



# July @ Bethany

## Bethany Presbyterian Church

**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.

Hello Bethany Friends,



As of July 1, we will have been partners here at Bethany for six months! I am thoroughly enjoying being your Transitional Pastor. Thank you for my beautiful office, for laughing at my jokes, for welcoming me with open arms, for letting me comfort you and work with you and walk with you, and for helping me learn how to be your pastor.

On Jan. 31, 2020 The United States government imposed a two-week federal quarantine on 195 people who were evacuated from Wuhan, China, to a California military base. Little did we know what would happen in the next months. Today marks 13 weeks since our first shelter in place order. It's difficult to look back over the past 13 weeks and take it all in. There have been so many challenges and we have risen to them all. From having Holy Week on zoom, and services for Easter on Facebook live (I'm not a morning person, but a pandemic is a crazy way to get out of having to do a 6am service!), to the connections we have been maintaining with each other in various ways. I am really proud of us for the tenacity we have, and the strong spirit of love with which we hold one another. We have found ways to step in and help others by giving blood, cooking meals, continuing the work with the San Bruno Shelter, running errands for our neighbors and reaching out to those who might be isolated. We are connecting through comments on Facebook during our live services on Sunday mornings. We are connecting through the zoom prayer service on Wednesdays at 6:30. We are connecting on my Patio. We are connecting through individual conversations on zoom or on the phone, and a few safe in person visits. Our deacons are keeping on top of each parishioner and helping us meet their needs. Our committee personnel are helping to keep our worship, our finances, our grounds work and cleaning, safe and up to date. Roberta, well, Roberta just keeps us all in line!



After five weeks of Job, we will begin looking at 2 Corinthians for five weeks beginning July 12<sup>th</sup>. I hope to follow that with a study of the Lord's Prayer through August and into early September. We still do not have a forecasted date for continuing in person Sunday morning services. The session will look at this issue again when we meet on July 21<sup>st</sup>. We will always be focused on safety. For now we will continue to offer our Facebook live services at 10:00 on Sundays.



I will be on vacation from July 14<sup>th</sup> – July 20<sup>th</sup>. Please continue to call the church office with any needs you may have, or contact your deacon. There will not be Facebook live on Tuesday or Friday, or a Wednesday zoom prayer service that week.

Blessing to you all, as we find ways to engage in the important work of these days,

Pastor Deb



***Do you love to read aloud?*** I do! I have been enjoying reading books into my audio recorder on my phone, one chapter at a time, and sending the recording to my family. My family sometimes has done this over the years. My brother is the one with an “Audible” quality voice! I had the idea of maybe reading all of the Psalms onto a CD as a way of offering pastoral care. But then I had a better idea!

What if anyone who wanted to read a psalm, and sent their recording to me? Then I could compile all 150 Psalms onto a CD and we could each hear our friends' voices. A professional recording wouldn't be the goal. A child could read, an old person could read, a family could read one psalm alternating lines maybe. It would be a really creative endeavor that we could all share in even from a distance! I would love to hear the voices of everyone who has been a part of Bethany who wants to read. It would be like a yearbook in a way, with our voices being the signatures.

Let me know if you'd like to participate! Don't make me call you!

-Pastor Deb

## **A New Way to Worship**

Until restrictions on gatherings are safely lifted, we will continue to worship in our own homes via Facebook Live at 10:00 on Sunday mornings. The live broadcast will begin 5-10 minutes before the hour, and you, your friends, family and neighbors are all welcome to join the live session before worship begins, greet one another, and let us know of your presence.

After worship, we will celebrate a virtual coffee hour via Zoom. Those who have participated in zoom coffee hour are finding a much-needed sense of connection and community with our church family! If you do not automatically receive and email invitation to coffee hour, definitely contact us so that we can add you to the list!

The worship committee and the session are working very hard to find the best way to bring all of us together to virtually worship each Sunday. Right now we are set with Jessica and Pastor Deb, and we have a liturgist for June. But we would like to know who is comfortable coming to be liturgist on various Sundays going forward. We can't have too many people in the room, and not everyone is or should be coming around others even with a mask. But if we could have a short list of people who would be willing to rotate, we're looking for you! We also will need someone to aim the camera on occasion when George is away, as well as someone who is willing to lead hymns.

