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# March @ Bethany

## Bethany Presbyterian Church

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### From the Pastor



Welcome to the month of March!

My mom and I took some UK friends to Filoli early in February, to see the beautiful gardens and grounds. Other than a few hearty daffodils pushing their way above ground (which we loved!), there were very few green growing things to see. While that made the visit a little less exciting, seeing that brave bright growth in the midst of the dark not-yet of the rest of the garden, was also a great reminder of the coming rebirth and new life that daffodils have come to represent.

Often the first to peek their green shoots above ground, they are able to bring the first signs of brightness after a cold dark winter. Daffodils are an early reminder of nature's promise of light after darkness, and hope in the midst of gloom.

In the church year we are just beginning the season of Lent. It is a time of following Jesus through the wilderness of temptation as we look at our own lives to see what temptations live in us and call us away from God. In the early church the season of Lent was a time of preparation for baptism on Easter, so often Lent is seen as a time of great cleansing. Whether your Lenten practice focuses on a new discipline of prayer, scripture reading and reflection, or walks in nature, I hope you are able to grow closer to God during this time.

As we look ahead to the first day of spring, moving our clocks ahead and experiencing more daylight, Palm Sunday and Easter, may the month of March bring you expectations of the coming of Christ.

Blessings,  
Pastor Deb

### 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 April newsletter:**  
Tuesday, March 19

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

2<sup>nd</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 and  
Community Action committees  
– as scheduled

## Community Life

### Ruth Covenant Group

The Bethany Ruth Covenant Group will be meeting at the church on Monday, March 11 at 6:30 pm. Each month, someone will select a woman who has been influential in some way during her lifetime and share a story about that woman. This subject can be someone from the Bible, from personal experiences, or from the culture. New attendees are encouraged join the monthly meetings (on the second Monday of the month, and if you can't come every month, you will be welcomed at any time). In addition to our discussion, there will be an opportunity for check-in, fellowship, and prayer. If you prefer to attend by Zoom, please let Tamra Hollenbeck know, and we will get a link sent to you. Many blessings to you as you remember a woman who has been an influence in your journey.



### Spring Tea

Several people have been talking about the possibility of having a Spring Tea at Bethany after all those pandemic years! If you are interested in helping plan this event, please see Tamra Hollenbeck, Jorie Abbott, or Kathy Fogle. We will find a date that works mutually for everyone and get the planning started. Thanks in advance for your willingness to share your ideas and energy for this beloved event.

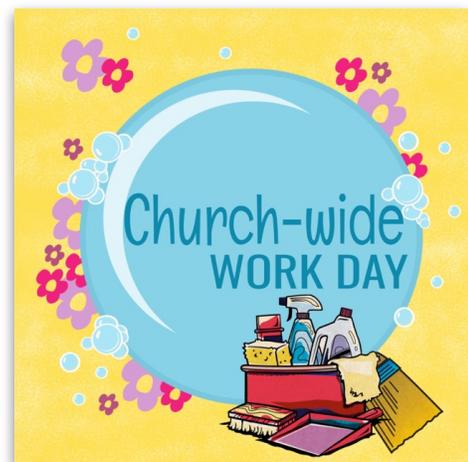


### Deacon's Notes



The Deacons will host a Luncheon and Parish Coffees after worship on Sunday, March 10. A lovely repast will be served, and members of the parishes will be invited to sit with their Deacon to check-in with thoughts and ideas about how things are going for them at Bethany. Church directories will be available for each family with the most current information included, and for those who aren't able to attend, the directories will be mailed to your home. Please mark your calendars now, and we hope to see you on Sunday, March 10. Thanks!!

Please join us for Bethany's  
Springtime church-wide workday!  
**When: Saturday March 16, 2024**  
**Time: 9 AM to 12 PM**  
Fuel (refreshments, coffee/bagels,  
fruit, etc.) provided  
Everyone welcome --  
indoor/outdoor tasks for all skill levels!!!  
Help us spruce up our campus to  
make it welcoming for Easter festivities!





# March

## BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES



### Birthdays

- 9 - Roberta Henry
- 13 - Linden Cady
- 16 - Elara Nicolosi
- 17 - Barbara Liedtke
- 21 - Bethany Delander
- 23 - Paulette Emfinger
- 27 - Eddy Bray

### Anniversaries

- 17 - Walt and Doreen Bird

Don't forget to set your clocks, Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 10.



### Women's Weekend at Westminster Woods

Westminster Woods in Occidental, CA, will be hosting the annual Women's Weekend from April 19 through April 21. Registration is already underway, and women of all ages are invited to participate in this weekend of refreshment and renewal. Rev. Sandy Tice will be the speaker, and the Westminster Woods website has this to say about the weekend:

*As Westminster Woods transitions into a new chapter, Women's Weekend will serve as a time to root ourselves in God's Creation. The Gospel will also be brought to life again as we reach into the collective journey of loving one another as Christ loves.*

*Through inspirational speaker time and experiential worship led by Sandy Tice, the group will embody Christ's Love in Action. Using the image of the redwood forest as a guide, we will explore biblical texts, prayer, and our lived experience to help us hear God's invitation to flourish and grow. Come to our sacred space for all women to rest and reflect, celebrate and sing, contemplate and lament, and be in community with one another.*

*This weekend is designed to welcome newcomers as well as long-time lovers of this retreat. As we reckon with the current brokenness in our world, we retreat not to 'escape,' but to root ourselves in Grace so we may reach out with the same grace to others. There will be space for solitude, community, rest and play - so that your deep longings can be met.*



To register, please go to the Westminster Woods Website ([www.westminsterwoods.org/womens-weekend](http://www.westminsterwoods.org/womens-weekend)). Bethany has camperships available to help cover the cost of the weekend if there is a need. Please let Pastor Deb McGuire know if you could use some financial assistance, and it will be arranged. If you have questions about the weekend, please talk to one of the people who have attended in the past - Janine Valine, Pam Matthews, Tamra Hollenbeck, Roxane Wales, Kathy Quickert, Chris Angeles, Rev. McGuire, or Bonnie Morgan (not an exhaustive list!). We would love to have you join to experience the delight that is Westminster Woods.

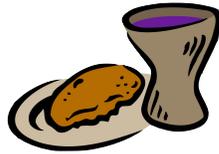
## Lenten Study at Bethany

For our Lenten study this year will be enjoying a unique pilgrimage with each other, as we follow this daily Lenten devotional from the *Presbyterian Outlook*. In *Local Pilgrim* we are invited to be as pilgrims, as we explore and observe both new and familiar places in our communities. For example, one of the authors went to many new places and set her intention to just observe and be open to how God was present in these new places. Whether it is a new place, or a routine place we find ourselves – the post office, the grocery store, a walk near the shore – the question to us in these pages is, **What will God reveal to us when we pause, ponder and reflect?** Who do we see? What do we hear? **God reveals God's self when we look.**



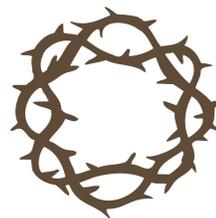
Although the devotional we will use covers *every* day during Lent, at our class time we will only be looking at the devotional presented for that particular Tuesday. We have been meeting as a group *in person at Bethany, on Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00pm*. Due to our session meeting on March 12, there will not be class that evening. I hope to see you there!

## Easter Week at Bethany



**Palm Sunday** ushers in this most important week in the Christian church. The service on March 24 prefaces the experience of **Holy Week** by observing Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

On **Good Friday**, Bethany will be open from 12:00-3:00 for anyone who would like to stop by to reflect or just be in the Sanctuary. There will be a few stations with activities that can be used to focus thoughts or encourage prayer.



Sunday morning, March 31, YES! we will have our traditional **Easter Sunrise** service, beginning at 6:45 a.m. We will be assembling in the meditation garden area to hold worship and watch the sun come up! There will be coffee but do dress warmly (or bring a blanket!). We will then move indoors for more coffee, juice, and Easter pastries. It's always a beautiful start to **Easter**, then at 10:00 a.m. will be our regular worship celebration. Good music, joyful remembrance, and love expressed. Please come!

## Community Action

(Note: Lyn Hughes is no longer in charge of the Community Life Committee)

### Catholic Worker Hospitality House



•Catholic Worker Hospitality House (CWHH) – if questions, call Peter Stiehler at 650-827-0706 or email [mail@catholicworkerhospitalityhouse.org](mailto:mail@catholicworkerhospitalityhouse.org)

•Dining room volunteers - at St. Bruno's Catholic Church, 555 W. San Bruno Ave., San Bruno, CA 94066. Please phone (number above) or email Peter to schedule time to volunteer at

[mail@catholicworkerhospitalityhouse.org](mailto:mail@catholicworkerhospitalityhouse.org)

