

The Communicator

November 2019

A photograph of a green chalkboard with the words "Give Thanks" written in white chalk. The chalkboard is surrounded by several bright orange pumpkins. The background is a dark grey gradient.

Give
Thanks

Community Congregational Church of Pacific Beach
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

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A Message from Our Pastor

Dear Members and Friends

Autumn is here, and with it comes cooler weather. We have much to be grateful for even amid a pandemic. As we prepare for the holiday season remember that we are not alone. This year we will have to find new ways to celebrate the holidays. This may bring some anxiety to some as we will not be able to gather with friends and family in ways that we have become accustomed. This is an opportunity to create new traditions and reflect upon the fond memories that we have about holidays past.



I realize that sometimes it is difficult to be grateful or in the mood for celebrating. It is time to dig deep. Dig deep within ourselves and remind ourselves how blessed we are. Staying home and distancing ourselves from others has presented some challenges and it may not become any easier this time of year, but we can still celebrate the season. Celebrate with joyful hearts.

One of the things that I will be doing this year is completing a grace note at the end of each day. It is a simple yet helpful exercise. At the end of each day, I write myself a note. A note about something that brought me joy that day. If I had my way things would certainly be different, so I'm digging deep within myself to courageously face what is facing me. One of the best tools I can use is a grace note. This is not the first time that I have used "Grace Notes". I have had testing periods in my life before. Life has its seasons and seasons change some seasons we like more than others, yet we learn to adapt.

In writing these "Grace Notes" I am reminded how blessed I am. More than just reminding myself about the grace that has been extended to me, it is vital that I do a two-sided "Grace Note". On one side I write about the things that have brought me joy, happiness, peace, or laughter. On the other side I answer a question, and that question is "What have I done today to bring joy to someone"? Have I helped anyone with a task, have I given an encouraging word, or maybe just been a listening ear?

To have a super fantastic holiday season I must not only accept with gratitude the joy and grace extended to me, but I also must intentionally make every effort to bring joy to the lives of others. If we spread joy and grace with the same enthusiasm that we accept it what a wonderful season of thanksgiving this will be.

My, friends, I pray that in this season you will find a reason to celebrate and be joyful and to be a joy bearer. Most importantly I give God thanks and praise each day for the love and grace that

God has extended to me. It brings me overwhelming joy to know that Jesus loves me, and yes, he loves you.

As you continue this faith journey be encouraged, that the giver of every good and perfect gift continues to walk with us.

Blessings,

Elvin

Faith, Formation and Action

FFA is held every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. for 50 minutes in Lawritson Hall. FFA is a thought-provoking, action-oriented discussion for adults. Topics cover current events, issues, and other topics which may be of interest to contemporary Christians. Topics for November include:

November 1, 2020: Prayer

A service of prayer and reflection, as we prepare for one of the most anticipated presidential elections in our lifetime.

November 8, 2020: Poetry

Do we still have an appreciation for poetry? Poetry has brought solace and joy to people through the ages it has been used in political speeches, used for solemn occasions such as memorial services, and joyful life events such as weddings and baptisms. What gives poetry such power and influence? Those in attendance will be encouraged to share some of their favorite poems.

November 15, 2020: Citizenship

What makes a good citizen? There has been a lot said about what makes a good and or responsible citizen. What are the things that we value as citizens, and what are our responsibilities? Is there any way to judge this and are there any penalties for not being a good citizen and what are the rewards?

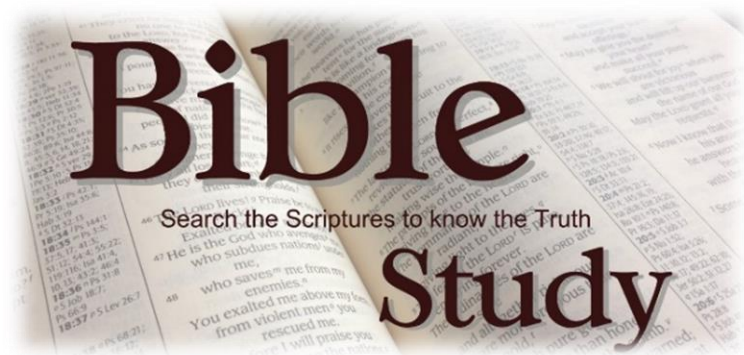


November 22, 2020

Books/Reading: Over the past several months people have been watching more T.V. and finding ways to occupy our time. What have been some the books or essays that you have recently read? What have been some of the things that have inspired you? Is there anything that you would recommend for your friends to read? Those in attendance will be encouraged to share what they may have read or currently be reading.

