

Pacific Presbyterian Church

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The Reverend Marilyn Gamm, Transitional Pastor

pacificpresbyterianchurch.org

Presbyterian Church (USA)

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April, 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,

“And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.... As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.’” Mark 15:2,5-6f

Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

I hope to see each and every one of in worship for our joyous Easter celebration with communion on Sunday, April 1 – no foolin’! As Christians Easter is our most holy day of the year, the day when we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection and God’s promise of everlasting life for ourselves and our loved ones.

Although every single Sunday is a day to come to worship, learn about God’s love for you, and be in fellowship with others on their faith journeys, in addition to Easter Sunday I hope you’ll especially mark Sunday, April 15 as a “can’t miss” Sunday on your calendars. That’s the Sunday we will have our “Summit on the Present,” the second of our three summits through which we are examining who we are and what kind of church God is calling us to become in preparation for searching for your next called and installed pastor. You can read more about plans for our “Summit on the Present” elsewhere in this month’s newsletter.

We will have a lay-led Earth Day worship service on Sunday, April 22 so that I can lead Union’s Summit on the Present that day.

Looking ahead to May, please especially mark Sunday, May 13 on your calendars as the Sunday we will observe “Celebrate the Gifts of Women” Sunday. Please also mark Sunday, May 20 on your calendars as another “can’t miss” Sunday when we will join our First Presbyterian Church sisters and brothers at 10:00 a.m. for a joint outdoor Pentecost worship service followed by a shared church family picnic, all in the Union City Park.

If you haven’t already, please check out our church’s new website at www.pacificpresbyterianchurch.org. The more often you check it out, the higher it comes up in the Google search engine and we want it to be the first place people go to check us out. And hopefully will be another source of information for you and for folks checking us out to learn about our ministries and ways to get involved. If you have pictures, especially candid ones, from our church family life together, please email those to me at revmsgamm@gmail.com for possible use on the website.

See you in worship, at the Dinner With Us meals, and around the church, continuing to get to know you as we serve together during this time of ministry transition!

Shalom in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Marilyn

Clerk's Corner

-The Summit on the Past was presented by Pr Marilyn with 14 people attending. A timeline of the church's history and discussions followed. A summary of the results is being sent to members.

-The Summit on the Present is scheduled for April 15 following worship with lunch provided.

-There is a new monitoring system in the downstairs to report on temperature and water changes. This was supplied free of charge by our insurance company.

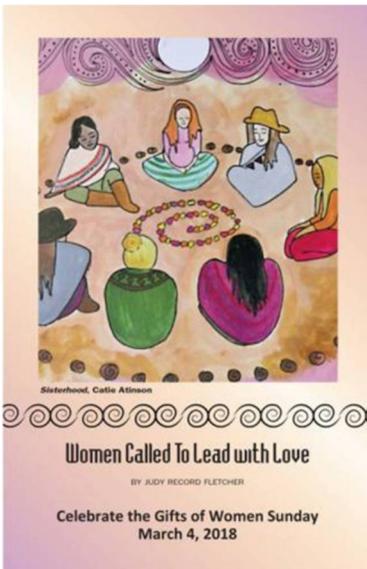
-Operations committee members will be rehabbing the downstairs small bathroom as no estimates were returned by contractors contacted.

-April 22 to be a lay-led worship celebrating Earth Day as Pr Marilyn will be with Union for their Summit on the Present.

-Mother's Day to be celebration of the gifts of women.

-The prom attire has been taken over by volunteers at Pacific High School. The dresses and other items have been moved to Riverbend School.

-With Jean resigning as administrative assistant, the job description and needs will be reviewed prior to hiring a new secretary. Volunteers will help in the office as needed for now starting in April. Calls may be left on the church answering machine. For emergencies, please call Marianne.



Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday Mother's Day Sunday, May 13

We will observe the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" Sunday on Mother's Day Sunday, May 13 with three women in our church sharing monologues portraying biblical women.

This year's Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday focuses on women who have modeled for us what it means to "lead with love." Two characteristics we hope to particularly highlight will be the gift of hospitality and the gift of building consensus.

Come celebrate women's leadership in sharing our faith down through the ages and from within our church family on Mother's Day Sunday, May 13!

The Magic of Mound Ridge

The fund raising dinner auction is Saturday, April 14, 2018 at Andre's Banquet Facility in South County, 6:00-9:30pm. Tickets are \$65 per person or \$500 for a table of eight. That includes dinner and all alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks for the evening. There will be silent and live auctions and a wine wall. Details and tickets are available at <http://moundridge.org/events/2018dinnerauction/> or contact Karen, Cheryl R. or Kathi.

Dinner with Us

This free meal for the community is every Thursday. Serving is from 4:30-6. Your help, donations of desserts, and financial support are all appreciated.

