

Spire

DECEMBER
2017
Vol. 26
No. 10



A Note from Pastor Karla

The Advent season looms a dark purple on the liturgical church calendar. In church tradition this means that Advent is similar to our season of Lent. We have all participated in the silence of Lent, the repentance, the heaviness, the journey into suffering that led to the glorious day of resurrection. It is difficult to imagine this is what God wants for this season as well, as we anticipate the birth of Christ...or is it?

For Western Christians like us, the resurrection is central to our theology--in Christ's death and rebirth we find new life. It is the hinge of our faith. For Eastern Christians, they find that same hope, that same hinge, in the birth of Christ. As hope is found in the miracle of the Messiah taking on human flesh in the first place when he knew he was destined to die. That moves Advent a little closer to Lent. They are both seasons of anticipation and of preparation. They are also both seasons that change the world's axis. They are both central to our faith.

Unfortunately, due to the tide of the world's movement and our own desire to move quickly through repentance, Christmas has moved from one day to an entire month of celebration and, as a result, we lose some of the profundity of Jesus' birth-day. On Sunday mornings during advent we will be *Unpacking God's Presence* --the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love. (Continued on Page 2)

A Concert for the Community

The Joy of Christmas

December 3, 5:00 & 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve

10 am: Carols in the Chapel
4 pm: Children's Musical
7 pm: Classic Service
9 pm: Communion Service

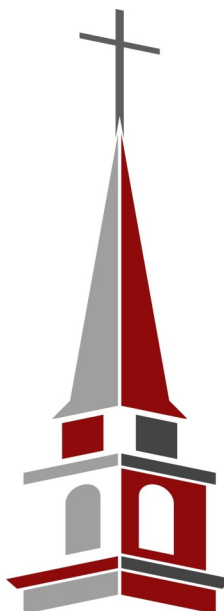
Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church

Sunday Classic Worship
8:30 and 10:45 am
Sanctuary

Café Service
9:45 am
Chapel

Rev. Karla Shaw
Senior Pastor

www.pointlomachurch.org
2128 Chatsworth Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92107



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LOOKING AHEAD

Dec 3	Christmas Concert, 5&7pm
Dec 3	MOM's Toy Store
Dec 10	Red Brick Christmas
Dec 17	Parent Shopping Day
Dec 20	Blue Christmas Service
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Services 10am, 4pm, 7pm & 9pm
Dec 31	New Year's Eve Service
Dec 31	Celebration for Don Brenneman
Jan 14	Discover Community
Jan 21	Discover Community
Jan 21	Deacon Pancake Breakfast
Jan 26-28	Women's Retreat
Jan 26-28	Forest Home Camp
Feb 24	Interfaith Shelter Begins



**Celebrating Don Brenneman's 29 Years with PLCPC
Sunday, December 31st at 11:00 a.m.**

Our church is hosting an event to celebrate Don's faithfulness and commitment to our church family as he looks forward to retirement after nearly three decades.

Please join us for a light brunch in the Family Life Center immediately following our morning worship service. We look forward to a time of singing, reminiscing, and a little bit of crazy teasing for our very own Don.

Please RSVP by December 24th in one of three ways:

1. Beginning on Sunday, December 3rd, stop by the sign-up table on the church plaza after the 8:30 a.m. worship service.
2. Call the church office (619-223-1633) any time.
3. RSVP online at pointlomachurch.org/register

Finally, we plan to give Don and SueAnn a "Love Offering" from all of us as we bid them a fond and loving farewell. Checks should be made out to PLCPC designated for Don Brenneman. We'll present this farewell gift to him at the celebration.

**New Year's Eve Day
One Service at 10:00 a.m.
Sanctuary**



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Each Christmas our Sanctuary is decorated with poinsettias, greens and candles to enhance the Advent season. You are invited to share in providing these

decorations. To participate, complete the form in the weekly insert or place a check in the offering. The deadline to have names of those remembered listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin is Monday, December 11.

A Note from Pastor Karla Continued

I hope we as a community are able to move beyond the surface of these gifts and dive deeper into their true meanings, and at the same time be able to imagine a world without them, as that is a world without Christ, a sad prospect indeed.

