



April @ Bethany

Bethany Presbyterian Church

Welcome to our monthly newsletter! Each month, the newsletter will feature more articles about the goings-on at Bethany, committee reports, and other items of interest. Ongoing announcements can be seen on the website.

Warm greetings to all of you,

April 2020

Did you know that you can purchase caterpillar kits on Amazon? I'm banging my hand against my head in disbelief. A pastor I know did this and almost everyone in her congregation is watching a caterpillar grow during Lent and it's a big hit, and a fabulous hands on way to experience all of lent and waiting, and the emergence of a new life.

I wonder what would happen if the caterpillar needed to remain in the chrysalis longer than usual? Waiting and reflecting on the inner life is great in theory, and certainly even something to do more often than most of us do. But when waiting goes beyond theory and we are forced to rely on within longer than usual, it is disorienting and can be scary.

I am very lucky. I have the perfect job. I am not only allowed, but encouraged to reach out to people, stick my nose in their business, because in my role as your pastor I may have something to give. I am lucky because I have someplace to focus all of my helpless feelings. I am staying home except for essential services. But part of my essential work is you, and for that I am blessed. Sometimes after a pastoral call, I realize that the person has been a huge gift to me with their presence and with their stories of how you care for one another. I was recently checking on several folks to be sure they were connected. The first person I called had already been in regular recent contact with a few of the people on my list. I left the call reminded that the Church is one body. I am the pastor but we are all ministers. I give thanks for you.

I want to remind you that your love and care for others is still alive and well, and you too have a role where you have something unique to give. Think about who you love and where they are, and if they are far, recognize the heartache of being away. And if the people in your life are near, I give thanks. I hope with you that all of this restraint from contact is temporary. God is a life-giving creative God who will help us through this. God will put people and ideas in our life that will work for good through all of us. Lazarus was raised from the dead, into the abundance of his life. But with the resurrection of Jesus, new life was to a completely new way of being. We will be raised from our current worries and anxieties into a new world with new ways of being together, and new ways to care for others, and with any luck, a more gentle world. It's up to us.

continued

Please stay safe, stay home, and ask for help.

As always, I want to learn more about how I and/or Bethany can meet your needs and bring you joy. I encourage you to call the office at 650-589-3711 or reach out to me at dmcguire@bethanypcusa.org for any reason.

Blessings,
Pastor Deb

The Deacons have been in contact with those on their parish lists informing them of changes in services and offering assistance. We encourage everyone to reach out to the deacons if you have any needs or concerns.

The remaining Lenten Bible Studies at Bethany will be taking place via Zoom meeting! Tuesdays at 7pm you will get an email from me at dmcguire@bethanypcusa.org. When you open the email, you just need to click on the link that says "Join Zoom Meeting" and Zoom will launch itself. You will need to be sure your camera and microphone are working. I will also send you a link to the Participants pages to read before the meeting. In order to participate I will need your email by Tuesday morning in order to include you in the meeting invitation. The sooner I get your email, the sooner I can send you the participants page, if you'd like to read ahead. I'm excited that we can continue, albeit in a different format. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

FINANCIAL TRUSTEES

February and YTD Financial Summary

February Income	\$16,486.07		
February Expense	(\$15,503.30)		
Net	\$ 982.77		
YTD Income	\$29,586.07	97.1%	
YTD Expense	(\$30,567.86)	100.3%	
Net	(\$ 981.76)	(3.2%)	

If you have not already provided your offering for March or are wondering how to provide your April offering, please mail it to the church so we can make a deposit(s) over the next few weeks to make sure our staff are paid and bills are kept current. We thank you in advance for your faithful giving during this unusual time.

Questions about the 2020 BPC budget: Contact Lyn Hughes, Ken Henry, Dave Wales, or Bonnie Morgan.

Questions about our tenant, the Sikh Association: Contact either the Financial Trustees (Lyn Hughes, Ken Henry, Dave Wales or Bonnie Morgan) or Buildings and Grounds (Dave Wales)

3/16/20 SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (7:04PM - 9:04PM)

Meeting was opened in prayer by Rev. Debra McGuire, pastor.

Rev. McGuire led the Devotion reflecting on our being centered, fully present and mindful as the world deals with coronavirus news.

Detailed, prayerful discussion about the possibility of cancelling 3/22/20 and subsequent Worship services. Decisions will be made week-by-week as world/national situation unfolds

Info will go out to BPC family & friends through Pastor Deb, Elders & Deacons, Church secretary, Berta, all by emails, phone calls, and snail mail.

KQ will add Worship status on Bethany's website, FaceBook page and YouTube channel.

Deb will work with Jessica and others to add a Worship service to FaceBook Live.

BPC will continue with Payroll (Deb & Berta to work, mostly, remotely).

Next Session meeting- Monday, 3/23/20 at 11 AM (by conference call facilitated by Lyn).

3/23/20 SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (by Skype conference call 11:05AM- 11:52AM)

Detailed discussion about Worship by FaceBook Live which we were, overall, pleased by!

Deb & George will work on an even better experience for next Sunday with, hopefully, input by Jessica, Tamra & Ken.

Next Skype Session meeting- Monday, 3/30/20 @ 11 am.

If you have any Session questions please, contact Roxane Wales at 650-303-2070 or roxanewales@gmail.com.

-R.Wales, Clerk of Session



COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFE COMMITTEE

Baby Items Drive – Now through April 30, 2020 (Drive extended)

We are still collecting new or gently used baby items (age Newborn to 6 mons) for the San Francisco General Hospital Birthing Center, which services single and homeless mothers.

Donations can include onesies, sleepers, rompers, diapers, socks, hats, blankets, etc. for the Birthing Center. Boxes that say “Baby Items Here” are still in the Narthex; if you don’t have time to shop, let Lyn Hughes know and someone from the Committee will purchase items for you for the Center, or if you need someone to pickup your donation, please call Lyn Hughes at (650) 867-0667. The items can be left on your porch/front door area to be picked up.

Bethany Spring Tea – Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 1pm to 3:30pm

Please mark your calendars to join us for our annual Spring Tea on Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 1pm to 3:30pm;

This year, the beneficiary of the Spring Tea proceeds will be Access SFUSD – The Arc, which is a community-based program for students 18-22 with disabilities. They focus on teaching functional life skills within the community setting as the classroom. They strive to help students discover their passions, unlock potential, and become involved members of the community by offering an individualized program that works with each student's goals and interests to further develop their skills, be it in community college, or vocational experiences.

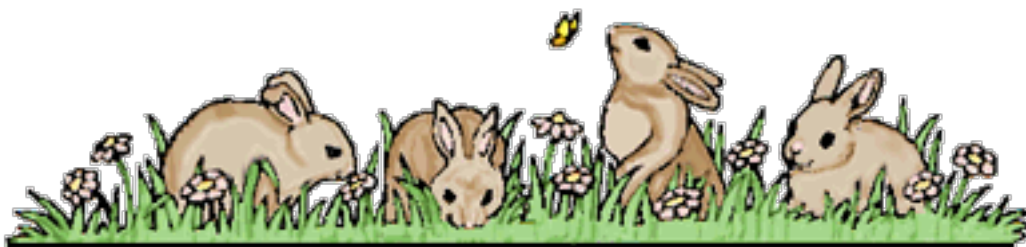
We will have a basket raffle, entertainment, and a lovely afternoon of fellowship and fun. Please plan to join us and bring your family and friends.

Tickets are \$20 each and we will start selling tickets in April.

Should you have any questions, please contact Lyn Hughes or Jorie Abbott.

Lenten Offering

A non-perishable food and supply offering will be collected during Lent to support those in need at the Catholic Worker Hospitality House (San Bruno Shelter). Please bring your item(s) and place them at in the church in front of the communion table. If you need someone to pick up items from your home, please call Lyn Hughes at (650) 867-0667 to make arrangements.





Please send a virtual Bethany welcome to Jeff Wu's new four-legged companion, Copper!



Catholic Worker Hospitality House (the San Bruno Shelter)

Rina Ranahan is Bethany's representative to the San Bruno Shelter. Please call her at 650-291-6979, if you are interested in serving on this committee. Current items needed include:

- coffee
- creamer
- sugar (white & brown)
- oatmeal
- canned fruits
- soup spoons
- trash bags (8 gal, 13 gal, 39 gal)
- sleeping bags
- blankets
- socks
- underwear
- paper products (napkins, paper towels, toilet paper)
-

The full list can be found on our website: bethanypcusa.org

Happy Birthday to these wonderful folks born in the month of April!

- 1 Donna Goodwin
- 1 Danielle Fontaine
- 2 Aaron Schurk
- 3 Benjamin Kumimoto
- 5 Kelly Underwood Rozmus
- 14 Berit Potter
- 16 Matthew Jones
- 18 Claire Hollenbeck
- 20 Amber Wales
- 20 Jorie Abbott
- 22 Pam Matthews



We remember these Saints of Bethany who were born in April:

- 6 Katie West
- 11 Alice Oaks



Due Dates

For W@B: Tuesday morning.

For Sunday announcements: Wednesday morning. Email them to the church office or leave them in the mailbox on the outside of the office door.

For the monthly newsletter: the Wednesday before the last Wednesday of the month.

Due to Governor Newsom and state health official's shelter in place order, we will not be holding Sunday worship at the church until further notice. Our office will be closed, and the staff will be working from home. Voicemail and email will continue to be checked.

Check our Facebook page (Bethany San Bruno) and our website for information about our streaming Sunday worship.

Bethany's Purpose Statement:

Bethany's purpose is to provide a nurturing and energizing environment to feed the soul so we can go out into the world and reflect the glory of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Bethany's Welcoming Statement:

We don't yet know who you are, but we do know that you are a dearly beloved child of God, and you're already welcome here. We invite you, on your unique spiritual journey, to join us in the life and ministry at Bethany.

Bethany Presbyterian Church is a member of More Light Presbyterians
<https://mlp.org>



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