

Spire

January
2021
Vol. 30
No. 1

A Note from Pastor Karla...

And...BAM! it is 2021!

There are many of us that have been waiting for this moment, for 2020 to end and a new year to begin. We are hoping this new year will bring with it less change and less disappointment than the last. Even though it is just a page turn in the calendar, most of us are keenly aware that a new year is also symbolic of new life, new goals and new friendship. Most of us expect tomorrow to be better than yesterday, especially when yesterday includes a global pandemic and ever-increasing division in our nation. Truth be told, though, even though we may be looking forward to 2021, we don't really know what this year will bring and if it will be different than the last. That is the irony of it all. We can't predict the future. Or can we?

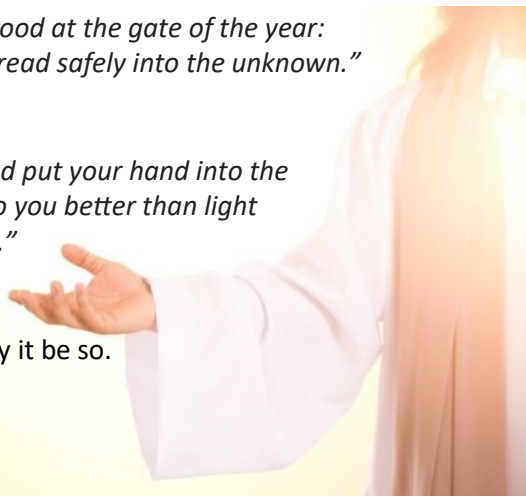
We may not know what this year will bring, but we know that God will be with us in whatever comes to pass. That doesn't change, that has never changed, and that is something. That is the one thing we can rely on.

So as we enter this new year, may we all let these words from poet Minnie Louise Haskins written in 1908 remind us of who we are in Christ. And may these words guide us all into a deeper relationship with God and with one another.

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."*

*And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the
Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light
and safer than a known way."*

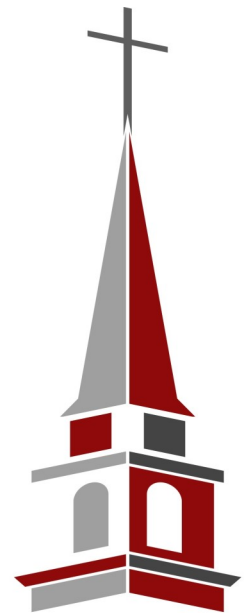
May it be so, my friends, may it be so.
Pastor Karla



Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church

Worship Services Online
Red Brick Kids Worship
Sunday 9 am
Sunday Worship
9:30 and 11:00 am
**Café Service 9:45 am
outdoors on campus**
www.pointlomachurch.org

Rev. Karla Shaw
Senior Pastor
2128 Chatsworth Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92107



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LOOKING AHEAD

January 4:	Children & Youth events resume
January 12:	Rooted for Men
January 17:	SD Blood Mobile at PLCPC
January 25:	Book Study w/Pastor Karla
January 31:	Movie Club Meets

Our Vision: Loving Everyone to LIFE with Everything we Have.

Our Mission: Through authentic community, we seek to EXPERIENCE Jesus, JOURNEY into Deeper Faith, STRENGTHEN the Church, and TRANSFORM our World.

Values:

1. We are a good home.
2. We are intergenerational.
3. We inspire engagement.

**Session Highlights -
December 16, 2020**

The Session welcomed the 2023 Elder Class for examination at the December meeting, and confirmed Carolyn Griesemer and Gary Spradling for ordination and installation, Susan Cramer and Lynn Ziegenfuss (previously ordained) for installation, and Dr. Gresham Bayne for a second three-year term.

Church Treasurer John Leimbach joined the Session for a year-end review of finances and a look at the proposed 2021 budget. John noted that the church finances are robust despite a weak social economy. Rev. Karla Shaw described how many programs are changing in response to operational restrictions, while maintaining a balanced budget.

Elder John Brand presented a report from the (renamed) Online Services Working Group, which has been imagining ways to continue presenting online worship and other services when CoVid restrictions are lifted. The Session approved the Finance Committee's motion to hire staff and purchase equipment for operations in 2021. Funding for this new ministry will come from dedicated pledges and a forgivable Federal PPP loan.

Rev. Shaw concluded the Zoom meeting with a video presentation honoring recently departed member Fran Styles, and comments of appreciation for the departing 2021 Elder Class: Rebecca Cress, Susie LaDow, Samantha Przywitowski, Rob Wood, and Beth Zedaker, who completed a six-year stint and offered the adjournment prayer.

John Spafford
Clerk

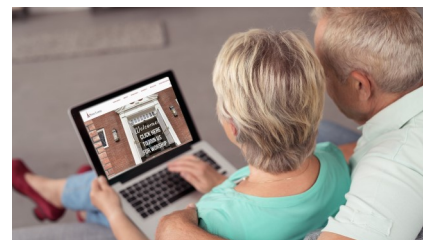
Thank you!!

Thank you to all of you who gave abundantly to and through the church in 2020! Despite the major losses we experienced in 2020 with our preschool closure/modifications and the extra pandemic expenditures, due to decreased operational costs, we are looking to end the year with a balanced budget. God has richly blessed us and for that we give thanks! And not only did your generosity help the church thrive, you also helped us give our mission partners who are struggling all over our world \$86,734.71. In addition to our mission partners, you gave \$8,970 to our Coronavirus Relief Fund. Those monies combined with \$4,700 in grants from our Deacons Care Fund enabled us to directly help those in our church and local community with extra needs due to losses incurred because of the pandemic (food, housing assistance, medical bills, etc.). Thank you for allowing us to be the conduit of God's grace in such a personal way!



"Something is Happening Here..."

You can feel it. You can hear it. It's in the music (as always). It's especially in the sermons. Something is different now, and we sense things will never be the same. Unlike the mysterious Mr. Jones of Dylan's famous song, we know what it is. The Holy Spirit is using a pandemic to open us to God's world, our lives included. We sense an opportunity for purposeful change.



The incredible sacrifices made by our wonderful staff have brought us a new form of worship we call "online services." We only get to see the finished product, but did you know it takes Alicia 50+ hours to produce one fully-integrated choir anthem? Did you know RO climbs to some pretty precarious locations to give us those amazing video shots? Do you know how many "takes" it requires to produce those flawless sermons?

First, we worried that our worship would not satisfy. Now, we enjoy "going to church" in our pajamas, sending links to our distant relatives and friends, participating in virtual online bible studies and small groups. And now, eleven months later, many are afraid we will lose our online services when we go back into our beloved sanctuary, but there is no need to worry.

Continued on page 6

ADULT MINISTRY

Sunday Scripture Group—Sundays at 10:45 am. A new series begins January 10, *The Gospel Collection*, the first word-for-word adaptation films of the gospels using the original narrative as the script with the latest theological, historical and archaeological research. All are invited to join us.

Contact: Bob Simoneau, grs55@cox.net for Zoom information.

Monday Morning Men—Monday mornings from 7-8:30 am.

Virtual coffee via Zoom. Different guest speakers each week.

Contact: Evan Gratz, evan@pointlomachurch.org

Women's Bible Study—Tuesday at 9:15am. Pastor Karla is leading a study on the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles.

Contact: Clara Blenis, clblenis@sdccd.edu

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)—2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7 pm

via Zoom. Topics for this month: **Jan 12:** Getting Organized for the New Year and **Jan 19:** Book Club: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett.

Contact: Julia Roller, mops@pointlomachurch.org

Continuing The Conversation (CTC)—4th Tuesday at 7 pm. All are invited to join us for discussion designed to promote a *hate and racism-free society through transformed hearts and minds.*

Contact: Gordy Lutes, gklutes@gmail.com.

