

Spire

February

2021

Vol. 30

No. 2

A Note from Pastor Karla...

"O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen."



Catholic priest, professor, and writer Henri Nouwen penned this short and simple prayer long before any of us ever conceived of a global pandemic. These words were spoken in normal times--in precedented times--prior to knowing the unprecedented. If you can remember, it wasn't that long ago that we lived in normalcy asking God for a different Lenten season. And we certainly got it. As in many ways, we have been in a different Lenten season for this entire year, far longer than the usual 40 days.

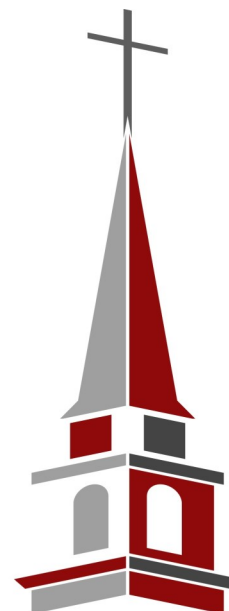
This pandemic has given us many months of being uprooted and in unusual silence. It has afforded us different rhythms and ways of viewing the world. But none of that matters unless this difference has helped us find God again. Has this year moved you closer to God's heart? To the suffering of Christ? To the joy of the resurrection? Is it possible to leave this Lent (as it will eventually come to an end) as different people? Or will we forget God and return this Easter to life as we used to know it?

I hope not. I pray not. This long Lent has been a gift for our relationship with God and may the lessons learned from it not be wasted.

At the church this year we are offering Lent bags to all interested adults to help you engage with our midweek online Lenten series. In addition to items in the bag which will be referred to each week during this series, there are also a few other items to help you set up a daily practice of remembrance in your home during this time--a candle as a reminder of Christ's presence, some soup recipes to help you simplify, and a devotional booklet to guide your daily walk with God. It is a good practice to set up a space in your home where you can meet with God this season. It doesn't have to be fancy, it could be a corner of the room or a chair you rarely use. It just needs to be set-apart.

"O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen."

May this simple prayer guide us all and may God respond favorably.



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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pointlomachurch.org

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LOOKING AHEAD

February 7:	Drive-In Worship
February 14:	Annual Meeting
February 17:	Drive-Thru Ashes
February 24:	Lenten Series via Zoom
March 3:	Lenten Series via Zoom
March 6:	Lent Quiet Day

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.



Annual Meeting February 14 @ 10:45 am via Zoom webinar

link will be sent prior to meeting and posted in public chat after the 9:45* online service

The Outdoor Cafe service will still meet at 9:45 am
The Red Brick Kids Worship will still begin online at 9:00 am

* Online Worship will begin at 9:45 am on Feb. 14.
There will be no 11:00 am online Worship.

Session Highlights - January 27, 2021

The first Session meeting of the year requires many organizational actions. The first was the Congregational Nominating Committee’s proposal of the Elders of Session’s committee assignments, and the approved assignments may be found, on the Session and staff information page in the *Spire*.

Session elected the following officers of the church, all continuing from last year:

Elder C Gresham Bayne	Chair of the Corporation
Elder Frank Polese	Vice-Chair
Inactive Elder John Leimbach	Treasurer
Inactive Elder Dianne Grafton	Assistant Treasurer
Inactive Elder John Spafford	Clerk
Inactive Elder Kathy Wright	Assistant Clerk

Session approved Pastor Karla’s appointment of the following Elders of Session to serve on the Executive Committee:

C Gresham Bayne	Chair
Frank Polese	Vice-Chair

Max Butterfield, Carolyn Verhoye, Chris Capen
 Also serving *ex-officio* on the Executive Committee:
 Rev. Karla Shaw, Treasurer John Leimbach and Clerk John Spafford

The Executive Committee meets when necessary to review policy issues and deal with emergent concerns on behalf of the Session.

Session elected Em Cummins, Sue Skala, Gresham Bayne and Session Representative Barbett Wood as Presbytery Commissioners, and approved the Service of the Lord’s Supper dates and congregational meetings for the year. Also approved were the slate of Church Endowment Fund Committee members.

The Session reviewed and approved the 2021 operating budget, which conservatively addresses operational changes due to the pandemic. The Session offered a prayer of thanksgiving for God’s continuing faithfulness as expressed in the generosity of the congregation.

Session dismissed with appreciation the Online Services Working Group, who had completed their task of foundational planning for this new ministry, and Pastor Karla assigned temporary oversight of the ministry to the Worship and the Arts Committee. The inception of this ministry, along with substantial changes in other church ministries and operations have led the Session to embark on reformation of its committee structure. Pastor Karla assigned Elders Max Butterfield and Susan Cramer of the Planning Committee to form the Session Restructuring Working Group and develop a process leading to a reformed Session. They will be joined by Elders Lynn Ziegenfuss, Rocky Springstead and John Brand, and others.

Submitted by John Spafford, Clerk

Deacons’ Lenten Food Drive

The Deacons’ annual Lenten Food Drive begins February 17 and runs through Easter Sunday, April 4. Donations of non-perishable food and personal hygiene items are being accepted to support the following PLCPC partners: New Day Urban Ministries (formerly PUM), Loaves & Fishes, OB Community Dinners and Military Outreach Ministries.



Donations may be brought to any on-campus Worship service or the church office. Monetary donations are also accepted, simply note Deacons Food Drive on the check memo line. For more information, contact Kathy Zorn or Eddie Dees at 619-224-2177.

Thank You and Farewell

Evelyn Lambino moved into retirement in 2021. We are grateful for her loyal service to our church over the last 33 years. She saw a lot of change and worked with several leaders, moving through multiple administrative and finance support roles, mostly recently as our Financial Secretary. We are grateful for her excellent record keeping as she leaves us with well-organized systems to work from.



Thank you Evelyn! Your bright smile and energetic bounce will be missed. We wish you all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

Lenten Quiet Day

All are invited to attend a quiet day retreat, *Living in God's Love*, on Saturday March 6 from 9 am – 3 pm. Designed to help you reflect, during the season of Lent, on the truth from Scripture that, "God is Love." The words are familiar and so inviting, but how do they ring true? Discover ways to move from *a hope* they are true to *a reality* in your relationship to God. This quiet day is open to men and women of all ages and stages. To register, visit pointlomachurch.org/register.

Feb. 7
10:00 am

Drive-In

WORSHIP SERVICE

Church parking lot by Library

Registration Required
pointlomachurch.org/register

ADULT MINISTRY

Sunday Scripture Group—Sundays at 10:45 am. Join us for *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.

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: Feb. 2 Bible Study, Feb. 9 Creating a Healthy Sexual Culture in Your Home, Feb. 16 Book Club, Feb. 23

Regular meeting: Topic TBA

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.*

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. All men are welcome! 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 and Friends Daily Message

619-223-1633 x214 Monday through Friday

Call in to hear a new message each day:

Monday – This Week in History

Tuesday – Devotional

Wednesday – Musings from Em Cummins' Bookshelf

Thursday – Medical Tips from Dr. Gresham Bayne

Friday – Humor



Friendly Helpers

Do you have a small outdoor project that needs to be taken care of? Some young men from the church may be able to help. Tasks are limited to outdoors only at this time; all safety measures will be observed.

Call Elaine, describe the task and she will coordinate the assistance for you.



Authors In Our Midst

It is a little known fact that several of our church members are also published authors. Are you one of them? If you or someone you know from church has published a book in the past 20 years, we want to know about it! We will compile the list and share it with the church community. Please call or send the following information to Elaine Burrell, elaine@pointlomachurch.org, 619-223-1633 Ext. 210:

Your Name

Title of your book

One sentence describing the topic of the book

Year Published

Brick Mondays Meets on Campus on the Outdoor Turf!*

Monday night gathering for fun, faith and fellowship.

Current teaching series includes:

6th Grade 5:30—6:30 pm

The Character of God (Examining the characteristics of God)

7-8 Grade 6:30— 7:30 pm

Going After God's Heart (A Study of David)

High School 7:30—9 pm

Jesus is _____. (Discuss what and who this man really was and is)

Each week we begin with games, followed by Bible study based on the above series, 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
on the Turf**

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

BRICK THURSDAYS

High School 7:30-9:00 pm
on the Turf

For more information, email
ro@pointlomachurch.org

Volunteers Needed for Junior High Program!

Do you know a female - young or seasoned - looking for some fulfilling and oh-so-necessary volunteer opportunities? We are in need of female adult volunteers for our junior high program. We are thrilled to offer in-person meetings for our youth in grades 6-8 as 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 junior high group meets on Monday evenings following all safety protocols including social distancing, masks and frequent handwashing. We are looking for female adults to help lead and guide these 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.



Our Youth met off campus and had a fantastic time on their annual Photo Scavenger Hunt around Liberty Station.

Bible Studies Led by Pastor Karla

Pastor Karla is continuing to lead two Bible Studies for women this winter:

Tuesday Women's Bible Study meets weekly via Zoom from 9:00-10:30 am. We are currently studying 1 and 2 Chronicles. Women of all ages and stages are welcome. Contact Clara Blenis (clblenis@sdccd.edu) for more information .

Mom's Small Group meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 6:45– 8 pm via Zoom for a study on the book of Isaiah. Email Pastor Karla (karla@pointlomachurch.org) for the Zoom details.

**Monthly
MOVIE CLUB**

February Movie:
The Greatest Showman

Join a Zoom discussion
February 28 @ 6pm
Sign-up: pointlomachurch.org/register

Join our Monthly Movie Club! All are welcome to watch *The Greatest Showman*. We'll gather February 28 at 6 pm via Zoom to discuss. Contact evan@pointlomachurch.org for more details.



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

Did you know that our Red Brick Kids Worship service is posted on our website each week in case you miss it on Sunday mornings? To watch it, visit our website—pointlomachurch.org. Click on the ministries tab, then scroll to Children and click on the Children's Ministry Blog link on the right side of the page.



Journey continues on Mondays 4-5:30 pm. 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.

Looking Forward in Children's Programming


In 2021 we are staying flexible for what God has in store for us. We pray that in due time we will be able to offer more in-person opportunities to gather our children together to hear God's word. Volunteers who have a heart for working with children will be welcomed back when they can safely do so. A few things on our horizon:

- **Journey Leader.** Children's Ministries is looking to re-hire a special person to lead our 4th & 5th grade mid-week program on Mondays.
- **Easter-in-a-Box.** Like our December project we will pack and distribute Easter themed boxes for families with children ages 3-11 to lead them through a meaningful Lenten season. Boxes are available for pick up during our Ash Wednesday drive-thru on February 17.
- **VBS Rocky Railway** the week of June 28-July 2. Volunteers and families should Save-the-Date for this amazing (possibly outdoor) program!

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meets every Tuesday at 7 pm over Zoom for support, encouragement, and advice from experts about how to be better parents, spouses, and friends. We would love for you to join us! Please contact Julia Roller at mops@pointlomachurch.org for more information.

February meetings include:

- Feb 2:** Bible Study
- Feb 9:** Creating a Healthy Sexual Culture in Home
- Feb 16:** Book Club
- Feb 23:** Regular meeting: Topic TBA



Hang Time in the Park—NEW! For Preschool – 1st Grade Students and Parents!

Families with children Preschool-1st grade are invited to join Children's Ministry staff at Liberty Station Park for six weeks during Lent to learn about Jesus in a casual outdoor setting. We'll gather from 3:45-4:30 pm for Bible stories, games, crafts and music on the following dates:

Feb. 24 March 3 March 10 March 17 March 24 March 31

Bring a blanket for your child to sit on. Parents must stay. Masks required. Please visit pointlomachurch.org/register to sign up. Questions? Email karen@pointlomachurch.org

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

Priority Preschool registration for Church members begins February 19. Registration can take place during regular office hours from 8:30-5:00. For more information, email Nicole at preschool@pointlomachurch.org or call 619-223-3327.



Midweek Lenten Series via Zoom

Lent is a time of preparation beginning with Ash Wednesday. It is the 40 days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter. It is a time to open our hearts a little wider in an attempt to understand our Lord a little deeper. It marks a tangible way for us to receive God's overflowing grace when Easter comes. We prepare for it, we reflect on it and we anticipate it so that when Easter Sunday arrives we are deeply reminded that it is not just another Sunday.

Each year, we offer a weekly Lenten series to help us all prepare for the joys of Easter. This year, you are invited to join us for *A Musical Journey through Lent*. Held on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm via Zoom, each week we will examine a particular song and how it connects to the Easter story.

Lenten Series Schedule

February 17 | 9-10 am, noon-1pm, and 6-7 pm

Ash Wednesday

Drive through the church parking lot for Ashes and to pick up a Lent @ Home kit, which will contain items to help guide you through the midweek Lenten series.

February 24 | 6 pm

Led by Evan Gratz, Director of Community Life

Song: *I Believe in You* by Bob Dylan

March 3 | 6pm

Led by RO Smith, Director of Youth Ministries and Café Worship Leader

Song: *Valjean/ Javert Soliloquies* from *Les Misérables*

March 10 | 6 pm

Led by Pastor Alex Wirth: Song— *Kyrie Eleison* ("Lord Have Mercy" in Greek)

March 17 | 6pm

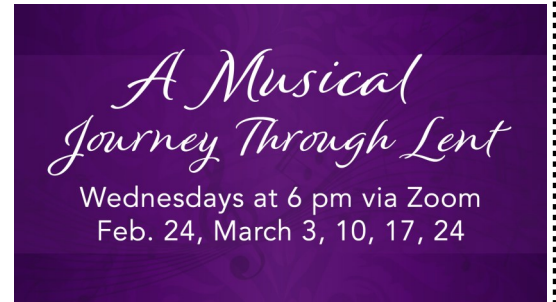
Led by Pastor Karla Shaw: Song— *Mothers of the Disappeared* by U2

March 24 | 6 pm

Led by Alicia McMillan, Director of Worship and Music: Song— *Seven Last Words* by Michael John Trotta.

Sign up to attend by visiting pointlomachurch.org/register.

The Zoom link will also be available on our website at pointlomachurch.org/lent-events



Thank you from the Deacons

A big THANK YOU from the Deacons for sending in New Year's cards for our active duty service members. It's important to remember that while many of us are staying home during this pandemic, our military service members are still out there doing their jobs. We are grateful that they are there to serve our country. PLCPC's cards were delivered to sailors aboard a Navy vessel deployed abroad and we pray they helped those service members feel connected to home over the holidays.

Debrief the Sermon Returns

February 21– Palm Sunday

All are invited to join a Zoom discussion after the 9:30 online worship service for a discussion on how to live out the weekly message. Email Lynn Ziegenfuss for more information lynnziggy@gmail.com.

You Made a Difference!

Thank you for supporting the San Diego Blood Mobile's January blood drive on campus! PLCPC boasts their largest donor turn out for that day!



In addition, 10 people donated for the first time. The blood bank collected 28 units for the Hospital. This will touch the lives of 84 people from just one day of giving.

February 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:

February 7

- The flowers are given to celebrate God's work in our church by Tom and Geri Nielsen.

February 14

- The flowers are given by Michelle Styles in loving memory of her parents Captain Fran and Major Michael J Styles USMC.
- The flowers are given in loving memory of Howard and Ruth Kirtland from Michael and Marie Huff.

February 21

- The flowers are given to honor the wonderful teachers at our church who put forth so much love and effort, by John and Charlie Littrell
- The flowers are given in loving memory of my dear Linda, by Fred Daugherty.

February 28

- The flowers are given in loving in memory of our parents, Ben and Peggy Woodward and John and Margaret Holman by Diana and John Holman.

Welcome New Members!



Benjamin Blevins is joining by Profession of Faith, requesting Baptism. As a child, he attended our church Preschool. Ben is a student at Grossmont College, and works as the Student Trustee on the Governing Board of the Grossmont—Cuyamaca Community College District. He also has a statewide position within student government. He loves to travel and is interested in politics. He has expressed interest in serving on the Facilities Committee. Church friends include the Olcott and Burchett families. benjaminblevins2@gmail.com



Janis Jones is joining by Certificate of Transfer from Mira Mesa Presbyterian Church. She has held many leadership roles at the Mira Mesa church and previously at the Northminster Presbyterian Church in Bakersfield. They include as Deacon, Elder, Clerk of Session, Worship Leader, Lay Reader, Stephen Ministry Leader, and VBS Teacher. She is involved in the Ladle Fellowship at 1st Pres. downtown, and enjoys ushering at area theaters. Among her interests are live theater, quilting, family activities, walking, reading and travel. jin47@mac.com

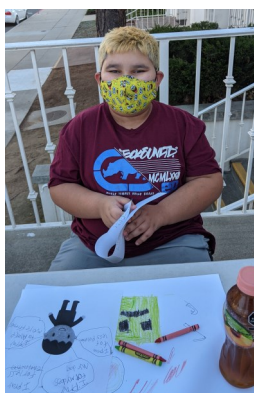


Dianne Schultz is joining by Profession of Faith, having previously been Baptized. She has two grown sons, one of whom is a Presbyterian Pastor in Peoria, IL. Dianne was a consultant in the corporate world before joining the Peace Corp where she served in Slovakia and then in Tonga. More recently she's been involved in the Insideout Prison Ministry and Ironman Ministry. She is currently serving the homeless and elderly in her neighborhood and Zooms with a Christian group called Mixed Nuts. Other interests include travel and sailing. dianne_schultz@hotmail.com

Winter Art and Drama and Movement Class

Thursday afternoons, the campus is bustling with children participating in Art and Drama and Movement class.

This on-campus offering provides a wonderful time for the children to come together in a creative way!



Ordination and Installation via Zoom

We continue to re:imagine and celebrate our adaptability. Last month we ordained and installed a new class of Elders and Deacons via Zoom! Welcome class of 2023 leadership! For the complete list of current elders and deacons visit our website: pointlomachurch.org/about/our-leadership



2020 Annual Reports

Last year was a year for re:imagining, re:focusing and re:centering ourselves on how to best live out of mission and vision here at Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church.

We are so grateful that you are continuing along on this journey with us.

Rev. Karla Shaw Senior Pastor

I have never been more challenged or more encouraged in ministry than I have this year.

When I was in the discernment process to become your Senior Pastor four years ago, the one phrase I heard repeatedly was “we are a community open to and in need of change and we need a leadership who can get us there.” Being at the helm of an 83-year-old organization, I have had my doubts about whether lasting change is really possible. This year proved though that we have the capability to pivot quickly and to follow God’s lead.

In the following pages you will read about the ways our church re:imagined this year in the face of an unprecedented pandemic, racial strife, and political disunity. I am amazed at who we have become, and the ways God is working in our midst. We always knew in our heads, but now we know in our hearts that the Church is not a building, but a people. It is a beautiful affirmation to face the testing of your faith and to come out on the other side, not only intact, but thriving.

Now let us celebrate the big picture perspective of what God has done in and through us!

1. **EXPERIENCE JESUS:** We moved our worship services online in the early part of March almost seamlessly. Within days, not years, we moved from being a San Diego community church to welcoming worshippers from all 50 states and dozens of countries. The church staff has now become adept at the ins and outs of production and the Session has boldly committed to a continued online presence post-pandemic.
2. **JOURNEY INTO DEEPER FAITH:** Our weekly online bible studies, small groups, and classes have grown during this time, as well as our in-person children and youth offerings. We had more than 150 people engage with a Bible 101 class through our podcast alone
3. **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH:** We exited 2020 with a balanced budget without laying off a single staff person. This enormous accomplishment was the result of a combination of your generosity, re:imagined efforts in our preschool, cutting expenses in our programs, and a terrific leadership that made wise decisions at the right time.
4. **TRANSFORM OUR WORLD:** Our mostly white church engaged in a time of deep learning regarding racial

injustice. We had more than 400 people participate in classes, book studies, and small groups on this topic. Following that, our Session made a bold move to draft a statement of solidarity and commitment to examine our practices. This is the first statement of such ever made by a Session in our entire history.

5. **LOVING EVERYONE TO LIFE WITH EVERYTHING WE HAVE:** We re:imagined our campus and its outdoor spaces to become a place for safe gatherings for those 18 and under. As schools continue in distance learning, our re:imagined ministries have become essential to the social and emotional needs of our children.

As you read through these pages, might you take a moment and be astounded at what God has done in us and through us! Behind each ministry, every dime gifted, and every person mentioned by name and/or number there is a community of people who have prayed, sacrificed, and gifted time to BE the church.

Thanks be to God for this unprecedented year!

Rev. Alex Wirth Associate Pastor

Even a global pandemic could not stop this congregation from caring for one another! I have heard so many wonderful stories this year about the ways this congregation keeps each other going. Caring is so ingrained in our DNA as a congregation. Here are a few highlights:

- Everyone on staff took part in caring for the people involved in their ministries by making calls, sending cards, praying, dropping off supplies and helping the pastors stay connected to those in need.
- Your pastors prayed with and cared for people in so many different places: chat boxes online, social distanced walks, through windows, in the parking lot, via email and text, at outdoor worship services, dressed in Elf costumes.
- Rev. Chris Lenocker, our Parish Associate, carried on a faithful and robust ministry of care and connection, helping to keep in touch with so many in the congregation.
- Your Session and Deacons organized to call everyone in the congregation as the pandemic worsened to stay connected during quarantine.
- Our Centering Prayer group moved online to continue their faithful practice.

- Your Deacons have always been hands on and so, led steadfastly by their Moderator Cara Thome, they re:imagined everything in 2020!
- The Deacons raised \$2100 for family camp scholarships at the pancake breakfast in February.
- The Deacons gave \$1000 to the Preschool as the COVID-19 crisis began and \$1500 to help start the kids drumming class.
- The Deacons collected \$4000 and a truckload of toys for the Military Outreach Ministry Christmas toy drive.
- The Deacons delivered flowers, meals, and lots of cards safely to help connect with folks in time of need or special occasion.
- The Deacons even took up their posts as greeters for the outdoor Cafe Service.
- A new class of Deacons committed to serve our community. They are already working to re:imagine how we care for one another even further.
- the 3 trees were removed from the center courtyard to create an additional outdoor gathering area, and overflow for the Sunday outdoor Café service
- we received another generous gift of sound and video equipment, plus printers and a few stationary bikes when John Brand alerted us to a 24 Hour Fitness closure.
- Internet cable was added to areas where wi-fi coverage was poor, in preparation for hybrid (in person and zoom) meetings, and live streaming of services
- Room 8 and the Youth Center were re:imagined as a learning center for staff children to attend virtual school with helpful supervision while their parents work on campus
- large sail shades, overhead lighting and outdoor heaters were added to the turf field

It is an example of PLCPC's deep faithfulness that there are truly too many people involved in caring for this congregation to thank by name here. So THANK YOU to all who have shared God's faithful love with their neighbor this year.

