

Pasadena Community Church

PRAISES

April/May

2020

Be the Difference:
Mission Possible



Dear Friends,

This year has not started how any of us envisioned. For me, that's true when it comes to my personal life and within the life of the church. However, maybe you're like me, trying to embrace some of the gifts that have come during this pandemic and our response to it.

For me, one of those gifts is seeing how we, as a church, have responded. The how may have

changed, but the "what" has not! We have continued to be a church that's Welcoming All to Believe, Belong, Become, and Be the Difference.

As I look back on our four sermon series that was built upon our four Vision Boulders (Believe: The Creed, Belong: Connect Four, Become: Seasons of the Soul, and Be the Difference: Mission Possible), I genuinely believe we have prepared to live this out for ourselves and our surrounding community. On May 24th, we'll conclude all of these series, by sending out our graduating seniors out into the world to be The Impact.

From there, we'll await and receive the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. The next sermon series starts with our remembrance and celebration of Pentecost. The day when the Holy Spirit fell and came upon the gathered disciples, giving birth to the Universal Church. Like those first disciples that followed Christ, we should also be Fired Up about our relationship with God and faith journey.

Due to the pandemic, we may feel tempted to do otherwise, to forsake our belief in God and God's power. However, Pentecost reminds us that when everything was uncertain (Jesus had already ascended to heaven), that's when God showed up as fire and with fire.

As you look through this April/May edition of our newsletter, know that these pictures and stories represent how the fiery Spirit of God is alive and active, in and through us.

With Love, Pastor Corey



Pasadena Community Church Staff Update

PCC Administration has undergone some organizational changes since March of this year. These changes were necessary in order to reduce expenses and improve the organizational structure. As part of the reorganization, Julie Chalmer's position as Office Manager, and Pat Meredith's position as Media Coordinator & Receptionist were eliminated on March 24th. PCC wishes Julie and Pat well with their future endeavors.

The duties and responsibilities previously associated with the Office Manager and Media Coordinator & Receptionist positions have been redistributed. The

church receptionist position will be staffed by volunteers. The remainder of the duties and responsibilities will be divided between the recently created positions of Finance & Administration Manager (back office management) and Office & Communications Manager (front office management). On March 30th, Jackie Taylor transitioned into the position of Finance & Administration Manager (formerly, Finance Manager). On March 30th, Laura Turner accepted the position of Office & Communications Manager. Both positions report to Pastor Corey.

PCC Helps Gulfport Elementary

When Pasadena Community Church learned of school supplies and learning tool needs for Gulfport Elementary, the congregation came together in Big Ways.

PCC so generously provided school supplies and activities to help the families through this unforeseen time of homeschooling.

PCC Preschool and Christian Play group donated buckets of books for the children.

All showed how the Sermon Series Mission Possible: Be the Difference can transform lives.



Isaiah's Place, INC.

Pasadena Community Church teamed up with Isaiah's Place Inc., on Saturday, April 18 to prepare over 200 meals to hand out to the homeless in downtown St. Petersburg. Less than 24 hours before they would be

delivering the meal, the organizer for Isaiah's Place Inc. learned that the kitchen they use was not available due to COVID-19.

Only one month earlier, John Gay from our food pantry, developed a relationship with Isaiah's Place Inc. We donated cases of the Serve Pinellas pre-packed mac & cheese for Isaiah's Place, Inc. to use in their ministry.

They remembered our generosity so they reached out us to see if there was any way we could help. We are so thankful that God opened the door for us to give what we had, a facility!

FOOD PANTRY

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, PCC learned how the community was struggling with job loss and the families ability to provide food. PCC decided to move the food pantry from a monthly distribution to a weekly distribution of food bags in April.

When we announced to the congregation the plan to expand food bag distribution, the congregation stepped up in extraordinary ways bringing extra food donations as well as monetary donations.

The pantry team appreciates PCC for their support, our weekly pantry volunteers, and the members of our congregation who have donated to this ministry—answering God’s call to Be the Difference in our community by helping our neighbors who are encountering hardships.



EXCITING NEWS! PCCUMC & HABITAT FAITH



Habitat began workdays in February for the Cottner family home build. Several PCC volunteers came to the Habitat workdays on the first of February.

