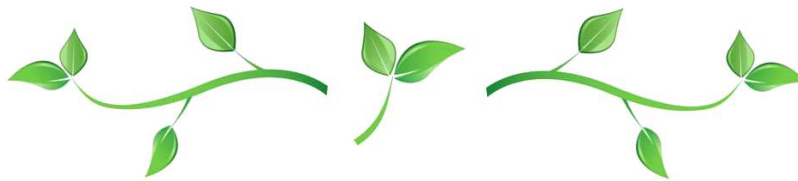


May @ Bethany

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,

May 2020

As I write this on April 28th the local news has just told us that the Shelter in Place order will extend through the month of May. This means that by the next time I write a letter for this monthly page, we will have been quarantined, locked down, staying at home, not gathering for 30 more days.

I can't say that I like this news. But I can say that I think this is the right news.

As we all try to find ways to cope these days I want to remind us that we are children of God and therefore are born with inherent worth. It may be that the changes we have had to make while we shelter in place have affected us in more than one way. We may have made changes to our lives that affect our finances, our work, our daily activities, and all of these things may make us doubt our own self worth or value. Our very identity is being changed by what we are being asked to do. Some of us thrive with such a challenge, and find new ways to be our best selves and meet the daily ever changing routines of our days. We love to engage with our families and our friends in new ways and we love to find new opportunities to find meaning with those that we love and the things that we do. We constantly find ways to contribute. Others of us go into a panic at the first sign of change and if a great deal of our lives changes all at once it's beyond our ability to cope. Wherever we fall on that spectrum there is no denying the fact that we are social creatures. Without our usual methods of meeting our social needs much of what we do to take care of ourselves is not available.

There's no doubt that much has changed. I want to remind us of what is the same. God will never stop finding new ways to get our attention. God will never stop living in our hearts. God will never stop listening to our greatest joys and our greatest fears. We believe in God of the trinity, whose three persons are our constant companions. As comforting as it is to know that God is right here on earth with us, it is equally comforting to know that nothing on earth that may limit us, can limit God.

continued

God will never stop calling us no matter how our daily lives and activities change. There are no limits or boundaries to how God values us and uses us. If we are not able to live our lives the way we have in the past – if our employment changes, our families change, we are not able to connect to others in person, we are not able to offer ourselves to help in the same ways anymore, God will still work with what we can do. Our limits given to us by laws, rules, safety choices, pandemic stresses and required behaviors, are not limiting to God .

As we wonder what we are being called to in these times, I invite you to print the page attached to this W@B email titled "God Calls Me", and use some time to be creative and color the words.

Please stay safe, stay home, and ask for help. As always, 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 at 650-589-3711 or reach out to me at dmcguire@bethanypcusa.org for any reason.

Blessings,
Pastor Deb

Local Food Pantries

**If you or someone you know could use some groceries,
here are a couple of resources in the San Bruno/SSF area.**

Grace Covenant Church, in partnership with Second Harvest of Silicon Valley

Saturday, May 2, 8 a.m. Please bring ID and proof of residency (e.g. utility bill) in So. SF, Daly City, Brisbane, San Bruno

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley has pantry locations in San Bruno. During this time of disaster, all the Family Harvest sites are open to anybody in need of food. No income or age restrictions. For complete information, you can find them online at shfb.org. The San Bruno and SSF pantries are located at:

560 El Camino Real, San Bruno

Hours: Sundays 8 – 9 a.m.

450 3rd Ave., San Bruno

Hours: Thursdays 2:45 – 4:15

540 Miller Ave., So San Francisco

Hours: Tuesdays 3-4 p.m.



4/21/20 SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
(by Zoom conference call 7:05 PM- 8:32 PM)

Meeting was opened in prayer by Debra McGuire, pastor.

Deb led the Devotion reflecting on the poem Blessing For A Nurse by John O'Donohue. We also, named and prayed for all the people we know working in Frontline Covid-19 situations.

We all discussed our contact with Bethany family and friends.

Regarding Worship service we discussed ways to make it even better than it is already.

Lyn reported for the Financial Trustees:

- \$5,000 was received from the SF Presbytery for use during the Covid-19 issue. BPC will send \$500 to Catholic Worker House.
- The Presbytery also sent \$1,000 for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.
- BPC received 95% of giving the 1st quarter of 2020.

