



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,

Welcome to December! As much as it saddens me to know we are still living in a COVID world, I also want to celebrate that we made it! There have been so many times this year when we have had to do things a different way or not do them at all. I can appreciate any exhaustion you may be feeling. During this month of Advent and Christmas I hope we can experience the waiting for the birth of Christ as the Light of the World that it was and still is. As I type, there are Bethany elves in the sanctuary hanging decorations, the banners went up earlier this week, and preparations are being made for the season. Each Sunday we will light the advent candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

While we will not be gathering in person each Sunday morning, you may find it nice to light your own candles at home and focus on each word as it comes by. Maybe use the word hope once a day for the whole first week. Then the word peace, etc. Or write a poem or paint something. Contact me if there is anything I can do to help you experience the season in a way that will be meaningful for you. I hope you were able to have a unique Thanksgiving experience that was satisfying. With the possibility of a vaccine on the way, the election over, there is a hopefulness in the air. Not the kind of hopefulness that is untrue, but the kind of hope that undergirds every part of life for people of faith. May your December be full of the Light that is Christ and the joy of the Christmas Season!

Blessings, Pastor Deb

Get out your calendars! There's a lot going on in December at Bethany! Here are some things to look forward to. I hope there is something for everyone!



Adult Education *“Peace, Justice, Joy, and Salvation: An Adult Advent Study.” This study, designed by Dr. Cynthia Campbell, former president of McCormick Theological Seminary, will happen on four dates in December. Note: Three are Tuesdays, and one date is a Monday. We will meet via zoom from 7:30-8:30pm on Tuesday, December 1, December 8, Monday December 14th, and Tuesday, December 22nd. Contact me if you would like me to send you the link to the participants guide for each session, and a link to the zoom class on those dates. If you'd like me to get you a print version of the guide I can do that too. I look forward to having a class again!*



Luminaries!

This year the southern end of our parking lot is going to display a Christmas Star outlined with luminaries. On three evenings, December 20th, 24th and 27th from 5:00pm-7:00pm you are invited to come to the Bethany parking lot and walk along the path of luminaries in the shape of a star, and find something special at each point of the star. All of the neighbors and friends, adults and kids, are invited to enjoy the time with us.

In addition, each household will be receiving an Advent Packet soon! Each packet will be equipped with supplies for you to make your own luminary. You can keep your luminary at home or bring it with you on one of the above evenings and add it to our star shape!



Longest Night Service, also known as Blue Christmas. We will have a short service on December 21st to mark the longest night of the year, and to honor people that have lost love ones and are experiencing grief. There are many who struggle to find joy and hope during festive seasons. We have all known times of darkness. This service is a chance to acknowledge the dark, and remind people that although this night is the longest, it also marks the beginning of the increase in light. This will be a short service, pre-recorded and posted on FB to be watched together at 7:30pm or any time after that.



Books for kids! *On the three Saturdays in Advent, December 5th, 12th and 19th, at 11:00am, I will post a pre-recorded video on FB of me reading a children's book. I have two Christmas stories, and one other. I have chosen books that have beautiful art and represent the ethnicity of Christ beautifully.*

NOVEMBER 17, 2020 SESSION MEETING

(by Zoom conference call 7:07 PM - 8:40 PM)

Pastor Deb opened the meeting in prayer, lighting a Tenderness Candle and leading a devotion reflecting & discussing Hope & Optimism using Isaiah 61.

Dave Wales (B&G) reported the boiler pump failed and we're awaiting the arrival of a new motor. Also, the parking lot storage container has been sold. Thank you, George Lynch.

Kathryn Quickert (Outreach) reported the Little Free Library was installed near the Bethany entrance sign. Thank you, Melinda & Andy Jones and Ken Henry.

Discussion about preparing a luminary path in the parking lot celebrating Advent/Christmas. (Details to come.)

Also, plans for illumination of the sanctuary (stars, tree, banners, candles) for all (facebook attendees, too!) to enjoy.

