

# WEDNESDAYS @ BETHANY

MARCH 2, 2022



## BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to our weekly newsletter! ***Wednesdays at Bethany*** will include important announcements for the life of the congregation. If you'd like to receive the email without the PDF attachment, please let us know. And if you would rather not receive this newsletter, please let us know and you will be removed from the list.

### TONIGHT! Ash Wednesday at Bethany



Please join us at 8pm on the Bethany San Bruno Facebook page for a pre-recorded Ash Wednesday video service. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the liturgical season of 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays). This season of Lent was begun in 325 AD as a time of fasting in remembrance of Jesus' death, and has continued as a time of giving up something.

The fasting or giving up though is only a suggested practice to help our minds focus. Any activity that helps one focus on the life of Christ and remember the gift of Jesus' life is appropriate. Christians mark the day with a service of ashes, marked on one's forehead or hand, to remind us that we have been created by God and it is God who holds us in life and in death.

You are invited in Christ's name,

Deb





### ***Memorial and End-of-Life Planning***

***Workshop – NEW DATE:*** The new date for the Memorial and End-of-Life Planning Workshop is **Sunday, March 20th after worship. A light lunch** will be served on the patio, depending on the weather, and the workshop will follow. Please join us as we discuss the benefits of preplanning memorial services and end-of life wishes, and begin to create a plan for yourself and your loved ones. Covid protocols will be followed, including masking and social distancing, and a worksheet for planning will be provided. Sign up on the list at the church, or contact the church office. Please consider inviting your friends, family, and neighbors to this informative event. If you have any questions, please call Tamra Hollenbeck - 650-430-5749. We look forward to seeing you at the workshop!



### **Online Lenten classes at Bethany begin March 7<sup>th</sup>!**

Every Monday beginning March 7<sup>th</sup> thru April 11<sup>th</sup> from 7-8pm, we will be offering an opportunity to learn about and discuss various ways of **Practicing Spiritual Disciplines**. In the six weeks we meet on zoom, we will study about the biblical practices of fasting, praying, listening to God, embracing simplicity, unplugging and trying different practices.

We will also discover our own activities that we find to be effective as spiritual practice. Everyone is welcome to join! Contact the church to be added to the email distribution.

Hope to see you there!

**Ruth Covenant Group:** In order to accommodate the Lenten Study, the Ruth Covenant Group will **change its meeting dates in March and April to Tuesday nights, March 8 and April 12.** We are reading the book, *A More Perfect Union - A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community* by Adam Russell Taylor. For March 8, we are reading Chapters 1 - "Embracing a Bigger Story of Us," and 2 - "Why America Must Be Reborn"; and for April 12, we are reading Chapters 3 - "E Pluribus Unum: Out of Many, One," and 4 - "Reimagining the Beloved Community." Everyone is encouraged to read the chapters ahead of time and mark portions of the readings that stand out; we will discuss our insights during the gatherings. We will continue to meet in a hybrid style with in-person and Zoom options, and we will begin at 6:30 pm. As always, in addition to the study, there will be a time for check-in, fellowship, and prayer. If this sounds like something you would like to participate in, please contact Pam Matthews or Tamra Hollenbeck. You would be most welcome!



**Liturgists Needed:** Have you thought about participating in leading worship? Have you thought "I could stand up there and read scripture!" Then maybe you could be the liturgist! The liturgists are provided with a full script, so you don't have to worry about what to say. For more information, and if you're interested, please contact Pam Matthews, chair of Worship Committee – [fpmatthews@aol.com](mailto:fpmatthews@aol.com) or the church office.



**Got Pocket Change?** We're collecting it for the Brazilian Church! Through the end of February, we'll be collecting any change you care to donate. Look for the jar in the Narthex, and drop in whatever you can. A handful of coins? We'll take them! A couple of extra bucks? You bet! Every bit helps!

**Prayer Time: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays:** A time to meet as the body of Christ, and pray together using Zoom. Shared readings, poetry, guided meditation, and, of course, the prayers of the people. Please contact us to be invited to the Zoom meeting: [bethanypres@bethanypcusa.org](mailto:bethanypres@bethanypcusa.org).

