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# July @ Bethany

## Bethany Presbyterian Church

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### From the Pastor



Dear friends,

Did you know that the Congress first declared July 4 to be a national holiday in 1870, almost 100 years after the declaration of independence? As a matter of fact, for the first 15-20 years after the declaration of independence was adopted, the declaration was highly controversial.

Some thought the wording was too hard on Britain, and others thought the language was perfect. There was a deep partisan divide in our young country at the time. While you and I may be appalled at the deep divide in our country right now, I can't help but wonder if our country has been through this before? Maybe citizens felt then as we do now. Many of us plan to watch the first Presidential debates of our next election this week. Many of us plan to stay as far away from that spectacle as possible. By the time you read this, the debates will have just ended, and you will be reckoning with the aftermath of yet another news cycle filled with angst and stress.

I invite us to remember that God has been engaged with humanity for all of history, and God will not forsake humanity now either. As we celebrate the freedom that is represented by our Independence Day holiday, I ask us to keep the faith that Americans will remain committed to the work of freedom in all of its forms for all people. As followers of Christ we remember the example he set for us to always lean toward love and justice and mercy. Our recent lectionary texts have been reminding us what the kingdom of God will be like. Let us lean into those texts as we celebrate the beautiful month of July.

And just for fun, here is a small list of major events that have taken place in our history, during the month of July. Happy 4<sup>th</sup>, and Happy Summer!

- **(1798)** An Act of Congress creates the U.S. Marine Corps
- **(1847)** U.S. postage stamps went on sale for the first time
- **(1862)** The Bureau of Internal Revenue Service is established
- **(1914)** World War I began
- **(1928)** Sliced bread is invented! The Chillicothe Baking Company creates and markets sliced bread. It is the greatest invention since.... well since sliced bread!
- **(1963)** ZIP codes go into use.
- **(1964)** President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law.
- **(1969)** In "one small step for Man, one giant step for Mankind", Astronaut Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to walk on the moon.
- **(1994)** Jeff Bezos founds Amazon.com.

Blessings to you all!

Pastor Deb

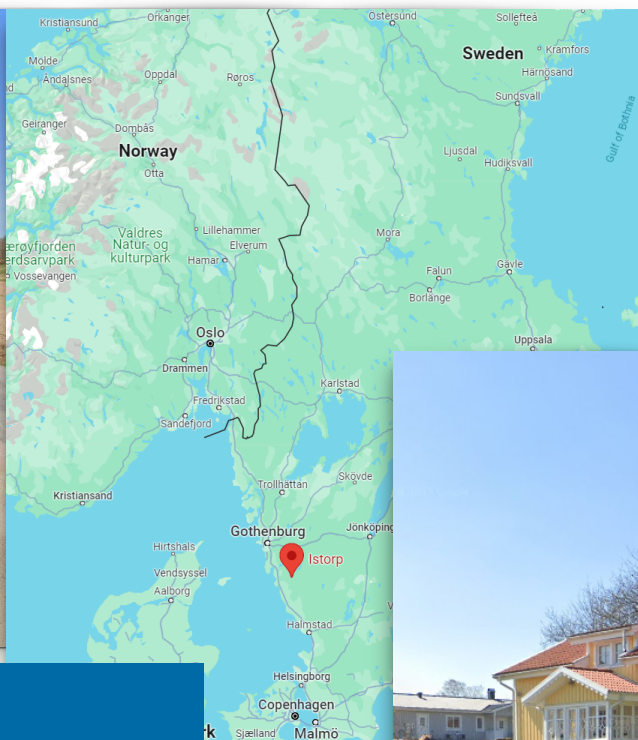


**Birthdays**

- 7 - Craig Bray
- 12 - Lyn Hughes
- 21 - Kathleen Mitchell
- 23 - Barbara Jessee
- 23 - Bamboo Lin
- 26 - Bob Johansen
- 28 - Gabriela Sanford
- 31 - Roxane Wales

**Anniversaries**

- 8 - Susan and Pat May
- 20 - George Lynch and Lyn Hughes



Vacation Alert!



Pastor Deb will be away from July 15-August 3 on her first visit to Sweden! Mom's dad grew up in this house with his nine siblings, where we'll be sleeping, (one story home at that time) and family still lives here on the farm! I'll be away from the office from July 16 and return on August 3.

## Community Action

### THANK YOU!

In our last newsletter, we asked for your help to repair the roof of our house on Second Ave. Your response was stupendous! So much so that we will not only be able to repair that roof, but will be able to take on other deferred maintenance projects this year as well. We are so thankful for your generosity The roofers are scheduled to do the work in mid-June. It's very exciting.

We are truly blessed by all your generosity. I know folks at other Catholic Worker houses that are barely able to keep their operations viable due to a lack of support. That is not us. Thanks to your ongoing generous support we are able to devote ourselves full-time to our work of caring for others, taking care of needed maintenance and expanding our work when the opportunity arises. We thank you for all your past support and trust that you will help us to continue serving those in need in our community.

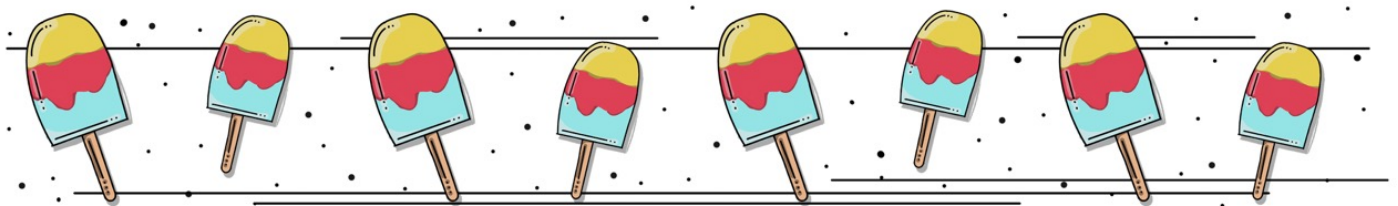
In Christ's Peace,

Peter Stiehler

Director

Catholic Worker Hospitality House

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



## 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, and 3. Install heat pump.
- 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. Lowe's could not provide any assistance as a consultant. 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, probably first through FaceBook.
- Final donation to CWHH for roofing project on 2nd Avenue house was \$7,300. Thanks to everyone who so generously provided funds for the repairs needed.
- The final Bethany Spring Tea donation to RotaCare in Half Moon Bay was \$2,325.

Note that financial information is now reported quarterly.

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## Monthly Activities

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

**Wednesdays:** Prayz 5:00 pm  
Prayer Group 6:30 pm

**Submissions for W@B:** Tuesday mornings

**Submissions for the August newsletter:**  
Thursday, July 18

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Communion at Worship Service

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Worship Committee 11:00 am

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday: Ruth Covenant Group 6:30 pm

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday: Session 4:30 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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### 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.

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### Bethany Presbyterian Church

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