Spire

December 2021 Vol. 30 No.11

Here's to the ones who

All in All by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

It takes strength to dream. I imagine it's that same strength that leads people to say, "I love you" first, Those three vulnerable words, Wrapped in heart strings, Whispered, Because what could be Is too good to keep quiet about.

It takes strength to choose joy. It takes strength to push the covers Off our weary bodies morning after morning, To plant weary feet on solid ground, And look for signs of beauty.

It takes strength to remember that we are not alone, But the story starts with bone of bone and flesh of flesh. That feels like so long ago.

Oh yes, It takes strength to dream. I imagine that's why many choose not to, For it would be far easier to simply sleep. But there are always those who dream, Those who are up at night picturing what could be, Because this world is too good not to.

So we say, "I love you." We push the covers off. We find solid ground. We look for beauty. And we dream. We dare to dream.

May this Advent season we all have the courage to dream and to believe in a God who answers, Pastor Karla Community Presbyterian Church Worship Services Sundays Sanctuary Service 9:00 am Online Service 9:30 am Café Service 10:30 am in the Chapel

Point Loma

www.pointlomachurch.org

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



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LOOKING AHEAD

December 4:	MOM Toy Store
December 5:	Christmas Concert
December 10 :	Advent Quiet Day
December 11:	Red Brick Christmas
December 12:	SERVE at Ladle
December 17:	Children's Movie Night
December 19:	Blue Christmas
December 24:	Christmas Eve
December 31:	New Year's Eve Party

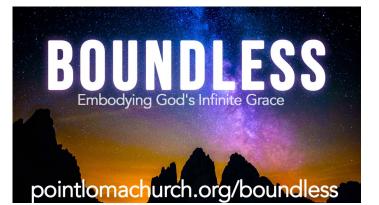
Our Vision: Loving Everyone to LIFE with Everything we Have. Our Mission: Through authentic community, we seek to EXPERIENCE Jesus, JOURNEY into Deeper Faith, STRENGTHEN the Church, and TRANSFORM our World. Values: 1. We are a good home. 2. We are intergenerational. 3. We inspire engagement.

Session Meeting Highlights—November 17

It is Session's responsibility to "examine" each new class of elders- and deacons-elect prior to their ordination and installation. The deacon's class of 2024 was trained by Director of Community Life Evan Gratz, and had prepared statements of faith for Session review. The new deacons, all having previously served, were enthusiastically welcomed to their service by the Session, and will be ordained in January.

The Session Restructuring Committee led a deep and detailed discussion on their proposal for changing the Session's organization. Elder Lynn Ziegenfuss noted that this proposal is responding to the many changes that continue to develop since the pandemic onset, and that the Session should "get used to different." Elder John Brand noted that "the changes are designed to facilitate the Session elders to move from 'doing' to 'shepherding." The Session will continue the discussion in December.

Worship and Arts Chair Elder Chris Capen commented on the historic milestone achieved by the Online Ministry with the first-ever livestream of Bryan Verhoye's November 14 piano concert. Elders commented on how the new technologies enable many new opportunities for evangelism and congregational development.



Join the Adventure With us This year!

Thank you so much for returning your commitment cards for the 2022 year. As of November 23, we've received commitment cards covering 46% of our expected 2022 budget needs.

If you have not yet returned your commitment card for the coming year, please do so today! Cards can be obtained from the Church Office or online at pointlomachurch.org/boundless. Your prayerful consideration of gift helps us to better plan for the coming year to ensure that we can continue to share the BOUNDLESS love of God with our community and beyond.

Thank you for your faithful support.

John Spafford Clerk



It has been an exciting month for the Online Ministry! We recently had new equipment installed in the Sanctuary that gives us the ability to livestream services and concerts, as well as reduces the production time for the online services each week.

At left, a few of our fabulous media volunteers were trained on the new equipment.

This equipment also allowed us the ability to have our FIRST EVER livestream concert on November 14 for Bryan Verhoye's solo recital. If you were not able to attend, you can still watch it on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/c/PointLomaChurchOnline

We look forward to livestreaming the Christmas Concert for the Community on Dec. 5, as well as creating a special Christmas Eve service. **Choral Ensemble—Rehearsals Sundays at 8 am.** Open to all adults and high school students who want to sing once a month in worship.

Contact: Alicia McMillan, alicia@pointlomachurch.org Sunday Scripture Group—Sundays at 10:30 am in the Parlor. Current series: *The Chosen*, is a multi-season television drama based on the life of Jesus. We're watching Season 1 of this highly popular crowd-funded series.

Contact: Bob Simoneau, grs55@cox.net

Monday Morning Men—Monday mornings from 8:00-9:00 am. Virtual coffee via Zoom. Different guest speakers each week. Contact: Evan Gratz, evan@pointlomachurch.org

Women's Bible Study—Tuesday at 9:00 am in the Chapel and online via Zoom. Pastor Karla leads this weekly study. During Advent we are looking at Christian Hope and what that means. Christmas Brunch, December 12.

Contact: Clara Blenis, cblenis@sdccd.edu

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)— Meeting both in-person and via Zoom this fall. See page 5 for meeting dates and locations. Contact: Julia Roller, mops@pointlomachurch.org

Continuing The Conversation (CTC)—4th Tuesday at 7 pm. All are invited to join us for an inter-faith discussion designed to promote a *hate and racism-free society through transformed hearts and minds*. Next meeting January 24. Contact: Gordy Lutes, gklutes@gmail.com

Men@Work- Wednesdays at 8:30 am in the Library. We've

The Men@Work crew continues to perform maintenance repairs throughout the church campus and preschool as needed, thereby saving the church real bucks. We recently repainted the walls and installed new whiteboards in the Bell Room. In late November we purchased



(and will assemble) 20 children's bikes to gift to families for the annual MOM (Military Outreach Ministries) Christmas Toy Store. And we continue to pick up donated goods from church members for distribution to New Day Urban Ministries (formerly PUM) and Military Outreach Ministries (MOM).

All men are welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 am in the Library. For more information about us, reach out to Don Griffith, 619-432-2682 or don.griffith69@gmail.com or Em Cummins emcum@sdsu.edu.

resumed our in-person gatherings and continue to connect via ZOOM with those who cannot attend in person. New members are always welcome to join us for a time of fellowship, Bible study and work projects around campus.

Contact: Don Griffith, 619-432-2682 or don.griffith69@gmail.com or Em Cummins emcum@sdsu.edu.

Wednesday Men's Bible Study at 5pm in the Parlor. We will continue to offer a Zoom connection for those who cannot attend, using the link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6192231623 and Meeting ID: 619 223 1623.

Contact: Gresham Bayne cgbaynemd@gmail.com

Ladies Book Study (for women in their 30s and 40s)—Thursdays at 7:00 pm resumes in February

Contact: Pastor Karla, karla@pointlomachurch.org Red Brick Knitters and Crocheters—2nd Thursday from 10 am – noon in the Parlor.

Contact: Judy White, gmajudy@san.rr.com Centering Prayer—Thursdays at 6:30 pm weekly, via Zoom. Contact: Tom Baker, tbakerusa@gmail.com

New Covenant Choir — Thursday at 7:00 pm

Contact: Alicia McMillan, alicia@pointlomachurch.org

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

Contact: Karen Vandenberg, ktvandenberg@aol.com.

Blue Christmas A service to Lament the Dark as we Await the Coming Light

December 19 5 pm

Chapel

The Advent season is a time of hope and joy, but it can also bring feelings of sadness and grief We invite you to join us for our Blue Christmas Service on December 19 at 5 pm in the Chapel. This service is open to all. It is a service of lament where we acknowledge the dark on what will be one of the longest nights of the year while also expressing our hope for the coming Light.

Now Hiring! Part-Time Bookkeeper

Do you know how AWESOME our staff and leadership are? Would you like to be a part of this? We have an opportunity on the inside, supporting ALL the cool ministries with your eye for detail, outstanding organizing skills, passion for puzzle solving, and friendly helpful attitude. We have a rare opportunity to join the team, and make a huge contribution, in just 20 (somewhat flexible) hours a week! Check out our website at pointlomachurch.org/about/ career-opportunities for all the details.



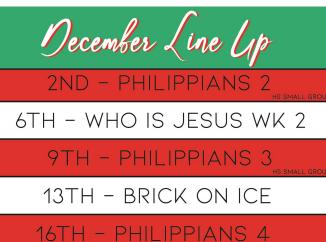


December Updates

It's already December and that is mind boggling! BRICK Youth has some fun stuff planned this month, check it out: BRICK on Ice is back Monday, December 13 from 6-8 pm! We will meet at the ice rink in Liberty Station. The cost is \$10! Be sure to find Michael so we can get the \$10 rate!

December looks a little different than other months because we do not have any "normal" BRICK Youth official meetings from December 20-31! Although we may not have normal BRICK Youth meetings, we will still have a couple things in the works. Watch your email for updated events and activities.

If you are curious about volunteering at BRICK Youth, please let Michael know! We are always looking for more people looking to pour into the lives of our students.



DECEMBER 20-31 BRICK WILL BE ON WINTER BREAK AND NOT MEETING. WE WILL BE BACK ON JANUARY 3, 2022.



Our BRICK High School Youth enjoyed a cozy bonfire at the Shelter Island fire pits recently. It was a casual time of fellowship, fun and of course ooey-gooey s'mores.



Michael and a few BRICK Junior High students paused during their fellowship time for a quick snapshot. Mondays nights are epic at PLCPC.



We pray for you and yours the blessing of joy and peace as we celebrate the birth of Christ



Movie Night –December 17 at 6 pm

Do you need one more night of shopping without the kids? Or just one more quiet night before the chaos of Christmas begins? All kids ages birth - 12 years old are invited to our Children's Ministry Movie Night on December 17 at 6:00 pm.



All children will be dropped off and picked up from the Family Life Center. Younger children (birth - 4 years old) will be up in the Children's Center. Older children (5-12 years old) will be outside on the Turf Area.

Bring a sleeping bag, favorite pillow and warm clothes. It can get chilly on the turf. We'll provide food and snacks as we watch *The Christmas Chronicles*, a Netflix film. After accidentally crashing Santa's sleigh, a brother and sister pull an all-nighter to save Christmas with a savvy, straight-talking St. Nick.

Advanced registration is required so that we have enough food! Deadline to register is Thursday, December 16. Pointlomachurch.org/ register

Introducing ELEVATE!

We are kickstarting a brand new adventure on Monday afternoon from 4-6 pm for kids ages 5-12! ELEVATE is about learning new things. ELEVATE is about preparing our children for young adulthood. ELEVATE is about transformation. ELEVATE is about preparing our children for their next level. ELEVATE will run in six week blocks with a new focus for each session on Mondays from 4-6 pm. Upcoming sessions for ELEVATE: January 3—February 7 (Jiu Jitsu) February 14— April 4 (Mathnasium) April 25—June 6 (Yoga for Kids)



Register online at pointlomachurch.org/elevate

Red Brick Christmas December 11 from 3-5 pm

Join us for the return of Red Brick Christmas! There will be a Children's Christmas Fashion Show, cookies, cooca, Santa and Mrs. Clause and so much more. All are invited to this FREE family event. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for an afternoon of Christmas fun and folly! We can't wait to see your best Christmas outfits. Please pre-register at pointlomachurch.org/register if you'd like to participate in the kids fashion show.

Sunday Programs

Our Kids Worship continues to meet each Sunday morning in the Children's Center upstairs. All kids in grades preschool through 5th grade are invited to join us during Worship at either 9:00 am or 10:30 am.

Please drop your children off in the Narthex (9:00 am Sanctuary) or the Chapel (10:30 am Café). After Worship, please pick-up your children on the Preschool Playground.

Our MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group meets both in person and on Zoom to provide fellowship and parenting education to moms with children preschool age and younger. We know the Christmas season can be



MOPS.ORG

overwhelming for moms--give yourself a break and join us! For more information, contact Julia Roller at mops@pointlomachurch.org.

Our December meetings include:

Dec. 7 Book Club (Zoom) We Are Not Like Them by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza

Dec. 13 Christmas Meeting (in-person)

Dec. 14 Christmas Meeting (Zoom)

Contact Julia Roller at mops@pointlomachurch.org for more information or to join us.



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

Thank you for purchasing your beautiful poinsettias from the Preschool! We raised a little over \$2,000. We used this money to purchase air purifiers for the classrooms.

December 6 & 7 we will have Gifts to the Manger. This is where the preschoolers can bring in needed items for babies to be donated to San Diego Military Outreach Ministries (MOM).



Instead of an in-person Christmas program due to Covid-19; we will make a video of all the classes individually and put together a video for the families. We will also have crafts and activities for the classrooms to participate in to make it a special day.

Registration for the next school year is right around the corner! If you are interested in getting more information, please visit our website at www.redbrickpreschool.com and go to schedule a tour. You can add your child to our waiting list on our website. We will be mailing out registration information letters soon. We will have half day and extended day options in the fall.