Journeyman— Wednesdays at 7 am. All men are invited to join this group of guys who chat about life and discuss relative topics all while digging into what Scripture says about them.

Contact: Evan Gratz, evan@pointlomachurch.org

Men@Work— Wednesdays at 8:30 am. Any men wishing to participate with M@W are welcome to join us. At present we meet via ZOOM each Wednesday morning at 8:30 for a time of camaraderie and Bible study under the leadership of Em Cummins.

Contact: Don Griffith, 619-432-2682 or don.griffith69@gmail.com

Wednesday Men's Bible Study at 5pm via Zoom. Fellowship and study time. We continue meetings through Zoom as we study the Book of Hebrews. All are welcome

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6192231623>

Contact: Jerry Heidt, gheidt@ghhco.com

Moms Small Group—1st & 3rd Thursdays at 6:45 pm. Led by Pastor Karla, we are studying the book of Isaiah.

Contact: Pastor Karla, karla@pointlomachurch.org

Centering Prayer—Thursdays weekly, via Zoom.

Contact: Pastor Alex, alex@pointlomachurch.org

Prayer Quilt Ministry— 1st Saturday, 9am-3pm, Family Life Center.

Contact: Karen Vandenberg, ktvandenberg@aol.com.



SENIOR
ADULT
MINISTRY
PROGRAMS

Elaine Burrell, Director, MSW | elaine@pointlomachurch.org 619-223-1633 x210



Elaine & Friends Daily Message Line

Call in daily starting January 1 for a fun, inspiring, or educational message from Elaine or guest speakers, on all topics of interest to senior adults! The message will be updated each morning. Call 619-223-1633, Ext. 214, Monday through Friday.

Five Wishes

Have you been curious about *Five Wishes*? *Five Wishes* is an advanced health care directive that is often used by faith-based organizations because it provides room in the directive for the expression of specific religious/spiritual preferences. Elaine is familiarizing herself with the documents in order to assist church members who may wish to use these documents in their life care planning. Contact Elaine if you would like to learn more.



Exercise DVDs Available

Free gentle exercise DVDs are available so you can "Exercise with Elke" in the comfort of your own home. Stay active and keep your New Years resolutions by contacting Elaine for your copy today!

Monthly Movie Club Forming Now!

We know not everyone likes to read, so book clubs can be tricky, but how about watching movies? While we know the movie theaters are still not open, we've decided to pull out some classics to discuss in our new Monthly Movie Club. Join us in the month of January by watching *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* at your convenience. We'll come together on Sunday, January 31 for a discussion of the movie via Zoom. For more information, contact evan@pointlomachurch.org.

**Monthly
MOVIE CLUB**
January 2021 Watch
*The Chronicles of Narnia:
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*
Join a Zoom discussion on January 31
Contact: evan@pointlomachurch.org

Brick Youth Meets on Campus on the Outdoor Turf!*

We are meeting on campus on Monday nights for fun, faith and fellowship. We will launch a new series on January 4. Junior high - 6th grade meets from 5:30-6:30 pm, while 7th & 8th grade meet from 6:30-7:30 pm. High School meets from 7:30-9 pm. We play games, have Bible study and wrap-up with small group discussions. All youth are invited to join us!

Brick Youth Open Door On Wednesdays from 3-5 pm*

All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to Open Door on Wednesdays from 3-5 pm, It's a time to simply "hang out" together in the Youth Center. There is no set program or agenda, and kids can come and go as they please. Bring a little money as we usually head over to the donut shop for some goodies! * **Masks must be worn and RO must have a current waiver on file to attend.**



BRICK MONDAYS

Junior High 6th grade
Mondays 5:30-6:30 pm

Junior High 7th & 8th grade
Mondays 6:30-7:30 pm

High School
Mondays 7:30-9 pm
in the Turf Area

BRICK THURSDAYS

High School // 7:30-9:00 pm
in the Turf Area

For more information, email
ro@pointlomachurch.org



Are you an empty nester lamenting the quiet in your house? How about a young adult looking for a way to give back? Maybe you are somewhere in the middle. We are looking for a few good adults to volunteer with our Brick Youth Program. We are so happy to be able to offer in-person meetings for our youth in grades 6-12. Most of them are still participating in distance learning with limited options for in-person social interactions. Anything we can do to help them connect with peers is huge for their mental health. The groups meet on Monday evenings following all safety protocols including social distancing, masks and frequent handwashing. We are looking for adults to help lead and guide these teens and pre-teens. If you are interested in getting involved by leading a small group discussion and/or building one-on-one relationships with the youth, please reach out to RO Smith at ro@pointlomachurch.org.

Nicole Hage, Director | preschool@pointlomachurch.org 619-223-3327 | www.redbrickpreschool.org

The Preschool & Toddler Learning Center registration for **Fall 2021** will begin in **February**! If you are a PLCPC member you have priority registration. Call and set up a tour and make sure we have your email, so we can mail out the registration information. We are enrolling children 2 years old by September 1, 2021 through 5 years old. We have options for 2, 3 & 5 days a week for **half or extended days**. 7:30 am start available and pick up as late as 5:00 pm. We look forward to having you and your family be a part of our preschool. Call Nicole @ 619-223-3327 or preschool@pointlomachurch.org. Visit our website at www.redbrickpreschool.com and add your child to our waitlist.





Sunday Programs

Join us every Sunday online at 9 am for the Red Brick Kids Worship Service. Simply visit pointlomachurch.org and click on the Worship graphic.

Children's Ministry Blog

We are sharing boredom busters, inspiring videos, activities and more! Check it out today by visiting pointlomachurch.org. Click on the Ministries tab, then scroll to Children and click on the Children's Ministry Blog link on the right.

Christmas in a Box

During the first weeks of December, 65 lovingly packed boxes were delivered to the front doors of our San Diego families with children ages 3-11. The overwhelming joy and gratitude of our efforts to connect with those we cannot gather with during this time was immediate.

"Thank you so much for the gift you brought the other day! The kids opened it this morning, and it got them even more excited for Christmas (if that's even possible!). What a great and fun reminder that this time is all about Jesus' birthday. And the Advent activity book will be perfect for quarantine."

~ Rachel Arendt



Our MOPS group is a place for any and all moms with school-age children to gather for encouragement and inspiration. Please contact Julia Roller at mops@pointlomachurch.org for more information or if you'd like to join us! We will continue to meet over Zoom for at least the beginning of 2021, on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. Our January meetings will start off with:



- Jan 12: Getting Organized for the New Year
- Jan 19: Book Club: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett



Journey continues on Mondays 4-5:30 pm starting on January 4. Email Karen if your 4th or 5th grader is interested in joining the fun. Due to current gathering restrictions, our group is limited to 14 kids.

Our Thursday afternoon Music and Arts Program students had a fantastic safe and social distanced Christmas celebration before the session ended for 2020. Check out page 6 for the new programs beginning in January.



Happy New Year!



The Children's Ministry is planning some cool stuff!

Hang Time in the Park— We miss your younger children and want to connect with them! We are looking to gauge interest for a mid-week small group with parents and children ages 4 years-1st grade. Afternoon Bible stories, simple crafts, and games while safely gathered in the park on parent-provided blankets. Please look for more information early in 2021 or email karen@pointlomachurch.org for details.

Easter in a Box— Our "Christmas in a Box" project was so well received we are planning a similar "Easter in a Box" kit for the families of our community. Each kit will include a colorful *Lent Adventures* guide full of short, action-driven, and heart-focused devotions focused on the life and teachings of Christ. There will no doubt be a few surprises packed into our front porch-delivered boxes that can be enjoyed and treasured in the weeks leading up to Easter. Please email karen@pointlomachurch.org to be included on the delivery list.



New Covenant Choir resumes rehearsals on zoom on Thursday, Jan. 7 at 7 pm. We welcome new singers! Come join us to make a joyful sound and sing praises!

For more information or to join please contact Alicia McMillan at alicia@pointlomachurch.org

Children's Music and Arts program resumes on Thursday, January 7 with a new Art and Drama and Movement class held outdoors in our new turf area for grades 2-6. Space is limited, please contact Alicia McMillan at alicia@pointlomachurch.org for more information.

Ringers ReJOYce! Bell Choir resumes rehearsals on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 6:30-8 pm beginning January 5.

Please contact Ann Simoneau at ann@pointlomachurch.org for more information.

Something is Happening Here from page 2

In December, Session voted to stay fully committed to maintaining our online services post-pandemic. This enables us to care for those who may not be able to return to in-person worship and intentionally grow and share the grace of Jesus Christ with our broader world. As President of your Corporation I am happy to report, despite major setbacks in the closure of our preschool in the spring and other unexpected Covid expenditures, we ended 2020 on-budget with a growing endowment and adequate cash reserves. In addition, we received an unexpected \$90,000 gifted specifically to preserve our online services.

I now want you to think of your own talents and treasure. It is no surprise we will need additional staff and technologies to both return to in-person services and continue an online presence for those unable to reach the church physically. How might you be able to help? Do you have a talent to share that might help us grow our online platforms? Do you know of people beyond our walls who might benefit from our ministry?

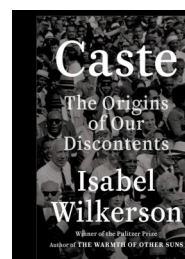
Think of how we can reach beyond Point Loma to those groups who have been missing or have never seen our beautiful services. Think of our world. Then, and here is the real challenge, think of who or which committee chair listed in this Spire you can contact to engage your talents or contributions.

Something IS happening here....I hope you will join in.

In Faith,
Gresham Bayne MD

Pastor Karla is leading a book study in January on *Caste The Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. All are invited to read the book this month and then come together for a discussion via Zoom on January 25 at 10 am.

For the Zoom link, e-mail Pastor Karla, karla@pointlomachurch.org.



Book Study
w/Pastor Karla
January 25
at 10 am

email: karla@pointlomachurch.org for Zoom details

Men's Rooted Group Forming Now

Rooted is a 10-week journey for people in every life stage. The weekly readings teach us what it means to be a disciple of Jesus through Scripture, prayer, worship, generosity and service. It isn't simply a bible study or a book. It is a community experience, where people practice 7 rhythms essential to a healthy relationship with Jesus. Individuals establish firm roots in the Truth of God's Word through personal study and then come together to discuss what they're learning in a space where they are safe and known.



Our Men's Ministry is planning a **Men's Rooted** class beginning the week of January 12
For details contact: evan@pointlomachurch.org

Our Men's Ministry is beginning a new session of Rooted geared specifically to men. All men are invited to join us on this JOURNEY into deeper faith through the Rooted series. Specific meeting times are still being finalized, but we will begin the week of January 12. Please contact Evan Gratz, evan@pointlomachurch.org for more details.

You Can Make A Difference! Donate Blood January 17



Did you know that the San Diego Blood Bank must collect more than 350 units of blood each day to meet the needs of local patients who are battling life-threatening blood disorders and cancers, suffering from trauma like burns or accidents, and even complications from childbirth?

The San Diego Blood Bank's Blood Mobile will be at PLCPC on Sunday, January 17 from 8 am—1:30 pm. Due to Covid restrictions, appointments are required. You can visit www.mysdbb.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/66047 to schedule an appointment. All donors receive a T-shirt as well as the Covid Antibody test.



Our First Drive-In Worship service was such a success, we are doing it again! Please make plans now to join us on Sunday, February 7 at 10 am. Attendees remain in the vehicles and listen to the service via their car radio. Due to limited parking spaces, advanced registration is required. Register on our website at pointlomachurch.org/register.

Chancel Flowers—re:imagined

Each week, the Deacons deliver flowers (with masks and social distancing) in order to brighten days and bring cheer. We are so grateful to those who have donated to make this flower ministry possible. The flowers are given:

January 3

- in loving memory of Rick and Joanne Albrecht and their daughter Cindy by their family
- for Kelley and Walter by Audrey McManus

January 10

- in loving memory of Charlie Palma by Ruth Palma and family.
- in joyful celebration of the 5th birthday of granddaughter Hailey Ann McDonald by Kathleen McKnight

January 17

- in loving memory of Marianne and her mother Mary Fisk by John Boaz
- Happy 90th Birthday to Art Michalek

January 24

- in loving memory of Carolyn T. Meredith and Joel Calhoun by family

January 31

- in loving memory of John Clark and Verna Wood Lamott and Janet Hill Lamott by: David, Jack and Stephen and their families





In December the Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study adopted for Christmas a grandmother who is raising her fourteen grandchildren. This project, sponsored by New Day Ministries, connected this family with our church and allowed us to live the flow between by purchasing food and gifts for them in this difficult time. May the image of this overflowing truck inspire you in this new year. We can do so much more together than we know!



Christmas Eve Open House





The Men@Work crew worked to make sure that many, many children received an amazing brand new bike for Christmas as they assembled the bikes that you all so generously donated for the Military Outreach Ministries Toy Store. We are so grateful for your generous donations that assured a Merry Christmas for many military children.

The Outdoor Movie Night was So Much Fun!



The Red Brick Preschool had a virtual Christmas program for the families. Each classroom was recorded separately and was then combined into one video program for all the families to enjoy. It was a wonderful re:imagination of our traditional Christmas program.



Thank You, Rachel Circle: The End of an Era

Rachel Circle, the last of nine women's circles established in the 1950's, has decided to conclude its run as a long-standing service and fellowship group in our church. In recent years, the group has diminished in size, but not in its spirit of service and enthusiasm for learning and growing in Christian fellowship. The faithful ladies of Rachel Circle typically would meet on the 3rd Monday of each month for coffee, tea and goodies; a very short business meeting; a devotion and then program or field trip. Most recently, the remaining ladies kept in touch on the phone and called each other regularly. However, with few remaining members and the impossibility of meeting in person this year due to the pandemic, its members have reluctantly decided that the circle has rounded its last corner and the time has come for the circle to close.

Presbyterian Women's groups began at PLCPC mid-century with nine circles, each with a different focus or purpose, based on the life stage of its group members. Groups were named after women of the Bible, such as Mary, Esther, Lydia, Tabitha, Martha and Rachel, Each offered friendship and the opportunity for church involvement based on various interests and needs. For example, Tabitha Circle was for mothers of preschoolers; Lydia for working women; and Martha for those interested in sewing or craft work. Other circles focused on Bible Study, bridge, and social luncheons. Rachel Circle consistently acted as a service group, and over the years has served the church – and greater community – in a variety of ways, such as:

- Addressing all-church birthday cards
- Making lunches for VBS Workers
- Polishing silver on an as-needed basis
- Providing gift cards for Military Outreach Ministries
- Making donations to USO and Wounded Warriors
- Being available to help with church office projects
- Taking inventory of the church kitchen
- Sponsoring orphaned children in impoverished countries
- Cutting and rolling strips of bandages to send to Africa
- Raising funds to send to missionary groups in Haiti and elsewhere
- Attending Presbyterian Circle conferences

The ladies also prioritized learning about new people and organizations in our community. They would often host interesting guest speakers at their monthly meetings, including missionaries, leaders of non-profit organizations, and even local politicians! Always open to new members, the ladies of Rachel Circle graciously welcomed guests with their warm Christian hospitality.

The gentle but significant impact that Rachel Circle had on the life of the church is immeasurable, as well as the inextricable bond that these ladies shared by meeting monthly for more than 60 years. Supporting each other through life's joys and sorrows and the unique life transitions that women experience strengthened their faith and inspired them to serve others. It is with heartfelt gratitude that we acknowledge and thank the ladies of Rachel Circle for their faithful fellowship, fun, and service to our community, and acting as an example to all women about the value of lifelong friendship.

A leaf will be added to the Tree of Life in honor of Rachel Circle.



Pictured above are members who were present on October 15, 2015, front row: Carol Simpson, Marge Grant, Susie Mueller. Middle: Dotty Burgess, Marti Baird, Joanne Hickey. Back: Fran Styles, Rosie Rutherford, Pete Griffith, Judy White.

Others not present that day include: Joanne Albrecht, Lenora Daggett, Millie Gallaher, Jane Howard, Lou Moody, Nancy Stangland, Julia Stradling, and Jane Tody.

SESSION & STAFF

THE SESSION OF PLCPC *Denotes Chair

Rev. Karla Shaw, Senior Pastor 619-223-1633 Ext: 202
 Rev. Alex Wirth, Associate Pastor 619-223-1633 Ext: 205
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 Organist/Director of Children's Choirs
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Karen Connor, Director of Children's Ministry
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Teri Antti, Children's Ministry Assistant
 teri@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 212

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 mops@pointlomachurch.org

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 communications@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 209

Church Office / Front Desk—Ext. 201
 frontdesk@pointlomachurch.org

Live Events

Baptism

- Tyler Immanuel Staker, child of Joshua Staker and Kirsten Helgager, received Christian Baptism on December 13, 2020. Rev. Karla Shaw officiated

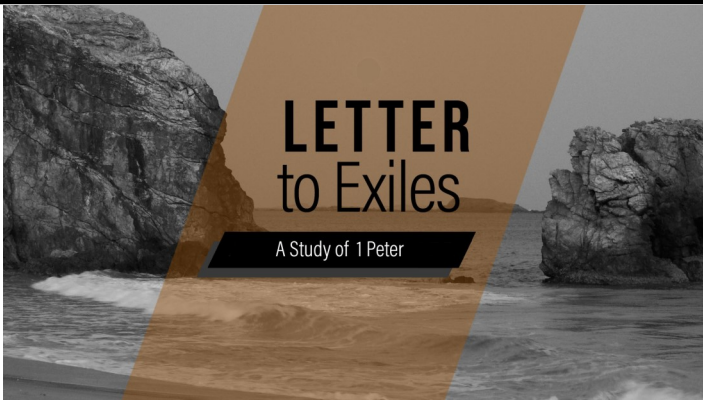
Death

- Frances "Fran" Styles passed away on December 15, 2020 at age 93.
- Church member and former choir member Mary Vaughan passed away on December 13, 2020. She had recently moved to Boring, OR, outside of Portland.

Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church
2128 Chatsworth Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92107
(619) 223-1633

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LETTER
to Exiles


A Study of 1 Peter

Join us in January as we begin a new sermon series on 1 Peter.



Discover Our Community

January 17 & 24, 2021
Noon-1:30 pm via Zoom
pointlomachurch.org/register



LIVING the FLOW
BETWEEN

Yes! The calendar has changed to 2021, but there is still time to return a pledge card for the year. We are so grateful for your faithful giving and planning by returning your pledge cards! We are currently 77% of the way to our budget goal for 2021. Whether you choose to give online, by mail or in-person, turning in a pledge card helps us plan our ministries for the months ahead. With your support we can keep sharing God's abundant love in our community, and beyond.

If you need a pledge card or more information, please visit pointlomachurch.org/give or call the church office, provide your mailing address and we will make sure you receive the information via postal mail.