

WEDNESDAYS @ BETHANY

JUNE 3, 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.

Help with tech: For most of us that are able to tune in either live or via the Bethany website, the experience has been positive and we are grateful for the dedication of the fabulous foursome: Deb, Jessica, George, and Kathy (Bonnie had quite a stint before May). We hear that just seeing the service inside the church has been reassuring and helpful in keeping our community feel strong. Berta's emailed service document with hymns assists in that feeling of inclusion, of course! It has been great to see the names of visitors to the service as well.

We know also that there are plenty of people who do not join us in this format for various reasons. And we care about everyone's experience.

Our job, as Worship Committee, is to evaluate what works, what provides the most satisfaction, and connection as we move forward into the unknown. So we are looking at all options to see what will continue to keep our church vital: continue live broadcasts? Consider Zoom services? Pre-recorded services? We will be considering all of these in the next weeks and perhaps options we haven't even thought of! **Most of the non-live options really require help - a person to assemble video contributions, or put together the service for distribution via email. We NEED someone. Can YOU assist us? Do you know someone who has the time, inclination right now to lend a hand? Tech-savvy for sure, some experience. This will help us know what is possible and, who knows, what we may achieve for the benefit of all of us.**

Please ask around, send any ideas to any of the W.C. members: Pam, Lyn, George, Kathleen, Tamra, Jessica or Deb! We are praying for some ideas SOON. Thank you so much.

Hello everyone! Here's a reminder that I'd like to get started on the project to get all 150 Psalms read out loud, and onto a CD and/or in a state to be emailed. Maybe 15 people could each read 10. Or maybe a family unit could read one together -- psalm 119 is incredibly long. Maybe one parish could read one or two. Wouldn't you love to hear your friends voices? Maybe some of our 90 year olds can show us their stuff and show us how psalms are *really* read!

- Pastor Deb



A New Way to Worship

Until restrictions on gatherings are safely lifted, we will continue to worship in our own homes via Facebook Live at 10:00 on Sunday mornings. The live broadcast will begin 5-10 minutes before the hour, and you, your friends, family and neighbors are all welcome to join the live session before worship begins, greet one another, and let us know of your presence.

After worship, we will celebrate a virtual coffee hour via Zoom. Those who have participated in zoom coffee hour are finding a much-needed sense of connection and community with our church family! If you do not automatically receive an email invitation to coffee hour, definitely contact us so that we can add you to the list!

The worship committee and the session are working very hard to find the best way to bring all of us together to virtually worship each Sunday. Right now we are set with Jessica and Pastor Deb, and we have a liturgist for June. But we would like to know who is comfortable coming to be liturgist on various Sundays going forward. We can't have too many people in the room, and not everyone is or should be coming around others even with a mask. But if we could have a short list of people who would be willing to rotate, we're looking for you! We also will need someone to aim the camera on occasion when George is away, as well as someone who is willing to lead hymns.

If you feel as if you are able to help out either as 1) liturgist, 2) leading hymns or 3) camera work, please let us know. You can leave a message on the church voicemail, or email the church office

Please come to our weekly Prayer Zoom Service every Wednesday from 6:30-7:00 pm. This will be a perfect opportunity to gather and receive strength and encouragement through quiet, poetry, readings, scripture and meditation. Each week will be a different structure. You can attend by sending your email to dmcguire@bethanypcusa.org and I will send out a zoom invitation.

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 George Lynch: cell phone @ 650-580-4123. Thank you.

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.

Due Dates

For W@B: Tuesday morning.

For Sunday announcements: Wednesday morning. Email them to the church office or leave them in the mailbox on the outside of the office door.

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



During the Session meeting on Tuesday evening, Lyn Hughes presented information from the San Francisco Presbytery's Finance Committee about churches that are in dire circumstances due to members being unemployed, offerings being at 10% of prior giving levels, food banks and other services that are out of funds, etc.

The Session decided to send some funds from Bethany Church from Community Action's budget which will be \$300 (6 months of the suggested donation of \$50). Others, individually or by another group, can send their check(s) as follows: (Presbytery's Finance Committee provided two churches located in San Mateo):

Latinos Unidos en Cristo
194 W. 25th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403
(a Hispanic congregation)

Iglesia Braziliana
194 W. 25th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403
(a Brazilian congregation)

Both these congregations rent from First Presbyterian Church of San Mateo but are greatly in need to support their congregants and the neighborhood.

Videos: Our Sunday worship services stream on Facebook live starting at 10 a.m. every Sunday until we are able to gather in person again! Afterwards, they are available to view on our website here: "[This Week in Worship](#)"

If you have prayer requests or announcements you'd like Deb to make during worship, you can email them to Deb ahead of time at dmcguire@bethanypcusa.org.

In addition to Sunday worship, Deb will hold two weekly check ins via Facebook Live on the Bethany Facebook page. They are currently scheduled for Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m., and Friday mornings at 10 a.m. Please pop in and hear a few words from Pastor Deb – it's a wonderful chance to check in with each other during the week! The videos will be available to view on our Facebook page and our website: <http://bethanypcusa.org/events/fblive-2020.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.



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