

The COMMUNICATOR

April 2020

Community Congregational Church of Pacific Beach



Jesus is Risen

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION

Dear Members:

I pray that all of us are adjusting to the temporary normal. First, I would like to share some scripture with you:

“But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ²They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ³So they went in, but they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes.

⁵The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, “Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? ⁶He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day.”

⁸Then they remembered that he had said this. ⁹So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. ¹¹But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn’t believe it. ¹²However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.” (Luke 24:1-12)

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the center of the Christian Faith. Once and for all, Jesus paid the debt for our sins by His death on the cross. He defeated death through the resurrection, proving His Deity. The resurrection of Christ was necessary to prove that Jesus was who He claimed to be – the Son of God. The resurrection of Christ was necessary to prove that Jesus had accomplished what He promised. The resurrection was necessary because it is a vital element of saving faith. Jesus himself said “I am the resurrection and the life: he who believes in me shall live even if he dies, and anyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.” (John 11:25-26) This is why Easter is a celebration like no other!

Second, I do hope that we are finding ways to be present for each other. I have been asked by several people what I have been doing as I isolate myself. During this time, I have been given the opportunity to catch up with friends via facetime, reading things that I’ve promised myself that I would read. I have also had the chance to outline some sermons.

Third, I do not know why God has allowed this pandemic to happen. I do know that we are not alone. I don’t pretend to know why God permits certain things to happen; at the same time my faith in God is unwavering. In the 4th chapter of Mark Jesus is with his disciples in a boat and a

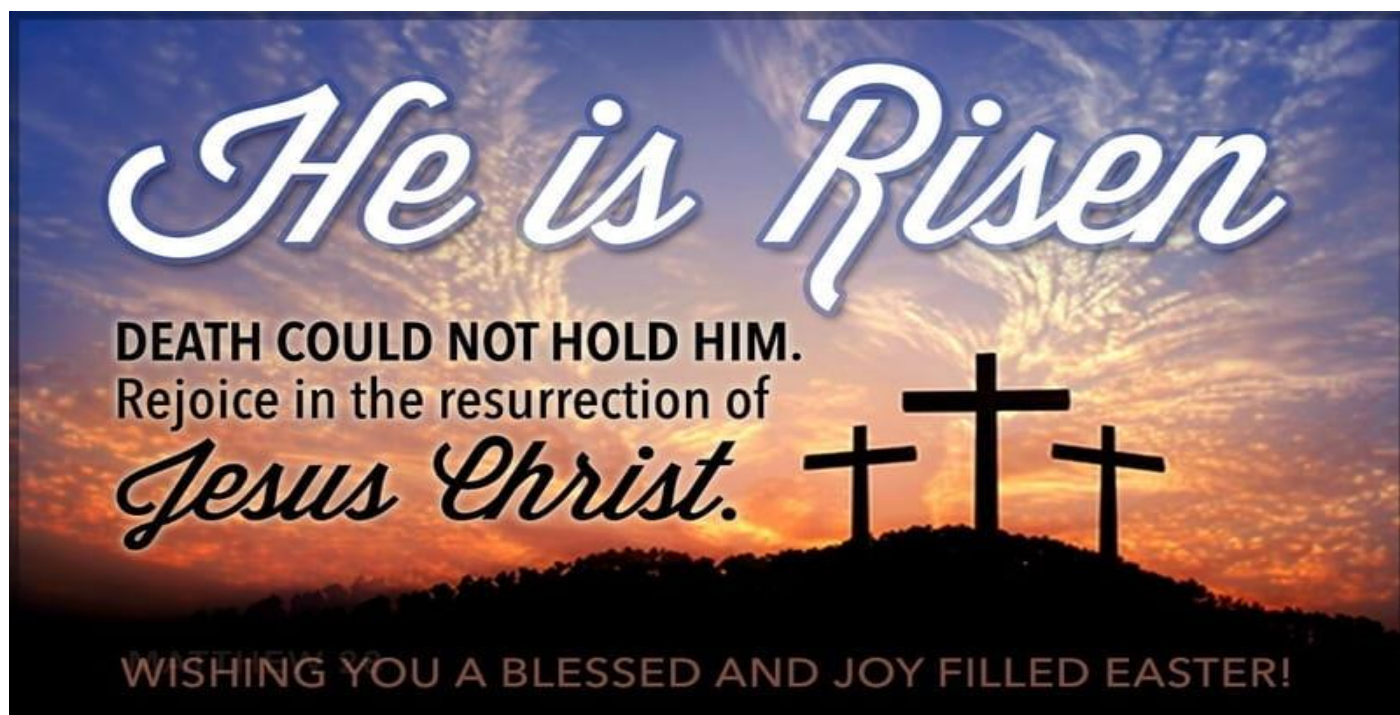
storm arises. Jesus is asleep and the disciples wake him up and ask “Teacher don’t you care if we drown”? At that point Jesus calms the storm. He goes on to ask them about their faith. We are definitely in a storm and Jesus does care about us. There are several things that I have learned about storms one is that they can be very unpredictable and can arise all of a sudden without warning. Storms are also natural and we cannot control them. We can prepare ourselves and use caution but storms will happen. I have also learned that storms are temporary. They will cease. The disciples learned these lessons that day. I should say they were reminded about the characteristics of storms. Keep the faith and know that we have not been abandoned. This storm is only temporary.

