

WEDNESDAYS @ BETHANY

DECEMBER 8, 2021



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.



"A Surprising God: Advent Devotions for an Uncertain Time: by Thomas G. Long, Donyelle C. McCray: "The world is slowly emerging from the worst global emergency in a century, and the myriad struggles of the contemporary moment—division, isolation, illness, and uncertainty—make living our faith a challenge. For Christians, a number of questions have gained new urgency: Where do we find hope when it seems in such short supply? Where are the signs of God's peace in this divided world? Where do we find a deeper sense of joy?"

If you are interested in participating in an **Advent Study** of the devotional above, please contact Pastor Deb to get a book! **The study will meet at 7 p.m. in person AND via Zoom. There are two studies remaining - Dec. 13th, and 20th.** Pastor Deb will send participants the Zoom meeting invitation via email.



Help Decorate Our Tree: The tree is up, the lights are on, but we need to get some ornaments on those branches! We have some ornaments at the church, which will be available for you to hang on the tree on Sundays, either before or after worship.

We'd also like to invite you to donate an ornament to our collection. There will be tags available, so you can write your name and the year on the tag, then tie it on the ornament. Then every year, we'll have the joy of seeing all those lovely ornaments that have been donated!

You are invited to write Christmas cards and greetings to Randy Johansen and some of our other members who aren't able to get to church on Sundays. The Bethany Deacons will have Christmas cards available on Sunday, December 12, after worship for you to sign and add your greeting, and you are welcome to add a small item to a gift box for Randy if you would wish to do so. The Deacons will mail any cards that we receive. Thanks for considering this as a way to bring some holiday cheer to our beloved Bethany friends!



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.



The Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7:00 pm on Friday, December 24. The Christ Candle will be lit as we remember the power of the light of love in this sometimes dark and despairing world. There will be special musical offerings and plenty of Christmas hymn singing, and the traditional singing of "Silent Night" as we share the light from the Christ Candle with each other. Please join us with your family, neighbors, and friends for this beautiful and heartfelt service. There will be a cookie and hot apple cider reception following the service - a time to visit and wish others a Merry Christmas!



The 2022 Stewardship Campaign: If you've already turned in your 2022 pledge card, thank you! If not, please mail it to the church or drop it off no later than November 30, 2021. We are working on the 2022 budget, and need your pledges to complete the process. If you have any questions about your pledge, please feel free to contact any Financial Trustee.

Thank you,
The Financial Trustees

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.

Bethany Storytime
Saturdays at 11 on Facebook
Bethany San Bruno

Books for everyone! Saturdays just got a little more fun! Join us for storytime, Saturdays at 11:00 a.m., Pastor Deb and friends will read a children's book and post it on Bethany's Facebook page. Unlike Sunday worship, the videos will not be live, but pre-recorded. Tune in each week, and please invite your young relatives, friends, and neighbors to join us for Storytime! If you or someone you know does not have access to Facebook, the videos are also available on our website.

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.

Donations for San Bruno Hospitality House: There is 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. 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. 12/08 – Wednesday evening Zoom prayer meeting, 6:30 p.m.

- Prayz rehearsal, 6 – 7 p.m.

- Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Sat. 12/11 - Story Time With . . . (posted on Facebook at 11 a.m.)

Mon. 12/13 – Advent Study, 7 p.m., via Zoom and in person

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

Prayers for 11/28/2021

- Prayers of elation and joy that Dave was able to visit his new grandson, just one week old; healing for his brother, who has been released from the hospital after treatment for an infection, but still faces chemo and radiation treatment (Dave Wales)
- Prayers for the extended Valeros family in Roseville in the passing of their patriarch on Thanksgiving (Craig Bray)
- Prayers for Tamra's friend Katherine, who has been diagnosed with cancer; joy for her daughter Piper and son in law Billy as they are expecting their 4th child – and first boy; prayers that vaccines can get to all who need them in this battle against Covid-19, and especially this new variant (Tamra Hollenbeck)
- Prayers for Bonnie's brother Larry, who has nerve compression issues and will be having more tests – prayers that he can get relief from pain (Bonnie Morgan)
- Prayers on World Aids Day, that we remember this pandemic that started decades ago and is still not over, for those who have suffered, and thanksgiving for the research and testing that have provided new treatments (Kathryn Quickert)
- Prayers of thanks for the opportunity to spend Thanksgiving with chosen family (Barb Liedtke)
- Prayers for Roberta's brother in law Michael as we enter this first holiday season without his wife (and Roberta's sister) Chris (Roberta Henry)

Prayers 11/21/2021

- Healing for Roberta, who fell and hit her head (Ken Henry)
- Prayers of thanksgiving for the gathering for Piper's 40th birthday; prayers of healing for their friend Katherine, who was just diagnosed with cancer; for the people of Ethiopia (Tamra Hollenbeck)
- Prayers for Rina's 5 yo grandson Thaddeus, who was exposed to Covid-19; prayers for Rina's friend Randy, who was hospitalized with a UTI (Rina Ranahan)
- Prayers for Cici Blake, a former coworker, who is being treated for ovarian cancer and still working full time, and prayers that this new regime is successful (Bonnie Morgan)
- Prayers of thanks and gratitude for healing for Kevin, Craig's friend, who is now in remission from cancer; for his MIL Lupita, who is being released from hospice and going home (Craig Bray)
- Prayers of gratitude for Cynthia's niece, who had surgery, and is now home; for Paul, who has a doctor appointment to talk about his muscle breakdown (Paul Feliciano)
- Prayers of thanksgiving that CWHH has a place in this community, and for all the work they do (Barb Liedtke)
- Traveling mercies for Dave, in Oregon, visiting his brother and his new grandson (Pam Matthews)





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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