


December @ Bethany Bethany Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor



*Rejoice in the Lord always! Again,
I will say Rejoice!
(Phil 4:4)*

*"May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us and abide with us, and all those whom we love, this whole world over.
Amen."*

These words of benediction that I say at the end of the service are my wish for you and yours this holiday season. Whether you are suffering or joyful, melancholy or pleased, tired or energized, may God grant you what you need in this season. May God grant us the insight to take care of ourselves. May God grant us the vision to take care of others. May God grant us the imagination to live large, our love of God.

This season of hope and peace and joy and love is also filled with a world that so dearly needs those things. When it is dark, remember that Christ is the light in the darkness to lead our way.

May you find divine rest in the midst of this season of joy and business, and remember to Rejoice in the Lord always!

Christmas blessings,
Pastor Deb



Ruth Covenant Group

The Bethany Ruth Covenant Group will meet on Monday, December 9 at 6:30 pm at the church. The meeting will include our usual check-in time, fellowship, refreshments, prayers, and sharing. You are most welcome to join in for this wonderful time of sharing. Joining by Zoom is available if you are not able to attend in person. Please let Tamra Hollenbeck know if you would like to receive a Zoom invitation, and we'll send one to you. Many blessings to everyone!

Bethany Thanksgiving Dinner and Talent Show

The Thanksgiving Dinner was held on Saturday, November 23, and what a joyous occasion it was! The church was filled with the smell of roasted turkey and freshly made gravy, and the tables were adorned with beautiful fall decorations. Dinner was a joint effort of the committee, who provided the turkey, dressing, cranberries, rolls, and drinks, and the congregation who provided delicious side dishes - mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, salads, vegetable dishes, and a delightful array of desserts! The meal was followed by the Annual Talent Show with a variety of story telling, musical offerings, poetry, and comedy. Thanks to everyone who participated in the festivities, and a special thanks to everyone who helped with the planning, preparation, and cleanup for the event - Jorie Abbott, Jan Howell, Robin Villines, Roxane and Dave Wales, Tamra Hollenbeck, Lyn Hughes and George Lynch, Roberta Franchini, and Janine Mooney. There were so many others who pitched in to make the evening a success, and it really felt like gratitude blossomed from every table. Many blessings to everyone as we rest from those very heartfelt labors!



Advent Festival



Please consider yourself invited to join with other members of the congregation as we ready the sanctuary for the holiday season. There will be a tree to decorate, cookies to bake, hot apple cider to drink, prayer chains to create, popcorn and cranberries to string, and stars to hang! We will also have Christmas cards available to make Christmas placemats and to send to members and friends of the congregation that we don't get to see very often. The event will begin on Saturday, December 7 at 10:00 am (through noon), and we will finish up close to noon. We hope to see you there!!



The Church Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 31.

Please note there will not be an edition of January@Bethany.

2024 Annual Report deadline Friday, January 31.



Birthdays

3 - Jean Edge
8 - Tom Jessee
8 - Molly Lyons
31 - Judy Nelson

Anniversaries

29 - Nelson Schalter and Alicia McHale

Worship Notes

Advent Notes



Advent will begin on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, December 1, 2024, and it will begin with a Advent/Christmas Hymn Sing. We will begin each Sunday with the Advent Candle Lighting at the start of worship with someone from

the congregation sharing their reflections on the theme of each Advent Sunday. The themes are as follows:

- December 1 - Hope
- December 8 - Peace
- December 15 - Joy
- December 22 - Love
- December 24 - Christmas Eve - Light
- December 25 - Light of Christ

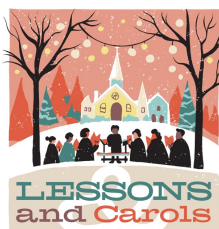
If you are interested in providing a reflection for one of these Sundays, please contact Rev. Deb McGuire. She will provide assistance as needed. Thanks in advance for sharing during this sacred time.

Christmas Eve

Bethany will celebrate Christmas Eve on Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 pm. There will be special music, Christmas hymn singing, and a time to share the light of Christ. The congregation is welcomed to stay afterwards for a cookie and hot cider reception. If you have any extra Christmas cookies to share, they would be graciously received! Please join us for this wonderful and warm evening as we once again celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Service of Lessons and Carols



On Sunday, December 29, we will have a special worship service, which will follow the Christmas story through scripture and hymns. You are welcomed to join for this festive time of the Christmas season.

Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord

Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord will be celebrated on Sunday, January 1. (We will still be in the Season of Christmas on January 5, 2025.)

Advent Study

Please join us for an **Advent Study** this year! We will meet **in person at church at 1:00pm on Mondays, December 2, 9, 16 and 23. There will be a zoom link for folks to join as well.** We'll use the book and its discussion questions, as well as the online short videos by the author, at each class.

Here is the write-up from the publishers page, that's better than anything I would write up! You'll find links to places to order the book here also. Please consider joining us!

"Step into Advent with this captivating study and devotional, where angelic encounters come to life, echoing the timeless message of overcoming fear. What would you do if you were not afraid?"

In this study and devotional, pastor Erin Wathen challenges us to take this timeless message and apply it to our lives today.

Calling All Angels asks us to contemplate what would change in our relationships, vocations, congregations, and communities

if we have the courage to overcome our fears like Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, and the Shepherds in the story."

Grab a copy of "Calling All Angels" from your favorite physical or online bookseller including:

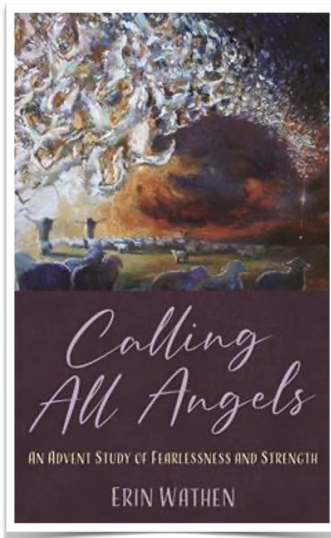
Bookshop.org - <https://tinyurl.com/esmxxbdb>

Cokesbury.com - <https://tinyurl.com/33mr4mks>

Christianbook.com - <https://tinyurl.com/2afmdtrv>

Barnes and Noble - <https://tinyurl.com/2sd6jr5p>

Amazon.com - <https://tinyurl.com/mr2hwr53>



Community Action



Ongoing donations to Catholic Worker Hospitality House continued throughout the quarter. Please bring any CWHH donations to the church or call Lyn Hughes at 650-867-0667 for pickup.

Items needed at CWHH in December:
Christmas dinner: Ham, cooked and carved, potato dishes, cookies, pie or cake, individual milk boxes, juice or soda.

Gift Ideas:

1. Gift cards to grocery stores, Target, or coffee houses (any amount)
2. Gifts to purchase: sweatshirts, thermal underwear, hats, gloves, socks, or underwear (Men's or women's, medium, large, or extra large sizes)



Financial Trustees

Financial Issues:

- In progress: replacement of our antiquated electrical panel for maximum efficiency. Next steps 1. Update electrical panel, 2. Decide on solar energy panels/installation: bid received by Dave Wales and reviewed with Session, and 3. Install heat pump: reviewing vendors.
- In progress: Room 9 clean-up, work continues on this room.
- In progress: The Kitchen Update Committee cleanup and clean out. Another cleanup day is

being scheduled. We have started to look for kitchen remodel consultants in San Mateo County on the internet.

- Patio repair – on hold for now – suggestion was also made to extend patio to the edge of the west parking lot and possibly include a labyrinth.
- Upper Roof Repair – on hold for now.
- In progress: On-line giving opportunities. We have received steps to put information on-line from WFB and GoLively. Further analysis and effort is in progress headed by Pastor Deb.

Monthly Activities

Sundays: Worship at 10:00 am
Coffee Hour 11:00 am
(rehearsals start 8:30 am)

Wednesdays: Prayz 5:00 pm
Choir 6:30 pm

Prayer Group 6:30 pm, contact Deb for Zoom link

Submissions for W@B: Tuesday mornings

Submissions for the February newsletter:
Tuesday, January 21

1st Sunday: Communion at Worship Service

2nd Sunday: Worship Committee 11:00 am

2nd Monday: Ruth Covenant Group 6:30 pm

3rd Sunday: Deacons Meeting 11:30 am

Buildings & Grounds and
Community Action committees
– as scheduled

Our 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.

Our 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 are already welcome here.
We invite you, on your unique spiritual journey,
to join us in the life and ministry of Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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Bethany is a member of More Light Presbyterians
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