

WEDNESDAYS @ BETHANY

MARCH 23, 2022



BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to our weekly newsletter! ***Wednesdays at Bethany*** will include important announcements for the life of the congregation. If you would rather not receive this newsletter, please let us know and you will be removed from the list.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

SAVE THE DATE: THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 26, from 10-12 at Bethany

This Saturday, March 26th, from 10am-12pm, we are inviting *everyone who is interested in the future of Bethany* to come to the first in a series of workshops designed to help us get to the goal of presenting a candidate for your next permanent pastor to the Presbytery at their fall meeting.

What?! If your eyes are glazing over right now, you're not alone! The short answer is that I am your pastor and I want to remain your pastor. In order to do that Bethany and I need to go through a process of discernment in order for the Presbytery to have documentation of the intentional work that needs to be done to match a church to a pastor. You know this process as a Mission Study, and the very words make most people break out in a rash.

I feel as though I am loved, and I in turn want to stay at Bethany, but the fact is I am still your *transitional* pastor. The process of moving from transitional to permanent is not as easy as we first thought but is nowhere near as difficult as it has been in the past. And we can blame COVID for so many things. I have said publicly that I want to be the name presented to the Presbytery at the end of the mission study and interview process. But I am not assuming anything. I am not looking for trouble by completely supporting a mission study where you might find someone else! I am supporting a mission study because the conversation that comes from answering the questions asked in a mission study will lead to an understanding of who and what our church is now and what we hope for our future. How awesome to move forward with a clear view of what is relevant to our Bethany family? →

The process of officially matching a church with a pastor still has to be stated in words with supporting reasons. There is a more narrative version of a Mission Statement that we will use that will be much easier than any that Bethany has done in the past. All final decisions on behalf of the congregation will be made by a Pastor Nominating Committee. But most of the pre-work can be done with input from everyone interested in being part of Bethany's next steps.

Therefore, the session and the Committee on Ministry for the Presbytery of San Francisco is inviting you to the first of three workshops that are open to anyone interested in this work of behalf of the future of your church. You need not be a member to attend and engage in these workshops. Bethany is blessed with committed attendees who are encouraged to participate. The invitation is to those who are interested in asking and answering some deep questions, in the company of others who are interested in the same thing.

I have a 10 year old flute student who always says, "Let's do it!" about our work. So, let's do it!

Blessings,
Pastor Deb

Building and Grounds News

Join Dave to help fill the pothole in the upper parking lot
This Thursday, March 24, 10:30 a.m.

All Church Clean-Up Day

Saturday, April 9, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Tasks for all ages, abilities, and energy levels!

Tasty snacks provided!

Come help spruce up for Spring!



Online Lenten classes at Bethany begin March 7th!

Every Monday beginning March 7th thru April 11th 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!



“You shall be called the repairer of the breach”

Isaiah 58:12b

One Great Hour of Sharing: On Ash Wednesday, we entered the season of Lent, a time of reflection and contemplation as we examine our relationship to God, God’s creation, and each other. Each year, we are invited to participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering, which focuses on “providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.”

Our OGHS letter went out last week, and included an envelope you can use to make your donation. You can also donate online at pcusa.org/give-oghs.

For more information about this special offering, visit the website: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

Ruth Covenant Group: the Ruth Covenant Group has changed **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 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.

PC/USA Responds: For those who are interested, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is responding to the needs of Ukrainians. This is from the PDA website:

“We are grateful for the outpouring of prayers and calls from congregations and individuals asking how they can help. As the violence continues, the number of people being displaced internally and fleeing to neighboring countries increases by the day. And in the midst of the chaos, there are sibling churches and ecumenical partners who are already providing assistance with basic items for survival. Our first priority as PDA is to provide funding to these partners on the ground. While the scale of this crisis is new, receiving refugees from Ukraine and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe is not which means we have trusted, established partners with the knowledge and expertise to carry out this important work.

We are hearing that the reformed churches in Ukraine and the region are also feeling called to join in the humanitarian response. PDA, therefore, anticipates that our response will include both financial and technical assistance as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead.

As we pray for an end to this violence, we ask the U.S. Government and our European allies to make a commitment to the Ukrainian people for a peaceful solution. We don't know how long it will take, but we know that they will need help with the rebuilding of their country so that those who are fleeing now may one day return home safely.

Funds are being used for emergency humanitarian aid such as food items, shelter, medicines, diapers, hygiene items, etc.

To support our response, designate gifts to [DR000156](#) or text PDAUKR to 41444”

Read more on their website: <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/ukraine/>



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 fellowshipping 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. 3/23 – Wednesday evening Zoom prayer meeting, 6:30 p.m.

- Prayz rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

- Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Mon. 3/28 – 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 3-20-2022

- Prayers of thanksgiving for Pam & Fred's grandson Soren's 4th bday (Pam Matthews)
- Prayers for Paul Feliciano, dealing with his new diagnosis (Deb McGuire)
- Thanksgiving for Lyn's mom Paulette's 92nd birthday on Wednesday (Lyn Hughes)
- Prayers to calm warring minds (Dave Wales)
- Comfort for Rina's brother Richard; peace for the world (Rina Ranahan)
- Prayers of comfort and healing for Tamra's fiend Katherine, struggling with cancer; gratitude to God for spring, for the hope and joy it brings (Tamra Hollenbeck)

Prayers from 3-13-2022

- Prayers for Ukraine, for Paul Feliciano, for Rina's neighbor who is in the hospital
- Prayers for the wild animal population as there is an outbreak of distemper in the area (Dave Wales)
- Prayers for Connie's daughter who is organizing Suzanne's memorial service; for friends of Cici, who are organizing a streaming service on her birthday, St. Patrick's Day (Bonnie Morgan)
- Prayers for joy for the memorial for Craig's mother in law Lupita, and for what a loving woman she was (Craig Bray)

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' 68th 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)





MORE LIGHT

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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