

# Spire

January  
2024  
Vol. 33  
No. 1

## A note from Pastor Karla...

What type of person are you? Are you one who fantasizes about the past or do you look forward to the future? Are you a person who likes how things have always been or do you seek out change? Where you place yourself on this past/future continuum likely determines whether you are happy about turning the page of the calendar to January.

I, for one, am a forward thinking person. I love anything new. I love the idea of possibility. I love that this day is unlike any other day which has come before it. It is my curiosity that drives me reaching outward to that which has not yet occurred. Even when the future feels dim and anxiety creeps in, I am still strangely curious about how God will show up in shadowy places.

I understand those who dream backward, though, as my husband is that way. It is the past that propels him. When he remembers meaningful moments with dear friends or a wise professor he studied under, it motivates him to recreate those moments in the present. The past, when it is filled with good, becomes a barometer of expectation for him. If God has done it before, God can do it again.

We need both types of people in our world—those who look back and those who look forward.

As we enter 2024, this is a new day for our church. This is likely the year we will finally break ground on our new Preschool building.

*Continued on page 2*



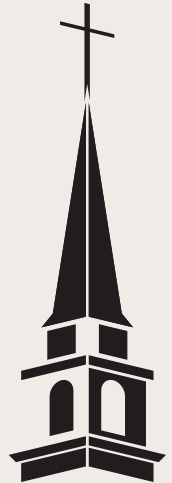
Point Loma  
Community  
Presbyterian  
Church

### 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



## Inside This Issue

Church News .....	2
Experience Jesus .....	3
Journey Into Deeper Faith .....	4
Strengthen the Church .....	7
Senior Adult Programs .....	8
Transform Our World .....	9
Life Events .....	10
Staff & Session Contacts .....	11

## Looking Ahead

Jan. 7	Family Jam + Serve Day
Jan. 7	Youth Group Resumes
Jan. 9	Senior Ministry Luncheon
Jan. 10	Bible 101 Class starts
Jan. 14	Discover Our Community
Jan. 14	Youth Parents Dinner
Jan. 14	Blood Drive



Sign up for our weekly  
email newsletter!

[Pointlomachurch.org](http://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*

Toward the fall, the campus will be in disarray and this chaos will be with us for quite some time. This renovation of our campus brings with it some anxiety. How will we navigate the changes? But it also brings with it incredible possibilities. Who will God bring to us through this new space? What ministries will be imagined as a result of some of our walls coming down?

I will also be going on Sabbatical this year from mid-May through mid-August. During this time, the pulpit will be filled with incredible speakers sharing about the work God is doing through their lives to care for God's world. What will God teach us? How will God inspire us through the stories of others?

This is not just a new day for the church, it is a new day for your life. What does God want to do in and through you this year? How does God want to deepen you in faith?

Regardless of whether you are a person who primarily looks to the future or to the past, God invites us all to bring our gifts together for the building of His Kingdom. So, as a response to that gracious invitation, I wish us all a very Happy New Year!

**Rev. Karla Shaw**  
Senior Pastor



## CHURCH NEWS

---

### Session Meeting Highlights | DECEMBER 20, 2023

The December Session meeting is always bittersweet, as retiring elders are celebrated and newly elected elders present their statements of faith. Pastor Karla commented on the elders of the remarkable Session Class of 2023, who were at work throughout the full "pivot" of worship and operations during the pandemic. The Session applauded retiring Elders John Brand, Chris Capen, Susan Cramer, Carolyn Griesemer, and Kristen Stephany (PLCPC's first "non-resident" ruling elder). Also appreciated was Elder Lynn Ziegenfuss, who has agreed to serve another year! Lynn has been instrumental in shepherding the Session's new Mission Group structure, which continues to evolve.

The retiring elders were replaced by what promises to be a remarkable Class of 2026. The Session welcomed Elders-elect Claudia Bender, Carol Leimbach, Gordy Lutes, Michelle Reynolds, Lou Suter, and Doug Werner. Elder-elect Patrick Marion had met with the Session earlier. They will be ordained and installed at 9:00 AM, Sunday, January 7, 2024.

Deacon-elect Valarie Jonas also presented her statement of faith and was welcomed by the Session.

The remainder of the meeting was chiefly concerned with the review of the 2024 preliminary budget. The staff and Session had committed to presenting a balanced budget for the first time since the start of the pandemic and the launch of our new Online Ministry. Prayers were offered for a robust completion of the 2024 stewardship campaign so that this goal could be achieved. The final budget will be approved in January and presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in February.