### **Bethany Story Time**

We have a collection of children's books on our Facebook page! Over the past year (and a bit more!), Pastor Deb and various members of the congregation have recorded readings of children's books, and then Pastor Deb added video of the illustrations. The videos are available any time for you to enjoy! Share them with your family, friends, and neighbors! Find them here:  
<http://bethanypcusa.org/welcome/storytime.html>

**Fellowship Time:** We would like to provide brewed coffee, hot water, and a couple of snacks each Sunday after worship. Congregants can sign up to bring an item to share, i.e. fruit, coffee cake, donuts, bagels - you get the idea! Items will be available in the narthex, and congregants will be encouraged to take their snacks out to the patio to eat and visit. The list is available at the church, or you can contact the church office to sign up for a particular Sunday.

Thanks in advance for your participation in this new way of fellowshiping with each other! If you have any questions or concerns, please share with Rev. Deb, Pam Matthews, or Tamra Hollenbeck.

**Donations for San Bruno Hospitality House:** Please continue to bring your donations for Hospitality House and put them in the marked basket in the Narthex. Any questions about this please contact Rina Ranahan: (650) 291-6979. Urgent needs right now are toilet paper, canned soup, jelly, syrup, and cereal.

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

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Wed. 3/02 – Wednesday evening Zoom prayer meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Fri. 3/04 – Community Life/Action Committee mtg.

Mon. 3/07 – Lenten Study via Zoom, 7 – 8 p.m.

Committee chairs/group leaders: please let me know if you have any changes to these dates.



### **Prayers from 2-27-2022**

- Prayers of thanks and glory to God, for the return home of his neighbor Laura after treatment; for a coworker's 4 year old daughter, who had surgery for cancer, removing a kidney and a lump, and as they wait for biopsy results (Craig Bray)
- Prayers for all those in Ukraine as they struggle with war (Leslie Olson)
- Prayers for the people of Russia who are opposed to the war, for their safety and security (Dave Wales)
- Prayers for Roberta and Michael, and the whole family today, on what would be Chris' 68<sup>th</sup> birthday (Ken Henry)
- Continued prayers for Tamra's friend Katherine who had cancer surgery last week, for healing, both physical and spiritual; prayers of discernment for Piper and Billy as they decide if they want to move up to the Pacific Northwest; prayers for herself as she figures out what this time in her life will be (Tamra Hollenbeck)
- Prayers for Rina's neighbor Bill Smith, who is struggling with his health; for Julia; for all the transgender kids in Texas, whose lives have been endangered by the new order by the governor (Deb McGuire)

### **Prayers from 2/13/2022**

- Prayers for Ken & Berta's brother in law Michael, as he marks 7 months since the passing of his wife (Berta's sister) Chris (Roberta Henry)
- Prayers of joy for Craig's son Tyler's 27<sup>th</sup> birthday, and for reconnecting with his niece Natalia; prayers of comfort and discernment for his neighbors Sean and Laura, who are struggling with a difficult situation (Craig Bray)
- Prayers for Katherine Rapp, who is having surgery this week for cancer, thanksgiving that her chemo did what they wanted it to do; prayers for Piper and Billy, who are trying to discern what their future looks like (Tamra Hollenbeck)
- Prayers for Bonnie's brother in law Larry, who is fighting lymphoma, and waiting for answers to figure out the next course of treatment (Bonnie Morgan)
- Prayers for Paul Feliciano, who has been struggling with physical issues, and has to wait for more testing to get answers (Deb McGuire)

### **Prayers from 2//06/2022**

- Prayers of joy for the life of of Craig's mother in law Lupita, who passed away; comfort for the family, who will miss her dearly, especially her children Eddy, Alexander, David (Craig Bray)
- Prayers of healing for Kathleen's sister Chris, who lives in England, who has Covid-19 (Kathleen Mitchell)
- Prayers for Randy Johansen, who is in the hospital to regulate his medication, and then will move on to a rehab facility; for Paul, who had an appointment at Stanford on Thursday to try to diagnose his health issues; for Lyn, who is still having pain in her leg; for Julia; and for Rina's friend Randy, who tested positive for Covid-19, and is improving (Deb McGuire)





# MORE LIGHT

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## PRESBYTERIANS

### **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.



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