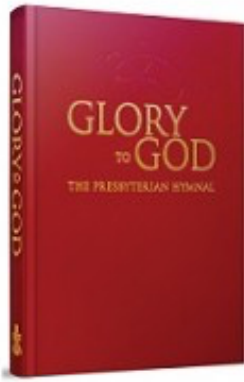
**If you feel as if you are able to help out either as 1) liturgist, 2) leading hymns or 3) camera work, please let us know.** You can leave a message on the church voicemail, or email the church office



## **JUNE 2020 SESSION MEETING**

Due to the unavailability of a quorum of Elders, the 6/16/20 Session meeting was cancelled. Our next Session Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 7/21/20 at 7 PM. If you have any questions before then, please contact Roxane Wales at 650-303-2070 or [roxanewales@gmail.com](mailto:roxanewales@gmail.com).

-R.Wales, Clerk of Session



**Would you like to have a hymnal at home to use for worship?** If you would, just contact your deacon or the church office, leave your name and how we can get in touch with you, and we'll contact you to arrange to either drop a hymnal at your home, or have you pick it up at the church.

**Donations for San Bruno Hospitality House:** There will be a plastic bin outside the door closest to the lower parking lot at Bethany for Peter Stiehler's shelter donations so people can continue to donate for the shelter. The box will be periodically checked and items taken down to Peter's Second Ave. shelter. Any questions about this please contact George Lynch: cell phone @ 650-580-4123.

**The shelter is currently in need of oatmeal, canned fruit, napkins and toilet paper.** Also, the Shelter will be closed July 3-13.

**IN THIS CONGREGATION, WE BELIEVE:**  
**LOVE IS LOVE**  
**BLACK LIVES MATTER**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL**  
**NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL**  
**ALL GENDERS ARE WHOLE, HOLY, & GOOD**  
**WOMEN HAVE AGENCY OVER THEIR BODIES**

**COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFE COMMITTEE**

**Bethany Spring Tea – Postponed Until Further Notice**

The Bethany Tea has been postponed until further notice.

## FINANCIAL TRUSTEES

### **May and YTD Financial Summary**

May Income	\$13,050.00	
May Expense	(\$11,752.77)	
Net	\$ 1,297.23	
YTD Income	\$ 70,494.07	92,526%
YTD Expense	(\$70,521.56)	(92.562%)
Net	(\$ 27.49)	( 0.036%)

Thank you for your continued response to our appeal to send your offerings to the church in a timely manner. You are helping to make a difference each and every month to keep our staff paid and bills current. Bless you!

In May, checks for \$150 were sent to Latinos Unidos en Cristo and Braziliana Iglesia in San Mateo to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ with expenses related to their congregation and community outreach. These churches have been hard hit during the current pandemic. We received thank you emails from both the Presbytery of San Francisco Finance team as well as staff on the Committee on Ministries. Several other personal checks have also been sent along to these churches.

Should you wish to donate to these churches in need, please make your check(s) out to the church names for any amount and send to 194 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94403 (each church is located at this address as they rent space from First Presbyterian Church in San Mateo. They are two separate congregations).

Questions about the 2020 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 our dear friends born in the month of July**

- 3 Brad Parker
- 3 Larry Gruner
- 5 Trish Lynch
- 7 Craig Bray
- 12 Lyn Hughes
- 21 Kathleen Mitchell
- 21 Billy Nicolosi
- 23 Barbara Jessee
- 23 Bamboo Lin
- 26 Bob Johansen
- 27 Samantha Richards
- 31 Roxane Wales



**July Anniversaries**

- 8 Susan & Patrick May
- 20 Lyn Hughes & George Lynch



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

- 1 Esther Burge
- 1 Lee Carlson
- 16 Anne Carlson
- 29 Russell Sicklebower

**Catholic Worker Hospitality House (the San Bruno Shelter)**

Rina Ranahan is Bethany's representative to the San Bruno Shelter. Please call her at 650-291-6979, if you are interested in serving on this committee. Items most needed right now are:

- hot cups with no lids
- canned fruit
- napkins
- toilet paper
- old fashioned oatmeal

The full list can be found on our website: [bethanypcusa.org](http://bethanypcusa.org)

**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**