So, as you start to hang the holly, put up brightly colored ornaments, and wrap gifts for those you love, try to remember not to celebrate too early. Create some space to be in the stillness of the season, to sit in the heaviness of a world without a Savior. Remember what it was like to be the characters in the Christmas story who didn't know the greatest event to ever happen was about to occur. Invite God into the fear and the hope, so that you might *Unpack God's Presence* in a new way this year.

Blessings,
Pastor Karla

**Session Meeting Highlights
November 15, 2017**

Session welcomed new elders Gresham Bayne, Sr., Douglas Buser, Rebecca Cress, Susie LaDow, Sam Przywitowski, and Rob Wood. They each delivered their statement of faith, after which their election was confirmed by unanimous vote. They will take office after being ordained/installed during worship services on January 7, 2018.

Stewardship chair Joel Miller announced that we have achieved 80% of our goal of \$1,000,000 for pledge income for 2018. There was discussion about how best to reach out to those who pledged in the past, but have not yet pledged for 2018.

Rev. Shaw announced that there will be a welcome dinner for Session and staff on January 5, 2018.

Kathy Wright said that our Minister Information Form has been submitted to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry for their approval. That is expected to take place on November 28, after which recruitment for a new Associate Pastor for pastoral care will commence.

Steve Smith said that planning for the 2018 church operating budget was on schedule, with priorities being set this month. A preliminary budget will be presented to Session in December, and a final budget presented for a Session vote of approval in January.

Paul Diller
Clerk of Session



**Blue Christmas: A Service of Remembrance
December 20, Noon, Chapel**

The holidays can be a difficult time for those who have lost a loved one. We invite you to gather with others to remember and celebrate the life of family and friends that you have lost the past few years.



TOY STORE FOR SAN DIEGO MILITARY OUTREACH MISSION

Saturday, December 2—FLC

Our church's long standing support of the San Diego Military Outreach Ministry will again be highlighted as we host the Toy Store on Saturday, December 2, 2017. Unwrapped toys

and also funds will be collected on the Plaza during the Sundays leading up to the Toy Store, or your gifts may be left with the church office at any time. Men-At-Work will again be focusing on Bikes and Helmets with Wednesday, November 29 scheduled for day of bicycle assembly. Volunteers to help with Toy Store set-up on Friday, December 1 and to assist and escort the service member families on Saturday, December 2 are welcomed.

This Christmas Spirit event provides a real boost to the families of the men and women serving our country and it is continuing example of the work of our Mission Committee.

To volunteer or if you have gift questions, please contact Ed Lynds at 619-223- 1472 or elynds@cox.net.



ANGEL TREE OUTREACH

Every year, thousands of churches participate in Angel Tree Outreach bringing the joy of Christmas and sharing the Good News of God's love to families with an incarcerated parent. Each child receives a toy and clothing gift. Our congregation selects tags from the tree, purchase, and wrap the gifts. One of our Deacons, Suzanne Moss, will be on the plaza Nov 26th with the tags. Once the gifts are purchased, please return to the church office. Thank you for your continued support of this worthwhile mission!

ADULT MINISTRY

Sunday Scripture Group—9:45 am, Parlor. Back by popular demand, is Dr. Ken Bailey's *"A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus."* This very illuminating four-part series will enhance your Christmas meditations and bring fresh answers to a myriad of "Birth Story" questions. Starting Nov.26th, it will run thru Dec 17. Contact: Bob Simoneau, grs55@cox.net

Continuing the Conversation— 2nd Mondays at 7pm, Parlor. Participants will share experiences, ask questions and develop friendships. Our goal is a racism-free society through transformed hearts and minds. Contact: Gordy Lutes, gklutes@gmail.com

Rachel Circle—3rd Mondays at 9:30 am in the Library. Our next meeting is on December 18. All are welcome. Contact: Marge Grant, (619) 296-2720.