**John Spafford**  
Clerk

## Thank you. THANK YOU!

STEVE SMITH, CHAIR PLCPC ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE


As we begin 2024, the Endowment sends many "Thank you's" to the members and friends of PLCPC. Each January, it is our joy to review the past year and thank those who made it a success.

During 2023, the Endowment received gifts celebrating happy occasions, honoring the lives of members who passed away, and supporting the church's future. Gifts ranged from a few dollars to thousands of dollars, but each was important for what it could mean for the future.

All gifts to the Endowment are placed in the Endowment's "principal." That principal can never be spent. Rather, it is always

invested to produce funds for the church in perpetuity. However, the Endowment can spend the income (interest and dividends). In this way, the Endowment has funds to help promote the success of the mission of this church throughout the future of PLCPC.

Even as we celebrate 2023, we look forward to the New Year. We hope you will "Remember the Endowment" in 2024. Whether celebrating a special event, honoring a friend, or remembering someone dear, we welcome your contribution to the PLCPC Endowment. You can always reach us through Jolene Wade in the church office at [jolene@pointlomachurch.org](mailto:jolene@pointlomachurch.org).



**Discover Our Community**  
IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM  
**Jan. 14 and 21**  
12:00-1:30 pm  
[register today](#)

Registration is now open for our next Discover our Community January class. This two-part class provides an opportunity to meet others who are exploring and growing in their faith at PLCPC, learn what we believe and what makes this community unique, explore how your gifts can be expressed and get to know our leadership. After the second class, there is an opportunity to join PLCPC, if you choose. Register on our website. Lunch is provided for in-person participants. Childcare is available if requested.

## EXPERIENCE JESUS

### 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](https://pointlomachurch.org)

[!\[\]\(0d5ec72f61334709c3fc9450209b754f\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(944d59db1282ea95b82255c3404a2195\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(f81abf985c764528084c28d544d04dc4\_img.jpg\)](#) [@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](https://pointlomachurch.org/podcast)



PointLomaChurch.org


RELEASE  
RECONNECT  
RESTORE

Wednesdays  
Noon  
Chapel or Zoom

Start the new year off with reconnecting to what's most important, our healthy and balanced walk with Christ, during our weekly yoga class.



**GET THE ZOOM LINK**



Scan here

### Sign up to Serve at PLCPC

God has given everyone gifts and talents, and we are very grateful that so many volunteers use those talents right here—serving the church. Our volunteers are crucial to keeping the church running.

Check out all the ways to serve around campus at [pointlomachurch.org/serve](https://pointlomachurch.org/serve)

## JOURNEY INTO DEEPER FAITH



### Bible 101: God's Big Redemptive Story

JANUARY 10, 17, 24, 31 | 6:30-8PM | CHAPEL & ZOOM

In this class led by Pastor John Moser and Evan Gratz, we will see and treasure the big arc of God's redemptive story from creation to culmination and how we fit into what God has done and is now doing through us. Register today!



POINTLOMACHURCH.ORG/REGISTER



### Debrief the Sermon

JANUARY SUNDAYS | 10:30-11:15AM | LIBRARY & ZOOM

Come and experience Jesus in a deeper way as we unpack his teachings in the Sermon on the Mount through conversations and reflection. Join us for three weeks—January 7, 14 and 21. We meet from 10:30-11:15am in a hybrid model of in-person in the Library or online through the zoom link in the chat after the online services. Come when you can, each session stands alone. Questions? Email Cheryl Louie at [clouie3@gmail.com](mailto:clouie3@gmail.com)



### Red Brick Preschool | [redbrickpreschool.com](http://redbrickpreschool.com)

The children gave gifts to the manger and had fun at the Red Brick Christmas Party. To end the year, we had our annual Christmas program for the families. They loved watching their little ones on stage.

