

# WEDNESDAYS @ BETHANY

## DECEMBER 7, 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.



### Advent Education – Make Peace

We are using the PC(USA) Follow Me curriculum studying their series called *Make Peace*. *Make Peace* focuses on Jesus' words in the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9), which have been the centerpiece of Christian social ethics for centuries.

People, throughout history and still today, have chosen different paths to peace, but certain skills of peacemaking have emerged from their journeys: cultivating inner peace, seeking to understand where others are coming from, and having the courage to overcome fear. By practicing these skills, peacemakers work to embody Jesus' teachings in the midst of conflict. Explore God's vision for peace, true shalom, in this unit from *Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living*. Our next meetings via Zoom are at **7pm Tuesdays, December 13 and 7pm on Monday, December 19**. Contact the church office or speak to Pastor Deb to sign up for the class and get your workbook! We're really looking forward to seeing you!

### 👉 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 Giving Tree

Helping Those in Need



## Giving Tree Opportunity DECEMBER 4-18

The "Giving Tree" is actually be a part of our large Christmas tree in the Sanctuary. Gift tags with specific gift requests are placed on the tree for people living and/or dining at the St. Bruno's Catholic Worker shelter and/or boarding houses. Peter Stiehler will provide a list of 15-25 people who could use gifts, with ideas of what might be an appropriate gift for them by gender and size. Please take a look at the requests, take a tag or two home with you, and purchase said items. Once you have the gifts, please wrap them, attach the Giving Tree tag to the gift, and place them under the tree by Sunday, December 18. The Bethany Deacons will deliver the gifts to Peter at the shelter for distribution before Christmas. Thank you in advance for your generosity, and thanks for helping make Christmas a special time for everyone in our community. God bless us, everyone!!

**2023 Stewardship Campaign Reminder:** If you haven't already turned in your 2023 Stewardship pledge, please do so by Sunday, December 18. You may place it in the offering basket, put it in the box on the secretary's office door, or mail to the church to arrive by December 18. Thank you and may God bless!

### Ruth Covenant Group

The Ruth Covenant Group canceled its November meeting due to many members who were unavailable to meet. The monthly meeting will resume on **Monday, December 12 at 6:30 pm** at the church. It will be a hybrid meeting with some participants meeting in person in the sanctuary, and some meeting via zoom. If you would like to join by zoom, please let Tamra Hollenbeck know so we can send you the link. We will continue with the book study of *A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community* by Adam Russell Taylor. The chapters we are reading for this month are in Part Three - "Beatitudes of the Beloved Community," chapters 11 - "Ubuntu Interdependence," and 12 - "Prioritizing Nonviolence." In addition to our discussion, there will be an opportunity for check-in, fellowship, and prayer. All are welcome to attend!





## Holiday Cookie Exchange!

During our after-worship coffee hour **December 18** the Deacons will be hosting a cookie exchange. If you would like to bring some goodies (maybe 2 or 4 dozen??) to share that would be great. But if you'd like to be consumers only, that's perfectly fine, too! After all, all good cooks appreciate satisfied customers! We'll provide some plates for your selections and something to cover them. Need more info? Feel free to contact any of the deacons, Roxane, Bonnie, Tamra or Kathy F if you have any questions. Gingerbread? Sugar? Meringues? Sandies? Shortbread? Chocolate chip? What a tasty day this will be!

## 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.

**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 & Events

- Wed. 12/7 - Prayz rehearsal 6:00pm  
- Prayer Time 6:30pm by Zoom  
- Choir rehearsal 7:30pm
- Sun. 12/11 - Rehearsals start 8:30am  
- Worship 10am -Third Sunday of Advent – JOY
- Mon. 12/12 - Ruth Covenant Group – 6:30pm
- Tue. 12/13 - Advent Study (Zoom) 7pm  
- Submission deadline for Wed@Bethany 12pm
- Committee chairs/group leaders: please inform me of any changes to these dates.  
Building & Grounds Committee will resume meetings in 2023.

**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.

**Special needs now: Canned soup, 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](mailto:bethanypres@bethanypcusa.org)  
Website: [bethanypcusa.org](http://bethanypcusa.org)