



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.



My Dear Bethany family,

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Easter will be upon us before we know it. I wonder what the resurrection has in store for us? We are promised new life in Christ and this year we sure could use it. I feel very hopeful these days. With vaccines doing their part we have some hope for getting ahead of the pandemic. I pray we all still show some restraint as we give in to the spring fever and freedom that vaccines represent. We will need to remain diligent about masking and hand washing and distancing for some time in order to prevent the need for another shut down and shelter in place. We are so close now. I look forward to gathering outside for some casual gatherings as the weather improves even as it is a little too soon to go back to worshipping in person inside the church. There are many ways we can see each other for social activities. I look forward to hearing your ideas too!

Let's enjoy the entrance of spring!

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Deb



Maybe it's all the kids books we've been having fun with during Story Time With... on Saturday mornings, but I'm sure in play mode. Maybe I'll find a steamshovel, or go play on the beach with Swashby, or go scratch an Elephant's back. I'm not sure where the girl in this picture is, but she sure looks like she is having fun. I'm hoping to be somewhere like that during the week of April 5-11 while I am on vacation, even if I don't go any further than my patio! Maybe I'll just sit out there in my polka-dot rubber rain boots and see what happens. I look forward to seeing you after the 11th!

Pastor Deb

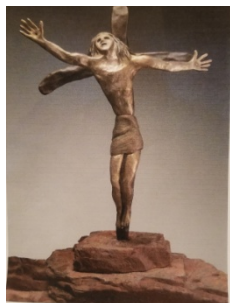


Wednesday, March 31st 6:30pm

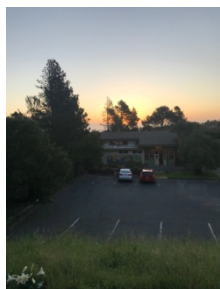
Each Wednesday evening at 6:30 we gather for a casual time of prayer together on zoom. Please join us and let us help you carry any burdens, and we joyfully share your celebrations! Join us!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86953610751?pwd=eXAvbGgxb2l0WTFkVkhjeVlrQ2JNQT09>

Friday, April 2nd 8pm



Please stop by our Bethany San Bruno Facebook page for a contemplative service of remembrance of the night of Jesus' betrayal, arrest, and death on a cross. Good Friday often marks the beginning of a time of deep silence marked by prayer, fasting, and self-reflection. Can you feel the loss the disciples felt when the one in whom they had hoped for so much was really gone, put to death by a leader who followed the loudest voices in the crowd instead of following his heart? Can you imagine the time without Jesus after his death? Can you feel the loss and confusion and dismay? We know what happened next, but the disciples did not. Knowing the pain of the cross is vital to our understanding of the whole range of feelings and experiences that are part of the Christian biblical narrative. Join us for this time of contemplation.



Sunday, April 4th 6:30am

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Join us in person on the hill to enjoy the rising of the sun from our beautiful perch above the parking lot. Bring a blanket, coffee will be provided, and help us celebrate the Risen Christ and imagine the women rolling away the stone and discovering this joyous news!





Easter Sunday April 4th 10am

“After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he^[a] lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead,^[b] and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.” (Matthew 28)

Join us on our Bethany San Bruno Facebook page at 10am for a joyful service of the Resurrection of our Lord! We will sing and pray and offer our lives and ourselves as followers of Jesus Christ in whom we move and have our being.



Sunday, April 11th 10am

²¹ Thus says the LORD: For the sake of your lives, take care that you do not bear a burden on the sabbath day or bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem. ²² And do not carry a burden out of your houses on the sabbath or do any work, but keep the sabbath day holy, as I commanded your ancestors. (Jeremiah 17:21-22)

The staff and volunteers have done a remarkable job presenting live worship services during the past difficult and different year! This Sunday we will be keeping the Sabbath holy by taking a rest from our live broadcasts for one week. Please join our Bethany San Bruno Facebook page for a viewing of a previous worship service by your Worship broadcasting team. Watching this service at 10am together will allow us to comment in any way and enjoy our worship service together. We hope to see you there!

The church office will be closed April 5 – 9th. Email and voicemail will be checked. If you have an emergency requiring a pastor, please contact elder Lyn Hughes ((650) 312-4348) and she will get in touch with the pastor on call.

There will be no Wednesdays@Bethany on 7th. The service on April 11th will be a recording of a service in 2020, and the liturgy will be sent out via email on April 9th.



March 16, 2021 SESSION MEETING

(by Zoom conference call 7:06 PM - 8:31 PM)

Pastor Deb opened the meeting in prayer and lit the Christ Candle followed by each of us reflecting on our blessings and losses.

Discussion about reasons for and against preparing a new mission study. Matter tabled for right now.

2021 Budget on track with giving being strong.

B&G will be cleaning up the Sunrise Service area for Easter. Dave W. is researching implementing solar energy @ BPC.

The Community Life Committee will not be able to hold a Spring Tea this year.

After discussion, it was agreed to give the regular in-church Worship providers (preacher, videographer, readers, musicians) a Sunday off. April 11, 2021, one week after Easter, will be Respite Sunday, providing a time away from presenting Worship.

A past Bethany Facebook Live Worship service will be available for viewing. Rev. Deb will take vacation time April 5-12.

Our next Session Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7 PM via Zoom.