We will not worship together during the month of April. However, I would like to encourage all of us to pause at 10:30 am on Sunday and let our prayers arise for the nation, the world and our church. Again, if you want to speak please feel free to call me. 858-210-2971. Please continue to check your email for updates. I do hope that we will be together soon using a digital platform. Peace and Blessings.



The Lord is Risen,

Pastor Elvin



Faith, Formation and Action

No Faith, Formation, and Action during the month of April.



April Birthdays

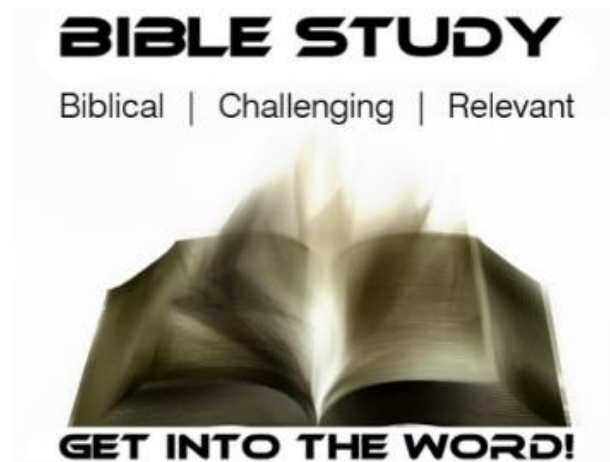


April 4
April 18

Hal Schwartz
George Snelling

Bible Study

No Bible Study during the month of April.





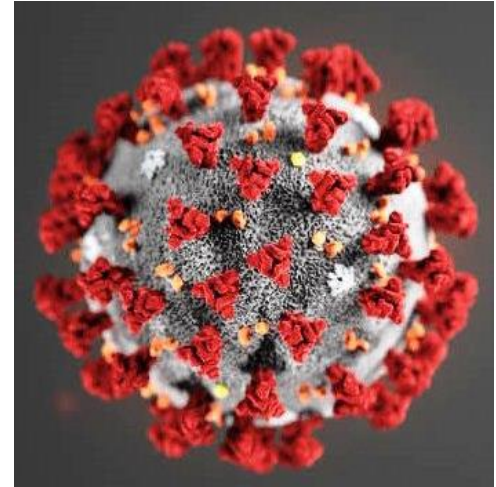
April 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Pray for those who affected by the Coronavirus, Including healthcare workers, those who infected and their loved ones. and each of us. </div>						
5 Palm Sunday	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Easter	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Coronavirus and the Church

As new cases of the coronavirus (CoVid-19) are reported in the United States and around the world, the church is called to education, caution and common sense. Here are a few basic guidelines for congregations.

Good hygiene helps prevent the spread not only of coronavirus but also of colds and flu!



