

WEDNESDAYS @ BETHANY

DECEMBER 2, 2020



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. (Note: PDF is at the bottom of the email)



Adult Education "Peace, Justice, Joy, and Salvation: An Adult Advent Study." This study, designed by Dr. Cynthia Campbell, former president of McCormick Theological Seminary, will happen on four dates in December. Note: Three are Tuesdays, and one date is a Monday. **We will meet via zoom from 7:30-8:30pm on Tuesday, December 1, December 8, Monday December 14th, and Tuesday, December 22nd.** Contact me if you would like me to send you the link to the participants guide for each session, and a link to the zoom class on those dates. If you'd like me to get you a print version of the guide I can do that too. I look forward to having a class again!

Luminaries!

This year the southern end of our parking lot is going to display a Christmas Star outlined with luminaries. On three evenings, **December 20th, 24th and 27th from 5:00pm-7:00pm** you are invited to come to the Bethany parking lot and walk along the path of luminaries in the shape of a star, and find something special at each point of the star. All of the neighbors and friends, adults and kids, are invited to enjoy the time with us.



In addition, each household will be receiving an Advent Packet soon! Each packet will be equipped with supplies for you to make your own luminary. You can keep your luminary at home or bring it with you on one of the above evenings and add it to our star shape!



Longest Night Service, also known as Blue Christmas. We will have a short service on **December 21st** to mark the longest night of the year, and to honor people that have lost love ones and are experiencing grief. There are many who struggle to find joy and hope during festive seasons. We have all known times of darkness. This service is a chance to acknowledge the dark, and remind people that although this night is the longest, it also marks the beginning of the increase in light. **This will be a short service, pre-recorded and posted on FB to be watched together at 7:30pm or any time after that.**



Books for kids! On the three Saturdays in Advent, **December 5th, 12th and 19th**, at **11:00am**, I will post a pre-recorded video on FB of me reading a children's book. I have two Christmas stories, and one other. I have chosen books that have beautiful art and represent the ethnicity of Christ beautifully.

Blue Christmas Service
Many churches have a service of worship on the longest night of the year as a time to recognize the tiredness, sadness, loneliness and loss that many of us hold, making this joyous time of year difficult. I will be pre-recording a service for Blue Christmas to be posted on Facebook at 7:30pm on December 21st, the longest night of the year.

I am looking for volunteers to participate by sending me a video of themselves reading different portions of the service. I will need four people to light four advent candles, and other readers. Perhaps some of these could be audio only. I am longing to find a way to involve more people in our services and this would be a good opportunity. My technology for this is not advanced, so I don't need anything complicated. The entire service will be perhaps 30 minutes of readings and reflection and music. We miss your faces and voices! Please contact me or the church office if you are able and interested in helping!

Ongoing News about Our Partnership with Iglesias Braziliana – San Mateo

Ongoing we have been collecting items for Iglesias Braziliana, our partner in San Mateo. Now we are focusing on the Christmas holidays.

We are committed to the following for Christmas:

140 - \$25 Target cards (one for each family) and 40 toys – for children 1 to 10 years old (books, games, dolls, trucks, puzzles, crayons and coloring books, etc.)

We currently have money for 40 cards, a pledge for another 40 cards, and assistance from the Deacons.

How can you help? Please consider giving a Target card, or two, or a new toy. All donations are appreciated to enable our partners to have a very Merry Christmas.

We plan to deliver no later than December 15 so please plan for that date.

Ongoing needs: (drop-off occurs every other Friday; items can be brought to Bethany and placed in the Narthex near the coatrack or you can call Lyn and George for pickup).

Continued prayers

Household goods – Towels, blankets, sheets and pillow cases, kitchenware, dishes, glasses, pots and pans, silverware, etc.

