



November @ Bethany

Bethany Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor

Welcome to November friends!

Can I just tell you why I like to watch the Food Network Baking Championships? Because they keep the holidays in order! I know you know what I'm getting at – you go anywhere these days, and you see back to school sales right after kids have gotten out for the summer. You see sales on dorm “must have’s” in June. You see Christmas decorations before Thanksgiving (well before Halloween too), Thanksgiving decorations before Halloween, and sales on our New Year’s resolution to get organized storage solutions even before Christmas is over. On these baking shows you get summer picnic competitions in the summer. We see Halloween competitions before Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving competitions before Christmas. And Christmas competitions before the competitions for the best New Year’s Day brunch.



It's properly Presbyterian – decent, and IN ORDER!

Our society, and many others, teach us in so many ways, that being first is best? It makes sense, right? Play sports? Everyone aims for first place. All of my music training was geared around getting first chair, playing the first part. Are you a runner? You must cross the finish line first! Ever take a standardized test? We must get the highest score! Business and advertising use this adrenaline focused drive to put out the next season’s specialty merchandise before the competition does. It’s all about the money. But not the baking shows! They don’t get ahead of themselves.

Here's the thing though. Many of those “get there first” competition models when we are young, or beginners at a thing, are really just rewards to keep practicing, keep learning, stick to it. Then somewhere in the midst of all, whatever the subject we find that we love it. Then, being first stops being the only goal, if it is ever the goal at all anymore. We learn to love the hard work, the enjoyment that comes from being good at a craft or specialty or a skill. We learn to appreciate the hard work that others have done and we learn that being first isn't so splashy. Instead of the adrenaline rush a beginner or intermediate gets when they're first, we learn to love the hard work evident in something really fine; we learn to love the heart of the thing, the meaning shown, we learn to love something about the learning itself and the engagement with life that comes from being part of a team, a group, a project

Remember from Ecclesiastes 3 “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. As this beautiful season of fall, and the holidays that follow come upon us, let us not rush to get to the next thing. Let’s enjoy the smells, textures, sounds and visual joys that come with this season. Let us enjoy what is in front of us, knowing that that next thing will come when it is its time. Whatever you’re doing, enjoy it. Notice whatever beauty is present. Appreciate the people who are with you. Recognize God in the relationships. This is the season of busy and rushing. Resist! Here’s wishing you a slow holidays season.



Remember too, I love to talk. Give me a call.

Pastor Deb

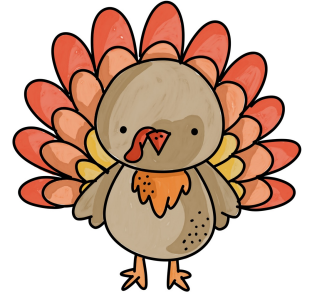
Ruth Covenant Group

The Bethany Ruth Covenant Group will meet on Monday, November 11 at 6:30 pm at the church. The meeting will include our usual check-in time, fellowship, refreshments, prayers, and sharing. Everyone is invited to bring magazines that can be cut up for a collaging spiritual exercise. You are most welcome to join in for this wonderful time of sharing. Joining by Zoom is available if you are not able to attend in person, and the hope is that Zoomers can also be collaging right along with the rest of us. Please let Tamra Hollenbeck know if you would like to receive a Zoom invitation, and we'll send one to you. Many blessings to everyone!

Bethany Thanksgiving Dinner and Talent Show

This favorite activity will be held on Saturday, November 23, from 6-9 pm. The church will provide turkey, dressing, cranberries, rolls, and drinks, and the congregation will be invited to bring a side dish for 10 people to share, including mashed potatoes,

sweet potatoes, green salads, vegetable dishes, dessert, or whatever else makes you feel thankful! Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join in this wonderful gathering time. Sign-up sheets for the event will be available beginning Sunday, November 3rd. One of the sheets will include a sign-up for the Annual Talent Show. This is the time to dust off your tap shoes, practice your flute solo, or prepare your standup routine! The audience is very welcoming and ready to enjoy an evening of fun and talent! Please consider joining in!



Advent Festival

Saturday, December 7 from 10 am -12 pm. Mark your calendar now to join with other members of the congregation as we ready the sanctuary for the holiday season. More details will follow in next month's newsletter, so keep a look out!



Please join us for Bethany's Fall church-wide workday!

When: Saturday November 16, 2024

Time: 9 AM to 12 PM

Fuel (refreshments, coffee/bagels, fruit, etc.) provided
Everyone is welcome -- indoor/outdoor tasks for all skill levels!!!

Help us spruce up our campus
to make it welcoming for Thanksgiving and Christmas festivities!



Birthdays	Anniversaries
11 - Ken Henry	24 - Robin and Nancy Crawford
22 - Andy Jones	



FALL BACKWARD

← DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS! [- 1 HOUR]

Sunday, November 3

Worship Notes

Liturgist Sign-up

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for anyone interested and willing to be the liturgist during worship. Please take a look at the list and sign up on a date that works for you. Never been the liturgist before? No worries! There is a script to follow, and there are several people who would be willing to help make it comfortable for you. The congregation is pretty welcoming, too! Please let Rev. Deb know if you would like to participate in worship this way, or just sign up! And thanks for your willingness to help!



McGuire. It was a lovely service, and all God's Critters behaved well. One guest dog, Scooby, could be heard singing along with the hymns and the choir! Thanks to everyone who brought their bunny or their dog along. We hope they enjoyed their special treats afterwards!

World Communion Sunday

World Communion was celebrated on Sunday, October 6 with the kick off of the Peace and Global Witness Offering and tasty breads from all of the continents of the world. It is always a wonderful reminder of the commonality we share with Christians around the world. The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be dedication on Sunday, October 27th, and there are envelopes for you to use for your offering (if you can't find the one that was mailed to you!).



Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, September 29, the sanctuary had some special guests in attendance with several dogs and a bunny coming forward at the end of the service for a blessing by Rev.



Upcoming Services

Reformation Sunday: Sunday, October 27. The theme will be that we are along a continuum of believers, reaching back to Martin Luther and John Knox. Reformed and reforming. The Peace and Global Witness offering will be dedicated.

All Saints' Day: Sunday, November 3. The congregation is invited to bring pictures of their loved ones to place on the communion table at the beginning of worship. There will be the opportunity to light a candle in honor of the saints in our lives. Please plan to join us as we hold dear the memories of those who have gone to be with God.

Christ the King: Sunday, November 24. This is the last Sunday of the Church Calendar Year. It is also the Sunday before Thanksgiving, so there will be

some Thanksgiving songs to celebrate this season of gratitude.

Advent Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22: There will be a hymn sing with Advent and Christmas carols on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1. The Worship Committee is looking for people or groups of people who would be willing to light the Advent Candle and do a meditation on the Advent word for the day. The Advent words in order are: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and for Christmas Eve - Light.



Advent Bulletin Covers

Last year, Rev. Deb invited the kids of the congregation to draw pictures for the Advent bulletin covers with wonderful results. This year, we are asking all the congregation to participate if they would like to. If you are feeling the Advent Spirit and would like to share it with the rest of the congregation, please pick one of the Advent words that you would like to illustrate, and talk to Deb. Thanks for being willing to share your ideas with the rest of us!

Session Minutes Highlights - 10/8/24

Pastor:

- Deb and Kathy Quickert met and updated several parts of Bethany's website.
- We are very close to having electronic giving options through Give.Lively.
- Lots of personal care provided this month. Randy Johansen and Rina Ranahan are in skilled nursing facilities.
- A Congregational Meeting to vote on the changes with Session and Deacons to one Leadership Group will be held on Sunday, November 17 after church. A Leadership Retreat will be planned in early 2025.

Financial Trustees:

- We don't have the September data yet.
- Financial Trustees are looking at the budget for 2025.
- Monies for the solar work will come from funds at Presbytery.

Buildings and Grounds:

- PG&E rep to be contacted to find out what the electrical capacity at Bethany is. This needs to be done before the solar array can be set up.
- Toilets were repaired in both bathrooms. A discussion was started regarding the issue of Gender Neutral bathrooms. More discussion needed on this topic.
- A Fall Work Day will be on Saturday, November 16 from 9-12.

Community Action:

- The School Supplies drive went really well and the supplies were delivered to Belle Air School.
- Next up will be helping Catholic Worker with the Thanksgiving Dinner at the Shelter. Lyn will also ask Peter Stiehler for a list of gift requests for the residents at the shelter for Christmas.
- A sign-up sheet asking for volunteers to help plan the Thanksgiving Dinner (November 23) and Advent Festival (December 7) will be available at the church starting Sunday, October 13.

Personnel:

- George is working on pulpit supply for October 20th and November 10 when Deb is away.

Worship:

- Deb has the scripture selected through Christ the King Sunday, November 24th.
- October 27 is Reformation Sunday.
- November 3 is All Saint's Day. The congregation will be invited to bring pictures of their loved ones to place on the communion table. Roxane will arrange candles for lighting during the service.
- Advent will begin on December 1st with an Advent/Christmas hymn sing.
- Christmas Eve will be on December 25 at 7 pm.
- Lessons in Carols will be on Sunday, December 29.

Next meeting date will be December 10, 2024 at 4:30. There will not be a November meeting.



Community Action

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

We will provide information from Peter Stiehler regarding food or other items needed for the San Bruno Shelter's Thanksgiving dinner as soon as received.

Similarly, we will alert everyone about items needed for Christmas soon.



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: bid received by Dave Wales and reviewed with Session, and 3. Install heat pump: reviewing vendors.
- 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. 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 and GoLively. Further discussion is analysis and effort is in progress.
- Tree trimming of the two large trees near the west patio was completed by gardening services owner, Jaime Munoz.

Checking Account

Bank Balance as of 12/31/23	\$15,417.16
Income: January-September 2024	\$151,192.05
Expenses: January-September 2024	-\$164,858.69
Balance as of September 30, 2024	\$1,750.52

Monthly Activities

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

Wednesdays: Prayz 5:00 pm
Choir 6:30 pm

Prayer Group 6:30 pm, contact Deb for Zoom link

Submissions for W@B: Tuesday mornings

Submissions for the December newsletter:
Tuesday, November 19

1st Sunday: Communion at Worship Service

2nd Sunday: Worship Committee 11:00 am

2nd Monday: Ruth Covenant Group 6:30 pm

3rd 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.

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.

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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Bethany is a member of More Light Presbyterians
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