“Seeking God’s New Thing”
Pacific Presbyterian Church’s “Summit on the Present”

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

Isaiah 43:19c

The first step in our transitional ministry in preparation to seek a new called and installed pastor is to take a close look at our sense of mission and ministry. Who are we, how did we get here, and who and where do we want to go in the future are questions we will consider in a three-part mission study process Pastor Marilyn has proposed. The three parts are called a Summit on the Past, a Summit on the Present, and a Summit on the Future. The theme for the three summits is “Seeking God’s New Thing” from Isaiah 43:19. Our hoped-for goal is as to have 100 percent congregational participation in each summit.

Our Summit on the Present will be Sunday, April 15 following morning worship. Although details are still being finalized, in broad general terms you can expect and come prepared for the following:

We will take a brief, three-page “Survey for Congregational Vitality” at the beginning of the Summit on the Present, which will be compiled and used as part of the preparation for our Summit on the Future. **If you are unable to attend the Summit on the Present but would like to take the survey, please let the church office know and one will be provided to you.**

We will review shared learnings from our Summit on the Past, especially those that have an impact on our church and its values today.

We will review our relevant church statistical information for trends and a picture of our current ministries. We will also reflect together on how we think our new yoking relationship and sharing a pastor with First Presbyterian, Union is going, what we have so far learned, what are any issues or concerns that have arisen. Considering B and C, who are we and what are our core values as a faith community today?

We will also review relevant demographic and community information as it relates to our church’s present-day context. Who are our neighbors, how do we find out what are their unmet needs that our church might be able to meet, who and where are the people God might be calling us to be or to take Jesus to, are we willing to be in ministry beyond our church building and if so where and in what ways?

We will consider the breadth and depth of our present resources – human and material – alongside our core values as a faith community and how God may or may not be calling us to innovate in our mission and ministry.

A lunch of sandwiches, chips, cookies, and drinks will be provided.

Looking ahead, our Summit on the Future will probably be scheduled in August, and we will hope to elect members to a joint Pastor Nominating Committee and write a joint Ministry Information Form for beginning our pastor search in September.

NOTE: So that Pastor Marilyn can attend and lead, on the Sundays when First Presbyterian, Union is holding its summits our church will either have a pulpit supply preacher or a lay led worship service. Union’s Summit on the Present will be Sunday, April 22 and we will have a lay-led Earth Day worship service. Please hold their congregation in special prayer on the days of their summits. They are being asked to do the same for you on the days of our summits.

Sunday Morning Worship for April

April 1 – Resurrection of the Lord/Easter – Communion – Dedication of new Table – Dedication of One Great Hour of Sharing Offering – “Amazing, Scary, Good News” from Mark 16:1-8

April 8 – 2nd Sunday of Easter – Rev. Julie Berger Guest Preacher

April 15 – 3rd Sunday of Easter – “Summit on the Present” Worship – “Seeking God’s New Thing” from Galatians 3:23-29

April 22 – 4th Sunday of Easter – “Summit on the Present” Worship at Union – Lay-led Earth Day Worship

April 29 – 5th Sunday of Easter – “Proclaiming About Jesus” from Acts of the Apostles 8:26-40

Joint Outdoor Pentecost Worship and Picnic Sunday, May 20

First Presbyterian Church in Union will host our church family for a joint outdoor Pentecost worship with communion service followed by a picnic in the Carpenter Pavilion of Union City Park on Sunday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m. Come worship with us and our sisters and brothers from First Presbyterian, Union out in God’s beautiful creation and feel the “winds” of the Holy Spirit blowing through our two church families! Bring a dish, drinks and table service and stay after worship for a shared picnic of food and games and fellowship. Meat will be provided. And watch and listen for announcements about carpooling from Pacific to Union.

Rev. Dr. Julia (Julie) Allen Berger Will Be Our Pulpit Supply April 8

While Pastor Marilyn is on vacation April 2-8 our pulpit supply preacher Sunday, April 8 will be the Rev. Dr. Julie Allen Berger.

Julie is a graduate of Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT and Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. Trained as a pastoral counselor, she has served the oncology population of Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis since 1992, leading bereavement and compassion fatigue/professional resiliency groups. She served on the hospital’s ethics committee. Julie participates in education of medical students and staff about spiritual issues in medicine. In 2015 she received specialty certification in hospice and palliative care through the Association of Professional Chaplains. Through her religious tradition, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), she participates in teaching and worship leadership in the greater St. Louis area.

One Great Hour of Sharing

This special offering taken each year on Palm Sunday and Easter supports three programs:

Self Development of People which invests in low-income communities wrestling with oppression and injustice.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance which works with communities immediately and long-term after natural or human-caused disasters. Our congregation received support after flooding.

Presbyterian Hunger Program takes action to alleviate hunger and the causes of poverty so all may be fed.

We ask you to dig deep and support these vital programs in addition to your other giving.