

# WEDNESDAYS @ BETHANY

DECEMBER 15, 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. The last study is on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.** 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!



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!



***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.



***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.

***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>

**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](mailto:bethanypres@bethanypcusa.org).



**Upcoming Meetings**

Wed. 12/15 – Wednesday evening Zoom prayer meeting, 6:30 p.m.

- Prayz rehearsal, 6 – 7 p.m.

- Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Sat. 12/18 - Story Time With . . . (posted on Facebook at 11 a.m.)

Mon. 12/20 – Advent Study, 7 p.m., via Zoom and in person

- Financial Trustees mtg., 7 p.m.

Tues. 12/21 – Session meeting, 7 p.m.

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

### **Prayers 12/12/21**

- Prayers to those who are grieving lives lost in the tornados, and for all those working on recovery and rebuilding; for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, who is now helping out in the area (Deb McGuire)
- Prayers for her children, Shannon and Jacob, and all those who are sick and suffering with addiction, that they be healed and restored (Janine Mooney)
- Thanksgiving for friend Katherine, first Chemo on Thursday and doing ok, and prayers for all who are supporting her; for North's birthday today; prayers for Tam and Clarie, going up to spend time with grandkids while Kelsy and Kenny go away for their anniversary (Tamra Hollenbeck)
- Prayers for Bonnie's brother, who is not able to travel due to his health, prayers for her own sadness and anger that she can't be with him for Christmas; for Cici, in hospital due to complications of cancer; healing for her niece who is now out of the hospital, prayers for good health and stamina; for Claudia going in for a procedure; joy and congratulations for Connie who passed cna exam! (Bonnie Morgan)
- Thanks for travel to MD to visit brother and sil, and health for brother who suffers from Parkinson's; gratefulness for Fred's work life, and for his retirement next week (Pam Matthews)
- Comfort for George's brother who lost their dog of 15 years; safe travel for Lyn, returning on Monday; for a friend, having health issues and trouble finding work (George Lynch)
- Thanksgiving and joy for visit with family; healing, acceptance, faith– 3 family members fighting cancer (Jorie Abbott)
- For Rina's brother in law Steve, who just had surgery for bladder cancer; prayers for dtr. Julie, that she can forgive Rina's sister in law for decisions made (Rina Ranahan)

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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)





# 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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