

April @ Bethany

Bethany Presbyterian Church

2022

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.



WOW! That's what I have to say about everything happening at Bethany these days! People are returning, our Lenten classes are well attended, our first Workshop regarding the Committee on Ministry work was successful, and soon we will be welcoming another Easter on the hill. I am so proud of all of the energy and work and laughter that has marked this busy time. I hope you are all able to take good care of yourselves as we live with Covid in a new, perhaps more permanent way.

Lent is a time for all of us to look inward and listen for God's voice to us. There are many spiritual disciplines that help us to create the space for God in our lives. The world is in crisis from climate change, the war in Ukraine is deeply unsettling for those of us who witness through photos and news reports and grasp for ways to have an impact, try to imagine an outcome that is not a disaster for the world. How do we maintain hope when life is so uncertain?

We keep trusting God and showing up. We put ourselves in places that give us hope and strength. We come to church where we have relationships that refresh us, where we sing together and pray together, and search for hope together.

As we move from Lent to Palm Sunday and Good Friday, and finally arrive at Easter, we are reminded that this pattern of life repeats itself in many ways throughout our lives. Come, and invite a friend, to share in the arrival of our Risen Lord.

Blessings, and, as always,
Let's talk.

Pastor Deb



Please join us
for Bethany's Springtime church-wide workday!

When: Saturday April 9, 2022

Time: 9 AM to 12 PM

Fuel (refreshments, coffee/bagels, fruit, etc.) provided

Everyone welcome -- indoor/outdoor tasks for all skill levels!!!

Help us spruce up our campus
to make it welcoming for Easter festivities!





Dear friends,
I will be away on vacation from April 18th through April 24th. I am not sure what I will be doing, but I know what I won't be doing – writing! My hobby of painting has been calling me, so I'm hoping to have a paintbrush in my hand more than a pencil or a computer in front of me. Blessings to you all! -- Pastor Deb



Session Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

- Financial Trustees: Ken reported that a few substantial pledges brought the budget back to balance, and he stated that we are “better than solvent” currently.
- Buildings & Grounds: Dave reported that there will be a church wide cleanup for Easter/Spring on Saturday, April 9 from 9:00-12:00. Other ongoing projects include front fascia board replacement, garbage disposal replacement, parking lot pothole refill, and further evaluation of dying trees and their removal.
- Worship: Pam reported that the committee recommends current masking and vaccination status requirements remain in place, and Session concurred. There will be an Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 17 at 6:15 am on the hillside above the parking lot. A Good Friday commemoration on Friday, April 15 will be planned soon.
- Pastor Deb reported that she will be on vacation from April 18-24. She will also take a week of study leave from May 16-22. Ken will pursue pulpit supply for those Sundays.
- Deb also reported that on Saturday, March 26, there will be the first of a series of conversations regarding Committee on Ministry requirements in the search for a permanent called pastor. The meeting will be at the church from 10-12 that day, and Deb is inviting everyone who wants to come and share their ideas.

New Business:

- Dave shared an article that discussed how churches can become Earth Care Congregations. Dave and Pam agreed to meet and discuss how Bethany might become involved in this work. They will report back to Session with their findings.

Next meeting date will be on Tuesday, April 26 on Zoom. The meeting is scheduled one week later than usual because Deb will be on vacation on April 19.

Holy Week and Easter

Good Friday: We hope to have the church open for prayers throughout the day. Stay tuned for further information!

Easter Sunrise Service: Easter services at Bethany will begin at dawn with a Sunrise Service at 6:15 am up on the hill in the Sunrise area above the upper parking lot. Congregants are invited to join together for a joyful celebration as we proclaim the good news that Christ is risen!! Pastor Deb will share a message of hope and promise as we remember the resurrection of our Lord. It is a good idea to dress warmly and bring along a blanket for the chilly morning air. There will be a reception following the service with lots of hot coffee, juice, sticky rolls, and other delights. A sign-up sheet for the reception will be available in the narthex, so please sign up if you can bring something to share.

Easter Worship Service: Easter will also be celebrated at our regular worship time of 10:00 am. There will be beautiful music, another message of hope and promise by Pastor Deb, the Biblical story of the resurrection, wonderful hymns, and a time for prayer. An Easter reception will again be held after this service, and you are encouraged to invite your family, neighbors, and friends to join in this jubilant time in the Christian year. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!!



Online Lenten classes continue

Classes meet every Monday thru April 11th from 7-8pm (two classes left). We are offering an opportunity to learn about and discuss various ways of Practicing Spiritual Disciplines. In the six weeks we meet on zoom, we will study about the biblical practices of fasting, praying, listening to God, embracing simplicity, unplugging and trying different practices.

We will also discover our own activities that we find to be effective as spiritual practice. Everyone is welcome to join! Contact the church to be added to the email distribution.
Hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFECOMMITTEE

News about our partnership with Iglesias Brasileira – San Mateo:

We are taking a break from collecting food items at this time. Once further requests are received, the congregation will be notified.