Our next Session Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2020 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

Did you miss our Thanksgiving Dinner and Talent Revue this year? So did we! For your enjoyment, check this out: a retrospective of Bethany Talent over the years!
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3WuMNDKWcQHoFRq1C9TWeQc1dvr_zN_J

Digital Bethany Cookbook: Over the years, there have been several cookbooks produced from the kitchen of Bethany families. Now, you can access the digital version of the 2006 cookbook, which was created in celebration of our 50th anniversary as a congregation! Just [click here!](#)

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/>

COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFE COMMITTEE

Our Thanksgiving Collection for the San Bruno Shelter was Sat., November 21. Thanks to our congregation, friends and family, we were able to provide a Thanksgiving collection for the San Bruno Shelter, but in a different way.

Barbara Liedtke from the Community Action/Life Committee and Rina Ranahan, our Shelter Ministries elder, were at the church on Saturday afternoon so everyone interested could drop much needed items off to be delivered to the Shelter. In addition, several checks were received for those unable to participate in the collection. Some blankets were also donated to make this event successful and of course, our dear friend, Peter Stiehler, was very grateful for our efforts.

Ongoing News about Our Partnership with Iglesias Braziliana – San Mateo

Ongoing we have been collecting items for Iglesias Braziliana, our partner in San Mateo. Now we are focusing on the Christmas holidays.

We are committed to the following for Christmas:

140 - \$25 Target cards (one for each family) and 40 toys – for children 1 to 10 years old (books, games, dolls, trucks, puzzles, crayons and coloring books, etc.)

We currently have money for 40 cards, a pledge for another 40 cards, and assistance from the Deacons.

How can you help? Please consider giving a Target card, or two, or a new toy. All donations are appreciated to enable our partners to have a very Merry Christmas.

We plan to deliver no later than December 15 so please plan for that date.

Ongoing needs: (drop-off occurs every other Friday; items can be brought to Bethany and placed in the Narthex near the coatrack or you can call Lyn and George for pickup).

Continued prayers

Household goods – Towels, blankets, sheets and pillow cases, kitchenware, dishes, glasses, pots and pans, silverware, etc.

Baby clothes – Newborn through 12 mons: new or clean, used

Diapers – Newborn through 12 mons

Food – rice, dry beans, canned goods, any items with a shelf-life/nonperishable

Toiletries – all kinds

Checks payable to Iglesias Braziliana (**To send a check, in any amount, make your check payable to Iglesias Braziliana and mail it to 194 W. 25th Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94403**)

Our Grant Check from the Presbytery of San Francisco has Arrived!

Since our grant check arrived the week of 11/16/20, we will now sit down with Peter Stiehler and decide how best we can spend some of the money in December. The funds will allow us to help those in need during the holidays, this winter, and ongoing into 2021. This is a very exciting time for Bethany and for San Bruno.

FINANCIAL TRUSTEES

September, October and YTD Financial Summaries

September

\$13,287.00 Income
(13,473.37) Expense
(186.37)

YTD

\$125,597.07 Income 91.569%
(125,031.42) Expense (91.171)
\$ 545.65 ..398%

October

\$10,881.00 Income
(12,191.70) Expense
(1,310.70)

YTD

\$134,538.07 Income 88.293%
(137,223.12) Expense (90.055)
(2,685.05) (1.762)%

The Financial Trustees are working on our 2021 budget. Look for your pledge card in the mail soon and consider what your gift to the church will be for 2021.

Our thanks for mailing or bringing your offerings to the church. As we look forward to 2021, we are blessed to have your support!

Questions about the 2020 or 2021 BPC budgets: 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)

Happy Birthday to all those born in December!

3 Jean Edge
8 Tom Jessee
8 Molly Lyons
11 Abigail Huseth
12 North Hollenbeck
15 Nancy Landauer
26 Patty Hughes
31 Judy Nelson



December Anniversaries

4 Sharon & Larry Gruner
17 Kelsy & Kenny Parker
29 Nelson Schlater & Alicia McHale

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

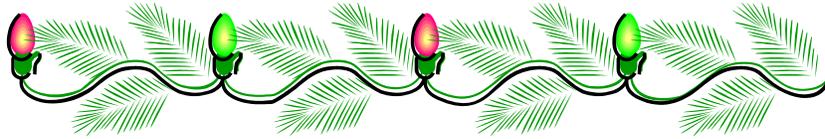
1 Be Harlan
25 Mary Caley
27 Merriam Wycoff

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.



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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MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS