



**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.



Dear friends,

Our liturgical calendar tells us that we remain in the season of Epiphany for three of the four weeks in February. The term epiphany means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal."

We have been asking the question each week, “What does the revelation of Christ’s full divinity “show” to you in this particular season of Epiphany? In this way, we hope to discover the deeper meaning of not just Christmas, but the deeper meaning of the whole of the Christian story, through each season of the liturgical year.

The secular calendar helps bring parts of our cultural life to mind in different ways. Did you know that February is a month full of a national holiday or two every single day? Some of them are funny (International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day, Canned Food Month, National Get Up Day, National Tater Tot Day, Elmo’s Birthday), some of them are from other cultures (Lunar New Year, Kashmir Solidarity Day, Waitangi Day), some are from Hallmark or popular culture (Valentine’s Day, Groundhog Day), and some are special reminders of events we like to remember in order to honor or celebrate or reflect upon. One of those is Black History Month.

The story of Black History Month goes back to 1915 when a prominent historian and a minister founded Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In 1926 the association sponsored Negro History Week in February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Since 1976 every American President has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme.

Whatever February means to you culturally – Valentine’s Day, Groundhog Day, Elmo’s birthday, or Lunar New Year or Black History Month – may this month be one in which the Christian message of the glory of Christ is the ultimate meaning.



As always, let’s talk.  
Pastor Deb

## **Session Meeting Highlights**

### **Tuesday, January 18, 2022**

1. The Congregational Meeting to present the 2022 Budget and 2021 Annual report will be held on Sunday, February 13, to start ten minutes after worship. It was decided that a hybrid meeting would be best with some people in person and others on zoom to meet comfort levels.
2. Annual reports from committee chairs and other groups are due to Roberta Henry by January 30. She will make them available to the congregation the following week in order to give people time to look over the reports and the budget.
3. Lyn Hughes is going off Session as of 2022. There will be four elders serving the church in 2022 - Ken Henry, Pam Matthews, Kathryn Quickert, and Dave Wales.
4. Financial Trustees: General giving and pledges for 2021 were above budget. We are entering the new year financially strong with some surplus funds.
5. Buildings and Grounds: Dave will send out an email requesting assistance to fix the right kitchen sink. Dave will also place an article in the monthly newsletter with possible projects that need to be done at the church.
6. Worship: Choir and Prayz are taking a hiatus through January because of concerns of the corona virus. The committee is seeking to draw attention to specific worship themes: i.e. Black History, Earth Day/environmental issues, Pride awareness, etc. The idea is to plan in advance for these themes so they can be planned accordingly.
7. Pastor: Inho Kim and Committee on Ministry representative Jenny will meet with Session on Tuesday, February 1 to begin discussion regarding Bethany's journey towards creating a mission study and Pastor Nominating Committee.

Respectfully submitted.  
Tamra Hollenbeck  
Co-Clerk of Session

***POSTPONED: Memorial and End-of-Life Planning Workshop:*** Due to the increase in Covid-19 transmissions with the Omicron variant, the deacons of Bethany Pres. Church have decided to postpone the Memorial and End-of-Life Planning Workshop. The deacons will announce a new date once we feel we can hold the workshop and keep everyone safe.

*It's February! Welcome ye, all who love...*



In this celebratory month of love, the deacons invite you to contribute to the deacons' fund. We do good; we do thoughtfulness, compassion, and love. We reach out to our members and community and support those in need. A summary of that is in the Annual Report. (And we welcome any ideas or pointers toward those people or groups you think might need an extra lift or hug -- virtually, in person, in writing, in calling. We cannot do this without you -- we are the carriers of Bethany's caring, support, and compassion for others.

We will start up again our quarterly invitation to contribute. We can leave envelopes in the back of chairs at church or feel free to mail your offering to Bethany with the notation on the check that it's for the Deacons' Fund. God bless and thank you to all who have made our efforts and sharing possible!



You may have noticed that the background of the newsletter header is the flower of the month! For February, the flower is the violet. The sweet-scented violet flower symbolizes truth and loyalty, while also embodying a sense of modesty, spiritual wisdom and humility. This faithful blooming plant is named after its traditional purple petals, which is in keeping with February's purple birthstone, the amethyst.

