



# The Messenger

May 2021

## From Martha *Summer at PBC*

We have a few things back on the table this summer that we haven't had in a while. We hope to be able to celebrate the possibility of being together this summer in several ways:

**McNeely Room—Begin Open Hours—June 1** Tuesday-Thursday—10am-1pm: McNeely Room is open and available for visiting or hosting a club or playing video games or having tea with friends...etc.

Wednesday—7-9pm Group Gathering; First Wednesday: Pandemic Processing—join us for casual chat about how you've been doing, what has been hard, support and encouragement. Second Wednesday: Women on Mission gather for conversation and fellowship, and to discuss any possible projects we'd like to do. Third Wednesday: Men of the Church gather to do whatever they want. Fourth Wednesday: Family Game Night. Fifth Wednesdays (June, September, December?) Great Minds—Featured guest from PBC is available to talk about there are of expertise.

**Live from the Deck—Open Mike Music/Storvtelling/Entertainment at Parsonage—All Ages** 6/25, 7/23, 8/20 Bring lawn chairs (or use some of ours) and join us as we make the deck into a stage and share music, stories, entertainment of all sorts (how do we feel about beach music?) on the parsonage lawn. Each night will have a "special guest" and anyone else who wishes to share something can do so. We'll begin at 7pm and wrap things up by 9pm, although those wishing to stay and chat will be free to do so.

**Mid-Summer Float—July 31st—All ages** We'll work with James River Adventures to have a nice kayak float down the James River. We'll set up transportation and portage for those who have their own kayaks or paddleboards and enjoy a lovely day together on the river! Reservations for this event will be required. Those who don't wish to kayak can enjoy a picnic together at Riverfront Park.

**Play Days at PBC** Together, we decided that a full Vacation Bible School program was not possible this year. What we can offer are some days to be together and build community. So the Under 18 crowd (and their wranglers and hangers-on) are invited to join us for some fun days—water play (at last, the fulfillment of the deeply desired mission to build a waterslide on our hills); PBC Olympics; challenges and games; and, importantly, some time together to hear from YOU what your vision is for our church. \*Feedback will be requested soon about dates and times that work best for most.

We hope, as you feel safe to return and are able to join us for these events, that these times will give us easy ways to be together and rekindle the warmth of our fellowship with each other.

### **Second Sundays**

As one of our leaders in CC said, there's nothing like a little alliteration to get your attention, right? Beginning in June, we will introduce the Vision Process that our Congregational Council has proposed with **Second Sundays (June 13, July 11, August 8)**, which will look like this:

9:30am—Outdoor Worship in Memorial Garden Parking Lot (tents and chairs provided)

10:15am—Intro Exercise and the Day's Goals

10:40am-11:15am—Small Group conversations

11:15am-11:30am—Large Group Listening and Homework

We will have light snacks and drinks available each Sunday and will use tents and our facility for small group conversations. Tablets and Computers will be made available for Zoom participation in both large and small groups.

**\*SAVE THE DATES\***

**June 13 July 11 August 8**

**Watch your mailbox for more information!**

## **From Nicole**

I would like to extend a HUGE thank you to those who were able to participate in our *1st Annual Campus Clean Up!!* We had a short to do list but what was on the list was very ambitious! I am happy to report approximately five 5 gallon buckets were filled with trash from around the property. In addition to that, the sign at the entrance of the church was cleaned up. Most importantly though, our annex was cleaned out. Most items were donated. We are so excited about the potential these rooms can now provide! Keep this area in mind when thinking about our VISION for PBC over the summer.

## May Events


- 2 Communion
- 9 Mother's Day
- 16 Regular Worship
- 23 Pentecost Sunday—Birthday Cupcakes for the Church!
- 29 Monty Kears Retirement Party at the Parsonage
- 30 Memorial Day Sunday (we will light candles to remember those lost to us in wars)
- 31 Office Closed \*Holiday\*

## May Birthdays

- 1 Becky Howard
- 1 Betty Jean Reid
- 4 Hunter Russell
- 5 Gerald DuVal
- 6 Gary Christie
- 7 Margaret Daniel
- 7 Zane Hart
- 8 Spence White
- 11 Caroline Russell
- 13 Beth Hart
- 16 Emma Kate Russell
- 18 Elsie Chambers
- 18 Ashley Feuerstein
- 19 Debbie Riley
- 20 Dwight Mays
- 21 Richard Bowhay
- 21 Mary Cook
- 24 Martha Hickson
- 27 Liz Redd
- 27 David Riley
- 28 Sharon Whitesell
- 29 Buddy Daniel
- 29 Miranda Hart
- 30 Liz Jennings
- 31 Brian Riley
- 31 Jan Daniels

The **Searchers Class** will continue its study of Marcus Borg's *Days of Awe and Wonder* through May 16, 2021, when it will begin Barbara Brown Taylor's *Holy Envy. Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* is an account of the author's teaching a college course in world religions and how the students' understanding of faith--and her own (!)--were changed. This class welcomes anyone who enjoys spirited conversations about faith and life. Contact Parks Snead for Deborah Raessler for information about joining on Sunday mornings by Zoom at 9:45 a.m.

The **Formations Class** has returned to meeting in-person in the church parlor at 9:45am on Sundays.



You're Invited  
to a  
Happy Retirement  
Party for Monty!

When: May 29th, 7-9pm  
Theme: Beach Music  
Where: Parsonage, Deck and Lawn  
Dress: Beach Comfy  
Bring: Yourself, lawn chairs, good wishes!

## Communion News

As we began to re-gather, the question of how to offer communion safely became a very important one. Leslie Willman and Susan Epling worked together in March and now have our communion down perfectly. Leslie is supplying us with bread that is gluten free and nut free so that everyone who possibly can is able to participate in communion. The bread and juice will be offered in disposal cups that are a bit larger, since people are coming forward and are carrying them back to their seats. We are very grateful to be able to have communion together and appreciative of those making that possible for us!

## Visits from Martha

Since I have now completed the two Moderna vaccines and I am more than two weeks out from receiving the second one, I want to offer that if you would like for me to visit you and you feel safe to invite me, I would love to see you! I am still wearing a mask and I am happy to do so. I can meet you at your house, on your deck, for a walk, at a coffeeshop courtyard—you name it, I will be there. Call the church office and let me know if you would like for me to visit you!

## Spiritual Formations

### May Worship

We are grateful for all that has enabled us to return to in-person worship on Sundays and for Jeff Curcio, who continues to work for PBC as our videographer and video editor, making it possible for people to continue to worship with us online. Our theme through the Easter Season is “The Resurrection Life,” and we will explore the many stories of resurrection that pervade our sacred text.

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

- Online access to worship through Facebook Live, our website, YouTube link 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 morning.

Beginning May 9th, our May worship will also include some short video interviews with several of you to enable us to begin hearing from each other what your dreams and visions for PBC might be!

Our Wednesday morning **Bible Study** meets at 10:30am each week via Zoom.

The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84559562588?pwd=NCtPVEloSm9UejVzZk10MC91OXE2dz09>

Meeting: 845 5956 2588

Passcode: 778066

+1 646 558 8656 US

That link will remain the same through the month of May of 2021. We are currently in the book of Daniel and are exploring these stories from the 2nd century BCE (very late in the OT narrative) and the genre of apocalyptic literature.

