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# September @ Bethany

## Bethany Presbyterian Church

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### From the Pastor

Dear friends,

The Heidelberg Catechism is a teaching tool for Christians, written in the mid-1500's and takes the form of question and answer. The question "What is your only comfort in life and in death?" is correctly answered, "That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ".

Our denomination, the PC(USA), is one of the church denominations in northern America that honors this particular catechism, along with many other documents that have been built upon it over the years. The concept of belonging then has long been a central theological concept in the Bible that we champion. We all know how it feels to belong, either because we long for it, or because we already know the joy of really feeling as if we live a life of one who belongs.

I thought I already understood how and where I was connected to people, to history, to myself, to God. But on my recent trip to Sweden, my first trip to visit my mother's relatives on their family farm, I was re-schooled on the subject. I was not just lightly touched by the great soft hand of welcome, I was unforgivingly blanketed and drawn into the womb of family across 400 years of belonging to the land and to each other. The "old house" where we stayed is the same home where my great-grandfather and my grandfather lived, and where my younger cousin Erik now lives. The people I am related to, that still live on that land, go back to the 1600's. I am the 10<sup>th</sup> generation of THAT. It's one thing to know that in my mind, but it's another to feel that deeply. The photo on my office door is a photo of generations 9, 10, 11 and 12 represented standing in front of the old house. The same house many other groups of family have stood in front of in many other old photos.

The connections that were made in Sweden are represented on the next page of photos. Myself and the current pastor of my family's church, where my grandfather was baptized. Myself and a new friend Daniel, a friend of Chris and Steve's who lives in Stockholm. My mother and Linnea, two of the five of her generation that are left. Myself with my generation of cousins. Myself in front of the "family apple tree" that my mom and the cousins planted in front of the old house, 9 years ago when mom visited last, a connection to the land. Mom and a cousin connected to history by discovering old photos and letters. Connected to God through the rainbow we saw over the farm. These relatives of my mom's, (head slap) are mine also!

We are connected through our relationships to one another, even through relationships to people long gone and yet to come. This is the basic truth that God sees. God cannot imagine one of us without all of us. What connections can you give thanks for today?

Blessings,  
Pastor Deb

"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another." (Romans 12:4-5)





### Birthdays

- 4 - Luna Nicolosi
- 7 - Tamra Hollenbeck
- 9 - Janine Valine
- 18 - Paul Delander
- 22 - Aurora Nicolosi
- 26 - Sue Bullis
- 26 - Janine Mooney

### Anniversaries

- 9 - Aaron Schurk and Jamie Golden
- 27 - Craig and Eddy Bray

### Ruth Covenant Group

The Bethany Ruth Covenant Group will be meeting on Monday, September 9 at 6:30 pm at the church. The meeting will include our usual check-in time, fellowship, refreshments, prayers, and sharing. Judy Lozzi has agreed to share her story about who has inspired her along her life's journey. 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. Fall blessings to everyone!

### Deacons' Luncheon

The Bethany Deacons will be hosting a "Welcome to Fall" Luncheon after worship on Sunday, September 22, and you are invited to attend! A delightful array of sandwiches, fruits, and sweet treats will be provided along with several drink options. Please plan to participate in a relaxed and rejuvenating opportunity to share some lunch and fellowship with others in the Bethany community, and please feel free to invite your neighbors, family members, and friends to join in also! The more, the merrier!



## 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, and 3. Install heat pump.
- 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. Lowe's could not provide any assistance as a consultant. 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.
- Requested bid for some tree trimming from our gardening services owned by Jaime Munoz.

## 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 be collecting school supplies during August and September! Please bring supplies such as crayons, colored pencils, regular pencils, glue or paste, colored paper, white paper, notebooks, scissors, etc to the church, and we will be sure that the supplies will be delivered to BelAir School in San Bruno. Please contact Lyn for more information.

# SCHOOL SUPPLY *Drive*



### 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 (Beginning Sept. 18)  
Prayer Group 6:30 pm

**Submissions for W@B:** Tuesday mornings

**Submissions for the October newsletter:**  
Thursday, September 19

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Communion at Worship Service  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Worship Committee 11:00 am  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday: Ruth Covenant Group 6:30 pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Deacons Meeting 11:30 am

Buildings & Grounds and  
Community Action committees  
– as scheduled

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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.

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## **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.

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### **Bethany Presbyterian Church**

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Bethany is a member of More Light Presbyterians  
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