

THE LIGHTHOUSE

Christian Church
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
Pacific Grove

November 2020

**THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
OF PACIFIC GROVE**

*A Spiritual Sanctuary
for the Thinking Christian*

**442 Central Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
Phone: (831) 372-0363**

Daniel Wm. Paul, Mdiv. Pastor

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Sunday Schedule

Worship Service 11:00 AM

Fellowship after Worship

Donate



**PGCC: A
Beacon of
hope, faith,
love and Peace.**

In essentials, unity.

In non-essentials, liberty.

In all things, charity.

Notes from the Lion's Den
Gratitude



*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in
Christ Jesus for you.*

– 1st Thessalonians 5:18

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,
-- Ephesians 1:16

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to
God the Father through him.*

– Colossians 3:17

Give thanks to the LORD, for the Lord is good, for the Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

--- Psalm 136:1

*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be
thankful.*

--- Colossians 3:15

I love how our elders, just prior to collecting the weekly offering, tell us about something about our church for which they are thankful. And then, when the offering is collected, they offer up a prayer of thanks for your generosity and the thanks for the possibilities of our shared ministry. Gratitude and thanksgiving are worshipful ways of being.

It might be easy to forget to take time each day to give thanks in these days of staying in place. For the losses some of us have endured, and the difficulties and the daily inconveniences due to the current pandemic might divert us from “counting our blessings” and giving thanks to God for the tender mercies we are given.

In this month that the United States places a special holiday just for giving thanks to God, it might be a good month for us to intentionally set aside part of our devotional time each day to rediscover and remind ourselves of an “attitude of gratitude”.

And as Paul wrote to the Ephesians, I write to you. I do not cease to give thanks for you! And I do remember you in my prayers.

May the creative way that you celebrate Thanksgiving this year bring you joy and the deep spirituality that comes from authentic gratitude.

Dwell in peace, my friends. Serve the Lord!
Pastor Dan



Board Splinters October 20, 2020 Meeting

- **Recurring Virtual Events:**

Friday Discussions with Guest Speakers, 6:00PM on Zoom; Sunday YouTube Service; Sunday Zoom Coffee Hour at noon hosted by Keith Brown.

- **Book Club hosted by Janet Billets:** A suggestion was shared for our next meeting: Scott Billets will be asked to lead the group as they share favorite verses from the book

of Psalms.

- **Deacons want to be of service:** Deacons are sending out encouraging note cards to our congregation. Thank you, Deacons!
- **Virtual Talents Auction:** Update information. Mike Dremel is interested in helping. We need volunteers.
- **Elder Outreach:** Elders met on Oct. 1. The next meeting is set for November 12.
- **Potluck/Dinners: Donation for next I-HELP Dinner on October 29 .** Mike Dremel, contact. A monetary donation will be made rather than purchase and preparation of food.
- **Church directory updates and newsletter distribution.** Nanette will be asked to include new contact information for our congregants in our monthly newsletters, hard copies only. She provides hard copies of the newsletter upon request.

Next Meeting: November 17, 2020

Thanksgiving Offering

November 15 & 22, 2020

The Thanksgiving Offering supports Disciples colleges, universities and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post-secondary and theological education. This offering provides a direct connection to 15 colleges and universities, 7 seminaries and theological programs. Gifts from this offering continue the Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the Church.

You can donate to the Thanksgiving offering directly at

<https://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/thanksgiving/>

You may also donate to CCPG on our website and designate your donation under “other” or mail a donation to CCPG and designate your donation on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your support at this trying time.

Annual Congregational Meeting News

- On November 1 there will be a virtual Q&A during the Sunday coffee hour.
- If you are a member of the church your ballot needs to be received by November 16, 2020.

Do You Ever Wonder How to Pray?

Have you ever wondered exactly how to be in communion with God through prayer. Have you ever been engaged in prayer and wondered if you were “doing it right”? If your answer to either or both of these questions is yes, you are certainly not the only one experiencing these thoughts.

Prayer is a personal form of communication with the divine. No matter how you perceive God, prayer is an attempt to connect with that which transcends our understanding. It is entirely reasonable to question whether that attempt is working! Since God is beyond our comprehension, how can we know if we are being heard or if we are hearing God’s responses?

The answer is that prayer is an act of Faith! And Faith is the belief in things not seen. But people of Faith throughout the ages and in our very own congregation have related stories of feeling, hearing, and seeing the divine in their lives. Sometimes while in the act of prayer, we are fortunate to have the sense we are hearing and are being heard by God. So how?

Again I say, prayer is an act of Faith! And Faith, like a craft, the law, or medicine is something human beings **practice** rather than perfect. There is no one right or wrong way to pray. But there are some wise guidelines from scripture that may help:

Jesus often removed himself from the presence of others in order to pray in quiet and in solitude. Don’t be confused; prayer can happen absolutely anywhere! I have even whispered the words, “Lord, give me strength”, at the ceiling tiles in a classroom of thirty 5th graders. However, since prayer is a personal attempt to connect with God, what might be helpful is to find whatever quiet you can, whether external or internal. **Turn your thoughts inward rather than outward.**

The book of Matthew, Chapter 6, verses 5 through 15 tell us to be private rather than public, to speak meaningfully rather than with empty platitudes, and to pray briefly rather than to hear your own voice. This doesn’t exclude corporate prayer in the presence of fellow believers. **We are simply asked to be honest with God when we are in prayer.**

If you aren't certain what to say or your emotions are so overwhelming that you cannot speak, it's reasonable to remain silent and allow God to see into your heart. We are talking about God, after all. God called us into being and numbered the hairs upon our heads before we were even born. God already knows what your cares are and exactly what you need. **It's OK to say, "God, I open myself to you", and then just remain softened, quiet, and open.**

There are also a multitude of printed and digital resources to help us form prayers. Monthly or quarterly, pocket-sized, daily devotional booklets like The Upper Room and Our Daily Bread are readily accessible and have guided daily prayers and reflections. There are literally hundreds if not thousands of prayer and devotional books, journals, calendars, and diaries that incorporate daily readings or meditations for an entire year of prayer. The Chalice Hymnal also has dozens of prayers for all seasons and concerns. Our church's library, in the Jones Fellowship Hall, has a number of books published on prayer. Please browse those shelves. There are countless digital resources. It may be wise to consider the source.

I LEAVE YOU WITH ONE OF MY FAVORITE QUOTES FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN: "I HAVE BEEN DRIVEN MANY TIMES UPON MY KNEES BY THE OVERWHELMING CONVICTION THAT I HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO. MY OWN WISDOM AND THAT OF ALL ABOUT ME SEEMED INSUFFICIENT FOR THAT DAY."

I hope you will all continue to pray without ceasing. God be with you!

Yours in Prayer,
Pinkie Weesner
Elder Chair

The Little Church on the Corner

By

Lois E. Rockefeller – May 2014

This is my 40th year in this house across the street from the Christian Church of Pacific Grove, the little church on the corner. I've looked at it all these years, but never felt an interest in venturing inside. Since I joined this Disciples of Christ Church one year ago this month, I've wondered how we could make it more inviting to outsiders.

Today, I've been asking myself what makes us want to go to church in the first place. I've been going to church most of my life and it's not because I went with my family except perhaps for the first time or two.

My family moved from a Bronx 3rd floor apartment to a roomy two story house in Queens, Long Island during the summer of 1941 when I was seven. My older sister was eight and our coddled, younger sister would be four that September.

Once again it was a majority Roman Catholic neighborhood and my parents were Protestant. Soon after we were well settled in our new home, my mother took us to the Elmhurst Baptist Church on a corner across from St Bartholomew's, Catholic Church, which covered a block and was attended by most of our neighbors.

Ours was an American Baptist congregation. The outside of this old building was made of large river stones probably from the local area when first settled around the time of the American Revolution. Inside the church area on the right wall was a huge, maybe 1930's, painting of Jesus' spirit standing behind, lovingly surrounding everybody with his arms and hands; there were all kinds of people, workers, nurses, elderly, infants, everybody. Engraved on the dark wood table in front of the stage was "Do this in remembrance of me". I was instructed by these images through my nineteenth year when I went away to a Lutheran college in Ohio.

Also holding me to my church was the meaningful message of the hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus". I needed a friend and I turned to Jesus as my friend. You see, soon after taking us to this church, my mother had a misunderstanding with someone there and she left church. She and my dad came when my older sister, Hulda, and I were baptized in the baptismal pool behind the stage when we were 11 and 12. Sometimes my parents came to church on Easter. My dad would always cry during the service. Church really struck at his emotions whereas mom always had the stiff upper chest reaction. Hulda stopped coming after our baptism. So after that I would traipse along the dirt road, hopping over sticks and rocks, singing hymns beside the railroad tracks, going to church on my own. At other times, later on, I would walk over a stone bridge to Aunt Margaret's house or meet her on the way and we would walk to church together.

After I left home and traveled about, I would look for a comfortable church to attend and this is how I learned that all churches are not truly welcoming to me. When I married and had my three children, I took them faithfully to the Burlingame Methodist Church in Burlingame, CA from the time of my marriage, through the births of Merilee, Nancy and Ken until Kenny was 2 1/2 years old. At that time we had to move to where my job was in Vallejo, CA. We moved again in 2 years to

Marysville, CA. I tried a few different churches during those years, but we did not have a church home until we moved to Pacific Grove, CA for my job in Carmel, CA, the summer of 1974.

That's when I joined the Pacific Grove Methodist Church where I remained a member for ten years. Then I transferred to St. Mary's by the Sea Episcopal Church. During those early years I visited many different churches on the Peninsula and as far out as the popular church on highway 68. I got to know Rev. Barlow in the Monterey Presbyterian Church when I did liturgical dancing with several others there. I taught an adult class on dancing in the bible in Carmel Presbyterian Church. I spent some time with the Seventh Day Adventists, a very pleasant group and pastor. I visited both Baptist Churches in this area, not welcoming to me. I was at the Bethlehem Lutheran and the Congregational Church on Carmel Valley Road. I visited the Pacific Grove Presbyterian Church where my main observation was that the seats were very hard and uncomfortable. I went to a baptism and other services at St. Angela's Catholic Church, I danced at a Church in Seaside and went with a friend to a Jewish service in Monterey, very warm and welcoming. A friend also took me to services at the Religious Science Church which was on Pacific Street at that time.

I used to visit St. Mary's now and then, the church closest to my home, except for the little church on the corner. Fr. Dwight Edwards at St Mary's became our friend soon after we moved here. By the end of 1983, I had to go on disability. I felt the need to go to church closer to home and I started going to St. Mary's regularly. I attended several bible study classes over the following years. Ken even recalls coming to some classes with me where he learned surprising things about the bible. All of us, as a family became involved in St. Mary's activities. Ken often helped move furniture for the Antique Show and Sale and Dwight knew he could count on Ken. Merilee felt most comfortable with the Episcopal ritual which was new to us. Her boys trained to be part of the service. For years we have attended Dwight's Thanksgiving dinners at the church. And Fr. Dwight Edwards' sermons were wonderful; explanatory in understandable words, to help bring bible messages into our lives afresh. We loved being part of St Mary's until Dwight had to retire.

The new leadership at St. Mary's was very different and we were strangers to each other. At this same time I underwent at least four major surgeries, becoming more disabled. Dwight was having health problems also during this period. I fell away from regular church attendance, though not from my faith.

Ken was away from home for a couple of years around 2010, but we kept in touch with letters. He began to reconnect with his Christian upbringing while away. When he looked around him, he saw that Christians seemed to be the happiest people. Ken returned home and contacted Dwight about finding a church where he would learn more about the bible and not just be preached to. Somehow, Dwight knew Pastor Dan Paul and he took Ken to the little white church on the corner. Seeing Fr. Edwards in the pew with Ken really surprised Pastor Dan. And look at this, with Ken pushing me in a wheelchair, I'm here too. Most churches are real blessings to society. I'm thankful for all of them and I believe we would bless more people and younger ones if they knew this church was open to support them and bless them. Everybody needs a friend in Jesus. How come you're here?

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Noon Coffee Hour <u>Q&A for proposed budget & officer slate</u> Craig & Barbara Bigelow Anniversary	2 Frances Weesner Birthday	3	4	5 Gayle Albee Birthday	6 Barbara Bigelow Birthday 6:00 We Call Ourselves Disciples Discussion	7
8 Noon Coffee Hour	9 Kathleen Kennedy Birthday	10 Ethan McClusky, Conrad Newberry & Ken Rockefeller Birthday	11 Reuben & Magali Negron Anniversary	12 Floyd & Elaine Vlau Anniversary	13 Anita Flanigan and Sarah Ragent Birthday 6:00 We Call Ourselves Disciples Discussion	14 Michael Garnett & Jennifer Grode Anniversary
15 Noon Coffee Hour	16 <u>Ballots Due</u>	17	18 Sean Dremel Birthday	19	20 Stephanie Bacheller & John Bardos Birthday 6:00 We Call Ourselves Disciples Discussion	21
22 Noon Coffee Hour	23	24	25	26 Patrick & Anita Flanigan Anniversary	27 6:00 We Call Ourselves Disciples Discussion	28
29 Noon Coffee Hour	30					

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF PACIFIC GROVE

442 CENTRAL AVE
PACIFIC GROVE, CA 92950



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Church Administration

Moderator – Lori Robinson
Vice Moderator – Nancy Bingaman
Board Secretary/Clerk – Linda Nichols
Financial Secretary – Perci Paulsell
Chief Financial Officer - Steve Brydon
Chair of Trustees - Ken Rockefeller
Chair of Elders – Frances Weesner
Chair of Deacons – Janet Billets

Church Staff

Pastor - Dan Paul
Minister of Music– Heidi Toy
Organist- John Shykun
Choir Director – Pam Brydon
Administrative Assistant- Nanette Murphy
Nursery Attendants- Larisa Sutter, Sat Jiwain Khalsa