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study—9 am, Parlor. Pastor Karla will lead us with a study of the Book of Acts. Contact: Clara Blenis, (619) 223-5950

Men@Work—Wednesdays at 8:30 am in the Library. Following coffee, study, and camaraderie, we'll take on fix-it projects around campus. Em Cummins will lead our study. Contact: Don Griffith, don-pete@cox.net

Wednesday Moms' Bible Study—9:15-10:30 am, in the Parlor. Pastor Karla leads this study group.

Wednesday Men's Bible Study—5 pm in the Parlor. Calling all men to join us for study, discussion, fellowship, and prayer. Bill Creasey's videos guide our discussion. Contact: gheidt@ghhco.com

Wednesday Refresh—7-8:30 pm on 1st and 3rd Weds. Home of Bob & Ginny Edwards, 2125 Locust St., 92106. We're reviewing galley proofs of Marc Shaw's *Wanderer's Way*. Contact: jamesgrisolia@gmail.com.

The Bridge—For singles, couples, 20s to 40s. Contact: Julia Roller, juliaroller@yahoo.com



Karen Connor, Director (619) 223-1633 x215 karen@pointlomachurch.org



Sunday School at 8:30 & 9:45 am

Come and learn God's Word!

Age 4 -Kindergarten—Room 2

Grades 1-3—Room 8

Grades 4-6—Room 6

Childcare—ages 6 mo.-Age 3— Nursery
(across from Parlor)



Bible Memory Course

Join students grade 3 & up in a special Sunday School class for the 2017-2018 school year. 9:45 am in Classroom 5.

Sept-Dec: Bible Overview

Jan-May: Scripture Memorization &

Application. Those completing the work will be awarded a personalized Bible on May 13.

Route 56 on Mondays

5 to 7 pm, Youth Center

Dinner included (\$5 donation)

Friends are **always** welcome!



Dec 3 (Sunday) -

Serve the seniors at their annual Christmas Dinner from 2-4:30 p.m.

Dec 4—Christmas Clue (regular meeting)

Dec 10 (Sunday) - Red Brick Christmas

Kid's Club on Thursdays

4-5:00pm: Grade 2-6

5-5:45 pm: Age 4-Grade 1

Family Life Center



Children and Youth Choirs

Cherub Choir

Age 4—Grade 1

Thursdays 4:00-4:50 in the choir room

Joyful Praise Choir

Grades 2-6

Thursdays 5:00-6:00 in the choir room

Brick Singers - Grades 7-12

Sundays 12:00-1:30p.m. with snack

For more information contact Alicia at

Aliciaorganist@gmail.com



Christmas Eve Children's Musical at 4:00pm



Forest Home Winter Camp for 4th-6th graders.

Jan 26-28, 2018.

Register **NOW** to reserve a spot!

Please email Karen for an on-line

registration activation code.

\$195 registration fee includes 2 nights lodging, 6 meals, activities and transportation. Scholarship applications available upon request.

Spots are limited.



MOPS: Mothers of Preschoolers

December 2: Mom's Night Out, Soda & Swine, 7:30pm

December 12: Favorite Things Christmas Party, Church Library, 9:30 am

Info: www.meetup.com/playgroup-754

Contact: sarahbutterfield@gmail.com



**Parent Shopping Day
December 17, 3-7 pm**

Christmas is fast approaching and shopping days are limited. What better way to get your Christmas shopping done than without your little ones in tow?! Drop your children off at the Red Brick Church from 3-7pm on Sunday, December 17. We have fun activities planned, outside play, a movie, snacks and pizza is included. Reserve your spot at: pointlomachurch.org/register



BRICK MIDWEEK

Junior High // Thursdays 5-7pm
High School // Thursdays 7-9 pm

BRICK ON SUNDAYS

Junior High // Sundays, 9:45 am
Start in Café service
High School // Sundays, 5pm
Smith Family Casa

**NO BRICK Thursday Nights on
December 21, 28, & January 4!**



**Forest Home Winter Camp
January 26-28. Sign up at
pointlomachurch.org/register**

BRICK Thursday Night on Ice

December 14th from 6-8pm at Liberty Station Ice Rink

Open to all 7th-12th grade students.

Cost of the event has not been determined yet. For questions, contact Jewel Lacy-Holmes at jewel@pointlomachurch.org.