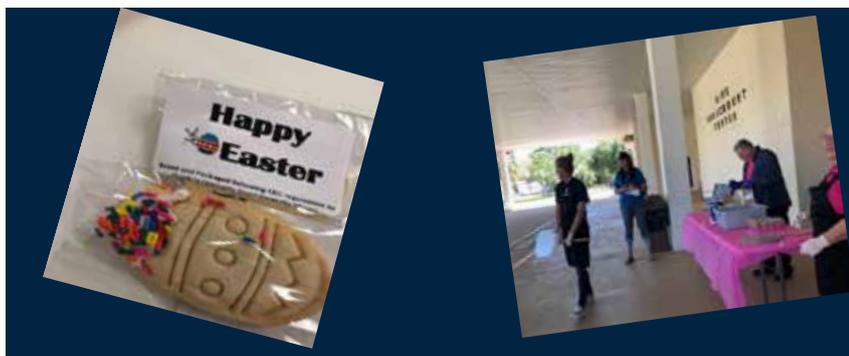
There were scheduled workdays in April for PCC volunteers and a group of our youth, to work. However, these dates were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many PCC families donated money for the construction of the home for Kelly and her family.

We are so happy to report that the Cottner home is complete, and Kelly and her children are now living in their beautiful new Habitat home! Indeed this is exciting news! Drive-by sometime to see this beautiful community of Habitat homes just west of 66th Street N and 62nd Avenue N in St Petersburg.

LOVE IN ACTION

The hospitality team was busy in April. On Wednesday, April 1, they baked, packaged, and handed out cookies to the Christian Playgroup and Preschool Families. They followed CDC and Social Distancing guidelines. The team had so much fun using a long-handled pizza peel (paddle) to hand the cookies to the children through the open window of the vehicle. The children were so excited and delighted to have this special time. Even the face masks and gloves didn't scare them.

For Easter, they made delivered Easter meals on Good Friday to loved ones from the church who were going to be alone on Easter Sunday.

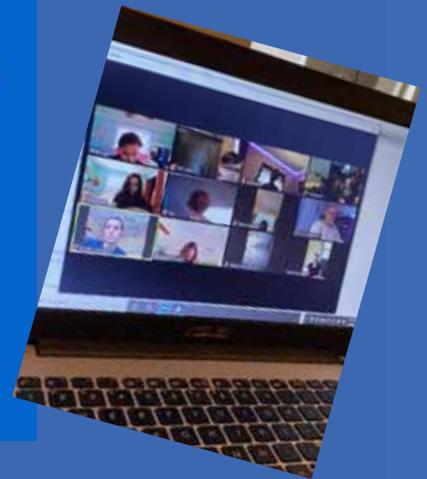


On April 15, the Hospitality Team partnered with Preschool, Christian Playgroup, and Youth Ministry.

We wanted to connect with PCC families, so we invited them to a Free Lunch-n-Go. We greeted around 100 preschoolers, children and youth combined.

The enthusiastic energy from everyone as they drove up to receive their lunch and saw PCC staff. We welcomed them waving and giving air high fives to everyone. It was a great day being able to see all these beautiful faces we have missed being able to see each week.





WEDNESDAY

Wednesday night at IMPACT. We moved from in person meetings to Zoom meetings in March due to COVID-19 pandemic. We started calling it Youth Night Live or YNL.

The Adult Youth Leaders have given the students some outstanding messages on how to stay connected with each other, staying strong in their faith, and to remain encouraged during these difficult times. Our youth band, under the direction of Brooke, has led us in worship with pre-recorded songs recorded virtually. We have even figured ways to play virtual games. We end the night praying for each other.

We hope to be able to meet in person soon, but until such time YNL will continue on Wednesday nights.

CONFIRMATION

Zoom has allowed us to continue with Confirmation. We've had high participation even though we had to move to online classes. We feel very blessed that we were able to go on the Confirmation retreat to Warren Willis, back in February, before the quarantine began.

We have decided to postpone our Confirmation ceremony to a later date when we can meet in person at our church. Stay tuned for that date!

SUMMER

In a typical year, our youth ministry goes from regular programs to fun events on Wednesdays called Summer Splash. With COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing guidelines, this year, Summer Splash will look different.

But have no worries, our leadership team is thinking of creative ways in which we can still have fun this summer! More information to follow soon.

MISSIONS

Typically, during the summer, we go out of town to serve communities in need. This summer, our youth ministry will be doing mission projects locally instead to follow COVID restrictions and guidelines.

We are still working on the details. Rest assured, we will do what we do best to make an IMPACT in the communities we serve.

Children's Ministry

Pasadena Community Church Children's ministry found innovative ways to keep the ministry going with the children in the congregation.