Ongoing, Pastor Jorge Abdala has asked us to collect our “change” (pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters) for the IBP congregation’s program “Multiplying Talents”. The fund helps those in need in the IPB congregation for various things.

No matter the number of coins you have to donate, please place your change in the “Coins for Iglesias Brasileira” jar which is located right inside the door of the sanctuary on the small table where you find the Sunday bulletins. Approximately \$300 has been delivered to Pastor Jorge, and we can do more! We expect to collect coins through June and possibly throughout 2022. Your coins and continued prayers for the IPB congregation are very much appreciated.

Financial Trustees Report

February

\$26,208.75	Income	
\$(13,011.96)	Expense	
\$13,196.79	Difference	

YTD

\$36,743.50	Income	122.828%
\$(28,675.92)	Expense	(94.381)%
\$ 8,067.58	Difference	28.447%

The Trustees thank you for your continued support during the first quarter of 2022. Questions about the BPC budget? Contact Ken Henry – Chair, Financial Trustees, Lyn Hughes – Treasurer, Dave Wales – Secretary, or Bonnie Morgan.

Question about our tenant, the Sikh Association: Contact either the Financial Trustees, or Building and Grounds (Dave Wales).

Save the Date: Next COM Workshop: we will continue our work to help us get to the goal of presenting a candidate for our next permanent pastor. The next workshop is scheduled for **Saturday, May 14, from 10 – 11:30 a.m.** You need not have attended the first workshop to attend this one! You also need not be a member to attend and engage in these workshops. Bethany is blessed with committed attendees who are encouraged to participate. The invitation is to those who are interested in asking and answering some deep questions, in the company of others who are interested in the same thing. Join us!

Ruth Covenant Group: In order to accommodate the Monday night Lenten Study, the Ruth Covenant Group will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 12 at 6:30 pm at the church. It will again be a hybrid meeting with some participants meeting in person in the sanctuary, and some meeting via zoom. If you would like to join by zoom, please let Tamra Hollenbeck know so we can send you the link. We are continuing with a book study of *A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community* by Adam Russell Taylor. This month we will be discussing Chapters 2-4, "Why America Must Be Reborn", "E Pluribus Unum: Out of Many, One", and "Reimagining the Beloved Community". In addition to our discussion, there will be an opportunity for check-in, fellowship, and prayer. All are welcome to attend!



Did you know?

April is now not only synonymous with Easter but also Earth celebrations. It seems like articles about climate change and the hard-to-keep-track-of news reports about our impact on the planet are bombarding us daily. Also, though, there are so many more resources for information about how we can make new choices and set a different course. I think I've shared something about this before but it is stunning: a video demonstration of the life cycle of a cotton t-shirt <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJd-LlarVV8>. But there is a movement to figure out how to use textiles long past their personal usefulness. Check out this hopeful company with innovative ideas! <https://fordays.com/pages/how-we-recycle>. (Thanks Berta for sharing this!)

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together to work for a better world by advancing the causes of justice, resilience, and sustainability. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we stabilize, we strengthen those who are weak, we connect.

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs –

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

- Restore Streets to Live In

Presbyterian Hunger Program

- Share your Bread with the Hungry

Self-Development of People

- Loose the Bonds of Injustice

Please give generously. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

You can use the envelope mailed to you to bring your offering to the church, mail it directly to the address on the envelope, or donate online with your credit card at pcusa.org/give-oghs. Our offering will be dedicated on Palm Sunday.



Donations for San Bruno Hospitality House: Please continue to bring your donations for Hospitality House and put them in the marked basket in the Narthex. Any questions about this please contact Rina Ranahan: (650) 291-6979. Urgent needs right now are toilet paper, canned soup, jelly, syrup, and cereal.

A current list of shelter needs is on our website:

<http://bethanypcusa.org/we-do/shelter-needs.html>

Prayer Time: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays: A time to meet as the body of Christ, and pray together using Zoom. Shared readings, poetry, guided meditation, and, of course, the prayers of the people. Please contact us to be invited to the Zoom meeting: bethanypres@bethanypcusa.org.

Bethany Story Time

We have a collection of children's books on our Facebook page! Over the past year (and a bit more!), Pastor Deb and various members of the congregation have recorded readings of children's books, and then Pastor Deb added video of the illustrations. The videos are available any time for you to enjoy! Share them with your family, friends, and neighbors! Find them here:
<http://bethanypcusa.org/welcome/storytime.html>

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



There are two flowers for April – the daisy and the sweet pea! Let's talk about the sweet pea: In the language of flowers, a bouquet of sweet peas is a way to say goodbye or thank you for a lovely time. It can also mean blissful pleasure, good wishes, kindness, gratitude, and friendship.

Due Dates

For W@B: Tuesday morning.

For the monthly newsletter: the Tuesday 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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