**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>

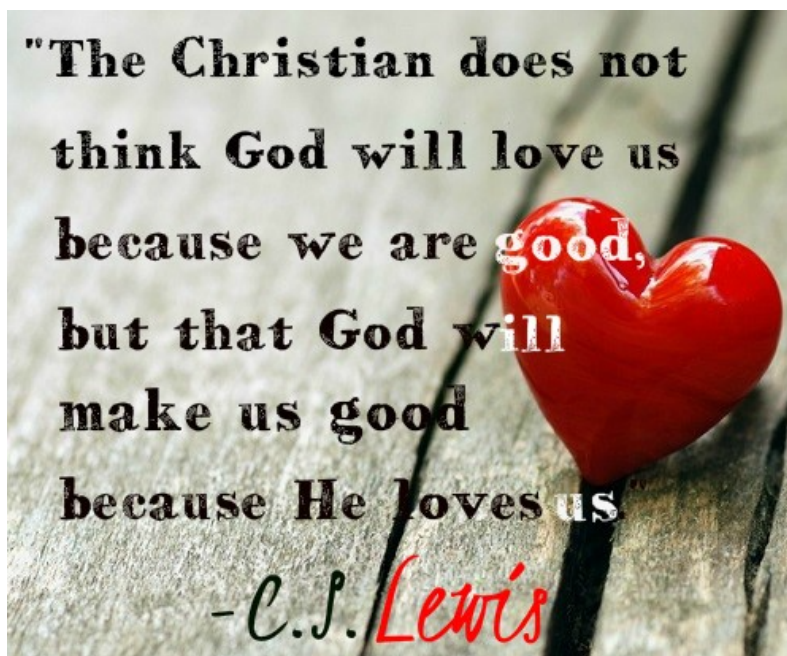
## COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFECOMMITTEE

News about our Partnership with Iglesias Brasiliana – San Mateo: At this time, we are taking a break from collecting **food items** for Iglesias Brasiliana.

However, Pastor Jorge Abdala has asked us to consider collecting our “change” (pennies, nickels, dimes, or quarters) to their congregation’s program “Multiplying Talents.” This fund helps those in the IPB congregation in need. No matter the number of coins, no matter the amount, please bring your donation to the church and place in the glass jar labeled “Coins for Iglesias Brasiliana” which is on the small table where you pick up your Sunday bulletin. We have already collected approximately \$250.00 which has been delivered to Pastor Jorge and we know we can do more. Look in your purse, desk, drawers, etc. and find those unwanted or unused coins and bring them to church. Your continued prayers for the IPB congregation are very much appreciated.

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. In 2021, we paid out \$25,000 of the original \$50,000 grant. We expect to make our next payment by approximately March 1.

The Financial Trustees will discuss the 2022 Bethany Budget at the Annual Meeting on February 13, 2022. Prior to the meeting, the 2022 Budget will be available for the congregation to review. Look for information from Bethany’s secretary for when the information will be available.





***It's that time of year – again! Annual reports are due to Roberta by January 30<sup>th</sup>.***

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **February 13<sup>th</sup>**, immediately following worship.

At the meeting, we will receive the 2021 Annual Report and the 2022 budget, and elect officers for the coming terms.

Copies of the 2021 Annual report will be emailed out in PDF form, and hard copies will be available at the church by Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Financial Trustees Report**

December

\$ 32,011.75	Income	
\$(21,300.84)	Expense	
\$ 10,710.91	Difference	

YTD

\$194,322.75	Income	108.251%
\$(182,046.55)	Expense	(100.347)%
\$ 12,276.20	Difference	7.904%

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Thank you for your faithful 2021 contributions to the church, whether those be time, talents, offerings, energy, prayers, etc.

Questions about the BPC budget? Contact Ken Henry 2022 Chair, Lyn Hughes 2022 Treasurer, Dave Wales 2022 Secretary, or Bonnie Morgan 2022 Member at Large.

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



### 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>



***In order to avoid missing out*** on some Valentine's Day possibilities, the Ruth Covenant Group will meet on the first Monday this month, February 7 at 6:30 pm. This will be a hybrid meeting with some meeting in person at the church, with appropriate masks and social distancing, and some joining on Zoom. Alicia McHale will send the zoom link out to those who are interested in participating that way. We will be starting a new study book, A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community by Adam Russell Taylor, with the forward by Representative John Lewis. For the February meeting, we will discuss the Forward, the Prologue, and the Introduction. Pam Matthews was able to secure copies of the book at the Mercy Center, and if you would like one, please contact either Pam or Tamra Hollenbeck. Please plan to join for a time of sacred sharing and fellowship. All are welcome!

**Free Covid-19 At-Home Tests now Available:** You can now order free at-home tests through the USPS! There's a limit of one order (4 tests) per residential address. These are rapid antigen tests – no lab required, results in approx. 30 minutes. You can go directly to the USPS site to order them:

<https://special.usps.com/testkits>

In addition, if you purchase at-home tests after January 15<sup>th</sup>, your health insurance company is required to reimburse you. Check with your insurance company for details.

### **Happy Birthday to all those born in February!**

- 4 Kenny Parker
- 5 Aaron Jones
- 5 Susan Gartner May
- 6 Thomas Abbott
- 8 William Warfield
- 10 Tyler Bray
- 11 Amy & Mia Kumimoto
- 12 Gary Bullis
- 15 Robin Parker
- 17 Jack Parker Ellefson
- 20 Mitchell Gruner
- 21 Rina Ranahan
- 22 Janet Bower
- 23 Fred Matthews
- 26 Beverly Bristow
- 26 Sarah Henry



### **Happy Anniversary!**

- 27 Tom & Barbara Jessee

### **We remember these Saints of Bethany who were born in February:**

- 4 George DeWeese
- 9 Bill Quickert
- 12 Greg Bullis
- 24 Rose Golobic

**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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**MORE LIGHT**  
PRESBYTERIANS