
October @ Bethany

Bethany Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor

Dear friends,

As I write this, we have just enjoyed a beautiful luncheon hosted by our great deacons and we have begun our fall season of church with the return of our chancel choir on Sunday mornings. Our committees have been meeting and have great plans for us for the coming months so stay tuned! Keep your calendars handy as you read through this month's newsletter.

During this time of such upheaval all around the globe we are happy to begin October with two events highlighting unity. On October 6 we will be celebrating World Communion Sunday complete with samples of bread from all over the world. Symbolically sharing this simple meal with others around the world is a timely way to remember that our greatest command is to Love one another.

We have read recently in the book of James that our faith should motivate us to act. By launching our Peace & Global Witness Offering on October 6 as well, we have a chance to prayerfully act on behalf of those in need. Read more about that in Tamra's article in this newsletter.

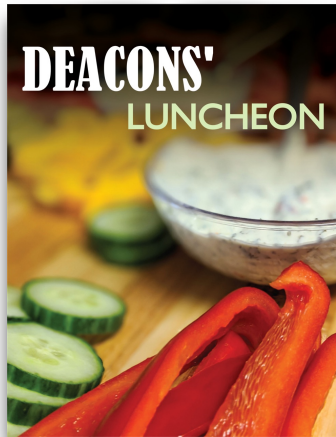
October will also begin a two month study of the letter to the Hebrews. Unlike the book of James, whose author used the teachings of Jesus without actually mentioning Jesus much, the author of Hebrews invokes Jesus' name often as he seeks to help the new followers of Christ understand who Christ is. The challenge that comes with the book of Hebrews is that many times the texts are used out of context to malign our Jewish brothers and sisters. Much of the language of Hebrews seems to imply that Christianity is better than, and has superseded the Jewish faith. We know now that it's not that simple, and Christ was the fulfillment of, not the replacement for, all of the beauty and wisdom of the Old Testament and its teachings. I hope you can join us for this thoughtful series.

As always, I welcome your questions and conversations. Let's talk.

Blessings,
Pastor Deb



Upcoming Worship Events



Bethany kicked off the fall season on Sunday, September 22, with the Chancel Choir and Prayz presenting special music, and the Deacons hosting a "Welcome to Fall" luncheon. The following Sunday, September 29, "A Blessing of the Animals" moment was held at the end of the worship service, acknowledging the bonds of love between the congregation and our furry friends (reptiles and snakes were acknowledged from afar and/or in abstentia!)



World Communion/Peacemaking Sunday

On the first Sunday in October, October 6, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday, when we acknowledge the relationship to all our sisters and brothers in Christ worldwide. We will honor the diversity of our faith by including breads from all over the world as part of the communion sacrament. Also on October 6, we will launch the Peace and Global Witness Offering, a special offering of the Presbyterian Church, a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with people in need. A letter will be sent to the congregation at the end of September with more details. Bethany is allowed to retain 25% of this offering to use in a way to promote peacemaking in our community. The rest of the funds go to the Presbytery and the General Assembly for their peacemaking work locally and abroad.



Peace is possible,
and it begins with us
sowing the seeds of peace
in every interaction and
decision we make.

 PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

9/8-
10/6
2024

All Saint's Day

Sunday, November 3 - A day to honor the saints in our lives, those who have died and those who still walk among us.



Sundays of Advent

December 1, 8, 15, and 22 - We will return to our tradition of Advent Candle Lighting during the worship service again this season. Deb is looking for people or groups who would be willing to participate in this part of the service, reading scripture, lighting the candle, and sharing a short reflection on the word of the day - Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Please let Rev. Deb or Tamra Hollenbeck know if you would like to participate in that way.



Sunday, December 1

We will kick off Advent with a special Hymn Sing during worship. There will be no Chancel Choir and Prayz music presented that day because all the music will be sung by the congregation!! Please plan to join us for this very special day!



Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 pm. We will need someone or a group of someones for the candle lighting liturgy on Christmas Eve also, with a reflection of the word Light. More details to follow!



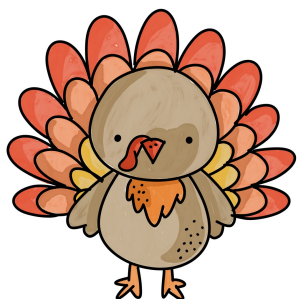
The Busy Season is Upon Us!!

Fall tends to be a busy time of the year for all of us, and Bethany is no exception! There are two events coming in the next couple of months, and we are looking for people who are willing to help plan and prepare for these enjoyable activities. These events are:

Bethany Thanksgiving Dinner and Talent Show -
Saturday, November 23, from 6-9 pm.

Advent Festival - Saturday, December 7 from 10-12 am.

There will be signup sheets at the back of the sanctuary, so if you're interested in helping with one or both of these events, please sign up! Any questions? Please see Tamra Hollenbeck.





Chancel Choir

After a summer break, the Chancel Choir resumed their schedule of presenting music during worship on Sunday, September 22. Chancel Choir practices are held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm and usually end by 8:00 pm. The choir is looking for singers, so if you are interested in praising God with song, why not join us? You would be welcome!!

Prayz Band

Prayz Band continues to practice every Wednesday evening before Chancel Choir from 5:00 - 6:25 pm. If you are an instrumentalist or a singer and would like to be a part of Prayz, please join in! We would love to welcome you!

Birthdays

- 3 - Kathryn Quickert
- 5 - Chris Angeles
- 14 - Kathy Fogle
- 15 - Frank Goodwin
- 22 - Catie and Sally Lyons

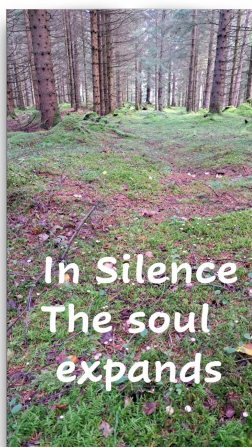
Anniversaries

- 9 - Fred and Pam Matthews
- 12 - Dave and Roxane Wales



Ruth Covenant Group

The Bethany Ruth Covenant Group will be meeting on Monday, October 14 at 6:30 pm at the church. The meeting will include our usual check-in time, fellowship, refreshments, prayers, and sharing. 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. 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!



Pastor Deb will be away from October 14 until October 21 enjoying a week of silent retreat. Please contact the church office at office@bethanypcusa.org or by calling 650-589-3711 if you have any pastoral needs.

Community Action



School supplies were collected throughout September. A carload full of supplies was delivered to Belle Air School in San Bruno by the middle of the month. If more supplies are collected, we will make a second delivery to the school. Please contact Lyn for more information.

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.



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, probably first through FaceBook. Further discussion is needed with our Facebook administrator.
- Bid received for 2 trees to be trimmed by gardening services owner, Jaime Munoz. Anticipated completion by end of September.

Checking Account

Bank Balance as of 12/31/23	\$15,417.16
Income: January-July 2024	\$125,395.40
Expenses: January-July 2024	(\$136,278.73)
Balance as of July 31, 2024	(\$10,883.33)

Monthly Activities

<p>Sundays: Worship at 10:00 am Coffee Hour 11:00 am (rehearsals start 8:30 am)</p> <p>Wednesdays: Prayz 5:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Prayer Group 6:30 pm</p> <p>Submissions for W@B: Tuesday mornings</p> <p>Submissions for the November newsletter: Thursday, October 17</p>	<p>1st Sunday: Communion at Worship Service</p> <p>2nd Sunday: Worship Committee 11:00 am</p> <p>2nd Monday: Ruth Covenant Group 6:30 pm</p> <p>3rd Sunday: Deacons Meeting 11:30 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Buildings & Grounds and Community Action committees – as scheduled</p>
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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
mlp.org



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