Jolene Wade

Director of Operations & Church Life

2020 was full of excitement, adventure and a whole new language.

It began with:

- updating our payroll periods and check stubs
- clearing out the rain gutters in the back half of campus
- mapping out a security system
- certifying all church staff in CPR
- welcoming the Steier Group as capitol campaign partners

By April

- we had 3 Zoom accounts
- the church office was closed and most of the staff were re:imagining church life from home
- webinars to unpack, interpret and implement new employee benefits and safety protocols were the priority, and PPE, CARES, FFCRA, EPSL, PUA, PPP and Social Distancing were hot topics.

And then,

- we secured a PPP loan in the second round
- we provided COVID-19 Protection and Prevention Training for staff and volunteers and posted required signage to allow us to re-open with modified operating procedures and safety protocols in place
- the Sanctuary parking lot was converted to a turf field, and a stage was added to conduct outdoor services, and other programs

In other church life

- the Chapel dossal cloth was carefully retired after sharing keepsake pieces with all who expressed interest in them
- gifted sound equipment was used to update the Family Life Center sound system

2021 will surely continue to offer opportunities for transforming our campus and lives to meet the needs of those we serve, near and far.

Alicia McMillan

Director of Worship and Music

Music Ministry has thrived in new ways in 2020 with the support of our strong staff team

Children's Music Ministry

- Adam Thompson was hired in the beginning of the year as the new Music and Children's Choir Assistant.
- Joyful Praise Choir moved to zoom rehearsals in March to continue work on the Spring Musical. The group performed the musical "Called" by Mark Burrows on our new outdoor turf area in July.
- A new Children's Arts and Music Program launched on Thursdays in September with 12 children in attendance and Adam leading drumming* class and Alicia, the drama *Drums gifted by the Deacons.
- The drumming and Drama class produced several videos for Sunday Services, as well as a Christmas Eve Drama.

New Covenant Choir and Ensemble

- New Covenant Choir and Ensemble combined forces and moved to zoom rehearsals in March.
- Singers recorded 4 fully integrated virtual choir worship anthems.
- A choral ensemble recorded online worship hymns and praise songs each week.
- Soloists prepared and recorded inspiring solos and duets for online worship.

- Ringers ReJOYce! met on campus every 2 weeks to rehearse in a socially distanced manner and recorded several anthems for online services and Christmas Eve services.

Worship Services

- Sunday worship moved online in the middle of March with Children's Service at 9 am., followed by two blended services at 9:30 and 11 am.
- In addition to Sunday morning online services, we produced 2 Christmas Eve services, a Blue Christmas Service, as well as online services for Maundy Thursday, and Carols and Lessons.
- We had a Pentecost drive-through celebration for the birthday of the Church
- We began a Sunday evening service in July—Inside Out Worship including a performance by Slap Jazz Danny before we had to shut down again.
- Cafe Service resumed in person in September on our wonderful new Turf area at 9:45 am on Sundays.
- Our First Drive-in Thanksgiving Service took place on November 22nd in our parking lot with 40+ cars in attendance.
- Christmas Eve Open House hosted more than 350 people with live music in the Sanctuary and live Nativity in the Plaza.

We are deeply grateful for all volunteers involved in the music and media ministries. Thank you for sharing your gifts by ministering to others and glorifying our Lord and Savior!

Evan Gratz **Director of Community Life**

As for all of our ministries at PLCPC this past year we had to get creative with our men! This meant no more in person meetings and our Men's Morning Coffee at Peet's also became virtual, but we not only maintained, we THRIVED this year as we saw more men get involved in our programs than in the years prior.

Monday Morning Men

Men's coffee moved online which afforded us the ability of having a different special guest join us every week. Our guest ranged from local ministry partners to professional athletes to pastors from all over the country and everything in between. In total, we heard from more than 25 different voices this past year with 12-18 men on these calls.

Journeyman

This is a group that was launched in late 2019 and was meeting bi-monthly on campus on Wednesday mornings until they moved online. This group takes real life topics for discussion of what Scriptures have to say about them.

Virtual Men's Retreat

We didn't let the disappointment of not being together physically deter us from having a GREAT Virtual Men's Retreat

on Friday, November 13. More than 30 men from all of our different men's groups met for an hour and a half of encouragement, story telling, a challenging message and discussion. A memorable take-away from this event was John Brand doing a "Martha Stewart-esq" pizza cooking demo from his backyard stone oven, which he later offered the men to put in their orders and swing by to pick up a pizza dinner!

Prayers, Pints & Patios

We held 3 Prayers, Pints and Patios events for our men this past year. Each one of them had roughly 20-25 guys attend. Under the zoom platform, guys got creative with their patios and environments as we had great fellowship and a round of fun trivia at each one.

Rooted

We had our 4th ROOTED group go through the 10-week experience this past summer. The group had 9 people and the feedback from our time together was overwhelmingly positive. To date, our ROOTED program at PLCPC has had 4 different sessions with more than 45 people in attendance.

Men @ Work

Our Men@Work Ministry happens with faithful men of PLCPC on Zoom, Wednesday mornings. Those men have taken on a few small projects, in spite of the COVID-19 isolation. We are still available around the church on an on-call basis. The group has 10-16 attendees weekly.

Elaine Burrell **Director of Senior Adult Ministry**

The first part of 2020 began as usual with robust and interesting senior activities that were enjoyed by our community, including the new Memory Friends group, AARP Driving Classes, Monthly luncheons with music and entertainment, exercise class, and Lunch & Learn workshops. After the disruption in March, my efforts were focused on reaching those who are not especially connected through the use of a computer. The goal was to minimize the feeling of isolation, offer resources to meet physical needs, and to strengthen our spiritual fortitude that we rely on to get us through these difficult months.

Reimagined Senior Ministry included:

- Monthly four-page newsletter
- Phone ministry
- Porch visits
- Errand-running
- Driveway music serenades
- Monthly care baskets
- Exercise DVD
- Daily Message Inspiration Line

We managed to have an outing to the Legacy Center during the month of October, which was well-attended, safe, and

interesting. Some ideas worked better than others, and some helped for a time, but all of it has been an ongoing effort of reimagining and loving our seniors to life with everything we have.

The highlight of the year for me was the completion and display of the exhibit, *Your Life is a Work of Art: A Celebration of People in their 80's and 90's*. This was a culmination of approximately 6 months of photographing 22 subjects and interviewing them for biographical essays, on display throughout the month of September outdoors on the church campus. God's timing of this exhibit could not have been better, as it highlighted our senior adults who are have been the least visible during this shut-down. I am presently working on the task of compiling this exhibit into a book for the church archives.

RO Smith

Director of Youth

Director of Youth Ministry & Café Worship Leader

Café Worship

After taking 5 months off due to COVID-19, the Café Service returned in September. We relocated to the turf area outside the Sanctuary. While many of our "regular attenders" have not transitioned back with us, we have found this to be a great opportunity to welcome new faces. Attendance each week ranges between 55-80 people.

Inside Out Worship

In mid-July, we launched an "Inside Out" service, which was an outdoor worship service on the turf that took place on a Sunday evening. For various reasons, the "Inside Out" Service" did not experience the success we were hoping it would, and it lasted two weeks before COVID regulations, ultimately, made it difficult to meet.

Podcast

The "Point Loma Community Church Podcast" continues to be an avenue of communication we are utilizing, but have yet to explore the true extent of its use. We post the Sunday morning sermons on the podcast, as well as occasional special presentations (i.e. Bible 101, Racism and the African American Experience). We've had good traction on the special presentations.

YOUTH

BRICK Youth continues to discover what it means to love others to life with everything we have. Here are some of the highlights from 2020, and projected highlights we look forward to:

CAMP EXPERIENCES

Before the pandemic hit and most camp experiences were cancelled, we did have the joy of attending Forest Home Winter Camp in January 2020. Instead of having separate JH and HS Camp experiences, we decided to do a "JH/HS Combo"

weekend. We took 16 students and 2 leaders to Forest Home and had an unbelievable time!! Little did we know that would be the last experience of 2020, but it was amazing!!

CONFIRMATION

We re:imagined Confirmation during the months of April through June in 2020. Like everything else, we moved it to Zoom. We had 9 dedicated students participate in 8 Zoom classes with various teachers, as well as meeting with adult mentors virtually. At the end, 8 students were confirmed. We hope to give the students a retreat experience in the future, as well as celebrate their commitment in person with a Confirmation Luncheon among supportive family and friends

Brick Mondays

From March to August, through the beauty of technology, we were still able to meet as a group on Mondays and Thursdays. While attendance was lower, the students that did attend were able to connect with one another in a new and fresh way, which allowed them to enhance their in-person experience.

We were able to begin in-person gatherings on September 16. Due to the lack of social opportunities for students, we saw an increase in the amount of students attending this Fall. For Junior High, we our average weekly attendance was 18 (with 43 distinct students). High School saw an average attendance of 19 (with 49 distinct students).

Weekly Small Groups

High School Small Group continues to meet on Thursday nights. From March to August, we continued to gather on Zoom. This Fall when we were able to gather in-person, we moved from meeting in houses to meeting at the church on the turf area. We continued to see a slight increase in average attendance (8) this past year with 26 distinct students who attended throughout the year. Junior high small group has not yet resumed.

Personnel Changes

Over the summer we said farewell to our Youth Ministry associate, Sarah Butterfield as she enrolled in graduate school and began homeschooling her two young boys. We welcomed Christian Moore to the role.

Karen Connor

Director of Children's Ministry

2020 was a full, if unexpected, year for Children's Ministries. Before the pandemic hit, we were able to enjoy a few months of regular programming including a fun weekend for (12) 4th & 5th graders at Forest Home Winter Camp. In March we wasted no time in reimagining how to connect with the children of our community. Here are the highlights of 2020:

- **Red Brick Kids On-line Worship** was created in March. A children's video message and worship music are shown weekly on Sundays at 9 am.
- **Journey** for 4th & 5th graders was shifted to Zoom for the end of the school year. Up to 10 students connected

weekly for games and a message.

- **Hang Time** on Zoom was created for kids ages 4 years-3rd grade. 4-5 children logged in on Wednesdays to talk, play games, and learn about Jesus.
- **Bible Memory Class** - (12) 3rd & 4th grade students graduated in the spring and were recorded sharing their Life Verse during Sunday on-line worship. Their Bibles were presented to them at their homes in the fall.
- **Children's Ministry Blog** was created as a resource to share videos and other relevant content with families.
- **VBS Express** replaced our traditional on-campus week of camp. Held in August the "live" message and original music viewed by families at home was followed by a lively parade through Point Loma neighborhoods celebrating a message of hope to just under (100) children. A huge success!
- **Cafe Service** bags. As the Cafe service resumed on Sundays in our new turf area, we provided weekly goody bags for all children attending with their parents.

Fall Programs approved to be held on campus:

- Journey Faith & Fitness - We welcomed 14 4th & 5th graders for an active time every Monday on our outdoor turf area as we safely connected in person giving them a chance to move their bodies and deepen their faith.
- Robotics - An average of 8-10 4th-8th graders met weekly to code robots with Lego Mindstorm EV3 software. Although no regular competitions were held during the fall, the kids still enjoyed learning and camaraderie within the guidelines of First Lego League.
- Bible Memory - Eight 3rd-6th grade students began their journey of learning about the Bible once a month on Sundays supplemented by weekly activity packets mailed to their home.
- MOPS—Our MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) program moved to Zoom this year, meeting every Tuesday evening in the fall to check in, support each other, and learn about parenting, marriage, and life from expert speakers and each other. Regular meetings alternated with Bible study, as we studied women of the Bible, and Book Club. We fostered one-on-one connections with regular breakout rooms of two moms each.
- **Children's Center** space was gained in September. The approx. 840 sq ft room, formerly Presbytery office space, was spruced up with a fresh look for our Bible Memory class and Kids Cafe service when it resumes sometime in 2021.
- **Back to School** gift bags were delivered to the doorsteps of many of our children who were not able to participate in our in-person program offerings due to COVID-19.
- **Trunk or Treat** Halloween event was executed successfully

in the parking lot and library lawn. An estimated 200 people from our church and preschool as well as neighbors attended this fun evening.

- **Christmas Movie Night** on our outdoor turf was held in December to celebrate the holidays in a safe way. Families brought their own chairs & blankets to enjoy a double feature of *The Grinch* and *Elf*.
- **Christmas in a Box** project yielded 65 boxes of fun and meaningful Advent related activities delivered to the doorsteps of our children around San Diego. The overwhelming response from families was one of joy and appreciation.
- **Personnel changes.** In July we said goodbye to our Children's Ministry Assistant and Journey Leader, Erin Shetter, as she and her family moved to the east coast. Terri Antti began as a part-time/temporary CM Assistant in the fall to help launch programs and keep the creative "re:imagining" momentum going until our ministry is more predictable. We also said goodbye to our long time (and much adored) MOPS Coordinator Sarah Butterfield and welcomed church member, author, and mother of three, Julia Roller, to fill her role.
- **Volunteers.** Although volunteers in our ministry have been kept to a minimum due to the pandemic a special mention goes out to John Spafford, Sara Spafford Freese, Ed Lynds, Rebecca Matsch, Jill Curtiss, and Judy Pritchett for their incredible time and talent during an unusual year. We are so grateful for their service!

Nicole Hage Preschool & TLC Director

Red Brick Preschool

This year has had its challenges and certainly forced us to think outside the box. While we were still in preschool January – mid March we had

- a total of 160 students in 8 classrooms
- A blood drive to help an alumni with Leukemia
- St. Jude Trike a thon

We closed our doors on March 13 due to COVID-19 and were able to open back up on April 6 for essential workers

- A total of 30 students in 3 classrooms

Since our in-person offerings were limited, we developed a virtual learning program which ran April 13 – June 5

- 26 kids on group lessons 3 times a day in addition to 1:1 learning opportunities
- 156 deliveries of supplies to use during lessons

At-home learning kits were also developed to allow for more opportunities at home

- 8 different learning kits developed
- 70 learning kits sold
- 43 different home deliveries

Summer camps opened from June 29 – Aug 21

- 48 students attended in 3 classrooms

Our enrollment for Fall 2020 was like a roller coaster. We had 98 families decide not to enroll due to Covid-19. Thankfully these spots were quickly filled by new families. New regulations forced us to go from 15 children in a classroom to no more than 12 children. We also had to restructure our staff to keep all children and staff in consistent groups that never mingle.

- Enrollment is 126 children in 8 classrooms

The new turf area has served as a playground and gathering place for our monthly chapel time. The children are loving it!

We have re:imagined how we do some of our activities and they have been working out wonderfully. Trunk or Treat was a huge success, and we were able to give our families a safe alternative to the traditional trick or treating. Our annual Poinsettia fundraiser was amazing, and we raised more than \$3,000 to help us purchase a new playground structure that will be installed in 2021. Our Christmas program was recorded class by class and edited together and shared with the families instead of our normal in-person gathering. Our generous families donated again to our gifts to the manger for M.O.M.

Endowment Committee

Steve Smith

It was a rollercoaster year for investments in 2020, and that was the case for the Endowment. Although we have not received the final accounting for 2020 from the Presbyterian Foundation, the estimated value of the Endowment at the end of the year is \$2 million.

The Endowment exists to provide financial support for the church “in perpetuity.” It does this by receiving and investing gifts and bequests from members and friends of PLCPC. Under the terms of the Endowment, the principal of the Endowment can never be spent or encumbered. Rather, the principal is preserved and invested. Only the income from those investments is available to spend.

As the pandemic unfolded, some financial pieces of the church were unpredictable. Therefore, the Endowment, at the request of the Session, sought to use its funds to backstop the financing of essential adjustments necessary because of COVID—notably the restructuring of the outdoor areas for worship.

Anyone seeking additional information, or wishing to make a gift to the Endowment, may contact Jolene Wade (jolene@pointlomachurch.org or 619-223-1633 x204), or Steve Smith (ssmith@cwsl.edu or 619-602-5950).

Long Range Planning

Max Butterfield

Using policy and advocacy initiatives, the Long Range Planning Committee focused on increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion at PLCPC. We believe that fulfilling Christ's call for justice, peace, mercy, love, and hope for everyone is essential for the vitality and long-term health of our community. Our work in 2020 focused on empowering other Session committees to answer the call in their own ways, and we look to build on these initiatives in 2021.

Mission Beyond

Rita Solberg

2020 has been a year of tremendous challenge for all of our PLCPC Mission Partners, whether local, regional or international. The Mission Beyond Committee has listened and connected with our partners through the year, making every effort to understand and respond to the major adjustments they have needed to make in order to continue serving our brothers and sisters in need. We are deeply grateful to all the members of PLCPC who have supported and enabled our generous mission grant allocations this year.

A few of the ways in which PLCPC has partnered with our mission partners in 2020:

- An Alternative Giving (printed and online) Guide provided opportunities for donations to any of our mission partners during Advent and Christmas;
- In February and March, participated in the Interfaith Shelter Network with 2-week shelter at PLCPC; 8-12 guests were housed each night for two weeks; many church members and volunteers participated in preparing and serving meals, as well as helping with onsite support and set-up.
- Reimagined the traditional Alternative Christmas Faire to a “Gifts of the Heart” Faire as an opportunity to purchase community artisan items during the All-Congregation luncheon following the Annual Meeting in February; 25% of each purchase was donated directly to one of our Mission Partners.

This year's grant requests again far exceeded our budgeted revenues. We were able to allocate a total of \$80,563.33 with our operating budget, supplemented by mission reserve funds. The grant allocations included:

Local and regional partners:

- Feed the hungry
- Provide a Christmas toy drive, food, household goods and counseling to young military families
- Tutor school children
- Help homeless transitioning into housing
- Serve seniors
- Help those in need obtain CA IDs, counseling and social services
- Support and care for medically fragile orphans

- Provide food ministry, VBS, tutoring, medical services, evangelism to orphans and migrant families

International partners:

- Teach agronomy skills, economic tools and spiritual renewal to rural poor in developing countries
- Train pastors in Iran and keep fellowship for Iranians living outside of Iran
- Provide medical care and Christian schools in Haiti
- Share the love of Christ and educate Syrian mothers and children in Lebanon
- Support special needs children and our missionaries in Mexico

Adult Ministry

Beth Zedaker

- In 2020, Adult Ministries began with a successful Women’s Retreat at Singing Hills Resort with Rev. Megan Cochran as our speaker.
- A very special celebration of Winterfest was enjoyed by many on February 16th with refreshments, activities, a snow globe photo booth, a movie and snow machine. Approximately 175 attending the Ash Wednesday dinner on February 26th.
- In March, our midweek Lenten series was interrupted by the pandemic and we began to give discernment to future events as no “in person” gatherings were allowed. All bible studies, small groups, and adult education opportunities (with many new offerings) moved online where they have remained since serving hundreds of people each week—most local, but some from outside the area.
- Our Spiritual Formation team offered “De-Briefing the Sermon” on numerous Sunday mornings after the conclusion of the on-line service. Several attended each week and enjoyed fellowship and comfort in gathering together.
- In the fall, two of our adult groups were invited back to campus due to the nature of their gathering, the Prayer Quilt Ministry and the Red Brick Knitters. The Prayer Quilt Ministry has continued to bless our community and those beyond with prayer and also turned to making masks for those in need. Our Red Brick Knitters continue to knit blankets for orphans.
- A contemplative “Quiet Day” was offered during Advent. Those attending gathered at the church campus with Covid 19 protocols in place.
- Although the traditional Camp Marston Family Camp was cancelled in the fall, a new venue offering safe Covid 19 guidelines was found possible at Thousand Pines camp in Crestline. Thirteen families attended October 16th – 18th and the weekend was a great success.

Although the year presented many challenges to us, it also reminded us how important it is when we are able to gather together, whether it be meeting in person or on Zoom. It’s

been an honor and blessing to chair Adult Ministries for these past six years.

Clerk of Session Report

John Spafford

Total Active Membership on Dec. 31, 2019 960

Gains in Membership During 2020:

Profession/Reaffirmation of Faith	18
Certificate of Transfer	8
Total Gains	26

Losses in Membership during 2020:

Certificate of Transfer	2
Death	10
Deaths from previous years reported	8
Deletions	4
Total Losses	24

Total Active Membership on Dec. 31, 2020 962

Baptism in 2019:

Adult/Youth	0
Infant/Child	6
Total Baptisms	6

In Memoriam

Members whose deaths occurred in 2020

Joanne Sikes Albrecht	October 13, 2020
Dona Dee Ball Decker	March 24, 2020
Thomas B. Grady	January 8, 2020
Alan Baker Holmes	March 8, 2020
Darlene Johnson	June 14, 2020
Julia Hearst Stradling	May 6, 2020
Frances DeVos Styles	December 15, 2020
Charles Van Bassen	June 8, 2020
John Peterson Ward	January 11, 2020
Katherine Baker Wright	October 29, 2020
Howard Wygle	October 13, 2020

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

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Mike Long <i>Youth Ministry*</i>	254-640-0451	mikelong22@gmail.com
Frank Polese <i>Finance</i>	619-843-1282	fpolese@oasismaterials.com
Rita Solberg <i>Mission Beyond*</i>	619-222-2841	ritasolberg@cox.net
Barbett Wood* <i>Children's Ministry/ Preschool*, Presbytery Commissioner</i>	619-226-1644	makoakani@gmail.com
Elder Class of 2022	Phone	E-mail
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Lynn Ziegenfuss <i>Adult Ministry</i>	619-573-3372	lynnziggy@gmail.com

Church Ministry Program and Support Staff 619-223-1633

OFFICE HOURS

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Rev. Alex Wirth, Associate Pastor
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Rev. Dr. Chris Lenocker, Parish Associate
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Live Events

Deaths:

- We send our deepest condolences to the family of Fran Styles, who passed away on December 15, 2020.
- We send our deepest condolences to the family of Kermeen "Punky" Fristrom, who passed away on January 3, 2021.

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

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GET YOUR ASHES HERE
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Drive - Thru
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17
9-10am noon-1pm 6-7pm

pointlomachurch.org

Join us on Ash Wednesday, February 17 for a drive-through event to kick-off the Lenten Season. We'll have three pick-up times for ash distribution as well as to pick up a Lent @ Home bag containing items to help guide us through our weekly Lenten Series (see page 6 for details).



Our Children's Ministry will also be on-hand on February 17 with Easter-in-a-Box kits to guide our children through the Lenten season (see page 5 for details).



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 86% 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.