

---

# January @ Bethany

## Bethany Presbyterian Church

---

### From the Pastor



Happy New Year everyone!

I hope you are able to begin this year with great feelings of hopefulness! Whether you have new year's resolutions to Marie Kondo your apartment, your home, your sock drawer; or are going to exercise every day; or try to eat more healthy by eating something green everyday (even if on some days it's only a green m&m); or if you're like me and don't make new year's resolutions because the disappointment of not meeting my expectations is too great – wherever you are on the new year's resolution spectrum,

there seems to still be a great yearning for newness and change. We want to be re-freshed in some way.

The Bible doesn't have a lot to say about your sock drawer or green m&m's, but expecting newness and feeling hopeful are primary themes in our scriptures. God is always trying to reassure us that newness is coming, we have no reason to be afraid, we are not alone, and that anything is possible with God. Here are a few scripture passages to remind us that the refreshment we desire is always possible and present in our lives when we look to God. I'd love to hear your favorites too!

- **Jeremiah 29:11** – For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
- **Isaiah 43:18-19** – For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.
- **Psalm 32:8** – The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.
- **Isaiah 41:13** – For I hold you by your right hand – I, the Lord your God. And I say to you, “Don't be afraid. I am here to help you.”
- In **Luke 2:10** an angel said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.” I look forward to an exciting year together as we celebrate the great joy that has been given to us in Christ.

Blessings,  
Deb

## Community Life

**Advent Festival** – On December 1 and 2, a total of 10 people helped set up and decorate our church. This resulted in a beautifully decorated Christmas tree, the hanging of evergreen swags, and cookies baked for Sunday morning, December 3. A paper prayer chain was created, candles and sconces were replaced, and the paraments and candles were switched to Advent colors on the Communion table. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event lots of fun in anticipation of the Christmas season.



- 6 - Doreen Bird
- 6 - Jenny Schurk
- 6 - Patrick May
- 8 - Melinda Albaugh-Jones
- 22 - Kenny and Kaileigh Parker

### Monthly events at Bethany

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

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

**Submissions for W@B:** Tuesday mornings.

**Submissions for the February newsletter:**  
Friday, January 19

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Communion at Worship Service

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Worship Committee 11:00 am

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday: Ruth Covenant Group 6:30 pm

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday: Session 4:30 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Deacons Meeting 11:30 am

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday: Financial Trustees 5:30 pm

Buildings & Grounds,  
Community Action committees  
– as scheduled

## Community Action

### Help One Child

HelpOneChild – Bethany committed to participating in the 2023 “HelpOneChild” effort by purchasing 15 gifts for foster or newly adopted children, ages 0-3 up to 18-21. All the suggested “need” cards were taken by various individuals; we even met the deadline of December 3, when all the gifts needed to returned to the church; well done everyone! We were recognized by HelpOneChild as being a new contributor to their

annual effort. A wonderful letter of thanks was sent by the HelpOneChild San Mateo County/Silicon Valley Director, with the hope that we will again consider supporting their efforts in future years.

Second Harvest - Schedule @ Belle Air Elementary School in San Bruno - be at the school at 1:45pm to volunteer; The drive runs from 2:00pm to 4:15pm the last Wednesday of each month. The next date is January 24.



**SECOND HARVEST**  
of SILICON VALLEY

### Catholic Worker Hospitality House



**Catholic Worker**  
**Hospitality House**  
San Bruno California

Christmas for Catholic Worker Hospitality House (CWHH) - Peter Stiehler, Director of CWHH, was contacted in the last week of November to request gift ideas for those in need at his facility. Again this year, Peter came through with lists of items needed, which included gift cards. Tags were hung on our beautiful Bethany tree and all 24 tags were fulfilled; similar to the HelpOneChild effort, all gift donations were delivered to the church by the December 17 deadline. Many thanks to the Bethany Deacons who contributed \$500 which was spent on 26 gift cards. There were also toothbrushes and toothpaste, men’s thermal shirts, T-shirts, socks, soap and washcloths, other various toiletries, men’s sweatshirts, hats and gloves, men’s underwear, etc. In total there were 42 gift cards and 5 large boxes of gifts delivered to CWHH by December 18. Thanks to all of you who participated. Your generosity, thoughtfulness, and the care you showed to those in our community this year was outstanding!

## Financial Trustees

Note: Bethany's financial information is published quarterly.

No reported issues with the Sikh Association. Dave Wales prepared and distributed an Emergency Contact List (see below):

## Emergency Contact List Bethany Presbyterian & Sikh Gurdwara

### Bethany - 650-589-3711

Name	Cell Number
David Wales	(650) 303-1064
George Lynch	(650) 580-4123
Craig Bray	(415) 559-0120
Fred Matthews	(650) 922-5027

### Sikh Gurdwara

Name	Cell Number
Harry Singh	(650) 255-9318
Gagandip Singh	(650) 892-8579
Dhillon	(650) 834-1300

## Building and Grounds Issues

1. We have been advised that we need to replace our antiquated electrical panel for maximum efficiency. Next steps: 1: Update electrical panel, 2: Decide on solar energy panels/installation, and 3: Install heat pump.
2. Room 9 clean-up: The desk drawers have been removed from the oak desk in Rm 9 and the desk itself will be removed soon. The two pianos and some items in the downstairs storage room still need to be hauled away.
3. The Kitchen Update Committee met and made a wish list of work needed and desired items for our outdated kitchen. Next steps in January include calling a consultant for a walkthrough about what might be done at what cost (note: the kitchen island and the cabinets are of great concern). The Kitchen Committee scheduled a kitchen cleanup day on January 22, 2024 at 10am.
4. Patio Repair: on hold until 2024.
5. Upper Roof Repair: on hold until 2024.
6. The Sanctuary was painted by Craig Bray and his team in early December. Thanks go out to Craig and his team for a job well done in a very short time.
7. On-line giving opportunities: This information is still being processed as there is some discussion about how the Wells Fargo Bank instructions can be implemented.
8. The Global Witness and Peacemaking offering was wrapped up for 2023. \$205.25 remained at Bethany Church and \$615.75 was sent to Presbyterian Church USA.
9. The annual Stewardship Drive has been completed and dedicated. The 2024 Budget is being finalized by the Financial Trustees and will be presented to Session for approval. There are a few 2024 pledge cards still missing.
10. A new color copier was leased and put into place through Copy Tech. This replaces our current old, black and white copier.
11. Our four staff members, Pastor Deb, Jessica, Cathleen, and Kathryn received a separate 2023 bonus payment in addition to their December 15, 2023 paychecks. Salary and other benefit updates are still being discussed, but should be finalized in preparation for implementation in 2024.

---

## 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

2400 Rosewood Drive  
San Bruno, CA 94066  
(650) 589-3711

[bethanypres@bethanypcusa.org](mailto:bethanypres@bethanypcusa.org) • [bethanypcusa.org](http://bethanypcusa.org)

Bethany is a member of More Light Presbyterians  
[mlp.org](http://mlp.org)



**MORE LIGHT**  

---

**PRESBYTERIANS**