November 29, 2020 Ask Elvin

Do you have any questions for Elvin? Are there any theological or questions in general you may have? This is your opportunity to do so. Elvin has the option not to answer, but more than likely he will. This is one our less formal discussions.



No Bible Study during the month of November. Please see information regarding our weekly digital meetings.

November Birthdays

- 8 Tara Timpson
- 19 Jo Schwartz
- 28 Bonnie Hanika



A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING (Howard Thurman)

In Your presence, O God, we make our Sacrament of Thanksgiving.

We begin with the simple things of our days:

Fresh air to breathe,
Cool water to drink,
The taste of food,
The protection of houses and clothes,
The comforts of home.

For all these we make an act of Thanksgiving this day!

We bring to mind all the warmth of humankind that we have known:

Our mothers' arms,
The strength of our fathers,
The playmates of our childhood,
The wonderful stories brought to us from the lives of many who
talked of days gone by when fairies and giants and diverse kinds
of magic held sway;
The tears we have shed, the tears we have seen;
The excitement of laughter and the
twinkle in the eye with
its reminder that life is good.

For all these we make an act of
Thanksgiving this day.





NOVEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 FFA 9am Worship 10:30am	2	3	4	5 AA 7pm	6	7
8 FFA 9am Worship 10:30am	9	10	11	12 AA 7pm	13	14
15 FFA 9am Worship 10:30am Council 12	16	17	18	19 AA 7pm	20	21
22 FFA 9am	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Worship 10:30am	30			Thanksgiving		



CURRENT NEEDS:

- Mac 'n Cheese
- Boxed Cereal (Family Size)
- Vienna Sausage
- Shampoo & Conditioner (Family Size)
- Sunscreen
- Clothing for Men: Underwear, Jeans, Shoes

REMINDER: As you travel, save all of those hotel shampoos, conditioners, soaps and hand lotions for CCSA. It helps them provide these items to their homeless clients.

EARLY CHRISTMAS PLANNING?

In anticipation of providing Christmas gift bags to homeless clients, CCSA will be receiving items to fill these bags. Why not begin collecting some of the following items now:

- Travel-size lotion, shampoo, conditioner, and soap
- Small toothpaste
- Comb or hairbrush
- Chapstick
- Regular-size candy bars
- White socks
- Knit cap
- Gloves
- \$10 gift cards (Vons, Walmart, McDonalds, etc.)
- Blank Christmas/Holiday greeting card with stamped envelope



You can also ask families to write a note of encouragement and care to a homeless person, or children to draw a picture which can be included in the Christmas bags. For any donations or information please see Cheryl Prince, or you can call the Clairemont CCSA office for details.



From our moderator Carolyn Snelling:

A THANKFUL HEART

Fall is here. It is such a special and favorite season of the year for many of us. Of course, the emphasis in November is Thanksgiving. It is noted to be the “thankful” month.

George and I are filled with gratitude that our beloved pet, Misty, is home after two days in the Veterinary Specialty Hospital. She has been diagnosed with an autoimmune disease. Misty has been through many tests, bloodwork, and began a regiment of medications. We are thankful for all the specialists that are caring for her recovery.



I am touched by your genuine heartfelt encouragement and concerns for our dear Misty (especially to Peggy, Lindy, & Pastor Elvin). *Dear Lord, thank you for a little creature that brings such love and joy into our lives.*

The San Diego Rescue Mission (SDRM) is emphasizing their 2020 Thanksgiving Campaign. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, so many more individuals, neighbors, and families are struggling this year. Once again, we have an opportunity to partner with SDRM 2020 Thanksgiving Campaign. On November 15, 2020, after our Sunday Morning Service, a complete Thanksgiving meal will be packed individually for you to take home in the Fellowship Hall. Please give generously. All your donations will go directly to the SDRM 2020 Thanksgiving Campaign. All the food and expenses will be donated.

On Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2020, George and I will not have the usual large Thanksgiving crowd in our home for the first time in over 30 years. But instead, I am packing individual Thanksgiving dinners on Thanksgiving Day for curbside pickup at our home. Please let me know if you would like a Thanksgiving dinner to pick up at our home around 12 noon.

With a thankful heart, let us each spread the spirit of gratitude as much as we can by reaching out to others. Each of us has so much to be thankful for. We have been given much. How can we not show gratitude for all our blessings each day!

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever. Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:8-10

Digital Worship at CCCPB

Sunday Morning Worship Service on Facebook

We are streaming a live worship service on our Facebook page – UCC Pacific Beach – every Sunday morning at 10:30am. You can join us by simply going to the face book page and clicking on Elvin’s live stream. The video is saved on the Facebook page so you can watch it later if you choose. Here is the link to our Facebook page:



https://www.facebook.com/UCC-Pacific-Beach-103130421371544/?modal=admin_todo_tour

The Christmas Fund



The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God’s love and light in the world for over 115 years. One of the four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, the Christmas fund provides UCC congregations and members an opportunity to reach out in kindheartedness to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church and now find themselves facing worrisome financial needs. The Pension Boards, on behalf of the whole church, passes on this direct support so that real needs may be met and support may be felt. Through your gifts to the Christmas fund, you can help ensure that “The Light is Surely Coming” and pass on God’s love. An offering will be taken at CCCPB on Sunday, December 20th.

Covid-19 Guidelines

We are asking everyone attending our Sunday morning services to please wear a face mask and observe the six feet distancing policy. Masks and hand sanitizer are available to those who need them. Some pews have been taped off to help with distancing. We will be singing in our worship service and ask you to participate at your discretion. Please do not remove your mask during this time.



Online Giving



Please note that on line giving is available through Tithe.ly on our church website www.uccpacificbeach.com. Please take a look and follow the simple instructions.



MUSIC News

From Terry Hendricks

November is the time when Fall settles in. The temperature cools down, some leaves turn color, and there is a sense of expectancy in the air as Thanksgiving approaches. Although the weather is quite temperate here in San Diego, back in Ohio where I grew up, the things I described were much more dramatic. Leaves turned beautiful autumn colors and fell from the trees (I know because I had to rake them up)! I can remember some years where snow had already fallen by Thanksgiving Day. There were definite smells of smoke from the fireplaces and pine from the evergreens. Everyone was looking forward to December with all of the preparations for Christmas, and children couldn't wait for two weeks of freedom from school.

One thing remains the same in both California and Ohio. November is a time for reflecting on all of the good things that God has given us, and being thankful for those things as well. Psalms 100:4 tells us to "enter His gates with Thanksgiving and enter His courts with praise." 1 Chronicles 16:34 says to "give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever." In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he instructs us to "not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which **transcends all understanding**, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

I could go on and on, but I think you get the picture. Thanksgiving is not just a "November" thing, but a lifestyle that all of us who claim the name of Jesus Christ need to incorporate into our very soul.

A Note from the Editor:



The Communicator is a way to let people know what is happening at CCCPB. Send your submissions by the 25th of each month to administrator@uccpacificbeach.com. The deadline for the December issue is November 25th.

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CHRISTMAS 2020 at CCCPB



Here are some important dates to save on your calendar:

Sunday, November 29th at 12:00 p.m. -- DECK the Halls!

We invite our church family to help decorate the sanctuary and Lawritson Hall immediately following the worship service. It is a wonderful time of fellowship and team work within our church family.

Thursday, December 24th at 6:00 p.m. -- Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Please join us for our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service in the sanctuary. We will celebrate the birth of Christ through lessons and carols. The music will be provided by our guest artists.



COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF PACIFIC BEACH

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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

Published monthly by
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