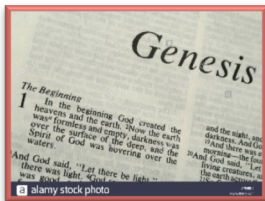


September@Bethany

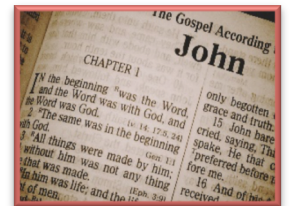
Bethany Presbyterian Church

2021

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.



“In the beginning...”



Scripture tells us that beginnings matter. The book of Genesis, and the Gospel of John, both begin with the words, “In the beginning...”

There are a lot of beginnings going around right now. For example, did you know that the two highest holy days in Judaism are in September? The Jewish New Year begins with Rosh Hashanah on September 5/6. We might say “Shanah tovah,” or “good year” for Rosh Hashanah. These holy days begin a 10-day period of repentance and prayer which ends on Yom Kippur. Faithful will often spend the day before Yom Kippur making phone calls offering amends to any they may have pained. Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, is considered the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. It is spent in prayer, meditation and fasting in order to start the new year with a fresh beginning. Unlike our New Year and its boisterous flavor, “Happy Yom Kippur” wouldn’t exactly be the thing to say!

September is the beginning of a new school year. And what a new year of school this will be for so many. Our hearts are with the teachers and the students and the parents as they take on yet another uncertain new time. September is also the beginning of Fall. New seasons bring another moment to mark the presence of God in all of the cycles of our lives. What a powerful reminder of God in all.

For us at Bethany, September this year marks the time when we will make our best faith efforts to return safely to in-person worship in our beautiful sanctuary. The session and the worship committee chose this day in September hoping that it was far enough away from the worst of the pandemic in our area, that we would know more and feel safer. While we do know more, and in many ways we are safer with vaccines, we are completely aware of the new anxiety from the delta variant. We acknowledge that we are not at the end of the pandemic. We do not want to open, only to have to close again later.

With that in mind, the session met in person Monday night and had a heartfelt and thorough discussion about our opening day plans. We have decided to go ahead and open on September 12th with the fullest safety measures in place, knowing that we are small enough to be able to socially distance, we are loving enough to keep each other safe by honoring and respecting the safety needs of others.

We will be requiring proof of vaccination status, the sanctuary is deep cleaned once each week, and all doors will be open for ventilation. We will all wear masks and all eating and milling about will be outdoors. We will still have a camera filming the front of the sanctuary for Facebook Live each week so folks can still see the service on-line, although our focus will be on worshipping together in the room. For confidentiality purposes no congregation members will be on camera unless they are participating in a portion of the service in the front of the room.

Whether it's the year 5782 on the Jewish calendar, or the year 2021; whether you're returning to a new adventure in schooling; whether you're returning to the workplace in person, or special groups or classes in person, or staying put indoors for a while longer, we hope you can find some way to celebrate another "beginning..." in which God is created something brand new.

*Blessings,
Pastor Deb*

*Don't forget, let's talk!
650-589-3711*

After 18 LONG months of closing for the COVID-19 pandemic, Bethany is finally re-opening for in-person, indoor worship! Hallelujah! We will be able to greet each other in person beginning with 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship on September 12, 2021!

T-shirts have been ordered, and you will be contacted when they arrive. Below are the guidelines for in-person worship. Hope to see you on Sept. 12th!

GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP
BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

It is with great joy we announce that we will be opening for in-person worship on September 12, 2021. In keeping with State and local guidelines and CDC guidelines we are posting this protocol for entry into our building. The space is deep cleaned once each week. Hand sanitizer is available. Proof of vaccination is required.

General

- Open for those fully vaccinated unless medically contraindicated (proof of vaccination required)
- Please keep doors open for maximum air circulation
- Properly fitting masks must be worn while indoors
- Maintain distance from others

10:00am Sunday Worship Service

- Open to all fully vaccinated people unless medically contraindicated (proof of vaccination required)
- Please remain masked
- Please sit at a distance from other parishioners
- No touching – greet one another creatively!
- Singing is allowed while masked only
- Food to be eaten outside only
- Post- and pre-worship visiting outside only

AUGUST 23, 2021 SESSION MEETING

A special Session Meeting was called for 8/23/21 to specifically discuss the September 12, 2021 Opening Day due to recent news regarding Covid-19 and variants. Session met in person, masked and distanced in the Bethany Church narthex with doors open.

After a detailed discussion the following motion was made, seconded and passed (4 ayes, 1 abstention):

- That "we open for in-person Sunday morning worship services on September 12, 2021, as planned, with protocols to include proof of vaccination at entry, masks worn for everything inside, seating socially distanced, including any eating to be done in the narthex and outdoors."

Our next Session Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at BPC in person, masked/distanced.

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

-R.Wales, Clerk of Session

COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFE COMMITTEE

1. News about Our Partnership with Iglesias Brasiliana – San Mateo

We continue to collect items for Iglesias Brasiliana, our partner in San Mateo. "Needs" include non-perishable food items, especially rice and pinto beans. Cans of soup, chili, canned vegetables, or canned fruit are also needed. Other useful items are toiletries, blankets, and paper products.

The school supplies were delivered to our partner on August 20, 2021. There were many items collected, with as much as 60 each in some of the categories: notebook paper, 24 count crayons, small scissors, colored pencils, pencils, pens, rulers, glue sticks and bottles of glue, supply boxes from Staples with many items inside, and some miscellaneous items. Thank you to all who contributed to the school supply drive.

Please continue to prayer for this congregation and consider how you might be able to help. Our next items for the children/families will be Halloween treats in October, something for Thanksgiving (to be determined), and more information on what we will do for the Christmas season.