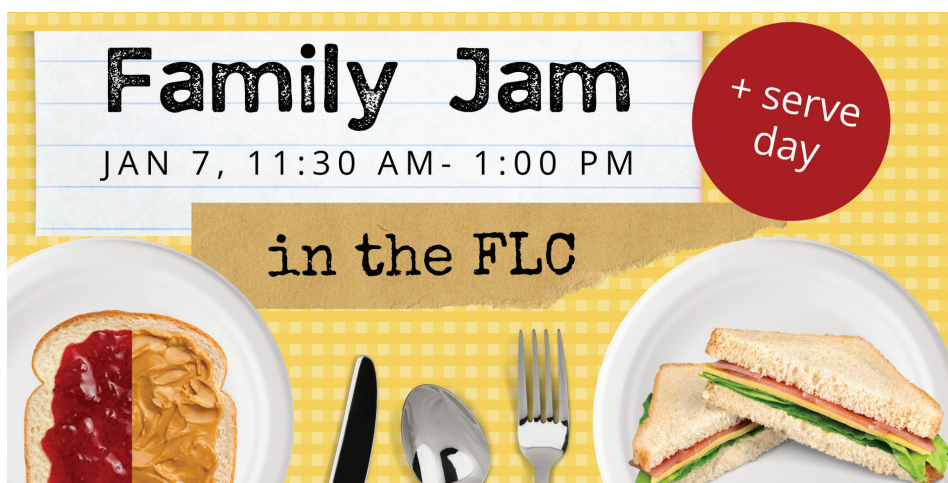
The Preschool & Infant Center registration for Fall 2024 will begin in February! If you are a PLCPC member you have priority registration. Call to set up a tour and make sure we have your email, so we can mail out the registration information. We are enrolling children as young as 6 weeks old through 5 years old. We have options for 2, 3 & 5 days a week for half (9:00am-1:00pm) or extended days (8:00am-5:00pm). We look forward to having you and your family be a part of our preschool. Call Nicole at 619-223-3327 or email [preschool@pointlomachurch.org](mailto:preschool@pointlomachurch.org). Visit our website at [redbrickpreschool.com](http://redbrickpreschool.com) and add your child to our waitlist.





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

After a fun Christmas season learning all about the birth of Jesus, God's greatest gift, we turn our attention to the new year ahead. During Kids' Cafe in January, we will be learning about our responsibility towards others: sharing, loving, and using words wisely, just as Jesus did! This month's theme connects nicely with our church's vision of Loving Everyone to LIFE with Everything We Have.



In that vein, we have a special opportunity at this month's Family Jam on January 7th. After lunch, we will be assembling hygiene kits for refugee families at the border! We are partnering with World Relief to distribute these needed toiletries. This project is perfect for little hands, so join us in the FLC for sandwiches and service as we practice sharing with those in need!

## SAVE THESE DATES

- **January 7:** Family Jam serve day
- **January 9:** MOPS 9:30-11:30am
- **January 16:** Mom's Bible Study, 9:30-11am
- **January 23:** MOPS 9:30-11:30am
- **January 30:** Mom's Bible Study, 9:30-11am

## Children's Music Programming



Registration open for the new year!

### Children's Music & Movement Class

Ages 4-6 | Wednesdays,  
4:00pm - 4:45pm  
Starts: Jan 10

### Music, Improvisation & Drama

Grades 2-6 | Thursdays,  
4:00pm - 6:00pm  
Starts: Jan 11

[pointlomachurch.org/register](http://pointlomachurch.org/register)

## Photo highlights from Red Brick Christmas





**Brick Youth Group**  
Ryan Silvia, [ryan@pointlomachurch.org](mailto:ryan@pointlomachurch.org)

## A NOTE FROM RYAN

### Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Hey Red Brick Church! This last month has been a crazy one, but it was absolutely amazing. Point Loma sure knows how to put on a wonderful Christmas season, and I am so thankful for everyone who was so loving and kind with my transition onto the team. We have a lot coming up in the new year. If you want to get involved, it is super important that you join us for our Parents Dinner on January 14th. We will have a lot of information to share about the future of the youth program and opportunities for you to participate. We are so excited for all the fun things happening this year and want to get you plugged in!

### YOUTH GROUP RESUMES

**JAN 7, 4:30-6:30PM**

YOUTH CENTER

We are excited and ready to come back full of energy after our holiday break! Youth Group resumes the first week of January, and we invite all students from 6-12th grade to join us for an amazing night of fun, worship, and a short message.

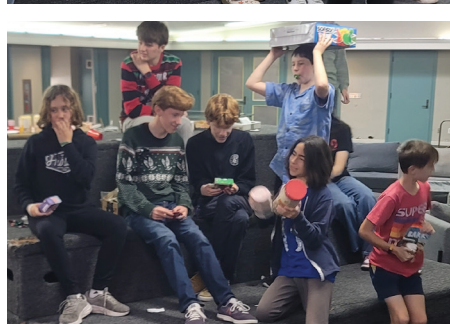
### YOUTH PARENTS DINNER

**JAN 14, 4:30PM**

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

All parents are invited to join us in the Family Life Center for dinner at Youth Group on January 14th. We will share the schedule through the summer as well as different opportunities for parents and families to get involved here at PLCPC. If you are interested in what is happening with the youth program, please stop by! We would love to get you involved in the amazing plans we have for this year.

## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY





## STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

Our Deacons are always steadfastly serving our community with care and compassion. They are also strong in strategizing how to meet needs that arise. They now have a new internal position, created to meet the needs of Deacons as well as our online worshipers. Deacon candidate Fran Eppig wanted to serve, but she is not able to be in person with the community, and thus, really not able to fulfill most of the "hands on" jobs of being a Deacon. Wanting to use Fran's gifts AND meet needs trending in our community, Deacon Moderator Jean Federici and Online Ministry Director Melissa Mullins created the position called the Online Worship Deacon Representative and welcomed Fran to the Board of Deacons. This job involves greeting worshipers as they come online for worship and chatting online after the service.

### Many Thanks to Jean Federici for her service as the Deacon Moderator for the past two years.



*The Board of Deacons celebrated their year together at their annual holiday gathering. Deacons, seasoned and new, rejoiced with gratitude for the many opportunities to provide care and fellowship to our congregation in 2023. The Deacons wish you all a very Happy New Year and look forward to serving our church family in 2024! Deacon Moderator Jean Federici (far left).*

### Red Brick Knitters

Founded over a decade ago, knitters have gathered in fellowship to knit and crochet squares which are assembled into blankets. To date, the Red Brick Knitters have created and donated over 1,000 blankets to New Day Ministries, MOMs, and Rancho Genesis. At this time we welcome new participants who wish to connect with others in a creative atmosphere.

#### Knitters meet

- **Second Thursday of each month**
- **10:00 a.m. in the Parlor**
- **All ages and levels of knitters, crocheters, & crafters welcome**

Call or text Hope Roel for information at (619)742-3986.



### WOMEN'S RETREAT

JANUARY 26 - 28

There is still time to sign up for Women's Retreat this month! We hope that you will join us for a spiritual and fun weekend, connecting with Christian women, strengthening our faith, and taking a deep breath from our busy lives.

#### FIND OUT MORE!

[pointlomachurch.org/womens-retreat](http://pointlomachurch.org/womens-retreat)

### MEN@WORK

TUESDAYS, 8:30 AM  
LIBRARY & VIA ZOOM

We meet each week for a time of fellowship and Bible study. Afterwards, when needed we perform repairs, painting, and fix-it projects on our church campus and for the preschool.

For work projects contact Allen Hobbs, [allenmhobbs@msn.com](mailto:allenmhobbs@msn.com) or Sam Bick, [samuelbick@aol.com](mailto:samuelbick@aol.com). For the Zoom link and Bible study information contact Em Cummins, [emcum@sdsu.edu](mailto:emcum@sdsu.edu).



*Men@Work assembling bikes for last month's MOMs toy store.*

# Senior Adult Ministry Programs



## NEW YEAR'S LUNCHEON WITH "JOHNNY G"

**Tuesday, January 9 • Doors Open at 10:00am, Music at 11:00am, Lunch at 12:00pm • Family Life Center - \$7**

Ring in the new year at our friendly monthly luncheon. Menu includes hearty black-eyed pea soup, crisp green salad and dessert. Entertainment provided by "Johnny G," who will be singing our favorite tunes. Kindly RSVP by Friday, January 5.

## RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PATROL (R.S.V.P.) PRESENTATION

**Wednesday, January 17 • 12:00-1:00pm • Family Life Center**

The R.S.V.P patrol is a group of volunteers who promote community awareness and help all San Diego citizens feel safe. Volunteers perform vacation house checks, You Are Not Alone checks and community crime prevention programs. At this presentation, we will hear from two R.S.V.P. officers and learn about their duties & responsibilities as well as information about joining R.S.V.P.

## COFFEE ON THE PORCH HOSTED BY SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

**Sunday, January 21 • 10:00-10:30am • Family Life Center Porch**

Join us for coffee, breakfast snacks & fellowship between the 9:00am & 10:30am worship services, and discover what's going on in Senior Adult Ministry. See you there!

## AARP SAFE DRIVING CLASSROOM COURSE

**January 22 & 29 • 9:00am-1:00pm • Family Life Center**

**\$20 AARP Member/\$25 Non-Members**

Back by popular demand, this two-part course will teach you defensive driving techniques and cover special considerations for mature drivers such as the effect of medications on driving, new technologies found in cars today, and how to adjust your driving for age-related changes. Please note, it is necessary to attend both sessions in their entirety to receive your California Mature Driver Improvement Course Certificate. Payment accepted at the first class, checks or money order made out to AARP are accepted. No cash, please.

## FOREVER FIT WEEKLY CLASS

**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, balance and core strength. Equipment provided, no reservation needed. Offered in partnership with the Ryan Family YMCA.

**Register**

**ONLINE** [pointlomachurch.org/register](https://pointlomachurch.org/register)

**CONTACT ELAINE** (619) 223-1633 Ext. 210 | [elaine@pointlomachurch.org](mailto:elaine@pointlomachurch.org).



## ONGOING STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES

### Prayer Quilt Ministry

1st Saturday of the month,  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm | FLC

Contact Maureen Blackhall,  
maureenblackhall@gmail.com  
Request a prayer quilt, email  
redbrickprayerquilts@gmail.com

### Red Brick Knitters

2nd Thursday  
of the month,  
10:00am | Parlor

### Prayer Requests

Submit Prayer  
requests to the  
Prayer Chain at  
prayer@pointlomachurch.org

## TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

### An Update from Loaves & Fishes, Ocean Beach Emergency Food Pantry

A MISSION PARTNER OF POINT LOMA COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Loaves & Fishes, operating out of the Water's Edge Church, has been serving the Ocean Beach community since 1977. PLCPC has supported the mission since the beginning with funds and volunteers. Former PLCPC pastor Rev. Lou Vick was the president of the board for over 20 years!

Loaves & Fishes is open every Monday morning at 9:30am, rain or shine, 52 weeks a year (holidays included). They feed our neighbors (60% families, 40% homeless). Weekly, they provide bags of food for clients who are able and unable to cook. Hygiene kits and pet food/toys are available, and they provide clothing once a month. Twice a month they are joined by CalFresh (EBT- food stamp program), FSD, & T-Mobile.

With the end of the Covid pandemic, government help to those in need has been cut drastically. In June 2023, their client base increased from 150 to 275 per week. The past 12 months they gave out 10,000 bags of food, which is huge for a small operation. Although they receive fresh foods from grocery store partners like Grocery Outlet, Target, and Gelson's, they still rely heavily on shelf stable items purchased from SD Food Bank and Feeding San Diego, and costs at SD Food Bank skyrocketed from \$30/week to \$300-\$600/week.

They are certified by UCSD as a Gold Level food pantry. To keep this accreditation, they are reviewed and inspected annually.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP LOAVES & FISHES?

#### Volunteer

Mondays or Wednesdays.

Email ellenmacvean@yahoo.com for more information.

#### Donate

Checks are welcome and needed. Please make checks payable to: "Ocean Beach Emergency Food, Inc" and send to P.O. Box 7322 San Diego, CA 92167.



*Volunteers pack the food bags on Wednesday for distribution on Monday. Fresh produce and meat, when donated, is added to the bags on Monday.*



### A special thank you...

to Saskia Snyder of Saskia Snyder Designs and Suzy Lidstrom for sharing their design expertise this year for the Christmas decorations on our beautiful church campus.



## JANUARY 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...

- JAN 7** In memory of Richie Albrecht. Thanks for passing on your sense of humor. Love Mark and Carlene Albrecht.  
And, Audrey McManus gives flowers for Kelley and Walter - I think of you often with a happy heart - Walter we made many beautiful memories.
- JAN 14** By Ruth Palma and family in loving memory of her husband and their father and grandfather, Charlie Palma.
- JAN 21** In loving memory of Joanne Albrecht. Thank you for being such a good example of how to live life to the fullest. Love Mark and Carlene Albrecht.  
And, by Kathleen McKnight in joyful celebration of the birthday of her grand-daughter Hailey Ann McDonald.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE FLOWERS?

The following dates are available in 2024:

January 28

April 28

July 14

July 28

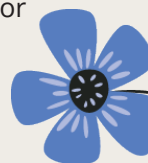
September 8

September 29

November 24

Single bouquet donation is \$45  
Jan 28 is a double bouquet for \$90

Reach out to Ellie Anderson,  
12eanderson@gmail.com for  
more information.



## Life Events | Deaths

**Carlos Huelga** passed away on December 1, 2023. A Celebration of Life was held on Friday, December 15 at 2 pm in the Sanctuary with a reception following in the Family Life Center. Pastor Karla Shaw officiated.





## BLOOD DRIVE

**January 14**  
8:00 am - 1:30 pm

[pointlomachurch.org/register](http://pointlomachurch.org/register)

**Did you know that your one blood donation can save up to three lives?** You can save lives with us! Sunday, January 14 from 8 am - 1:30 pm. The San Diego Blood Mobile will be parked on Udall Street.

**SIGN UP TODAY!**



SAVE THE DATE

## *Rancho Genesis Summer Trip*

JULY 7 - JULY 13, 2024