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 \$1,000. We will be using this money to buy a table at the Autism Tree Project Foundation (ATPF) luncheon. This will benefit thousands of preschool children around San Diego county get free speech and language screenings. ATPF started these screenings right here at the Red Brick!

Registration for 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. We will be mailing out registration information letters in January. We are excited to let you know that we are considering a full day option for next fall.

DECEMBER SENIOR ADULT EVENTS



Ten Reasons You Don't Want to Go to the ER and the Alternative **Wednesday, December 20, 12-1:30pm in the Family Life Center**

Learn about the rapidly growing physician house-call movement and the benefits of receiving care in the privacy of your own home.

Presented by C. Gresham Bayne, MD, church elder, emergency room physician and leader in the policy and practice of medical care in the home setting. Bring a sack lunch and your questions.

RED BRICK SENIOR CENTER

Join us every Tuesday for lunch and entertainment in a friendly environment.

Coffee & snacks at 10 a.m., Entertainment at 11 a.m., Lunch at Noon. \$8

12/5 CAROLYN JAYNES – UPLIFTING OLDIES

Birthday Celebrations

Split pea soup with ham & swiss, fruit cup & dessert

12/12 DEAN RATZMAN – SMOOTH JAZZ STANDARDS

Tuna croquettes with yogurt-dill sauce, rice pilaf, vegetables & dessert

12/19 THE MIKE KRAUSE BAND – SWINGING DANCE BAND

Pre-K Singers & Blood Pressure Check

Beef bourguignon on egg noodles, vegetables & festive dessert

12/26— CLOSED—MERRY CHRISTMAS!

1/2—CLOSED—HAPPY NEW YEAR!

See you on January 9, 2018

SENIOR CENTER CHRISTMAS DINNER

Join us for a traditional Christmas dinner in the Family Life Center before the concert in the sanctuary. \$10/person for dinner.

A free-will donation will be taken at the concert.

FOREVER FIT
SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS
In partnership with the YMCA
Every Wednesday
at 9AM
Family Life Center
FREE!

SESSION & STAFF

THE SESSION OF PLCPC

*Denotes Chair

Rev. Karla Shaw, Senior Pastor (619) 223-1633 Ext 202

Paul Diller, Clerk (619) 373-0060; pdiller50@gmail.com

Kathy Wright, Assistant Clerk, (619) 275-0335; kwright6@outlook.com

Elder Class of 2017	Phone	E-Mail
Larry Blenis <i>Youth Ministry, Presbytery Commissioner</i>	619-223-5950	larryblenis@netscape.net
Debbie Fountain <i>Personnel*</i>	619-226-7718	pfountain@cox.net
Allen Hobbs <i>Worship & Music*</i>	619-701-0485	allenmhobbs@msn.com
Bruce Kunkel <i>Building & Grounds*</i>	619-564-4282 619-849-2571	bkunkel@pointloma.edu
Mark Olcott <i>Mission Beyond*</i>	619-795-0102	olcott@cox.net
Bob Simoneau <i>Evangelism & Church Growth*</i>	619-223-6248	grs55@cox.net
Ryan Spradling <i>Men's Ministry*</i>	619-518-7580	ryan.spradling@cushwake.com
Kathy Wright <i>Nominating*</i>	619-275-0335	kwright6@outlook.com
Beth Zedaker <i>Adult Ministry*</i>	619-602-6910	bethzedaker@gmail.com
Elder Class of 2018	Phone	E-Mail
Greg Cuddeback <i>Family Ministry*</i>	858-274-9213	greg.cuddeback@yahoo.com
Jerry Heidt <i>Building & Grounds</i>	619-523-0866	gheidt@ghhco.com
Sam Laub <i>Mission Beyond, Endowment</i>	408-313-4233	selaub@aol.com
Joel Miller <i>Stewardship*</i>	619-370-8633	sdrejoel@gmail.com
John Morrison <i>Youth Ministry*</i>	619-972-3925	mail4jdm@gmail.com
Steve Smith <i>Finance & Budget*</i>	619-602-5950	ssmith@cwsf.edu
Barbett Wood <i>Preschool*</i>	619-226-1644	makoakani@gmail.com
Elder Class of 2019	Phone	E-mail
Dave Baker <i>Family Ministry</i>	619-224-0437	dbakerta@yahoo.com
Linda Daugherty <i>Worship & Music</i>	619-224-8955	frelin19@cox.net
Mary Harker <i>Nominating</i>	619-222-0827	harkerme24@cox.net
Dwight Kellogg <i>Personnel</i>	914-262-1618	dwightkellogg@mac.com
Catherine Rodriguez <i>Children's Ministry</i>	619-379-2459	cpfr@att.net
Dave Simmons <i>Building & Grounds</i>	619-749-6551 619-954-9526	davesimmons@cox.net