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



Christmas Luncheon with the Westminster Carolers Tuesday, December 14 Doors open at 10:00am; Music from 11:00am-Noon in the Family Life Center Enjoy a feast of ham, sweet notatoes, green heaps, roll & butter while you sing along with

Enjoy a feast of ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, roll & butter while you sing along with the Westminster Carolers quartet. \$5.00 Donation. RSVP required by 12/10.



Managing Loss Over the Holidays Presented by Kimberley Schulz-McGlenn, PsyD Licensed Clinical Psychologist from SHARP Mesa Vista | Wednesday December 15 | noon—1:00pm | Family Life Center | Bring a sack lunch, coffee & tea provided.

Older adulthood can bring about a lot of changes and losses, which can be particularly challenging to manage over the holidays. Learn how self-compassion, as well as other tips and tools, can help during this time. RSVP to Elaine.



Forever Fit Gentle Exercise Class |Wednesdays, 9:00 – 9:50 am |Family Life Center | Elke Ertle, Instructor

Get fit at this free, gentle exercise class especially for senior adults. Weights provided, bring your own water and towel. This class is offered in partnership with the Ryan Family YMCA and made possible through a generous gift from the David Arnold Baldwin Trust.

Did you know we have a podcast?

The Point Loma Community Church Podcast includes the weekly sermon and other special classes. Listen on your favorite podcast platform. For more information, visit pointlomachurch.org/connect/podcast.



The Endowment and the End of the Year

Merry Christmas! And a Happy End of 2021. All of the members of the Endowment Committee join in hoping that you have a wonderful Christmas, filled with remembering the true meaning and great promise of Christmas. (Stan Freberg, who once did some advertising of the Presbyterian Church has a great comedy track, "Green Christmas," on the not-true meaning of Christmas—commercialization, which is available on YouTube . https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5IXIfJSEi4).

The end of the year is also around the corner. For many of us, with the disruptions of this year, we still have charitable contributions we want to make, appreciated stock that might well be contributed (with tax advantages), or IRA minimum distributions to take yet. If that is the case, we hope that you will consider the PLCPC Endowment. It is a great time to make a contribution to the future of our church. Your tax advisor can help determine the benefits in doing so now.

The Endowment works for the benefit of PLCPC in perpetuity. It does that by investing all of the gifts to the Endowment, and spending only the income (interest and dividends). Thus, the principal of the Endowment stays invested, to continue to produce income for the indefinite future.



Please let us know if you have any questions about the Endowment. You may contact Jolene Wade in the church office at 619-223-1633 x:204; or jolene@pointlomachurch.org, or Steve Smith, the chair of the Endowment at srs@cwsl.edu.

As this year ends, Remember the Endowment, and all good wishes for 2022.



The Tree of Life in the Family Life Center provides an opportunity for an enduring record of persons and events in the life of our church, its families and friends. Since Beverly Smith's design and the crafting by John L. Spafford in 1990, the two



trees of the display have sprouted hundreds of leaves documenting the rich history of our community. The most recent leaves recognize: The remarkable life of Bud Bunyard, who was celebrated at a memorial service on November 20, 2021.

The second new leaf commemorates 60 years of the study and service by the women of Rachel Circle, our last Women's Circle group.

To request a leaf, please complete the form in the church office.



Advent is a wondrous time of anticipation and reflection as we prepare for Christmas. The Mission Beyond Committee has create an Alternative Giving Guide which supports all the missions and ministries that PLCPC currently supports. If you are looking for mission-inspired gifts this Advent season, we invite you to peruse the guide for ideas. The guide is available on our website at: pointlomachurch.org/mission-beyond/. There are also paper copies available in the church office.

Advent 2021

 We believe that this year, more than ever fellowship and focus on the babe in the Manger is so important to feeling a sense of hope and belonging.
 We hope and pray that you will make an effort to participate in the many different Advent celebrations we are hosting.
 Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us.