Baby clothes – Newborn through 12 mons: new or clean, used

Diapers – Newborn through 12 mons

Food – rice, dry beans, canned goods, any items with a shelf-life/nonperishable

Toiletries – all kinds

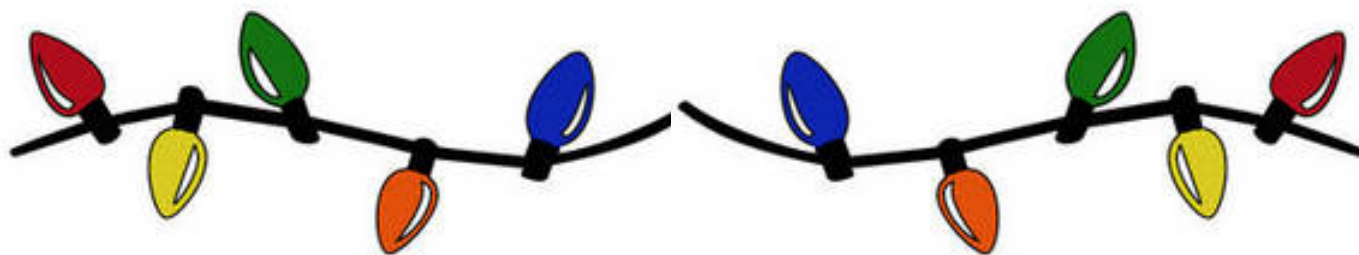
Checks payable to Iglesias Braziliana (**To send a check, in any amount, make your check payable to Iglesias Braziliana and mail it to 194 W. 25th Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94403**)



Donations for San Bruno Hospitality House: There will be a plastic bin outside the door closest to the lower parking lot at Bethany for Peter Stiehler's shelter donations so people can continue to donate for the shelter. The box will be periodically checked and items taken down to Peter's Second Ave. 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>

Hospitality House Needs a Volunteer: Peter Stiehler needs a volunteer on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the 6:30 am to 8:30 am breakfast shift. If you are able to help out, please contact CWHH or Rina Ranahan



Upcoming Meetings

Wed. 12/02 – Choir Rehearsal, 7:45 p.m.

Fri. 12/04 – Community Action/Life mtg.

Sat. 12/05 – Children's Book reading posted on Facebook

Tues., 12/08 Adult Ed. Advent Series, session 2, 7:30 – 8:30 via Zoom

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

The Financial Trustees would like to remind you to please mail your offerings to the church office. Offerings are being collected and will be deposited once a week. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to keeping Bethany financially healthy in this difficult time.

Wednesdays@Bethany will be posted on our website a little after the fact, but no later than Friday. To access W@B, go to <http://bethanypcusa.org/members>, and use the password "rosewood".

Due Dates

For W@B: Tuesday morning.

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

Prayers for 11/29/2020

- Prayers of peace for the family of Herschel Herzberg, Kathy's teacher and colleague from Crestmoor and Capuchino High Schools, who passed away this past week. May his memory be a blessing. (Kathy Fogle)
- Prayers of healing and comfort for Liz's friend Michelle Mason-Chadd's mother Margaret in Minnesota, who is in the hospital after a fall. (Liz Falejczyk)
- Prayers for Roxanne Robertson, whose mother passed away after a long and full life at the age of 100. (Sue Bullis)
- Prayers for Roberta and Ken's nephew Evan, who is struggling with his mental health and drug addiction, and needs help and treatment; prayers for his mom Chris, and dad Noel, and his sister Elise. (Roberta Henry)

Prayers from 11/22/2020

- Prayers for the family and loved ones of the 1400+ Americans who died yesterday from Covid-19, and for people throughout the world suffering from this pandemic; prayers of healing for Tim, who is back in the hospital in serious condition (Kathryn Quickert)
- Prayers of comfort for all of us as we prepare for a holiday season of distance and physical separation – for our sadness (Roberta Henry)
- Prayers and God's blessings on those who are traveling safely, and those sacrificing travel to keep loved ones safe (Bonnie Morgan)
- Comfort for Ala Mansour, who is in hospice care with pancreatic cancer (Rina Ranahan)
- Thanksgiving for all the donations made to San Bruno Hospitality House; prayers for those who are hungry and need shelter; for Tarik, Rina's son in law, whose parents are both in hospice care (Deb McGuire)

Prayers from 11/15/2020

- Gratitude that Craig's nephew Kevin Murphy does not need surgery (Craig Bray)
- Happiness for Freda Lutz's birthday; prayers of comfort, calm, and sympathy for Rick, whose girlfriend died; prayers for Claudia and her family as her son travels from Minnesota for Thanksgiving; for all family gatherings for holidays (Bonnie Morgan)
- Traveling mercies for Deb and for Lyn & George, who are on vacation; for Pam, as she gets ready to head to Montana for an extended stay as they await the arrival of Abby & Eric's baby; for her niece Allison, a nurse who travels to Covid-19 hot spots, and is now being asked to train Covid workers in Alaska; prayers for all those who have decided NOT to gather for Thanksgiving (Tamra Hollenbeck)
- Prayers for all those who have decided NOT to gather for Thanksgiving (Tamra Hollenbeck)
- Prayers of thanks for Tamra's words today (Kathryn Quickert)
- Joy for Kathy's sister Liz's birthday on Monday; prayers for William, who continues to struggle (Kathy Fogle)
- Thanksgiving that Ken's brother Roy's heart surgery went well





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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