

Pacific Presbyterian Church

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The Reverend Marilyn Gamm, Transitional Pastor

pacificpresbyterianchurch.org

Presbyterian Church (USA)

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March, 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,

We are now in the season in Lent, 40 days excluding Sundays when we're encouraged to particularly reflect upon our Christian faith, the love of a God so wide and so deep as to be willing to become human and to die a horrific human death, and its meaning for our lives in preparation for the joy of Easter.

This year we are using a Lenten wreath each Sunday to count down the Sundays to Easter. Similar to an Advent wreath, except that unlike Advent when we light another candle each week to commemorate the Light coming into the world, on the Lenten wreath we snuff a candle each week counting down the days to that darkest Good Friday when the Light of the world was temporarily snuffed out. I hope this liturgical addition to our Lenten observance will be a meaningful way for us to mark these 40 days.

I hope you have Sunday, March 18 marked in bold as a day not to miss on your calendars. That's the Sunday we will have our "Summit on the Past" following worship, with the kick-off during worship. Come and share with us your favorite memories of being a part of this church family, bring mementos showcasing meaningful events for our church's history, be a part of helping us together celebrate the good things from our church's past, and especially those that speak to the church we are today.

This month I'll be continuing our book study discussions on *Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To* on Mondays here and Wednesdays at the Union church. I'm hoping the chapters will spark some interesting and thought-provoking discussions about the present and future of both churches.

Also, this month we will have our second joint worship service with the Union church. It will be our Maundy Thursday worship meal, hosted here at Pacific on March 29 at 6:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The worship meal will follow our weekly free Dinner With Us community meal.

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.

Looking forward to seeing 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

Date	Liturgist	Usher	Elders to serve communion
March 4	Karen		Bob, Jim R, Nancy, Marianne
March 11	Bob	Pat	--
March 18	Kay		--
March 25	Stan	Bob	--

Book Club will meet March 26 to discuss *It Can't Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis.

The **Mound Ridge Auction** will be held on Saturday April 14, 2018. Please mark your calendars. More details on how you can contribute will be listed in the weekly bulletins.

There is no **Clerk's Corner** as too many people were unable to make the last Session meeting. It has been rescheduled for March 5.

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.

WEST CLUSTER WINTER GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Where: First Presbyterian Church of Sullivan (285 East Springfield Road, (573) 468-6364)

When: Friday, March 9, 2018, 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. Registration – coffee and pastries

Cindy Fieg, Presbyterian Women Giddings-Lovejoy Moderator will be our guest speaker and talk about the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program (PDA). The morning will include worship and communion and honoring Helene Headrick for her service to the Cluster.

Registration fee of \$10 includes lunch of chicken salad on croissant, soup, green salad and dessert.

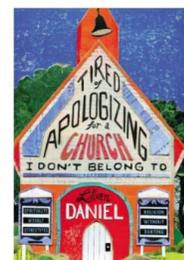
Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To:

Why Rigorous, Reasonable, and Real Religious Community Still Matters, by Lillian Daniel

“Lunch & Learn” Brown Bag Lunch and Book Study Led by Pastor Marilyn

Mondays at Pacific, Wednesdays at Union, (Attend either) 12 Noon-1:00 p.m.

Pacific	Union	Read and be prepared to discuss
March 5	March 7	Chapters 8-10
March 12	March 14	Chapters 11-12
March 19	March 21	Chapter 13
March 26	March 28	Chapters 14-15



Lenten Wreath of Diminishing Lights

During the 40 days in Lent the Christian Church prepares to observe Jesus' passion and resurrection. We examine ourselves as we remember the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. In this season of repentance and fasting, we come to terms with our mortality and need for God's mercy. The candles in our Lenten wreath of diminishing lights represent Jesus' life and ministry. Each week as we snuff another candle the circle of gathering darkness created by the candles and the crown of thorns remind us of the role human sin played in bringing about Jesus' crucifixion and our need for Resurrection. This reversal of the Advent wreath reminds us how we, the human race, rejected Jesus as the Christ, the Light of the world.

Sunday Morning Worship for March

March 4 – 3rd Sunday in Lent – Worship with Communion – “Having Jesus' Zeal” from John 2:13-22

March 11 – 4th Sunday in Lent – Summit on the Past” Worship at Union – Rev. Patrice Rosner at Pacific, “Radical Submission” from Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21

March 18 – 5th Sunday in Lent – “Summit on the Past” Worship – “Seeking God's New Thing” from Isaiah 43:18-21

March 25 – Palm/Passion Sunday – “Betraying Jesus” from Mark 14:1-15:47

March 29 – Maundy Thursday – Joint Meal and Service with Pacific at Pacific at 6:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall – Communion – probably no sermon – liturgies and hymns interspersed with sharing a simple meal and communion together.

April 1 – Resurrection of the Lord/Easter – Communion – “Amazing, Scary, Good News” from Mark 16:1-8

Joint Maundy Thursday Service at Pacific

Our second joint service with First Presbyterian, Union will be for Maundy Thursday on March 29 at 6:45 p.m. in the Pacific Presbyterian fellowship hall. The worship meal will follow Pacific's weekly free Dinner With Us community meal, with guests invited to stay if they choose.

Current plans are to share a simple meal together, with Maundy Thursday liturgies and communion interspersed. There are also tentative plans for a joint choir to sing during the worship meal. Hope to see you at our second joint service!

Easter lilies

Lilies to decorate the sanctuary on Easter may be ordered for \$13. Orders are due by March 18. Please specify if it is in memory of honor of someone. Use the form in the narthex or send information to the office.

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. Envelopes will be in the bulletins March 25 and April 1, or you may send your offering to the church office.

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

“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 Past will be **Sunday, March 18** following morning worship. Although details are still being finalized, in broad general terms you can expect and come prepared for the following:

Sharing important highlights from the church’s written history and placing them on a time line around the room.

Adding to the time line individual and shared memories and stories from your own histories of being a part of this church family by those gathered.

Identifying what beliefs or values seem to be expressed through the memories and stories.

Identifying history, memories and stories, along with any roles the church has played down through the ages in the community, that have been particularly impactful on who this church is today.

Please watch the weekly bulletins for more details.

Looking ahead, our **Summit on the Present** will be Sunday, April 15 following morning worship, and will include taking a survey to assess our congregation’s vitality in area’s such as discipleship formation, evangelism, empowering servant leadership, spirit-led worship, and caring relationships. 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 Past will be Sunday, March 11 and Rev. Patrice Rosner will fill our pulpit. Their Summit on the Present will be Sunday, April 22 and we are tentatively planning a lay-led Earth Day 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.