The Mysteries of Christmas Advent Quiet Day Friday, December 10 8:30 am - 2:30 pm in-person spots are full online option available pointlomachurch.org/register	RED BRICK CHRISTMAS December 11 3-5 pm Family Life Center Cookies Cocoa Santa Kids Christmas Fashion pointlomachurch.org
Children's Ministry Movie Night December 17 6-8:30 pm birth-12 years old Advanced Registration Required by 12/16 CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES pointlomachurch.org/register	Blue Christmas A service to Lament the Dark as we Await the Coming Light December 19 5 pm Chapel

Christmas Eve Services

10:00 am Café Style Christmas in the Chapel

A casual worship experience with songs, a message, and goodies 4:00 pm Children's Christmas Drama

A Christmas musical produced for and by our children in person and online 6:00 pm Online Service pointlomachurch.org

A musically blended service created for at-home viewing 7:00 and 9:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Services in the Sanctuary

A service featuring the New Covenant Choir, carols and candles.



Pam Farmer who reigned supreme in our first ever Cribbage Tournament! It was a great night of friendly competition and fellowship for all who attended.



The Children's Ministry Game Night was a huge success! Thank you to all the kids who participated and the volunteers who supported the event!



Thank you for helping us honor our Veterans with a special banner filled with messages of support and gratitude for their service.











Invite your friends and neighbors to our 7REE Concert for the Community on December 5 at 5 pm and 7 pm



SERVE at Ladle Fellowship

Join us to serve at Ladle Fellowship on Sunday, December 12.

We'll gather at 1:15 pm at First Presbyterian Church downtown, (320 Date St) to serve a hot meal to those in need. Please register on our website so we know you are coming: pointlomachurch.org/register.

Thank you for supporting our Mini-Advent Fair with your purchases and donations! Your support makes an impact in our community and beyond.







THE	SESSION	OF PLCPC	*Denotes Chair
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Rev. Karla Shaw, Senior Pastor 619-223-1633 Ext: 202 Rev. Alex Wirth, Associate Pastor 619-223-1633 Ext: 205 John Spafford, Clerk 619-985-4983, clerk@pointlomachurch.org Kathy Wright, Assistant Clerk 619-275-0335, kwright6@outlook.com

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Frank Polese Finance /Personnel	619-843-1282	fpolese@oasismaterials.com
Rita Solberg Mission Beyond*	619-222-2841	ritasolberg@cox.net
Barbett Wood* Children's Ministry/ Preschool*, Presbytery Commissioner	619-226-1644	makoakani@gmail.com
Elder Class of 2022	Phone	E-mail
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Carolyn Griesemer Children	619-929-7201	carolyn.griesemer@gmail.com
Lynn Ziegenfuss Adult Ministry*	619-573-3372	lynnziggy@gmail.com

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Monday—Thursday 9 am to 5 pm Friday– 9 am to 1 pm

Rev. Karla Shaw, Senior Pastor karla@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 202

Rev. Dr. Chris Lenocker, Parish Associate chris.lenocker@gmail.com—619-987-8433

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Jolene Wade, Director of Operations & Church Life—Ext. 204 jolene@pointlomachurch.org

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Adam Thompson, Music and Children's Choir Assistant adam@pointlomachurch.org

> Bryan Verhoye, Music Associate & Pianist mravgguy@aol.com

Evan Gratz, Director of Community Life evan@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 211

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> Julia Roller, MOPS Coordinator mops@pointlomachurch.org

Nicole Hage, Preschool & TLC Director preschool@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 220

Andrea Benitez, Preschool Admin Assistant andrea@pointlomachurch.org –Ext. 221

Ann Simoneau, Administrative Assistant—Ext. 203 ann@pointlomachurch.org

Kari Shenk, Interim Bookkeeper—Ext. 206 bookkeeper@pointlomachurch.org

Joyce Pritchett Communications Coordinator communications@pointlomachurch.org-Ext. 209

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

Life Events

- A Memorial Service for Bud Bunyard was held on November 20, 2021. Rev. Karla Shaw officiated.
- Memorial Service for Julia Stradling has been scheduled for December 18, 2021 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary, with a reception following.
- A Memorial Service for Dona Decker has been scheduled for December 18, 2021 at 2:00 pm in the Chapel, with a reception following.

Baptism

• Nora Jane Nicolai, daughter of Adam and Jennifer Nicolai, was Baptized on Sunday, November 21, 2021 during the Sanctuary service. Rev. Karla Shaw officiated.

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Christmas Eve Services

this night, we

Christmas Eve
10 am Cafè Style Christmas in the Chapel
4 pm Children's Musical Sanctuary and Livestream
6 pm Online Service PointLomaChurch.org
7 pm Traditional Service in the Sanctuary
9 pm Traditional Service in the Sanctuary