

WEDNESDAYS @ BETHANY

DECEMBER 21, 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.

JOY TO THE WORLD!

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY



The Christmas Eve Service will be held at **7:00 pm on Saturday, 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!

Christmas Day will be celebrated on **Sunday, December 25, during 10:00 am** worship. It will be a joyous time of welcoming and celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Lessons and Carols will be held on **Sunday, January 1, 2023**. What a beautiful and melodic way to welcome the New Year with joyous harmony!

✦ ***Note: Pastor Deb will be on vacation starting after worship service on December 25 through January 3, 2023. Communion will be offered on Sunday, January 8.*** ✦

☞ **BETHANY IS HIRING!** ☞

As you may know, we are looking for a church secretary to work about 15 hours each week in the office to support the pastor and other committees and help with the administrative work involved in running this fabulous church! If you know of anyone, or are interested, please contact Pastor Deb for more information. Thank you!

* * * * * **The Bushel of Appreciations!!** * * * * *

[Advent Education – Make Peace](#)



Thank you to all those to attended the Advent study nights using the PC(USA) Follow Me curriculum studying their series called **Make Peace**. People, throughout history and still today, have chosen different paths to peace and peacemakers work to embody Jesus’ teachings in the midst of conflict. We devoted time to explore God’s vision for peace and true shalom in practices for faithful living

Thank you!! All the Giving Tree Christmas gift tags were claimed for various clothing items from the list Peter Stiehler provided of 15-25 people who could use gifts, with ideas of what might be an appropriate gift for them by gender and size! The Bethany Deacons delivered 21 gifts to the shelter plus several bags of gloves, hats and socks for distribution before Christmas. Thank you for helping make Christmas a special time for everyone in our community. God bless us, everyone!!



The Financial Trustees expresses their deep appreciation for all the **Stewardship Pledges** we have received to date that allow us to draw up Bethany’s budget for 2023. We can fine-tune it if/when additional responses come in. You may place it in the offering basket, put it in the box on the secretary’s office door, or mail to the church. Thank you again for your steadfast support that allows Bethany to thrive in spirit and mission. God bless you all!

He doesn’t look very monster-like.



Holiday Cookie Exchange! The Cookie Monster came out in all of us last Sunday, when the deacons hosted a holiday cookie exchange at coffee hour and grateful bellies everywhere will never be the same. Thanks to everyone who participated and baked! (And if you’re still holding a teensy bit of “well, I shouldn't...” there are always January resolutions right around the corner.)

* * * * * **Thank you!** * * * * *

Liturgists Needed: Have you thought about participating in leading worship? We've had some wonderful new voices at the pulpit who added to the spirit and texture at Bethany. The liturgists are provided with a full script, so you don't have to worry about what to say. If you're interested (and we would love for you to be interested!) or just have questions, please contact Pam Matthews, chair of Worship Committee – fpmatthews@aol.com or the church office. We have commitments through January 8, so **openings January 15 on.**

Fellowship Time: We like to provide coffee, hot water/tea, and a few 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 we are encouraged to take snacks out to the patio to eat and visit as weather allows. The sign-up list is available in the narthex, or you can contact the church office to sign up for a particular Sunday. Also, if you want to help a host, host may like to be contacted to let them know how much to prepare – all contributions appreciated!! Thanks so much for your participation in this ongoing tradition of fellowship and friendliness at Bethany. **Sundays needed January 15 on.**

Prayer Time: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays: A time to meet as the body of Christ, and pray together using Zoom. We present 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

PRAYER TIME WILL NOT BE HELD TONIGHT DECEMBER 21, 2022. RESUMES NEXT WEEK.



*“Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You...”*

Tim Hughes



Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Wed. 12/21 - ~~Prayer Time 6:30pm by Zoom~~ PRAYER TIME HAS BEEN CANCELLED
- Choir Rehearsal
- Sat. 12/24 - Christmas Eve Music Rehearsals 6:15pm (Prayz just prior)
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00pm
- Sun. 12/25 - Christmas Day Worship Service 10:00am
- Pastor Deb vacation begins following worship through 1/3
- Tue. 12/27 - Submission deadline for January@Bethany 12pm
Committee chairs/group leaders: please inform me of any changes to these dates.

**** Please mark your calendars: There will be a Congregational Meeting held immediately after worship on Sunday, January 15, 2023, to formally authorize a Pastor Nominating Committee. Stay tuned for more information. ****

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 at (650) 291-6979. **Always needed:: Canned soup, canned fruit, coffee and napkins. A current list of other shelter needs is on their website:**

[Catholic Worker Hospitality House](#)



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>



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.



2400 Rosewood Drive, San Bruno, CA 94066
(650) 589-3711 ~ bethanypres@bethanypcusa.org
Website: bethanypcusa.org