretakers? As Dr. Gary Chapman's famous books on The Five Love Languages tell us, we can love others better when we know what makes them feel loved. And then, as the 1980s G.I. Joe cartoon series so often said, "Knowing is half the battle." So, once we know, love will only be love if knowledge is put into action.

In the book Comeback Churches: How 300 Churches Turned Around and Yours Can Too, pastors Ed Stetzer and Mike Dodson wrote this, "Maybe the first thing we need to pray about is for God to help us see the huge field of people waiting to be harvested and to give us an incredible love for those people." Even our small congregation of roughly 75 worshiping souls can make an amazing difference in this community if we prove to our neighbors that we love them with an incredible love. Are you motivated to pray that way and to live that way?

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That prayer work and love work needs to be shared work to be effective work. It's not just up to the church staff or the volunteer Elders and Deacons. Our congregation and our ministries will thrive most fully if we all embrace it as our mutual call to connect with our neighbors, to know them more, and to love them better.

I continue to host weekly prayer time at 9:30 AM most Sunday mornings in the church office. I'd love to see more of you there as a reflection of our shared desire to see God move in us and through us as God helps us see the harvest around us and gives us an incredible love for our neighbors. Are you with me?

Blessings to you during the month of LOVE!

FEBRUARY SERMON SCHEDULE

- February 4: "Second Chances and Surprise Endings"
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Lord's Supper Sunday
- February 11: "God the Glory-Revealer"
Matthew 17:1-8
Souper Bowl of Caring Weekend
- February 14: Ash Wednesday Gathering – Lunch (12 PM)/Service (12:30 PM)
"The Exchange That Changes Everything"
Joel 2:12-17; 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10
- February 18: Guest preacher – Rev. Sean Chow, San Diego Presbytery Executive Director
Presidents' Day holiday weekend; Youth Retreat weekend
- February 25: "God the Covenant-Maker"
Hebrews 9:1-5, 11-15



JANUARY ATTENDANCE

January 7: 70
January 14: 69
January 21: 54

FEBUARY BIRTHDAYS



February 8
Carole Dickens

February 12
Stacey Kay

February 21
Steve Awe



Valentine's Day Lunch Bunch and Ash Wednesday Service

What goes better together than love, lunch, repentance, and ashes? Right?! Since Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday happen to land on the same day this year – Wednesday, February 14 – why not start the season of Lent with some Lunch Bunch fellowship and a simple Ash Wednesday service to honor the day?

You're invited to join Pastor Bill, Haley Pettersen, and the Worship Commission at 12 PM in Calvin Hall for an hour-long gathering. Bring your own lunch. We'll serve some Valentine's-themed beverages and dessert, and we'll conclude our time with a simple worship service and receiving of ashes.



Questions: Contact Bill Sperry at pastor@pbpres.org or Carol Sorenson at csorenson106@gmail.com.

Howdy Folks!

This month I wanted to follow up on an exciting development I mentioned back in November-December time! This past month, Pacific Life Church has OFFICIALLY started utilizing an unused room in the Education Building to host their lovely youth group. You may remember that they were unable to find a functional space to meet previously, and had taken up meeting in parks and on beaches to conduct their youth ministry. Unfortunately, even in sunny San Diego, the cold and dark was getting uncomfortable in these winter months. Fast forward to this past month however, PLC has now been able to find a cozy place to teach their students about the warmth and light of God... in a warmer, brighter space.

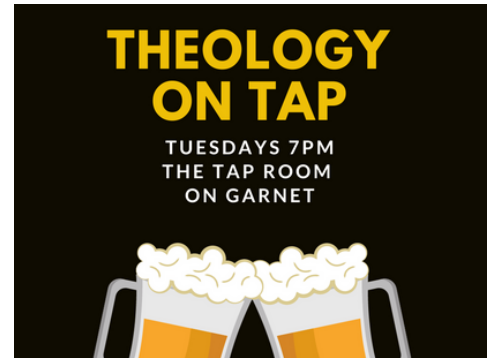
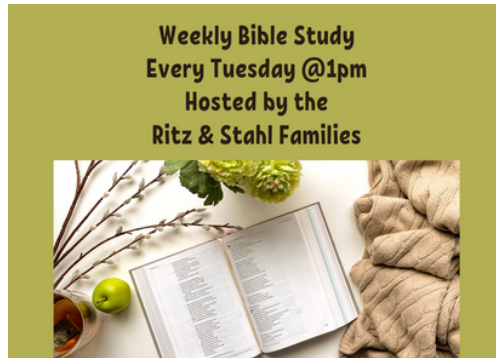


Remember too, that this isn't JUST an awesome example of collaboration between churches - we stand to benefit from this relationship also! Many of our students go to school together, or even already know one another. It's easy to feel like the only Christian you know in school these days, and being able to add ANOTHER group of students to remind them they aren't is such a blessing! Not just that, we're already talking through what further collaboration between our youth groups could look like, whether that's a shared Mission Bay High ministry or a youth group vs. youth group kick ball game.

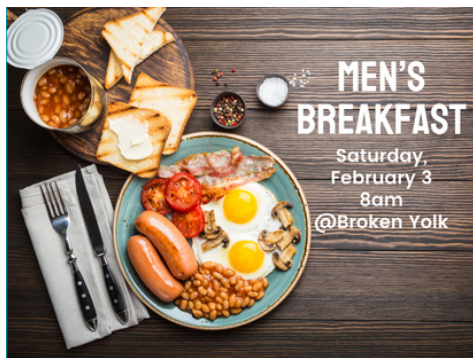
I'm so excited for the future, and everything God has in store for us. We're so blessed to be able to not just do our own incredible ministry, but to also enable another incredible ministry to serve their students even better. As always, don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions for me, or have any ideas for how else we can collaborate!

LIFE GROUPS

WEEKLY



MONTHLY



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Preschool chapel time got back into the swing of things in early January after the long holiday break. Between now and Easter our time will be focused on telling stories of Jesus healing, showing compassion, his miracles and all of the ways that he showed (and shows) that he loves us.

We continue to enjoy enriched time with Preschool parents during our coffee cart mornings and we are looking forward to joyfully providing another opportunity for the Preschool families to gather together when we host a pancake dinner for them on Shrove Tuesday, February 13. **We can use some flapjack flippers and other kitchen helpers and servers. If you are interested in participating, please contact Tony or myself.**

Stacey Kay

MUSIC MINISTRY

Hello Pacific Beach Presbyterian community,

The beginning of 2024 has already been quite eventful mostly due to illness! We are lucky to have a fantastic team who is able to step in where they are needed be it running the sound board, video taping the service, or singing when you weren't initially scheduled. Unfortunately, although very dedicated, our team is quite small. I am coming to you hoping to encourage some of you to join any of our music or media ministries. PBPC offers three music ensembles for you to join:

1. The Chancel Choir is a traditional SATB/SAB choir that leads hymns and sings larger choral anthems during Sunday worship. Rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8 p.m. in the sanctuary. Although the ability to read music is most helpful, it is not mandatory. We are especially in need of melody singers, meaning if you already know the hymns and you love to sing you are a perfect fit!
2. Sounds of Worship (SOW) is a contemporary praise band consisting of singers, guitar, bass and drums that leads the contemporary music for Sunday worship. Rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. New singers & instrumentalists of any kind are most welcome to join! Two singers are typically scheduled each week but most also sing in the choir. No experience is necessary for singing but instrumentalists should have some prior training. Although our band is guitar, bass, and drums currently we would be happy to welcome any instruments and will work them in when we can!
3. The Crusader Bells is a bell choir that provides musical accompaniment for at least one service a month. If you would like to ring with them, you are most welcome. Again, note-reading is extremely helpful, but not absolutely necessary. The bell choir rehearses most Monday nights from 6:30 - 8:15 pm. Some training is required for bells, but I am happy to work with you if you are interested!

If music is not for you, we would also like more people to help with our sound and media team. Right now, there are very few people who are trained to run the cameras, sound board and Proclaim presentation. When one is sick or out of town it makes it difficult to cover all the positions.

For more information on any of the ensembles or training for the sound and media components, please email the Director of Worship Music, Haley Pettersen, at haley@pbpres.org. Experience in worship music is not required for any of our ensembles. All you need is an open heart, a passion for music and a desire to praise God with that music. We hope to make music with you soon!

Haley Pettersen

So, we had quite a year last year as you can read in our annual report. So what's ahead for us?

For February we are planning a few events.

First Friday of the Month SDRM Outreach

On the first Friday of each month we host a "San Diego Rescue Missions Outreach Event" day. We meet at SDRM, corner of Elm and 2nd St downtown, at 9:00 am. We never know what to expect, but we are given choices when we get there. We do things like reorganize a closet, take down decoration or put them up, sort through their library, package gifts, load backpacks, etc.. whatever we do, it's something they need done and it helps them continue their mission.

Hospitality for Heroes Date Night

We are going to host another Hospitality for Heroes and First Responders Date Night. It's fun for all of us. We host the kids for a few hours while the parents get a date night. We host it from 5:00-8:00pm and we provide dinner in Calvin Hall, baby/toddler care in a preschool room, games for the kids in Calvin Hall, followed by a movie in the youth room. It's really easy for us, and it gives them a great and safe place to bring their kids while they get a chance to enjoy each others company.

Volunteers at Church

Lastly I will share some needs we have for Outreach & Missions right here in our own church.

We need volunteers to help hand out mail in the church office, Tuesday's 10-noon, or Wednesday's 10-noon, or noon-2pm. People really depend on being able to receive their mail. They get the monthly checks through the mail, letters from family, letters from the courts or VA, all those important papers that we get, they get too, only they don't have a permanent mailing address. We provide that for them, but it requires volunteer help to provide.

Or, if you are more inclined to do hands-on work, every Wednesday a group gets together at 9:30am to do small projects around the church. Paint doors, fix things, change light bulbs, you name it, when things go bad we need someone to fix it.

We provide a weekly outreach dinner every Sunday night to those in need in our community. We always need help at Sunday Night Ministries (SNM), and if you are unable to physically come offer aid, we could use financial assistance with purchasing the weekly food and supplies.

So there are just a few opportunities for you to share you love with your neighbors, come join us for any of them, you're always welcome.

OPPORTUNITIES

Join the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) in the



Main Event: "God Loves You" Frontera Tour with Franklin Graham

Saturday, March 9 – 5:00 PM

North Island Credit Union Amphitheater, Chula Vista, CA

Website: <https://godlovesyoutour.com/en/>

Interested in volunteering? The BGEA welcomes able-bodied men and women to serve on both their On-Site Team and Prayer Team. Some training is required in advance for the Prayer Team (visit <https://godlovesyoutour.com/en/volunteer/> for more information).

Volunteers interested in the Prayer Team will need to complete a Church Life and Witness Class, offered at various locations on various dates between January and March. The February dates and locations are:

- Thursday, February 1 at 6:00 PM at Shadow Mountain Community Church (main campus)
- Saturday, February 3 at 9:00 AM at Ocean View Church (San Diego campus)

Visit <https://godlovesyoutour.com/en/clwc/> for more information about Church Life and Witness Classes.

San Diego Rescue Mission Serve Day

Join the Mission Commission and Sailors from our local Navy command for a volunteer service morning at San Diego Rescue Mission.

When: Friday, February 2

Where: San Diego Rescue Mission
120 Elm St. San Diego

Wear: Your PBPC Volunteer T-shirt! Also closed-toed shoes and clothing you don't mind getting dirty.

Who: All are welcome. Contact Steve Ritz to register:
SJRitz@pacbell.net

How: Advanced registration is encouraged at:
<https://sdrescue.vomo.org/opportunity/sdrm-navy-work-day>
or scan the QR code here:

