

January @ 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.



Happy New Year friends! Welcome to 2022!

As I write this, my mom and I are in Pacific Grove for a few days, celebrating the return of the migrating monarch butterflies to our area. While this picture on the left is what we would have liked to have seen, the weather and time of day made that impossible. We did however, see a lot of this:

Both photos (not mine) are a display of the thousands of butterflies that migrate through this sanctuary every year. In the recent past, loss of habitat and climate change have disturbed the migration patterns, so everything that this town of Pacific Grove is known for (we are currently staying at The Monarch Resort) has been in a sad state.



This year though, it has been all over the news, **THEY'RE BACK!** The second photo is what the butterflies look like when they are in a cluster, which they do for warmth and protection. What is almost impossible to see is that they are all butterflies, wings closed, hanging onto each other. They look like large pinecones, old birds' nests or dead leaves.

The first picture is full of color, suggests movement, fills us with anticipation, and makes us smile. The second picture is not as colorful, suggests stillness, and might make us ask what's wrong, or what happened? The excitement to me though is that both pictures are full of life. The butterflies in both of these pictures are full of life. I'm reminded that not all of life is vibrant, moving forward, and bright. Some of life, that is just as exciting, is the coming together, acting for the common good, ready for the next step.

While the old life as a caterpillar is gone, the new life as a butterfly has begun. Changing from one stage to another doesn't mean the earlier stage is any less than. Surely Eric Carle taught us that!



As we look to a new year to fill us with new life, energy and hope, I invite us to re-think how we identify life. Maybe there is life all around us but it looks unlike the life we are used to seeing. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. '" I hope that 2022 brings us much to sustain us and little to discourage us. Like this lone butterfly that we were able to see in the sanctuary today, just showing up is an encouraging sign.

As always, let's talk.

Blessings,
Pastor Deb

DECEMBER 21, 2021 SESSION MEETING

Mtg held in BPC narthex masked/distanced - 7:05 PM - 8:35 PM.

1. Pastor Deb opened the meeting in prayer followed by a meditation on Light, Winter Solstice, Love, Hope, Believe.
2. Financial Trustees proposed 2022 budget approved by consensus.
3. Discussion - Increase in utilities and insurance costs.
4. Deacons will be hosting a Celebration of Life Memorial Planning Workshop in February 2022.
5. Discussion - Updating narthex bulletin boards and magazine/flyer rack.
6. Our next Session Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7 PM BPC in person, masked/distanced.

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

-R.Wales, Clerk of Session

Do you know?

Do you know that you can use a bar of soap for a significant way to help save the planet? Check out this link to an article which points out a lot of benefits to switching to bar soap, even for doing laundry and washing hair! Like so many habits of living, making changes can seem daunting and maybe insignificant given the dire state of the planet. But it is empowering to be part of a solution. Check it out: [Why You Should Switch to Bar Soap for... Everything — Food52](#)



Memorial and End-of-Life Planning

Workshop: The Bethany Deacons will be hosting a Memorial and End-of-Life Planning Workshop on **Sunday, February 6 after worship and a light lunch**, to be served on the patio, depending on the weather! Please join us as we discuss the benefits of preplanning memorial services and end-of life wishes, and begin to create a plan for yourself and your loved ones. Covid protocols will be followed, including masking and social distancing, and a worksheet for planning will be provided. Look for more details and sign-up information. If you have any questions, please call Tamra Hollenbeck - 650-430-5749. We look forward to seeing you at the workshop!

Ruth Women Meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022 at the church at 6:30 pm. We will meet and complete our study of the book Love is the Way, and plan our new course of study for the coming new year! Fellowship, check-in, prayers, and an in-person visit with Nancy Crawford will also be part of the evening, and maybe a few new year snacks!! Do join if this sounds like your cup of tea (also provided!!)

COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFECOMMITTEE

News about our Partnership with Iglesias Brasiliana – San Mateo

We continue to collect items for Iglesias Brasiliana, our partner in San Mateo. Here is the current “needs” list from Pastor Jorge:

Bottled water
Rice and pinto beans
Canned tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, or tomato paste
Olive or avocado oil
Paper products
Canned fruit
Peanut butter, jam, or jelly

On Friday, December 17, a delivery was made to IPB which included: 6 - 20 lb. bags of rice, misc. toiletries, two large boxes of Christmas décor such as candles, kitchen towels and washcloths, decorations, etc. as well as 40 – 1 lb. boxes of See’s candy, 50+ gift cards, and over 50 toys for the children, including balls, games, dolls, trucks, books, stuffed animals, umbrellas, blankets, etc. We received the following note from Pastor Jorge Abdala about our continued generosity and care for his congregation:

Good afternoon. On behalf of the IPB congregation I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the gifts we have received from you last Friday. It is simply amazing to partner with Bethany Presb. Church and witness acts of generosity by truly Christians like you. Thank you very much! (Our kids went crazy with all the toys and games). Please, find here some pictures of the IPB "distribution of blessings" from Bethany we had last Sunday, December 19.

*Thank you and continued blessings to you and yours.
Merry Christmas!!
In Christ Alone,
J Abdala*

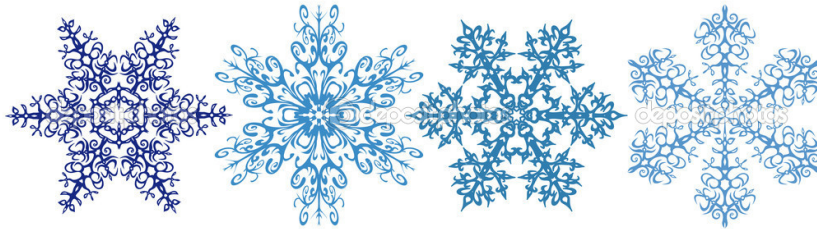
Pastor Jorge has also asked us to consider providing our “change” (pennies, nickels, dimes, or quarters) to their congregation. No matter the number of coins, no matter the amount, put in a small plastic or paper bag and we will deliver the coins to them. We have already has over \$130.00 in coins delivered and we know we can do more. Look through your purse, desk, drawers, etc. and find those unwanted or unused coins and bring them to church for the collection. We are working on a “central” collection jar or box for the coins. 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. Our fifth payment of \$5,000 was mailed in late December.

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/>



November 2020 – Financial Trustees Report

\$ 12,348.00	Income	
\$(14,851.27)	Expense	
\$(2,503.27)	Difference	
YTD		
\$162,311.00	Income	98.638%
\$(160,745.71	Expense	(96.661)%
\$(1,746,47)	Difference	1.977%

The Financial Trustees presented the 2022 Budget to the Session on December 21, 2021. After a review and questions answered, the Session approved the 2022 Budget. The 2022 Budget will be discussed at the Annual Meeting in late January/early February. Prior to that meeting, the 2022 Budget will be available by handout for the congregation to review.

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

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)

Happy Birthday to all those born in January!

- 6 Jenny Schurk
- 6 Patrick May
- 8 Melinda Albaugh-Jones
- 14 Todd Constable
- 19 Allyson Sweetman
- 21 Mitch Fontaine
- 21 Edward Kross
- 22 Kenneth & Kaileigh Parker
- 28 Nels DeLander
- 29 Emilie May-Uldrick
- 30 Kent Sicklebower



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

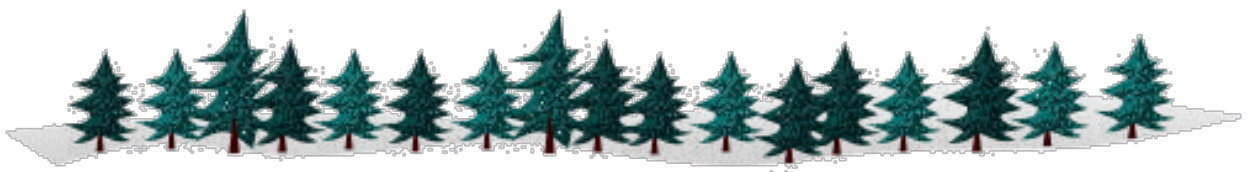
- 6 Betty Hart
- 10 Stuart Smith
- 10 Paul Lutz
- 11 John Harlan
- 18 Vern Parker
- 19 Dorothy Brown
- 28 Bill Burge
- 31 Angie Angeles
- 31 Dick Gartner



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
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