



April @ Bethany



Bethany Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor



Hello friends,

Here we are in April already! This month of Sundays will be one more week of Lent, then Palm Sunday, Good Friday and then the third Sunday is Easter Sunday already. It feels like it would be easy to rush right through the final weeks of Lent.

With this photo, I invite you to say hello to the beauty that is Westminster Woods in the springtime! Those of us who were able to attend the Women's Weekend this year were able to linger there in the beautiful weather among the tall redwoods and enjoy the beginning of the buds on

these plum trees, standing tall all in a row. Linger is a special spiritual exercise that we can enjoy any time. Linger involves leaving our impatient feelings behind, forgetting the next thing on our list for just a moment, and holding on to the beauty we see, the thought we have, the presence of the person we are with and really enjoying the moment we are in. These anxious days we are experiencing will not get the best of us if we learn to linger long enough to enjoy all that is around us that is *not* part of the global anxiety.

As Easter approaches, we are reminded with every passing day of the love and life of Jesus Christ as we read about his ministry and path to Jerusalem. We stare at death with Christ on Good Friday, lingering there too, knowing that that Friday is not the final word. May we finish this journey together, lingering for the beauty that is around even during the darkness. Knowing that we will soon say Alleluia! He is Risen!

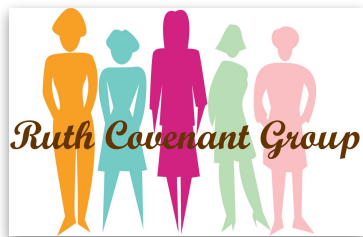
Blessings,

Pastor Deb

P.S. Here is more beauty from Westminster Woods' Women's Weekend! See anyone you know?



Community Life



The Bethany Ruth Covenant Group will meet on Monday, April 14 at 6:30 pm at the church. For our current study, we are using the Advent study guide, "Calling All Angels - An Advent Study of Fearlessness and Strength" by Erin Wathen. The book is available online, so please consider purchasing one for your use. It is a wonderful study, filled with inspiration for these difficult times. We are to read pages 35 - 46 and will share what resonates with you. The meeting will include our usual check-in time, fellowship, refreshments, and prayers. You are most welcome to join in for this wonderful time of sharing. Joining by Zoom is available if you are not able to attend in person. Please let Tamra Hollenbeck know if you would like to receive a Zoom invitation, and we'll send one to you. Many blessings to everyone.

Bethany Spring Tea

Bethany Presbyterian Church is hosting a Spring Tea on Saturday, May 17 from 12:30-3:00 pm in the church sanctuary. We will be honoring the memories of two women from the congregation, Beverly Bristow and Paulette Emfinger, and attendees will be invited to share some of their fond memories of these two beloved women. As a way to honor the commitment to young children that was so important to Bev and Paulette, proceeds from the tea will be donated to Stanford's Children's Hospital, a favorite charity for both women according to their daughters Nancy Potter and Lyn Hughes. Please look for more details in next month's newsletter and for updates on Wednesdays at Bethany. We look forward to a lovely time of fellowship, food, and reflection.



April BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Donna Goodwin | 20 - Jorie Abbott |
| 2 - Aaron Schurk | 20 - Roberta Franchini |
| 3 - Benjamin Kumimoto | 22 - Pam Matthews |
| 18 - Kieran Parker | 27 - Deb McGuire |

Lenten Adult Education Class "What is being renewed in you?"

Tuesdays from 3:00-4:00pm
March 11, 18, 25
April 1, 8, 15

In person at Bethany and via Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88622652676>



Community Action



There was a huge response to needs at the Shelter in March. Thank you to all who responded to these needs. Ongoing donations to Catholic Worker Hospitality House can be brought to Bethany Church or call Lyn Hughes at 650-867-0667 for pickup.

Worship Updates

Lent and Good Friday

The season of Lent continues for the first two weeks of April, culminating with Good Friday on Friday, April 18. Thank you to Roxane Wales for her excellent work making the sanctuary reflect this time of the Christian calendar. The Sundays of Lent continue through Palm Sunday on April 13. Palm Sunday will include the waving of palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna!" as we commemorate the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem. On Good Friday, April 18, Bethany will open the doors of the sanctuary from 12-3 pm.. The congregation is invited to come by for a time of personal reflection and quiet, pondering the story of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Several stations will be set up with activities available for prayer and reflection. Please plan to attend.

Easter

Easter will be celebrated on Sunday, April 20th. The day will start at the crack of dawn with an Easter Sunrise Service at 6:15 am (sunrise will be at 6:27 am, so we want to make sure we are up in time to see it!!). We will be meeting inside the sanctuary so we can watch the sunrise, weather permitting! Following the early morning service, everyone is invited to join in for coffee, hot cocoa, and a variety of sweet rolls and other treats. The traditional Easter service will be at 10:00 am, and it will be celebrated with scripture, a wonderful message of resurrection, and glorious music! There will also be an Easter brunch to celebrate this jubilant day. We look forward to entering the Easter Season with all of you!



Monthly events at Bethany

Sundays: Worship at 10:00 am
Coffee Hour 11:00 am
(rehearsals start 8:30 am)

Wednesdays: Prayer Group 4:00 pm
Chancel Choir 6:30 pm
Prayz 5:00 pm

Submissions for W@B: Tuesday mornings, 10:00 am

Submissions for the April newsletter:
Tuesday, April 18, 10:00 am

1st Sunday: Communion at Worship Service

2nd Monday: Ruth Covenant Group 6:30 pm

2nd Tuesday: Session 4:30 pm

3rd Monday: Financial Trustees 5:30 pm

Buildings & Grounds,
Community Action committees
- As scheduled

Worship Committee - As scheduled

Leadership Meeting Highlights - March 11, 2025

Reports:

Pastor - Deb reported. a) Deb has been working on Lenten services, Adult Ed Lenten class, and the newsletter. b) The liturgy is set for 3/23/25 for Rev. Don Mulford. Deb will be at the Women's Weekend at Westminster Woods that Sunday. c) The Burlingame Music Club would like to hold a music contest at Bethany. They love our grand piano. d) Deb will place an advertisement in the Daily Journal regarding our Easter Services.

Financial Trustees - Lyn reported. a) We discussed the financial arrangements with the Sikh community. b) Some people give their gifts to the church at the end of the year. They are very faithful. It was suggested that we could take money from savings in the expected donation amount and replace it with the end-of-year donation. c) There is money available for camperships.

Community Action - Lyn reported. a) Many items have been donated to the Shelter. b) There will be a collection for the shelter for the remainder of Lent.

Community Life - a) Roxane has agreed to chair this committee regarding activities within the church like Spring tea, Thanksgiving Dinner, Advent festival, and other activities. b) There is a Baby Sprinkle planned for Bamboo Lin and Ryan Hood on Saturday, March 29th at 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. c) A Spring Tea in honor of Beverly Bristow and Pauline Emfinger will be held on Saturday, May 17th.

Buildings & Grounds - Dave reported. a) Andy Jones will help Dave install a new toilet in the bathroom. b) Dave is seeking a different company to work with on the solar project. He is working with Sunrun at his home, and he will ask them about solar for the church. c) The Presbyterian Flag will be up by Easter. Roberta Franchini repaired the torn flag. Dave said the tree near the flag pole needs to be trimmed back so it doesn't just rip up the flag again.

Worship - Tamra reported. a) Cathleen Torres has ordered palm branches for Palm Sunday. b) Good Friday will be on Friday, April 18th. The sanctuary will be open from 12-3 pm with several stations set up around the sanctuary for people to pray, read scripture, and a few other activities. c) Easter Sunrise Service will begin at 6:15 am. Sunrise is at 6:27 that morning. We will meet inside the sanctuary. There will be a reception after the service. The regular Easter Service will be at 10 am with wonderful music and message, and another reception! d) The last Sunday that the choir will present music for the year is on Sunday, June 1st.

Other Business - a) Deb will be taking a trip to Chicago to be with her dear friend Jean's husband. b) Deb plans to attend a spiritual retreat at the Mercy Center in August.

Next meeting date will be Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 4:30 pm at Tamra's house.

Financial Trustees

Financial Issues:

- The 2025 Bethany budget was completed and reviewed by the Trustees. The budget was then presented at Bethany's annual meeting and questions were addressed. The 2025 budget was then accepted. Any questions can be sent to Lyn Hughes.
- In progress: Replacement of our antiquated electrical panel for maximum efficiency. Next steps: 1) update electrical panel, 2) Decide on solar energy panels/installation. Dave Wales is seeking out a new vendor as the original vendor did not work out, and 3) Install heat pump which includes also involves reviewing vendors.
- In progress: Room 9 clean-up continuation
- In progress: Kitchen update cleanup and cleanout
- In progress: On-line giving opportunities; Pastor Deb is working to move this forward
- Patio repair: On hold for now
- Upper roof repair: On hold for now
- The Bethany Trustees and Pastor McGuire met with the Sikh Gurdawa regarding various issues as there has been a change in leadership.

Our 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.

Our 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 are already welcome here. We invite you, on your unique spiritual journey, to join us in the life and ministry of Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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