



March @ 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.

Greetings,

As I head into my third month here at Bethany, I'm looking forward to sharing the season of Lent with you. I've enjoyed getting to know some of you more and more. I'm hoping to continue to meet folks I've never met before and discover who you are. I want to learn more about how I and/or Bethany can meet your needs and bring you joy. I encourage you to call the office or reach out to me at dmcguire@bethanypcusa.org for any reason.

While Lent is not one of the most upbeat seasons of the church year it can be one of the richest. Lent has been described as one giant waiting period. Lent is traditionally a time when people of faith remember the suffering of Jesus. We're reminded that we came from dust and we will return to dust, and that Jesus died for us. Many people spend the season of Lent in long periods of self-flagellation and misery. I would suggest that we buck that tradition, and look instead to the suffering of Jesus as a sign of hope for us, that Jesus shared what happens in our lives. Jesus died for us but it is not our fault or our sin that caused Jesus to die. Lent is not a time for guilt and more suffering. It's a time to be aware that our suffering happened even to Jesus. It's a time for self reflection and reflection as a community to possibly discover where we can do more, or where we can do something different. It's always a good thing to look for ways to give up bad habits, or stop doing something you love for a time to see how it feels to do without. But rather than make Lent something that we only do for a season, let's look for what can we do in Lent that becomes a part of our new way of life. Lent as a period of waiting can lead to heartfelt generosity toward ourselves and others for a lifetime.

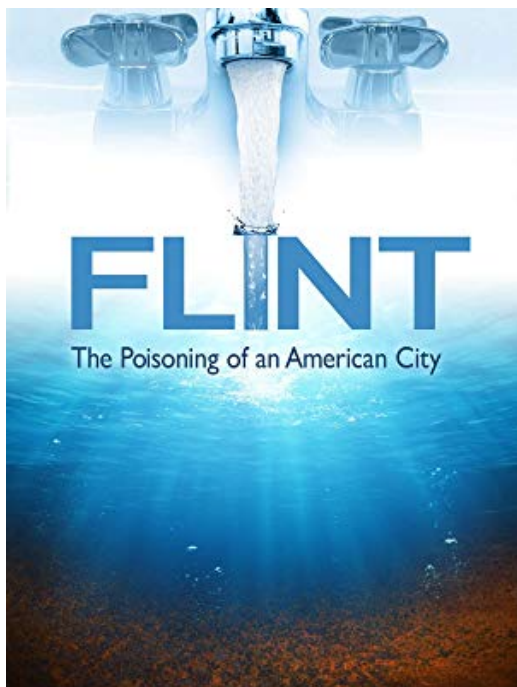
Contemplation of suffering is not a bad thing or a sad thing necessarily. Suffering happens all the time, and I would hope that we wouldn't look for ways to add to that part of our lives. But rather, find a depth to ourselves that only comes from serious tugs at our hearts. I once had a caterpillar in my room in college that I kept in a round globe-like dish with a stick and milkweed. I loved to watch it crawling on the stick, or see that it had eaten some greens. I watched it all the way through the cocoon time and it was amazing to see the butterfly wings unfold and watch it take off! What was equally amazing was just *before* the cocoon was being built, everything was so still. The caterpillar didn't move for days. Then he hung from the middle of the stick and was still for days. It was if there was silence before the silence. That's Lent to me. It's the opportunity to prepare. We can even prepare to wait.

(continued)

I hope you find your way through the season of Lent with your Bethany community; beginning with Ash Sunday on March 1st, through every Tuesday night Lenten study on the Lord's Prayer, and continuing into April as we get closer and closer to Easter. Let us live these pre-Easter days with each other, and with a deep search for our own Lenten story.

Blessings,

Pastor Deb



March 1st Saturday Dinner

Saturday, March 7th

Dinner at 6 p.m., movie following

Faith Potluck – sign up with what you expect to bring

Movie:

“Flint – the Poisoning of an American City”

Director David Barnhart –
yes THAT David Barnhart!

Movie description: “Flint: The Poisoning of an American City” explores the critical question of how 100,000 people in the USA could be poisoned by their own state. The film intersperses interviews with area residents and experts in lead and water with testimony at congressional oversight committee hearings. Flint serves as a warning for the rest of the country.” Read more about the movie here: <http://flintpoisoning.org>.
(Movie runs 1.5 hrs.)

Lenten Study -- Reflections on the Lord's Prayer: An Adult Lenten Study by Carol A. Wehrheim & J. Elsworth Kalas. This is a downloadable resource from the PCUSA store. It is a study lasting six weeks. Kathleen Mitchell will lead this study with Pastor Deb. The study is downloadable so you don't need to purchase anything, and we can print a copy for you if you would prefer paper. **We will meet from 7-8:30 on Tuesdays in March. The dates are March 3, March 10, March 17, March 24, March 31, and April 7.** We are excited to begin a fresh new study and we hope you will join us and invite your friends. This is not limited to Bethanians!



Although Ash Wednesday is traditionally marked on the Wednesday before the first Sunday of Lent, we will be starting our Lenten Journey with the disposition of ashes as part of our worship service on **Sunday, March 1**. The ashes are prepared each year using several of the palm branches that were waved in church during the previous year's Palm Sunday, and those ashes will be used to mark us as children of God and followers of Christ.

2/18/20 SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (7:09pm- 8:57pm)

Meeting was opened in prayer by Rev. Debra McGuire, moderator.

Rev. McGuire led the Devotion reflecting on Deuteronomy 30:15-290 - Obedience to God. R.Wales presented BPC's 2019 Presbytery Report which was approved. (Copy on narthex bulletin board.)

Pastor McGuire reported on her attendance at the Presbytery Meeting, plans for the re-dedication of the Memorial Wall on Palm Sunday, and pastoral care.

Buildings & Grounds will lead the Spring church-wide workday on Saturday, March 14 - 9 am - 12 pm.

Community Life is planning the Spring Tea for May 2nd, 1-3:30 pm.

Community Action is collecting new and gently used baby items in support of SF General Birthing Center.

Rina attended a Peninsula Interfaith Organization workshop to learn about assisting immigrants at the border.

Christian Education's Lenten Bible Study, beginning 3/3/20, will reflect on the Lord's Prayer.

Outreach is hosting a Faith Potluck before the showing of Flint on March 7.

Worship Committee is planning Palm Sunday and Easter Services.

Next Session meeting - Monday, 3/16/20 at 7 PM.

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

-R.Wales, Clerk of Session

FINANCIAL TRUSTEES

January and YTD Financial Summary

Income	\$13,100.00	86.0%
Expense	(\$15,064.53)	(98.9)%
Net	(\$ 1,964.53)	(12.9)%

Any questions about the 2020 BPC budget can be addressed to Lyn Hughes or one of the other Financial Trustees: Ken Henry, Dave Wales or Bonnie Morgan.

Should you have any questions about our tenant, the Sikh Association, please either contact the Financial Trustees (Lyn Hughes , Ken Henry, Dave Wales or Bonnie Morgan) or Buildings and Grounds (Dave Wales)

COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFE COMMITTEE

Baby Items Drive – Now through March 31, 2020

Marta Lutz (Freda's daughter) alerted Bethany that the San Francisco General Hospital Birthing Center, which services single and homeless mothers, was in desperate need of new and/or clean, gently used baby clothes and supplies for babies from ages newborn to 6 months. Please consider a donation of baby items, including onesies, sleepers, rompers, diapers, socks, hats, blankets, etc. for the Birthing Center. Boxes that say "Baby Items Here" are in the Narthex now. If you don't have time to shop, let Lyn Hughes know and someone from the Committee will purchase items for you for the Center.

Bethany Spring Tea – Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 1pm to 3:30pm

Please mark your calendars to join us for our annual Spring Tea on Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 1pm to 3:30pm;

This year, the beneficiary of the Spring Tea proceeds will be Access SFUSD – The Arc, which is a community-based program for students 18-22 with disabilities. They focus on teaching functional life skills within the community setting as the classroom. They strive to help students discover their passions, unlock potential, and become involved members of the community by offering an individualized program that works with each student's goals and interests to further develop their skills, be it in community college, or vocational experiences.

We will have a basket raffle, entertainment, and a lovely afternoon of fellowship and fun. Please plan to join us and bring your family and friends.

Tickets are \$20 each and we will start selling tickets in April.

Should you have any questions, please contact Lyn Hughes or Jorie Abbott.

Lenten Offering

A non-perishable food and supply offering will be taken during Lent to support those in need at the Catholic Worker Hospitality House (San Bruno Shelter). Please bring your item(s) and place them at in the church in front of the communion table.



Baby Supplies Needed! Marta Lutz tells us the supply closet at the San Francisco General Birthing Center is empty. For those who'd like to participate, we will be collecting baby items for newborn through 6 mos. for the next month. There are boxes in the narthex ready to collect your donations. The SF Birthing Center serves single, homeless, and low-income moms, and all your donations will be greatly appreciated. You can donate new or lightly used baby items. Please contact Lyn Hughes with any questions.

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. Current items needed include:

- coffee
- creamer
- sugar (white & brown)
- oatmeal
- canned fruits
- soup spoons
- trash bags (8 gal, 13 gal, 39 gal)
- sleeping bags
- blankets
- socks
- underwear
- paper products (napkins, paper towels, toilet paper)
-

The full list can be found on our website: bethanypcusa.org



Palm Sunday Memorial Wall Re-dedication

In 2010, a terrible event ripped through San Bruno and hit the Bethany community particularly hard. The PG&E pipeline explosion changed everything. It was an unspeakable tragedy that still seems unbelievable. The trauma caused by that explosion ranged from lives lost, families lost, homes destroyed, and includes a range of experiences; the worry and anxiety felt before there was any news, the anxiety and courage of first responders, the great sadness at the breadth of tragedy. Trauma continues 10 years on in the form of worry about the future, and the forever-ness of so many kinds of losses.

The Bethany Presbyterian Church family lost dear members and still carries so much love and heartbreak even as we continue forward. What Bethany did then, for the larger San Bruno region community was perfect. They created a mural to remember the beauty of what was lost and a reminder of the beauty that would still be ours.

On Palm Sunday in 2013, the Memorial Wall was dedicated with everyone invited to witness the emergence of hope in the form of art. On Palm Sunday 2020, April 5th, we will re-dedicate the mural as a way to mark the 10th year of that major event in the lives of the community, and mark the living example of resilience that the community was able to demonstrate.

After our 10am Palm Sunday service, at 11:00 we will enjoy fellowship in the garden that has since been added to the area in front of the memorial wall. We hope to invite anyone involved in or affected by not just the tragedy but the healing work that this mural represents, to come and reflect on where they were and where they are now. We want everyone to feel united once again this time not by tragedy but by resilience, in the presence of this beacon of hope our Memorial Wall. Please mark your calendars for this celebration!



**Happy Birthday too all those born
in the lovely month of March!**

- 9 Roberta Henry
- 13 Linden Cady
- 13 Robyn Cox
- 17 Barbara Liedtke
- 21 Bethany Delander
- 23 Paulette Emfinger
- 25 Monica Fontaine
- 25 Dave Marconi
- 27 Eddy Bray
- 29 Kelsy Parker
- 30 Cindy Marconi



Happy Anniversary!

- 2 David & Elizabeth Parker
- 27 John Lee & Evelyn Orr

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

- 12 Helen Liedtke
- 12 Donna Gartner
- 21 Barbara DeLand
- 27 Clarene Broad

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.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



Coming up: Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday March 8th. Set your clocks AHEAD one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night – or you may be late to church!

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>



2400 Rosewood Drive, San Bruno, CA 94066
(650) 589-3711 ~ bethanypres@bethanypcusa.org
Website: bethanypcusa.org



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS