

Spire

September
2023
Vol. 32
No. 8

A note from Pastor Karla...

After the storm that came through San Diego a few weeks ago, like many San Diegans, I had to reset my outdoor space. Prior to the storm, my kids' inflatable water slide had been taken down to allow for the rain to soak through to the grass and was hastily thrown into a corner of the backyard. When my husband and I went to unfold it for set up, we discovered a swarm of bugs within its folds. Like the rest of us, I can only assume these bugs were seeking shelter to escape the storm. My youngest child wanted desperately to "help" mom and dad, but when we discovered the bugs we thought it best to have him step away.

"Back up, kiddo", I said.

At first he took a step back, but then his curiosity got the best of him and he lunged forward right into the inflatable. He just needed to see the bugs! Apparently, the bugs *needed* to see him too and they swarmed towards him causing him to take a backward spill. Ever since that moment, afraid of the sudden appearance of new bugs, the inflatable water slide hasn't gotten much use!

In the gospel accounts, Jesus says to his disciples, which he also says to us, two simple words,

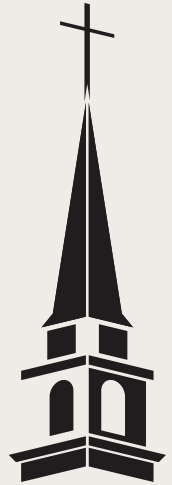
"Follow me."

Through these words Jesus promises a life of abundance. For some reason though, just like my son, it is difficult for us to obey simple commands.

Continued on page 2



Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church



Worship Services

Sundays
Sanctuary Service 9:00 am
Online Service 9:30 am
Café Service 10:30 am
in the Chapel

Rev. Karla Shaw
Senior Pastor

2128 Chatsworth Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92107

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Looking Ahead

Sept. 3	Family Jam
Sept. 10	Blood Drive
Sept. 14	Dine Online
Sept. 16	Teen Tech 4 Seniors
Sept. 17	Discover Our Community
Oct. 7	Family Camp
Oct. 8	Burrito Breakfast

Sign up for our weekly eNews

Pointlomachurch.org

Our Vision

Loving everyone to *LIFE* with everything we have.

Our Mission

Through authentic community, we seek to *experience* Jesus, *journey* into deeper faith, *strengthen* the Church, and *transform* our world.

Values

We are a good home.
We are intergenerational.
We inspire engagement.



A note from Pastor Karla... continued from page 1

More often than not our curiosity gets the best of us trying to forge new paths and we end up straying from the path of discipleship. Not only does this lead to a less than desirable life, it can also lead us to stop trusting even when we are back on the path with Christ again. God wants more for us than that. Christ invites us to follow him for our own growth, for the good of others, and for God's glory.

This year we are entering a year-long discipleship journey through the book of Matthew entitled *Faith Forward: Take a Step*. As we follow Jesus, both individually and collectively, the hope is that not only will we deepen in faith, but that our lives might also be an invitation for others to join the path of discipleship. Discipleship is active. It is uncomfortable. It results in change. And...it is worth every sacrifice.

"Come, follow me."

Rev. Karla Shaw
Senior Pastor



Pastor Karla

CHURCH NEWS

Engage with Us Online

Have you ever missed Worship? Or been especially moved by a song or message? We maintain a vast library of online resources including past worship services, choir selections and even Bible studies on our YouTube channel and other social media platforms. Find, follow and like us to keep up with the latest news and events!

pointlomachurch.org

   @pointlomachurch

We Have a Podcast!

The Point Loma Community Church Podcast includes the weekly sermon and other special classes. Listen each week on your favorite podcast platform.

 pointlomachurch.org/podcast

Serving Opportunities

- Join the Usher team! Do you enjoy meeting people and serving our community? If so, the Ushers would love to have you join our team to help at the 9:00am sanctuary service and special events. Please contact Beth Roach for more information, beth@bethroach.com, 619-300-0389
- We are looking to hire TWO people to fill the roles of Media Person. The Media Person is responsible for providing audio/visual support for either our 9am Sanctuary or 10:30am Café Service at PLCPC held every Sunday morning. These are part-time paid positions. Full job description and application instructions can be found at pointlomachurch.org.

Session Highlights | AUGUST 23, 2023

The Session's August meeting was full of important steps. Three amendments to the PLCPC Bylaws were approved for vote at the September 24 congregational meeting:

- Changing the Deacons' term of service from three years to two
- Changing the membership of the Congregational Nominating Committee from nine persons to six
- Allowing the Senior Pastor to vote on the Session's Executive Committee

Renovation Task Force Chair Elder John Brand announced that the team's five-year project is complete! Outlasting a pandemic and five Sessions, this group has steadfastly worked to develop a master plan and achieve these goals: improve the children's facilities and improve campus cohesion. With grateful applause and prayer, the Session disbanded the RTF. Since 2018, the following have continuously served on the RTF: John Brand, Susan Cramer, and Karla Shaw. Those also serving: Douglas Buser, Melissa Mullins, Bob Holst, Will Hage, Jolene Wade, Ryan Waterman, Katie Fulhorst, and Sue Skala.

Now that the Renovation is underway, Session approved the formation of a Renovation Building Committee to oversee the project's completion. RBC members include Sue Skala, chair, Jolene Wade, Kurt Walter, Elder Susan Cramer, and Pastor Karla Shaw. One additional member may be named soon.

Other Actions:

- Approval of the conversion of Room #5 to an Infant Preschool Room, operating under a new state license
- Distribution of \$100,000 to 14 Mission Ministry Partners
- Updates of the PLCPC and Preschool Employee Handbooks, edited by Elder Joey Sagawa, and the engagement of a professional reviewer
- Purchase and installation of two overhead and retractable video monitors on the front corners of the Sanctuary chancel

New Security Funding

Security has become a big topic in industry circles over the last few years, including religious organizations. Several years ago PLCPC adopted a Security Plan to allow us to become more proactive in protecting our church and preschool community. While we have not had any significant incidents on our campus, PLCPC has been awarded a federal grant for the installation of surveillance cameras and access control throughout campus. This will help us monitor the flow of traffic throughout our spaces. The installation process began over the summer and we will be activating access control on our perimeter gates in the coming weeks. We recognize this will be a major change in how you have accessed our campus previously. More information will be coming forth soon. Even after the final roll-out, the church office located on Udall Street will remain a consistent entrance onto our campus during regular business hours.

Per Capita

A letter went out at the end of August to all members asking for their Per Capita contribution of \$40.06 per member. This can be paid online at www.pointlomachurch.com/giving

Thank you for your continued support of our church.

JOURNEY INTO DEEPER FAITH



Red Brick Preschool

This summer we had one of our most well attended summer camps. The children and families loved having the opportunity to have fun and get more social interaction. Our school year just began on August 28th. We offer a half-day and extended-day program for 2-5-year-olds. We are excited to announce that we are currently in the middle of getting our Infant Care license up and running! If you are looking for a quality preschool for your child or grandchild or would like any information on our Preschool call Nicole at 619-223-3327 or email at preschool@pointlomachurch.org. or visit our website at redbrickpreschool.com.



Brick Youth Group

brick youth@pointlomachurch.org

Sunday Night Youth Group

STARTING SEPT 10!

Junior High 5:00-6:30 pm

Senior High 6:00-7:30 pm

Dinner is provided

Following Orange Curriculum
thinkorange.com

SUNDAYS

Every Sunday morning at the Cafe service, Youth meets for biblically based programming!

10:30am, Meet in the chapel.
Released during announcements.



Welcome Karen May!

Karen is excited to join the staff at PLCPC as the Interim Director of Youth Ministry. She is relatively new to the area, moving here in 2021 from Ponte Vedra Beach, FL after her husband Damian was transferred to San Diego for his work. Karen and Damian have two adult

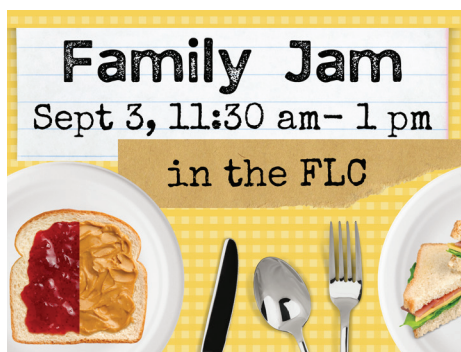
children, Colleen (26) and Jacob (25). Karen is a semi-retired Registered Pharmacist and worked part time for several years while raising her kids. She is a lifelong Presbyterian and enjoyed raising her kids at Palms Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville Beach, FL where she was a youth leader for 8 years. She has a heart for mission and spent several years as part of a yearly medical mission to Haiti. Karen is super excited to work with the youth at PLCPC. She believes strongly in the value a church community can bring to our children and hopes to foster an environment of love, inclusiveness, kindness, and FUN!



Sarah Butterfield, Director of Children & Family Ministry
sarah@pointlomachurch.org | 619-223-1633 x215

As the kids head back to school, lots of programs and exciting events are starting up for children and families here at PLCPC!

We are back to teaching our regular Bible curriculum on Sunday mornings at Kids' Cafe. We emphasize the Bible story, discussion, Bible memorization, and a hands-on craft or game! If you'd like more information about what your kids learned as well as ideas for extending the Bible learning at home head to pointlomachurch.org/kids-worship



We are looking forward to Family Jam on September 3rd at 11:30 in the FLC. Come make your own sandwich, visit with other parents, and let the kids take advantage of some fun and games (including the gaga pit!)



We'd like to invite you to Family Camp! This year, it will be a one-day event on Saturday, October 7 starting at 10 AM. Camp registration is \$35 per person and includes two meals and the open camp activities (hiking, massive playground, obstacle course, and gaga pit). Indian Hills Camp offers zip-lining, archery, gold mining, and paintball. These extra camp activities are available for an additional \$10 per person per activity. This will be a fun-filled time of family bonding and church fellowship. All are welcome!

SIGN UP AT POINTLOMACHURCH.ORG/REGISTER

We are excited for all that lies ahead. See you Sunday!

Motherhood is hard



But it doesn't have to be lonely

Our MOPS program for Moms of school-aged kids and younger is starting back up on September 5th. We meet every other Tuesday from 9:30am - 11:30am to hear from a guest speaker, eat a light breakfast, and chat with each other. Join in anytime. Childcare is provided!

RSVP

MEETUP.COM/PLAYGROUP-754

Contact Julia

MOPS@POINTLOMACHURCH.ORG

Our Bible study for Moms of any age meets on the alternate Tuesdays from MOPS and starts up again on September 12 from 9:30am - 11am. This fall, we'll be exploring what whole-hearted living looks like, reading about a different woman in the Bible each time we meet. Childcare is provided!

Register

POINTLOMACHURCH.ORG/REGISTER

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

A Note from Strengthen the Church Mission Group

From Susan Cramer, Lead Elder

Our Mission Group's focus is "Care and Fellowship" and includes these ministries: Deacons, Prayer Chain, Prayer Quilt, Men's, Women's, Knitters, Adult, and Memorial Guild which rely on committed leaders and many wonderful volunteers. As an example, according to Memorial Guild leader, Mary-Carol Madison, "The Memorial Guild is a fantastic group of people (three teams) that run memorial receptions like a well-oiled machine. They always make the space beautiful; work well with caterers when we have them; the cookies they bake are fantastic; and their care, respect and kindness to the families and guests is incredible. I cannot express just how much of an asset they are to our church and community!"

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVE THROUGHOUT OUR CHURCH FAMILY!



August was a busy month for the Prayer Quilt Ministry!

August 6th was Prayer Quilt Sunday when we celebrated 21 years of quilts and prayers. Then on August 10th, members of the ministry headed to Fallbrook for our annual retreat where we enjoyed sewing, good food and even better fellowship. Over the course of 4 days and 3 nights, 20 of us attended, ranging in age from 31 to 78. While most of us are from San Diego, we were happy to have members join us from Portland and Pensacola! 49 quilt tops were completed and we look forward to putting them together and making them available to be filled with your prayers and given to those in need of prayer.

If this sounds like something you would enjoy, please join us on the first Saturday of the month at 9am in the Family Life Center - or just stop by anytime between 9:00 and 3:00 to say 'hi' and see what we are all about!



Senior Adult Ministry Programs

WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON

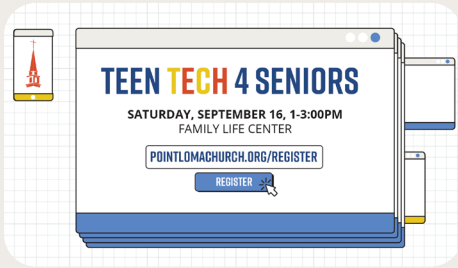
Tuesday, September 12, 10am - 1pm • Family Life Center

Welcome back to our monthly luncheons for senior adults! This month Peter Seltser will entertain us with popular music from the 60's and 70's. Enjoy Chinese Chicken Salad, snacks, coffee and dessert. Bring a friend!

RSVP BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

DOORS OPEN AT 10:00AM, ENTERTAINMENT BEGINS AT 11:00AM, LUNCH SERVED AT 12:00PM

\$7.00 *PLEASE NOTE NEW SUGGESTED DONATION



TEEN TECH 4 SENIORS

Saturday, September 16, 1pm - 3pm • Family Life Center

Would you like to become more proficient at using your portable digital device? At this workshop, you will be paired with a friendly, tech-savvy teenager to work with you one-on-one for up to an hour. They can help you troubleshoot basic problems, teach you how to optimize the functions of your device, and adapt it to meet your needs.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY SEPTEMBER 13. WHEN REGISTERING, PLEASE INDICATE THE TYPE OF DEVICE YOU NEED HELP WITH.

SHARP LECTURE: HEALTH INFORMATION YOU CAN TRUST

Wednesday, September 20, 12pm - 1pm • Family Life Center

Jayne Henn, Community Health Librarian with Sharp HealthCare, will speak on where you can go to get trusted health information (online and in-person) and how you can be a more confident researcher when it comes to your health. Attendees are encouraged to bring a mobile device to the workshop (laptop, tablet, or cell phone) and those who bring a public library card with them will earn a special prize!

FOREVER FIT

Every Wednesday, 9am - 9:50am • Family Life Center • Instructor: Elke Ertle

Join us weekly for this free, gentle exercise class especially for senior adults. Exercises are chair-based with some standing, with a focus on flexibility and balance. Equipment provided, bring a water bottle. No reservation needed. Offered in partnership with the Ryan Family YMCA.



MEMORY CARE WORSHIP SERVICE

Senior Adult Ministry is pleased to announce a special new pre-recorded worship service for people experiencing memory loss or cognitive change. Each service is approximately 12 minutes long, and consists of a choir hymn, inspirational message from Pastor Ben Lindstrom, The Lord's Prayer, and calming visual imagery.

TO VIEW MEMORY CARE SERVICES, VISIT POINTLOMACHURCH.ORG/MEMORYCAREWORSHIP

Register

ONLINE
pointlomachurch.org/register

CONTACT ELAINE
(619) 223-1633 Ext. 210
elaine@pointlomachurch.org



DEACONS

Burrito Breakfast

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8
9:30 AM - 12 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERING - NET PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS

THANK YOU FROM THE DEACONS

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the backpack and bus pass drive!

We received a large number of backpacks and raised over \$1800 for additional backpacks and bus passes for New Day Urban Ministries. Hooray!

PLCPC DEACON MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

Please consider offering your time and talent to our Deacon Ministry. The Deacons provide leadership for the ministry of compassion, kindness and service within our church and the community. The Deacons meet monthly September through June and perform many heartfelt services such as church greeters, flower deliverers, grief support, new member support, military outreach and more! Please prayerfully consider joining our ministry.

Email Deacon Suzanne Moss, smoss858@gmail.com, to inquire about becoming a Deacon in 2024.

Music Ministry News

Children's Christmas Musical Auditions

Auditions for special acting and singing parts in this year's Children's Christmas Musical will take place on Thursdays, Sept. 21st and Sept. 28th or by appointment.

Participation is open to children in Grades 2-6 and rehearsals will be on Thursdays at 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Join the Christmas Concert Choir!

Sing in this year's Christmas Concert, themed Festival of Carols on December 3, 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm!

Rehearsals are October-November on Thursday from 7:00-8:00 pm, and have a Choir Retreat in October.

CONTACT ALICIA@POINTLOMACHURCH.ORG



Interested in Music Ministry?

Head to pointlomachurch.org/music to learn about more opportunities!



San Diego
Blood Bank

BLOOD DRIVE

September 10

Did you know that your one blood donation can save up to three lives? You can save lives with us! The San Diego Blood Mobile will be parked on Udall Street. on Sunday, September 10. Registration link to come!



Bible Studies Resume this Month

Visit pointlomachurch.org/adult for more information

Sunday Scripture Group

Sundays, 10:15am
in the Parlor

Contact: Bob Simoneau,
grsjr1212@gmail.com

Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 9:00am
in the Parlor and online

Contact: Nancy Wildman,
wildone@cox.net

Centering Prayer

Thursdays, 6:00pm
via Zoom

Contact: Tom Baker,
tbakerusa@gmail.com

Monday Morning Men

Monday, 8:00am
via Zoom

Contact: Evan Gratz,
evan@pointlomachurch.org

Men@Work

Tuesdays at 8:30am
in the Library and on Zoom

Contact: Em Cummins,
emcum@sdsu.edu

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays, 5:00pm
in the Parlor

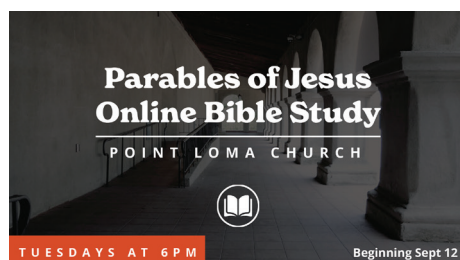
Contact: Bob Lemke,
boblemke@cox.net



Discover Our Community September 17 & 24, 11:30 am

Are you interested in learning what we believe at PLCPC, what makes our church community unique, as well as having the opportunity to get to know our leadership? If so, please visit pointlomachurch.org/register to sign up for the two meetings. You may decide to become a member, or transfer your current active membership to PLCPC, or just come and listen.

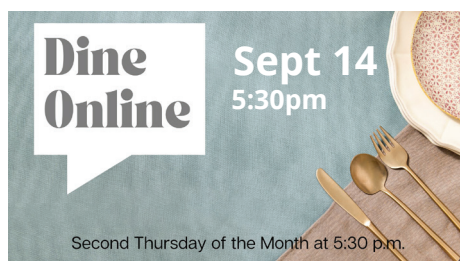
Sign up at
pointlomachurch.org/register



Parables of Jesus Online Bible Study Tuesdays at 6:00 pm

Journey through the unexpected stories told by Jesus which break cultural norms and teach us how to love one another more.

Beginning September 12



Debrief the Sermon Sundays, 10:30-11:15 am

Join us as we delve into the Sermon on the Mount.

Starting September 24 in the library and online



BACK TO SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Life Events | Deaths

Jackie Gigoux passed away on August 5, 2023. A service was held August 29. Pastor Karla officiated.

Tree of Life | New Leaves Added & Location on the tree

In honor of Judy Pritchett for drawing so many children closer to Christ through 15 years of teaching Bible Memory (R6B)

William Hunter "Bill" Turnquist, Servant of the Lord, 09/20/1931 – 10/25/2016 (L1A)

September Flower Donations



Each week, the Deacons deliver flowers in order to brighten days and bring cheer. We are so grateful to those who have donated to make this flower ministry possible. The flowers this month are given...

Sept. 3 in loving memory of her husband Richard by Dianne Grafton.

Sept. 10 by Kathleen McKnight in joyful celebration of the 10th birthday of her granddaughter Ava Kathleen McDonald.

Sept. 17 by Bill Gallaher in loving memory of his wife, Mildred Keyes Gallaher and, in loving memory of my dear Linda, by Fred Daughtery.

Sept. 24 by Merrie Friberg Shinn in loving memory of her daughter, Barbara, Tom her husband of 50 years and her mother, Grace.
and, by Kathleen McKnight in loving support for her Sacramento grandchildren: Bee, Elizabeth, Benjamin and Joanna McKnight.



Prayer Quilt Ministry

1st Saturday of the month 9:00am - 3:00pm in the Family Life Center. Contact Maureen Blackhall, maureenblackhall@gmail.com

To request a prayer quilt,
email redbrickprayerquilts@gmail.com

Prayer Chain submit requests to
prayer@pointlomachurch.org

Red Brick Knitters

September 14, 10:00am in the Parlor

BECOMING BETTER MEN BECOMING BETTER
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OCTOBER 14 - 15

Men's Retreat

BECOMING BETTER MEN

POINT LOMA ASSEMBLY HALL ON TALBOT • \$60

Guest speaker, taco truck, Phil's BBQ, Prayers & Pints, worship, fun activities, encouraging & challenging content!



Register at
pointlomachurch.org/register

OCTOBER 14 - 15 OCTOBER 14 - 15
OCTOBER 14 - 15 OCTOBER

make & take

SEPT 23 • 9:00 - 10:30 AM
DIY KIDS' GROWTH CHART

\$10 registration
includes all materials
& light refreshments

POINTLOMACHURCH.ORG/REGISTER