- Members, ministers, ushers - wash your hands frequently – with soap and water and for at least 20 seconds.
- Sneeze or cough into the crook of your elbow or a tissue, not your hand. Wash immediately after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your mouth, nose and eyes, with unwashed hands.
- Regularly disinfect surfaces frequently touched including keyboards, desktops, elevator buttons and door knobs.
- Use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid close contact with someone who is sick.
- Stay home if you are sick.

Feel free to “bump elbows” or bow to fellow congregants during passing of the peace instead of hugging or shaking hands. Support changes in offertory and communion practices that minimize the chance of spreading germs. For example, ushers can keep hold of the offering plate; for communion, individual (even disposable) communion cups can be used.

Note: Since this article was published, churches across America and the world have stopped meeting physically because of this virus. Due to technological advances, many churches are able to meet “digitally” on their computers, pads, and phones. During this unprecedented time, we pray that God will keep all of you safe as we remain “AloneTogether.”

“This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For **the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.**” (Joshua 1:9 NLT)

“Don’t be afraid, for **I am with you.** Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand” (Isaiah 41:10 NLT)

From Your Moderator Carolyn Snelling



Let Your Heart Not Be Troubled

Submitted by Carolyn Y. Snelling

As I am enjoying walking Misty this morning, the word of the Lord comes to mind, "I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So, don't be troubled or afraid (John 14:27). This scripture is so comforting for all of us. We are living in unprecedented times. We are facing vast uncertainties. But these unrest times also display the goodness of human kindnesses.

What I am experiencing from our family members, dear friends and neighbors is the outpouring of heartfelt love and concern for one another. I am truly touched by the willingness to go shopping for us knowing George will be turning 92 years of age in a few weeks.

Our faith will deepen as we allow the Spirit of God to strengthen us. We are all in this together. We will all rise to the occasion to help one another.

The world has changed. You have changed. I will change. Nothing stays the same. Only God is the same yesterday, today and all the future days ahead. He keeps His promises. He will never forsake us.

The Ebb and Flow of Life by Edwina Reizer

The ebb and flow of the deep blue sea
is the same as it is for you and me
Sometimes we are at peace with tranquility
when life seems to move and let us be
Soothed by the rhythms that keeps us quiet
giving us what we need to beautify it

Sometimes we're turbulent as the stormy sea
wondering how troublesome times can be
Upon us so fast, destroying harmony
and nothing we do keeps us free
As we rock back and forth and to and fro
like strong winds from the north that won't let go

And finally, we learn to accept the change
of the ebb and flow and we rearrange
Our thinking of the drift and debris
that comes to us like the sand at the sea
For this is the natural order of things
that comes to all be they paupers or kings



MUSIC News

From Terry Hendricks

I am 62 years old, and I can honestly say that I have never experienced anything in my lifetime like we are going through right now. I think that probably all of us can say that. The Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic that has spread across the world has brought many fears:

- Fear of the unknown
- Fear of illness
- Fear of not enough supplies to sustain us
- Fear of loss of income
- Fear of death

I could go on and on. Someone asked me the other day, “Aren’t you afraid?” My answer was “I’m really not.” You see, God’s Word tells us that “we are of good courage, I say, and are willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be at home with the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5:8) Jesus also says “I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:13.) I’m in no hurry to die, but I do know where I’m going when I do!

Music can be a great encouragement during these times. I’m amazed at the number of high school and college choirs who have presented wonderful a Capella performances on Facebook instead of their spring concerts. Take a look on YouTube to find some of your favorite artists and songs. Dig up some of those old records and take them for a spin. And while you are listening, take a walk around the block and get some fresh air. Remember, this won’t last forever. It too shall pass. God is with us and for us!

A Note from the Editor



Please send your submissions for the Communicator by the 25th of each month to secretary@cccpb.org. The deadline for the May issue is April 25th.

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Community Congregational Church of Pacific Beach (UCC)... is an open and affirming congregation.

- We welcome all people who are sincere in their desire to know and serve God and God's people.
- Since we are all called to love God and each other, in the spirit of openness we welcome all of God's people.
- People of every age, ethnicity, economic status, ability, gender, and sexual orientation are invited and encouraged to fully participate in the life and work of our community.
- We welcome and celebrate all who sincerely seek the experience of God's unconditional love and care.

The COMUNICATOR

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