Ms. Angie kept in touch with the children through email, handwritten notes, Easter deliveries, drive through Sunday School, and Zoom game nights. The Zoom nights have been a lot of fun playing Bingo, Card-n-Go Seek, and The Game of Things.

Even the COVID-19 pandemic couldn't stop the Easter Celebration. It just went on with a twist this year. The Easter bunny went and visited some of the children on the PCC bus. The hospitality team packaged, in compliance with CDC regulations, Easter Cookies to put in the goody bags for the children. Ms. Angie and Ms. Tina, along with the Easter Bunny, drove to the homes and wished each child a Happy Easter! It was such a joy to see how happy the kids were when the Easter bunny stood at the bus door.



Resurrection House

As a church, PCC has always had great compassion for others. A Board Member of Resurrection House, along with a member of PCC, Kelly Stambaugh Hermes, asked if we could assist with some immediate needs for families with Resurrection House due to the COVID-10 pandemic. When we learned of their needs, we knew God was calling us to say YES to support these families.

The mission of Resurrection House is to end the cycle of generational poverty by providing safe housing, offer case management and family trauma counseling, teach life-skills, and provides continuing education programs for families to rebuild their lives.

Ellen McDonald, Executive Director, offers insight into the families at Florida Resurrection House. Of the ten families with Resurrection House, only two have retained their employment, and they worry about the future job market. Missing school means higher food bills at home, putting a financial strain on already low budgets.

They are finding new rhythms to their days, all but one family is a single-parent household, so keeping school moving for both children and parents has been a challenge for all. In this Easter season, God reminds us that resurrection is real, and it happens every day on our campus for families. We thank you for your prayers as we know the Way-maker is already working for the good of these families!



Pasadena Community Church Preschool



Under the direction of government officials on March 16th, PCC closed the Preschool as a safety precaution due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although our doors closed for students and families, our mission never weakened. In the weeks to follow, the preschool staff continued to teach, engage and support our two hundred plus families in creative and thoughtful experiences. Teachers established weekly Zoom classes with children, conducted home visits delivering activity packages, and even had a drive-through Easter celebration.

Our teacher's hand-delivered Mother's Day presents to each Preschool mom. They also hand-delivered Diplomas, end of year DVD, and a farewell present to each VPK who graduated. We are so thankful to be able to continue our service to our families and community.

As the weeks went on, it became prevalent there was a need for childcare for essential workers.

Church leadership worked very closely to determine the duty set forth by our Church's vision while simultaneously discerning the health and safety of our staff and families.

Through this process, it was decided to open the Preschool for essential personnel

as defined by the State of Florida "Safer at Home Order." On May 4th, the doors open to serve thirty-eight children. All children and staff are screened upon arrival, and strict safety, sanitation and social distancing guidelines are followed throughout the day. As the future continues to be uncertain, it is a blessing to be "essential," not only in our work but in our faith.

BELONG



Are you missing your Church Family? Now you can use your home or cell phone to stay connected with your PCC family!

On Wednesday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. Barbara Posey will host a Conference Call. We will pray together, have a short devotion, and share what is happening in the life of Pasadena Community Church. As time goes on, we will customize our format to fit the needs of the group. To receive information, call the church: 727-381-2499, Ext 214, or email barbarap@pccumc.org.

Caring for Pasadena Community Church

A big thank you to those who have helped Congregational Care with phone calls and cards to members and friends of PCC. We are planning to do more of this, so please let Barbara Posey know if you would like to participate as a “Friend from Pasadena Community Church” Contact Barbara at 727-381-2499, Ext. 214 or barbarap@pccumc.org to be a part of this ministry.

Divorce Care

Divorce Care is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life’s most difficult experiences. Don’t go through separation or divorce alone.

Grief Care

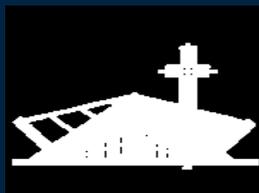
If you’ve lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you’ve probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. Grief can be a confusing time when you may feel isolated and have many questions about things you’ve never faced before. Grief Care will help you meet these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life.

If you are interested in attending one of these support groups, contact Barbara Posey at barbarap@pccumc.org or 727-381-2499, Ext. 214.

Christian Counseling

PCC has two counselors, Debbie Lewis and Maria Ericson, who can meet one-on-one if counseling is something you feel would benefit you, a loved one or a friend. Both work with adults, teens, and children, have a variety of specialties.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Class of 2020!



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