Spire

May 2020 Vol. 29 No. 5



This May I had planned on taking a group from the church on a Civil Rights Pilgrimage to the deep south. Although that trip is now postponed until March 2021, prior to making that decision, I had already begun to revisit material from my graduate school days about this life-altering time in our recent history. It is impossible to reflect on the era of civil rights in our country without reading Dr. Martin Luther King. It's also amazing how much of what Dr. King wrote connects to this pandemic.

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

It reminds me of a patchwork quilt. You and I may look like very different scraps, but we are all bound together. This, my friends, is a truth that cannot be ignored. We may think we make choices in isolation, but the truth is every choice that we make affects everyone around us. This pandemic has really brought that notion to the forefront of our consciousness.

As people of faith, we know from the Scripture that this connectedness is part of our DNA--we were created *with* one another, *for* one another. That is why we spend so much of our energy as Christians trying to love our neighbors more--we get that we are intricately bound to one another. This reality we cling to is not without its opposition from the broader cultural narrative though--trying to convince us to resist our connectedness--trying to convince us that there isn't enough to go around and we need to fight for our "piece of the pie." But faith teaches us that we have been endowed by God with the capacity to bake more pies.

As a young girl, when Dorothy Day witnessed the tragedy of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake she made a very important observation. "Yes, in a disaster, people fall apart, but they also fall together." We are seeing this "falling together" all over our world, recognizing that we are more capable than we ever thought possible. The

re:imagine the future

We keep hearing on the news that plans are being made for a slow reopening of our city and state in the next couple of months. We do not yet know what those plans might entail nor do we yet have a timeline, but that doesn't mean the church is not preparing. Quite the contrary, in fact. In the upcoming



weeks, our *Director of Operations and Church Life,* Jolene Wade, in collaboration with our elder chair of Facilities, Buck Buchanan, are working on a plan for the facility and how we might redesign our church for a temporary "new normal."

The staff, in consultation with the elders, are also making decisions about worship,

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Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church

Red Brick Kids Worship Sunday 9 am Sunday Worship 9:30 and 11:00 am www.pointlomachurch.org

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

Follow us on Facebook for weekly updates: www.facebook.com/PointLomaChurch

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LOOKING AHEAD

May 5:	MOPS—Picky Eaters
May 9:	Book Reading Rev. Brad Gustafson
May 26:	Continuing the Conversation
May:	Book Club
June 22-26:	VBS
July 12-28:	Rancho Genesis Mission Trip
July 26—Aug.1	High School Houseboats
July 27-31:	Musical Theater Camp
Aug. 6-9:	Jr. High Campus by the Sea
Sept. 25-27:	Family Camp
Sept. 25-27:	Family Camp

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 - April 22, 2020

The Session had its first video teleconference meeting in PLCPC history this month. Elders took some time checking in and discussing how their lives have been affected by the pandemic. They were relieved to hear of the improving health of Pastor Alex Wirth and his family. Pastor Karla Shaw noted how the church staff and members have adapted quickly to changes in operations.

The Session reviewed the actions taken during the previous weeks by the Executive Committee, modifying payroll and working hours for the church and preschool staff, and applying for governmental payroll loans. Pastor Karla reported on the dramatic increase in activity on the church website and how members and friends of the church are keeping in contact with virtual meetings and worship services.

Elder Frank Polese reported that the church finances remain robust, thanks to the faithful generosity of our pledgers and supporters.

Elders Pam Werner and John Brand discussed the status of the Capital Campaign and renovation plans. The Session encouraged the Renovation team to review and adapt plans for the soon to come group assembly and activity rule changes.

The Session concluded the April meeting with prayers for safety and healing, and for God's grace in a troubled world.

John Spafford Clerk

re:imagine continued from page 1

summer programs, and other group gatherings. Once we have more details, we will let you know.

That being said, as disappointing as it may be, it is not likely that we will be able to return to our large group church gatherings for quite some time. Even if the orders of shelter-inplace are lifted this month, we expect there to still be restrictions on group size and population. As we toy with different ideas (i.e. multiple gatherings of small groups on Sunday morning, hybrid models of in-person/online), please rest assured that no one will be left behind. We continue to work hard to re:imagine all of our ministries at the church and, where possible, cancellation continues to be a word stricken from our vocabulary.

Friends, there will come a time when we will gather again face-to-face in worship of our Lord. There will come a time when we will again sing songs and chuckle at our off-beat clapping. There will come a time when we will chat around tables and break bread together. And there will come a time when we will hear again the laughter of children and youth being together in community. This may happen slowly, but there will come a time. So until that time comes, let us continue to be patient and seek the Lord's guidance on who we are becoming through this shared experience.

Pastor Karla, Continued from page 1

challenge for us in this pandemic is that we continue to remain open to our connectedness as weeks turn into months and we become weary with doing good.

"Therefore, do not lose heart." Paul tells us in his second letter to the Corinthians, "for our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

As we continue into May with far different calendars than likely anticipated, may God continue to give us His perspective on our lives, our neighbors, and how it is we all fit together. Why not take a risk and invite someone to gather with us for worship! Who knows what God might do with a pandemic, a computer screen, and the Word.

God bless us all as we continue to re:imagine, Pastor Karla



GOOD NEWS!

We were fortunate enough to be approved for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan under the CARES act. This PPP loan is a forgivable loan for small businesses that may be used specifically for payroll, utilities, and rent due to loss of our preschool and rental income. Any unused or unforgivable funds will be returned without penalty. Being approved enables us to keep all of our hardworking preschool staff on payroll through the end of the school year. Praise God for this gift!

ADULT MINISTRY

Sunday Scripture Group We are meeting via Zoom studying Men@Work—The Men@Work are still meeting regularly on "Surprised by Hope" with N. T. Wright, former Bishop of Durham, Wednesday mornings at 8:30 am on Zoom. Em Cummins continues England. The May sessions will include: The Hope of Heaven, The to have a scripture lesson for us each week that we discuss and Hope of Jesus' Second Coming, The Hope of Salvation, The Hope of enjoy each others presence. You are welcome to join us if you the Church. Contact Bob Simoneau at grs55@cox.net for Zoom would care to learn. information. Contact: Don Griffith, don.griffith69@gmail.com. Monday Morning Men—Still meeting Monday mornings 7-8:30 am Wednesday Men's Bible Study 5pm, via Zoom. Fellowship and for virtual coffee via Zoom. study time. Currently studying the book of Isaiah. Contact: Jerry Heidt at gheidt@ghhco.com Contact: Evan Gratz, evan@pointlomachurch.org **Continuing The Conversation (CTC)** The next meeting is May 26 at Knitters— Not currently meeting. 7 pm via Zoom. We will continue our discussion of the impacts of Contact: Judy White, gmajudy@san.rr.com the COVID-19 by race and ethnicity. **Centering Prayer**—Thursday, we are still praying individually from Contact: Gordy Lutes, gklutes@gmail.com. our homes. Rachel Circle - Not currently meeting. Contact: Pastor Alex, alex@pointlomachurch.org Contact: Marge Grant, 619-296-2720. **MOPS Bible Study**—All MOPS events have moved online via Zoom. Women's Bible Study—Tuesday, 9 am, via Zoom. Women of all Contact: Sarah Butterfield, sarah@pointlomachurch.org ages and stages are welcome! We are currently studying the letter **Prayer Quilt Ministry**— We are quilting from home and sharing to the Colossians. May 19 is our last meeting. online. We also continue to make masks for those in need. Contact: Clara Blenis, clbenis@sdccd.edu Contact: Karen Vandenberg, ktvandenberg@aol.com.



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

Fun Ideas for Old Shows and New Classes

Do you subscribe to Cox Cable TV?

What are you watching these days?

I have discovered a channel that has some wholesome, feel-good programming. Here is the lineup:

METV on Channel 808 on Cox Cable:

The Waltons - Weekdays at Noon Bonanza - Weekdays at 2:00 pm I Love Lucy - Weekdays at 6:30 am

COZi TV on Channel 807 on Cox Cable:

Little House on the Prairie - Weekdays at 4pm & 5pm

Oasis San Diego, Lifelong Learning for Mature Adults now offers classes online, some of them are free! Some examples include:



- Pre-Socratic Philosophers: Scientists of the Ancient World
- 40th Anniversary: The Explosion of Mt St. Helens
- How Disneyland Imagineers Brought Animals and People to Life

Check out these class offering and more at https://san-diego.oasisnet.org

Exercise with Elke!

Hello Fitness Enthusiasts: How is your home exercise program going? Just in case you are running out of ideas, how about this balance exercise? Hold onto the backrest of a chair with your left hand. Stand with your feet apart, so that the space between them is the same width as your hips. Press both feet into the ground. Then transfer your weight to your left foot and slowly lift your right leg. Hold for 30 seconds. Slowly put your foot back on the ground, walk to the other side of the chair and do the same exercise with the other foot.

And how about this strength exercise, Stand the distance of an arm's length in front of a wall that doesn't have any windows, doors or decorations hanging on it. Lean forward slightly and put both palms flat on the wall at the height and width of your shoulders. Keep your feet planted and slowly bring your body forward towards the wall. Then gently push yourself back so that your arms are straight again. Go for 20. Keep moving until we meet again!!!



High School Small Group

All high school students are invited to join our high school small group as we go through NOOMA, a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus.

NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion.

We gather on Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:30 pm via Zoom. Email ro@pointlomachurch.org for information.



As of today, our youth Summer Camps—Campus by the Sea and Houseboats are still happening as scheduled. If you are a high school student interested in Houseboats, contact RO, you can still be placed on the waiting list. If we get enough people, we will get a second boat!

re:imagined—Prayer Quilt Ministry

NOOMA



In light of the call for face coverings, the Prayer Quilt Ministry added masks to the things we create. We have delivered more than 200 masks to the church for distribution and directly to members of our church community so far. In addition, our member, Susie Mueller, mustered a group of 5 women at Wesley Palms where she is a resident. They have made approximately 160 masks for distribution to residents. The Prayer Quilt Ministry supplied the fabric from our stash. If you want to join in on the fun, there are a number of different patterns on line and we can supply fabric. Some of us make them with ties and some with elastic. For additional information about supporting the mask making effort, please contact Lynn Spafford at redbrickprayerquilts@gmail.com. If you are in need of masks contact Evan at evan@pointlomachurch.org.

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

The Red Brick Preschool has been re: imagined in many new ways! We currently have one preschool class open for families who are essential workers. We anticipate opening a second classroom this month. We also have launched our Red Brick Virtual Preschool. Families can opt for one to five days per week for online group lessons and activities, as well as one-on-one learning sessions. Each week we have a waiting list for those wanting to get in! Our participating families seem to really be enjoying having this new way to learn. Our preschool director, Nicole Hage, delivers supplies to students' homes to make sure they have everything they need to participate in their virtual lessons. Additionally, "learning kits" are being created and sold to families for even more education and fun!



& TODDLER LEARNING CEN









BRICK MONDAYS

Junior High // Mondays 5-7 pm High School // Mondays 7-9 pm Via Zoom

BRICK THURSDAYS

High School // 7:30-8:30 pm Via Zoom

For the Zoom meeting links, or any other needs, email ro@pointlomachurch.org



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

The Children's Ministry has a brand new blog. We are sharing boredom busters, inspiring videos, activities and more! Check is out today by visiting pointlomachurch.org. Click on the Ministries tab, then scroll to Children.



<u>Journey</u>

Our 4th-5th grade Journey group is currently being re:imagined through Zoom.

Boys meet on Mondays at 7:00 pm. Girls meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Contact erin@pointlomachurch.org for more information.

Bible Memory Class - Preparing for Graduation

Our 2020 Bible Memory class (our largest ever!) has been working so hard to complete their course work in time for their graduation despite the fact that they are not able to meet as a group on



Sundays. Each student has been in contact with Judy Pritchett on a weekly basis and sending her videotaped messages with their memorized verses as they progress towards their goal. They are now in the process of choosing and videotaping their Life Verse which will be compiled into a larger video presentation and shared with the congregation on Sunday, May 10. Prayers for our hard working students are appreciated.

ALL ABOARD! VBS

While we are not certain what VBS will look this year, we will have more information in the following weeks, as we wait to hear from the state when regulations will be lifted, we are still busy moving forward building sets and getting prepared.



Zoom "Hang Time" on Wednesdays

Hey kids, Kinder—2nd Grade! We miss you and want to hang out with you on Wednesdays! There will be a Zoom meet-up each week so that we can hang out, hear a Bible story, pray and have fun connecting together. Each meeting time will last about 20-30 minutes. Parents are welcome to participate too. Zoom works on a phone, iPad, or computer. The link will be emailed to your parents or they can contact Ms. Karen at: karen@pointlomachurch.org for more information. Hosted by Ms. Karen with occasional "special guests"!

Meeting times: Kindergarten--1:00 pm 1st & 2nd grades--2:00 pm

Children and Youth Choirs

Cherub Choir Age 4 - Grade 1 Cherub Choir is still being re:imagined. Reach out to Alicia with any questions.



Joyful Praise Choir

Grades 2 - 6 Thursdays 5:00-6:00 pm Online via Zoom Contact Alicia at alicia@pointlomachurch.org for more information.

MOPS: Mothers of Preschoolers www.meetup.com/playgroup-754 Contact: sarah@pointlomachurch.org

MOPS has moved online! We are having Zoom meetings in the evenings, after the kiddos go to bed. This is a great time for new moms to join us if you haven't been able to meet with us in the mornings. We are also doing daily challenges and check-ins through our Facebook page. For all the details and the link to the private Facebook group, please reach out to sarah@pointlomachurch.org.

Tuesday May 5, 8 pm Nutritionist Lindsey Stenovec on feeding picky children.

Wednesday, May 20, Book Club for "*Tell Me Three Things*" by Julie Buxbaum.

E-mail sarah@pointlomachurch.org for Zoom details.

Helping Those in Need

Mission Beyond Committee members are in the process of reaching out to all of our mission partners to learn what is happening in their programs right now. They are all scrambling to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are hearing their struggles as well as successes in continuing to serve their clients while navigating the rapidly changing landscape surrounding COVID-19.

Loaves and Fishes is seeing an increased number of individuals and families that are hungry. With the blessing of a committed, resourceful program director and wonderful volunteers, they have re:imagined the program in order to continue serving



during this crisis. Although they are not able to serve food weekly, they have been able to adapt and distribute bagged food on Mondays to more than 200 people this week. That number is increasing each week. Despite the challenges of social distancing and food and supplies access difficulties, they continue to work very hard to feed the most vulnerable in our neighborhood. The program coordinator says "Change is still constant but things are getting easier and grace abounds." An Amazon "wishlist" is available to guide donors who want to assist with basic hygiene items that clients need. <u>https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3VDAG2G0IRFMS?</u> ref_=wl_share

UPLIFT Tutoring has shifted entirely to a virtual tutoring format with students currently enrolled with volunteer tutors for homework assistance. All of these students attend one of 4 of SDUSD's most vulnerable school populations (K-12).

New Day Urban Ministries continues to be closed due to COVID-19 until they are cleared to re-open.

Rancho Genesis orphanage prepared immediately when the pandemic first began. Greg Amstutz reports that they did 8 weeks of menu planning, making every effort to advance purchase food and supplies to provide for the initial weeks.

We continue to listen, support, and pray for our mission partners who are working so hard to change and adapt to the tremendous needs of their clients! We are also in process of assisting several of our mission partners in applying for Covid-19 grants through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Please pray they receive the funds.



New BOOK CLUB

Have more time for reading these days? Join our new virtual Book Club! We have 3 books to choose from. Participants are invited to read at your own pace. We'll have a Zoom meeting for each book at the end of the month. So, choose to read 1, 2 or all 3 if them if you'd like! And then keep an eye out for specific discussion dates for each book. Happy reading! Choose from the following books.



- 1. Through Painted Deserts Donald Miller
- 2. Fear Has a Name Creston Mapes
- 3. The Last Christian David Gregory

Contact Evan@pointlomachurch.org with any questions.

Summer Musical Theater Camp

Registration is open for our NEW Summer Musical Theater Camp! Campers will participate in acting, singing, choreography and specialty workshops. The day camp will run July 27-31 from 9:30 am-3:30 pm. The week will culminate with an amazing production of Oh Jonah! Visit pointlomachurch.org/register for more details.



contact:

Evan

for more

info

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 John Spafford, Clerk 619-985-4983, clerk@pointlomachurch.org Kathy Wright, Assistant Clerk 619-275-0335, kwright6@outlook.com

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Pam Werner Capital Campaign	619-955-8696	skiwerner@gmail.com
Stephanie Wylie Personnel	619-223-8240	skwylie@cox.net

Family Camp—Sept. 25-27 @ Camp Marston

Join your Church family for meaningful time together as we play, worship and engage in age-appropriate activities. Cost includes 5 meals, lodging, climbing tower, archery, Gaga, sports court, craft house, bonfires and much more.

Online registration is open on our website: pointlomachurch.org/register. Refundable deposit if requested by August 25.

Church Ministry Program and Support Staff 619-223-1633 OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 9 am to 5 pm Friday-9 am to 1 pm Rev. Karla Shaw, Senior Pastor karla@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 202 Rev. Alex Wirth. Associate Pastor alex@pointlomachurch.org-Ext. 205 Rev. Dr. Chris Lenocker, Parish Associate chris.lenocker@gmail.com-619-987-8433 Jolene Wade, Director of Operations & Church Life-Ext. 204 jolene@pointlomachurch.org Alicia McMillan, Director of Worship & Music-Ext. 208 Organist/Director of Children's Choirs alicia@pointlomachurch.org Bryan Verhoye, Music Associate & Pianist mravgguy@aol.com Evan Gratz, Director of Community Life evan@pointlomachurch.org-Ext. 211 Elaine Burrell, Director of Senior Adult Ministry elaine@pointlomachurch.org-Ext. 210 R. O. Smith, Director of Youth Ministry/Café Worship Leader ro@pointlomachurch.org-Ext. 216 Karen Connor, Director of Children's Ministry karen@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 215 Erin Shetter, Children's Ministry Assistant / Journey Leader erin@pointlomachurch.org-Ext. 212 Cynthia Hernandez, Child Care Coordinator cynthia@pointlomachurch.org Sarah Butterfield, MOPS Coordinator/ Youth Ministry Associate sarahbutterfield@gmail.com 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 Evelyn Lambino, Financial Secretary—Ext. 206 evelyn@pointlomachurch.org Joyce Pritchett Communications Coordinator communications@pointlomachurch.org-Ext. 209 Church Office / Front Desk-Ext. 201 frontdesk@pointlomachurch.org

Rancho Genesis Intergenerational Mission Trip July 12-18, 2020

Join us for our summer intergenerational mission trip to Rancho Genesis. The children who come to Rancho Genesis have been severely abused or are on the edge of survival due to poverty. We will continue to assist in building the new camp property and also spend time with the children. More information online at pointlomachurch.org/register. Join us for a special reading and Q&A with Rev. Brad Gustafson, former associate pastor here at PLCPC. We'll gather via Zoom on Saturday, May 9 from 9-10 am. Brad is reading from his newly published book *The Gift of Belonging*. According to the book's website, "Charitable community living is a tall order, and this is just a short book about small moments in one life. But its 52 stories confirm a compelling truth; that for human hearts in search of connection there are no small nor insignificant moments." Sign up to attend via Zoom by e-mailing Pastor Karla at karla@pointlomachurch.org.

THE GIFT OF BELONGING



YOUR STORIES FROM HOME!

Dear PLCPC Friends,

Martha and I want to express our gratitude for all the expressions of love, encouragement and support following the death of my father, Don Lenocker. The cards, emails, texts and phone calls have affirmed how important our faith

community is - especially in times



of grief and loss. It is a difficult time we are living in and especially for those who are unable, because of the pandemic, to be with their loved ones when they die. The facility where my mom and dad have lived for the past two years has been locked down for all non-essential visitors to keep the vulnerable population safe. Martha and I agree with the policy, even though it is difficult. My dad lived 94 wonderful years, 72 of those in marriage to my mom – what an amazing thing. We are so grateful to our faith family at PLCPC and the grace filled love that is always part of our life with you – again – Thank you!

> Shalom, Martha and Pastor Chris