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

Ann Simoneau, Administrative Assistant—Ext. 203

ann@pointlomachurch.org

Donald L. Brenneman

Minister of Music/Business Administrator—Ext. 211

don@pointlomachurch.org

Evelyn Lambino, Financial Secretary—Ext. 206

evelyn@pointlomachurch.org

Melissa Mullins, Communications Coordinator—Ext. 204

melissa@pointlomachurch.org

Bob Giesick, Director of Media Ministry

thegiesicks@cox.net

R. O. Smith, Director of Youth Ministry/Café Worship Leader

ro@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 216

Michael Lombrano, Associate of Youth Ministries

michael@pointlomachurch.org

Jewel Lacy-Holmes, Youth Ministries Admin Assistant

jewel@pointlomachurch.org

Elaine Burrell, Director of Senior Adult Ministry

elaine@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 210

Nicole Hage, Preschool and TLC Director

preschool@pointlomachurch.org (619) 223-3327

Karen Connor, Director of Children's Ministry

karen@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 215

Cynthia Hernandez, Child Care Coordinator/

Children's Ministry Assistant—Ext. 212

cynthia@pointlomachurch.org

Sarah Butterfield, MOPS Coordinator—Ext. 212

sarahbutterfield@gmail.com

Bryan Verhoye, Pianist/Music Associate

mravgguy@aol.com

Alicia McMillan, Organist/

Director of Children's Choirs

aliciaorganist@gmail.com

Church Office / Front Desk—Ext. 201

frontdesk@pointlomachurch.org



RED BRICK CHRISTMAS

FESTIVE FAMILY FUN

DECEMBER 10, 2-4PM
Family Life Center

- ★ SANTA
- ★ CAROLERS
- ★ CRAFTS
- ★ GINGERBREAD HOUSES
- ★ COOKIES
- ★ HOT CHOCOLATE



Thank you to everyone who has made their 2018 pledge!
As of November 20, we are 81% to of one million dollar goal.

If you still would like to make your 2018 pledge, there are a few ways that you can do that:

1. Fill out the Online Pledge Card at pointlomachurch.org/give/stewardship-2018/
2. Mail your pledge card in the envelope provided to you
3. Drop your pledge card off at the church office or in the offering basket on Sunday

If you would like to set-up recurring giving using a credit/debit card or an ACH transfer, go to pointlomachurch.org/give

ENDOWMENT

As year end approaches, it is appropriate to mention the opportunity to establish endowments, as well as to contribute to existing endowments of PLCPC. An endowment gift before year end to PLCPC may have tax benefits for the giver.

An endowment is a portfolio of assets resulting from gifts that are kept intact by PLCPC with only the income generated being used for specified missions, ministries or operations of PLCPC as directed. An endowment represents the gift of a portion of personal funds to be used perpetually in keeping the light of Christ alive in the world, and is an asset given in trust to PLCPC for permanent management.

Just as we find opportunity to make thoughtful, purposeful gifts from monthly income, we can also give from our accumulated assets to endow PLCPC. Such giving for endowments may take, for example, the form of money or property, life insurance policies, bequests in a last will and testament, or a revocable trust. An endowment gift may be made at any time and can be made in honor or memory of an individual or as part of an estate plan. Endowment funds strengthen PLCPC, so that it may continue to empower its activities, and such gifts make a lasting contribution to the life of PLCPC. — Sam Laub