Dave reported for Buildings & Grounds that BPC received \$1,000 from PG&E for use of Bethany's parking lot, as a staging area, during 2 neighborhood power pole replacement workdays.

Worship will be looking for volunteers to share camera operation duties and lectionary reading in the upcoming months.

Detailed discussion regarding:

- Reaching out to BPC family and friends through correspondence, email, phone call, BPC website, Zoom, Skype, Hangouts.
- Using creative programming like Zoom for a Hymn Sing, 1st Saturday Dinner and/or weekday Prayer Meeting to collect prayers for Sunday Worship. (All of these are being considered and/or planned.)

Next Zoom Session meeting- Tuesday, 5/19/20 @ 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



Just a reminder that the deacons are available for you to contact should you need anything. Need help with something? Have a question? Or maybe just want to chat? Give your deacon a call or email! If you don't know who your deacon is, contact the church office & we'll get that info to you.

COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFE COMMITTEE

Baby Items Drive – Thanks for Your Donations

Two large boxes of baby items were collected for the San Francisco General Hospital Birthing Center, which serves single and homeless mothers.

Donations included all types of baby items such as clothes, blankets, socks, hats, diapers, etc. Marta Lutz, along with George Lynch's help, made sure the items were delivered to the Birthing Center.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this drive. The SFG Birthing Center was more than appreciative of our contributions they received.

Bethany Spring Tea – Postponed Until Further Notice

The Bethany Tea has been postponed until further notice.

Lenten Offering Taken to the Catholic Worker Hospital House (the San Bruno Shelter)

The Lenten offering items were delivered to Peter Stiehler and his team by George Lynch. Our thanks for your donations. Donations are needed ongoing so please keep this in mind. Pickup and delivery of anything you may want to donate can be scheduled by calling Lyn Hughes at (650) 867-0667.

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 an 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 May. 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

FINANCIAL TRUSTEES

March and YTD Financial Summary

March Income	\$13,528.00	
March Expense	(\$16,016.07)	
Net	(\$ 2,488.07)	
YTD Income	\$43,114.07	94.3%
YTD Expense	(\$46,583.90)	101.9%
Net	(\$ 3,469.83)	(7.6%)

Please mail your offering to the church as we are making weekly deposits to ensure our staff is paid and bills are kept current. We thank you in advance for your faithful giving during this unusual time.

In April, the Presbytery of San Francisco sent all 68 churches in the Presbytery a grant check for \$5,000 to be used as needed. From that \$5,000, the Financial Trustees recommended to the Session that we send \$500 to the Catholic Worker Hospitality House (the San Bruno Shelter) as those in need in San Bruno are going to the Shelter for food and other supplies. The recommendation was approved by Session and a check was sent to CWHH.

In addition, the Presbytery of San Francisco sent churches a check for \$1,000 for the Pastor Discretionary Fund, if a request was received. We made a request so Bethany received a check for a \$1,000 grant. This will allow our pastor to recommend funds be given, as needed, to a congregant, a friend of the church, or anyone else. To date no requests have been made but we know that as our current situation goes on, requests may be made.

The Financial Trustees also contacted the Board of Pensions about a pension waiver or deferral program that was put in place for pastor's pension payments. In order to receive the one-to-three month waiver of pension payments, there were certain criteria that had to be met. Unfortunately, Bethany did not meet the waiver criteria. We were offered three months of deferring our pastor's pension payment, but the Financial Trustees decided again deferring any payments.

The Financial Trustees also discussed applying for a Paycheck Protection Program "PPP" loan which can be forgiven depending on how the money is used, such as on payroll, benefits, etc. We are working on this item and more information will be available soon.

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 these wonderful folks born in the month of May!

- 3 Richard Pyke
- 5 Steve Cady
- 5 Kimberly Elliot
- 8 David Cady
- 13 George Lynch
- 15 Robin Crawford
- 15 Barbara Lucas
- 16 Justin Wales
- 24 Dave Wales
- 29 Stephanie May Knox
- 30 Norma (Skip) Quickert



Happy Anniversary to these wonderful couples married in the month of May -

- 26 Joe & Elizabeth Falejczyk
- 27 Paul & Kathleen Delander
- 27 Aaron & Jean Jones
- 27 Janine & Cory Valine
- 30 Frank & Donna Goodwin



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

- 13 Bee Parker
- 15 Dave Fogle

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

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.



*" Not all of us can do great things.
But we can do small things
with great love."
Mother Teresa*

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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