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

-R.Wales, Clerk of Session

From the Deacons: The deacons are so grateful for your contributions in supporting Bethany to reach out to people, communities and nonprofits that could benefit from our/your generosity. This quarter we donated to SafeHouse San Francisco, Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly (LBFE) in San Francisco, and to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the winter storms in Texas. These are all groups experiencing extra-special needs during this past year.

SafeHouse you may be familiar with through the coin carafe (thank you, Freda Lutz!) in the sanctuary as you relieve your pockets and purses of jingling weight. SafeHouse works to empower and support women who are experiencing housing instability and sexual exploitation or trafficking, by creating survivor-centered spaces, services, advocacy and community education. Check out their important work, including the Hope Center, at www.SafeHouse.org.

Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly might be a new group to you. The organization was founded in 1946 by a French nobleman as Little Brothers of the Poor at the end of World War II to serve isolated and lonely elderly people who had lost their families in the war. "The greatest poverty," Armand Marquises often said, "is the poverty of love," which was reflected in the motto "Flowers Before Bread." I feel so strongly about their mission, I only wish they had a San Mateo County presence! They are a volunteer-based nonprofit that is committed to relieving isolation and loneliness among the elderly by volunteer social visits, food and holiday gift bag deliveries (always accompanied by a rose!), phone calls, etc. At their seven locations around the country, they "strive to meet the emotional and physical needs of our elderly friends. For some, isolation comes with growing older, children move away to follow their work, spouses and friends die, a car wears out, or a driver's license is surrendered or revoked because of illness. This isolation is compounded by poverty." In these difficult situations, they extend a helping hand, treat our elderly friends as individuals, offering them the gifts of respect and love by visiting, socializing and providing programs that combat loneliness and promote independent living, helping them remain in their own homes and apartment communities. During this past (very weird) year, they offered friendly phone calls from volunteers that reach out at least twice a week, remote visits, grocery and prescription delivery assistance, peer-to-peer social calls (elders connect with one another), and sending care packages to older adults. I volunteered for a Christmas Day visit years ago, so if you would like to know more, please get in touch with me or read about their history and current work at <http://littlebrothers.org/>.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance needs no introduction. After the devastating storms and snow in February (in Texas no less!), PDA supported local churches being good neighbors through donating goods, safe shelter, and warm meals to a community experiencing burst pipes, power outages and worse. As one pastor said: "It's not often that you get to have moments where you are so clearly being the church," Rev. Betsy Swetenburg said. "You can't miss those moments." Please read more about what your generosity is helping support here: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/winter-storms-prompt-outpouring-of-support/>

Bethany is blessed in so many ways and we are grateful to be a blessing to others. Thank you!

Bonnie Morgan for us deacons, Kathy Fogle, Tamara Hollenbeck and Roxane Wales

FINANCIAL TRUSTEES

February and YTD 2021 Financial Summary

February

\$ 19,325.00 Income
\$(14,152.66) Expense
\$ 5,172.34 Difference

YTD

\$33,775.00 Income 112.889%
\$(28,899.39) Expense (95.579)%
\$ 4,875.61 Difference 17.310%

Good news! All rent payments from the Sikh Association are up to date for 2021. Continued thanks for mailing or bringing your offerings to the church. We are blessed to have your ongoing support, faithfulness, and generosity.

Questions about the 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)

COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFE COMMITTEE

1. Ongoing News about Our Partnership with Iglesias Brasiliana – San Mateo
 - a. We continue to collect items for Iglesias Brasiliana, our partner in San Mateo. Updated “needs” include:
 - i. Non-perishable food items, especially rice and pinto beans. Cans of soup or chili are also good choices or canned vegetables. Additional items needed are toiletries, blankets, and paper products.
 - b. For Easter, we provided 40 goodie bags and 40 "jungle themed" stuffed toys for the children, toddlers through 10 years old. The decorated paper bags contained a small amount of candy, some filled eggs, Rice Krispie treats, fruit snacks, a small notebook, pencils and colored pens, and decorated paper mache eggs, as well as Kleenex and hand sanitizer. Many thanks to Patty Hughes, Tamra Hollenbeck and Sue Bullis for their help with the Easter bags.
 - c. We plan to provide Mother’s Day bags for 37 women at Iglesias Brasiliana before mid-May. If you have items for these baskets or would like to contribute to this effort, please contact Lyn Hughes at Lhughes91207@gmail.com or (650) 867-0667. Please continue to prayer for this congregation and consider how you might be able to help.
2. Ongoing we will be providing funds from our Fund-a-Vision grant to the Catholic Worker Hospitality House (the San Bruno Shelter) for various needs. At this time, the greatest needs are for food, toiletries, and blankets. We provided the second Fund-a-Vision grant payment in March in the amount of \$5,000. Peter Stiehler continues to alert us as to when he needs additional funds at CWHH from the grant balance. Also please pray for those in need in our community and how we may continue to help CWHH assist with issues in San Bruno.
3. Unfortunately, due to continuing COVID-19 issues, Bethany will not hold a Spring Tea this year.



Donations for San Bruno Hospitality House: There will be a plastic bin outside the door closest to the lower parking lot at Bethany for shelter donations so people can continue to donate for the shelter. The box will be periodically checked and items taken down to the shelter. Any questions about this please contact Rina Ranahan: (650) 291-6979.

A current list of shelter needs is on our website: <http://bethanypcusa.org/we-do/shelter-needs.html>

You can read more about the shelter on their website: <http://catholicworkerhospitalityhouse.org/>

Happy Birthday to all those born in 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 the monthly newsletter: the Wednesday before the last Wednesday of the month.



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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