We continue with discussions with Pastor Abdala about how we might help our partner church through the end of this year.

2. Ongoing we will be providing funds from our Fund-a-Vision grant to the Catholic Worker Hospitality House (the San Bruno Shelter) for various needs. We will be making our fourth payment of \$5,000 from the grant in September. Peter Stiehler, CWHH Director, expressed his thanks for our ongoing support for this San Bruno ministry.

3. We will advise on plans for Thanksgiving at Bethany and our Stewardship Campaign in the October Banner.



It's about time for another great Bethany Picnic! Save the date and mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 26!**

We'll gather at beautiful Junipero Serra County Park, in San Bruno (1801 Crystal Springs Road) after worship (noonish). We will settle in at the Buckeye Picnic Area, which is near the top of the hill, next to the Ranger station. There is easy parking, and access to the picnic area for all abilities, and restrooms are close by. Admission to the park is \$6 per car.

Faith potluck: bring your favorite non-alcoholic beverages and a dish to share! We'll have some coals going if you'd like to bring something to grill, and will provide plates, cutlery and napkins. Everyone is welcome to the picnic: bring a friend, your family members, and neighbors!

If you are interested in helping out with set-up, clean-up, or grilling, your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Please [contact the church office](#) to volunteer, or for any additional information. See you at the Picnic!

Do you know?

Most of us dutifully put food scraps and yard trimmings in the Green Bin provided by Recology. What happens next? By a controlled, carefully monitored 12 week biological decomposition process, Recology produces compost from those food scraps and yard trimmings. One silver lining of the Covid pandemic has been an increase in home gardening. Using compost improves the fertility and quality of soil by adding organic matter and nutrients, leading to healthier plants. Adding compost to the soil improves water infiltration and storage, important in this time of drought. Using compost significantly decreases the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Most of the Recology compost is used on agricultural lands throughout the West Coast but it is also available FREE to San Mateo county residents at the Shoreway Environmental Center, 333 Shoreway Rd., San Carlos. For details on picking up compost, do a Google search for "Shoreway Environmental Center compost". You will also find information on the best way to use compost for your garden and plants.

Many thanks to all those who have been working to make our campus more inviting: to Tamra Hollenbeck, Chris Angeles and Steve Cady, Dave Wales, Deb McGuire, Pam Matthews, and Ken Henry for doing grounds work, cleaning up a BUNCH of shrubs in the median; to Ken and Roberta Henry, for putting up brochure holders on the Little Free Library and the front of the church; to Chris Angeles and Steve Cady for updating and maintaining the meditation garden. Take a look next time you're at the church!



Parking Lot Re-Striping: The entire parking lot is scheduled to be re-striped on Tuesday, August 31st. The work will begin at 8 a.m., and be finished 4-6 hours later. The lot will be closed for the duration of the work. In addition, new signage has been ordered and will be posted, indicating that the lower driveway is Entrance Only and the upper driveway is Exit Only. Arrows will be painted on the driveways to indicate this as well.

Financial Trustees July Report

\$ 11,440.00 Income
\$(12,413.76) Expense
\$ (973.76) Difference
YTD

\$103,723.50 Income 99.053%
\$(104,051.43) Expense (98.322)%
\$(327.93) Difference .731%

Our continued thanks for mailing or bringing your offerings to the church. We are blessed to have your support for our congregation.

Questions about the 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)

Ruth Women is an intergenerational group of women who meet monthly for fellowship, study, and prayer. We will meet on Monday, September 13 at 6:00 pm at the church. We will plan to meet outside if the weather is good, and if not, we'll be masked in the Narthex. We continue to read *Love Is The Way*, and will be discussing Chapter 9 this month. We begin each meeting with a check-in time when we spend some quality time catching up on each other's lives, and there will also be time for prayers, so bring yours with you! A Zoom link can be set up for those who are not able to attend in person. Please let Tamra or Alicia know if that works better for you. Please plan to join in if this sounds like something of interest. All are welcome!



Donations for San Bruno Hospitality House: There will be a plastic bin outside the door closest to the lower parking lot at Bethany for shelter donations so people can continue to donate for the shelter. The box will be periodically checked and items taken down to the shelter. Any questions about this please contact Rina Ranahan: (650) 291-6979.

A current list of shelter needs is on our website: <http://bethanypcusa.org/we-do/shelter-needs.html>

You can read more about the shelter on their website:
<http://catholicworkerhospitalityhouse.org/>

Happy Birthday to these wonderful folks born in the month of September!

- 2 Hannah Matthews
- 2 Sharon Gruner
- 2 Luna Mae Nicolosi
- 7 Tamra Hollenbeck
- 9 Janine Bullis
- 18 Paul Delander
- 19 Garry Cox
- 21 Elin Abbott
- 22 Aurora Nicolosi
- 23 Judi Richards
- 25 John Lee
- 26 Sue Bullis
- 27 Madeleine Gruner



September Anniversaries

- 9 Aaron Schurk & Jamie Golden
- 12 Piper & Billy Nicolosi
- 19 Graham & Judi Richards
- 22 Mitch & Mary Fontaine
- 22 Sarah & Spencer Stark
- 27 Craig & Eddy Bray



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

- 3 Bill Anderson
- 8 Lavonne Bullis
- 14 Charlie Rice
- 14 Ethel Pollett
- 14 Kurt Liedtke
- 19 John Marsh
- 21 Peter Lawson



*Forever
In Our
Hearts*

Due Dates

For W@B: Tuesday morning.

For the monthly newsletter: the Tuesday before the last Wednesday of the month.



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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Website: bethanypcusa.org



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS