

From Martha

We have made it to November, which, this year, feels like a real accomplishment! Personally, I am grateful for the ways this community continues to work: sending notes to each other, joining up on Zoom, going for walks when possible, praying for each other and “gathering” for worship, in all the ways we can. During this month, we will be like Big Box Stores in October: already focused on Christmas! In this issue of The Messenger, please read about all that we will be doing for **Advent**—all of our preparations are happening very early, including working on our **Advent Book, decorations, ordering poinsettias and worship.**

We won't miss **Thanksgiving** entirely. Usually, we ask for donations to make baskets for families in need at Thanksgiving. This year, you can still donate, but because it is not possible for us to do baskets, we will give gift cards instead. You can send donations of any amount to the church office. Along with your gift, let us know what you are thankful for! We will work with our friends at Interfaith Outreach Association to find families who could use a gift card this holiday season. And we will share your words of gratitude in a **Litany of Gratitude on Sunday, Nov. 22nd.**



Lastly, we apologize for the inconvenience of having to change our email addresses again. Hopefully, this change will be one that both lasts a long time and provides us the added security we have needed to ensure that all of our digital communications are done safely. In your contacts, please make this change in your emails:

Martha Kears: marthakearse@peaklandbc.org

Nicole Zulauf: pbcoffice@peaklandbc.org

Susan Allen: pbcfinance@peaklandbc.org

We will make this as smooth a transition as we can! Thank you to the Finance Team and the Facilities Team for working with us to find solutions to our computer security issues.

Spiritual Formations Team Report

Advent Book—Submit your writings, poems, pictures, recipes, craft ideas—whatever you would like to contribute to our Advent book on the theme “Light Out of Darkness”

Poinsettias—You can order a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one; this year, we also offer the option of honoring your loved one with a donation which would ordinarily go for a poinsettia, but this year will go to help the children of clients of Miriam’s House during the holiday season.

Decorations—We will begin decorating our sanctuary for Advent in mid-November, as we will be filming our pre-recorded worship services after November 15th. We will be decorating our campus, and will have an interactive display by the sidewalk in front of the parsonage on Peakland Place so that our neighbors can share with us their Hope, Peace, Joy and Love this season!

Toy Drive—We will again be partnering with Jericho church for the annual toy drive. Watch for an email with further details.

Worship— Each Sunday’s worship will be pre-recorded in an effort to allow more of our community to be involved. In order to read scripture, offer prayers, share music or lead in other elements of worship (such as candle lighting or decorating), **anyone interested can schedule a time to pre-record their element alone in the sanctuary with absolutely no contact. Call the church office to schedule your time, Tuesdays or Thursdays from 1-3pm, beginning November 17th. We need: Candle lighters, Litany Readers, Scripture Readers, Decoration Placers and Prayers**

State of our 2020 Finances

As we have concluded the third quarter of 2020, the Finance Team is reporting to our congregation the financial results for the 9 months ended September 30, 2020 as compared to last year for the same period and our third quarter budget:

	<u>Sept 2019</u>	<u>Sept 2020 Budget</u>	<u>Sept 2020 Actual</u>
Contributions, and other	\$230,198	\$185,415	\$189,619
Expenses	\$197,042	\$232,590	\$196,388
Operating (Loss) Income	\$ 33,156	\$(47,175)	\$(6,769)
Market Increase-Investments	\$111,769	\$0	\$46,949

Despite services primarily being online during the COVID 19 crisis, we are close to our budget for contributions through nine months of the year. It is important to note that many have accelerated their pledge payments this year. We are hopeful that all will complete their pledges in this critical time.

Our expenses are below budget because we have not yet paid any of our insurance (it’s not due until December), and have deferred most capital projects. However, we have funded all of our regular missions (as well as used some special funds to augment our giving to local missions) and kept all employees. We are hopeful that we will end the year within our budget, ***but it appears that we will have a significant loss for 2020.***

The market value of our investments decreased significantly during the first quarter, but have recovered plus some (at least for now). As you know, we do not consider this spendable cash as we know it is our long-term savings and can be very volatile. Our cash and investments total \$1,250,000 with \$960,000 in unrestricted funds.

Our congregation has remained faithful to the church and we are truly grateful! With continued uncertainty ahead, it is imperative that we all continue to remember the church, with our participation, offerings, and prayer. Additionally, it is critical that as we work through our budget process, everyone return their 2021 pledge card so that we can plan for next year.

As always, if you would like more information, you may obtain detailed financial statements from the church office or contact me with questions.

Amy Ray, Treasurer

Use the following link to donate online: <https://www.peaklandbaptistchurch.org/online-giving/>

Please remember to return your pledge cards as well, by November 15th!



Congregational Hybrid Meeting—December 6th at 5pm

At this vital meeting we will:

Vote on a budget for 2021

Vote on our slate of leaders for 2021

Decide on important issues for the coming year, including questions like:

- **What are our financial options if we need them and how will we decide which ones to use?**
- **What is our strategy for our employees in 2021?**
- **How will we continue to support each other in the coming months?**

YOU ARE NEEDED AT THIS MEETING! You can join:

In-Person—Groups will meet in the Fellowship Hall and in the McNeely Room

Via Zoom—Monitors will be set up in both rooms so we can all talk

Through Zoom on the Phone

You will receive a print ballot in the mail the week before this meeting which will contain the proposed budget and leadership slate. You can:

- **Bring the ballot by the church office**
- **Mail it to the church office**
- **Turn your ballot in at the meeting**

Your participation in this meeting is vital and we hope everyone will plan to be with us that day!

PBC Budget and Leadership

What does leadership at PBC look like in 2021? We are trying to think that through right now. It is understandable that many in our community feel overwhelmed by the realities of the world right now. As well as having restrictions on gathering and mobility within the community, there are the added tasks that have come with doing our jobs and school and other regular elements of life inside of a pandemic. Our priorities are, always:

Worship and Spiritual Formation—providing our community with grounded, creative and lovely ways to connect with God and grow in our faith;

Pastoral Care—looking out for each other's needs to the best of our ability;

Facility and Financial Stewardship—using what we have been given carefully and responsibly;

Mission Actions—sharing what we have with the larger community.

As a Baptist church, we have to make decisions about those things together. Many are not controversial—like paying the water bill—and they just need to happen. Others, like setting financial priorities or decisions about employees if our circumstances change, need the input of a Team so that those who have been asked to make those decisions are able to make them and the rest of us see a transparent system that we have all agreed to carry out.

Our Congregational Council meets on November 15th to discuss ideas for 2021. We look forward to the Congregational meeting on December 6th to present our ideas to you!

November Worship Calendar

1—All Saint's Day/Communion—Sermon: *Relentless Optimism*

8—Special Music: Christi Salisbury—Sermon: *Excellent Pedagogy*

15—Sermon: *Welcome and Protection*

22—Gratitude Sunday—Sermon: *Generosity of Spirit*

29—First Sunday of Advent —HOPE--*Light Out of Darkness*

Engaging in Worship at Peakland Baptist Church is happening right now in the following ways:

- Online access to worship through Facebook Live, our website, and emailed copies of sermons;
- Sending worship resources and sermons by email and mail to those who do not have internet access;
- Offering space for those who wish to worship in person, with face masks and social distancing on Sunday mornings.

Each Sunday's worship will be pre-recorded in an effort to allow more of our community to be involved. In order to read scripture, offer prayers, share music or lead in other elements of worship (such as candle lighting or decorating), **anyone interested can schedule a time to pre-record their element alone in the sanctuary with absolutely no contact. Call the church office to schedule your time, beginning November 15th.**

Nov. 29—Hope

Dec. 6—Peace

Dec. 13—Joy (Gaudete Sunday)

Dec. 20—Love—Moravian Love Feast outside with hot cider and gingerbread

Dec. 24—Pre-recorded service is live at 5pm; in-person element at 5pm with Candles and Carols

Birthdays

4	Norman Moon
4	Parks Snead
5	Adrian Herr
9	Tom Willman
10	Mary Ann Vinson
11	Harry Cook
12	Elizabeth Taylor
13	Gwynn Ramsey
14	Judy Adams
14	Thomas Cook
15	Leslie Willman
15	Diane Russell
17	Vicki Mays
19	Lucy Cook
20	Crawford Herr
20	Susan Luce
20	Bill Carroll
23	Thelma Naff
28	Robin Cheek
28	Lucy Sloan

Sunday School Class Information

- * The Searchers Class is working towards meeting via Zoom. Contact Parks Snead or Deborah Raessler if you are interested in joining them!
- * The Formations Class continues to meet with social distancing and face masks in our Parlor on Sunday mornings from 9:45am-10:45am.
- * The Forum Class is checking in with each other regularly.

Our **Wednesday morning Bible Study, which meets at 10:30am each week via Zoom**, continues through the fall. Zoom sign-in information is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83386060036?pwd=QWN5ZTFoRHhNWZE44WVNvZUVGbZwQTO9>

Meeting ID: 833 8606 0036

Passcode: 024784

+1 646 558 8656 US

This information will stay the same for every week between September 9th and December 16th.

Our **Small Group Zoom** is on **Sunday evenings at 5pm**. It is just for fun and we usually discuss books, TV, movies, things are families are up to, food and how our week has gone. All are welcome!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81107241301?pwd=QWFiUkdQb25HcUQxZEtLWEtMYTlxUT09>

Meeting ID: 811 0724 1301

Passcode: 852593

+1646 558 8656