- Help with Laundry – call Peter at 650-827-0706
- Donations – Money is always appreciated. You may use PayPal or write a check to Catholic Worker Hospitality House and send to 672 Second Avenue, San Bruno, CA 94066
- Donate food and toiletries: canned fruit, canned soup, milk, butter or margarine, sliced bread, oatmeal, napkins, toilet paper, soup spoons, new and unused shampoo, new and unopened razors, new socks, new underwear (Men's 32-38), new or used, clean bath towels – bring these items to Bethany to be delivered to CWHH, call Lyn Hughes at 650-867-0667 if you need something picked up and delivered, or deliver to CWHH at 672 Second Ave, San Bruno, CA 94066

### Second Harvest

- Second Harvest Grocery Distribution @ Belle Air Elementary School, 450 Third Avenue, San Bruno; 4th Wednesday of each month from 1:45pm to 4:00pm
- Second Harvest of Silicon Valley - call 408-266-8866 for information on other volunteer opportunities or go to [www.shfb.org](http://www.shfb.org) for "shift" information on volunteering and other details on how to help.



### One Great Hour of Sharing



Your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) enables the Presbyterian Church USA to share God's love with our neighbors around the world affected by natural disasters, food instability, and other issues affecting the poor and oppressed. In a world filled with disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by OGHS are:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- The Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Self-Development of People

A One Great Hour of Sharing appeal letter has been sent to the congregation. Included with the letter is an OGHS offering envelope for any amount you wish to donate. None of the offering stays at Bethany, but rather is sent to the Presbyterian Church USA.

All offerings should be received at Bethany by Sunday, March 31, 2024. There will be extra envelopes, along with an informational pamphlet, in the Narthex. Thank you!

## Financial Trustees

### 2023 Year-to-Date

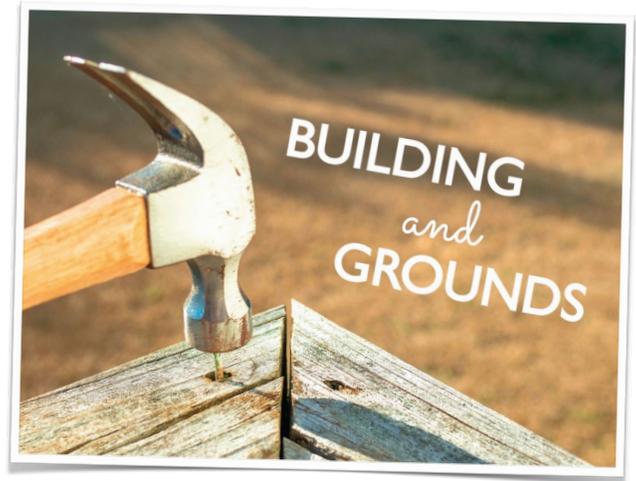
12/32/22 Checking Account Balance Forward	\$29,547.65
2023 Total Income	\$243,777.89
2023 Total Expenses	(\$255,253.56)
12/32/23 Ending Checking Account Balance	\$18,071.98

Note: Note: Bethany's financial information is now published quarterly. March 2024 information will be published in the April 2024 newsletter.



### Building and Grounds Issues

- In progress: replacement of 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.
- In progress: Room 9 clean-up.
- In progress: The Kitchen Update Committee cleanup and clean out. Another cleanup day will be scheduled soon. Lowe's was called for assistance; we will continue to work with them towards our vision.
- Patio repair – discussion occurred with Session at our February meeting.
- Upper Roof Repair – on hold for now
- In progress: On-line giving opportunities. More information to come.
- Global Witness and Peacemaking Offering – need a decision on where/what to do with the 25% of the 2023 offering (\$205.25)
- A new color copier is in place at the church.
- Bethany's 2024 budget was approved at the Session's February meeting and then was presented at Bethany's annual meeting on February 18, 2024.



## Session Highlights - February 6, 2024

### **Pastor:** Deb reported.

- There will be an Adult Ed Lenten Class on Tuesdays 5-6pm from Feb. 20-Mar 26, except session night on March 12, 2024.
- New Member Sunday – We received the transfer from Burlingame Presbyterian for Walt and Doreen Bird; they will be welcomed as new members on Sunday, March 3rd.

### **Buildings and Grounds:** Dave reported.

- Dave spoke to Tom Jessee about finding an electrician to help upgrade the electrical panel at Bethany.
- A crew is needed to install chains across entrance and exit driveways to prevent illicit activity at night on the church grounds, usually between 10 pm and 3 am. Posts need to be placed and chains with locks will be installed to keep the parking lots closed during those hours. The Sikh Community is in favor of this plan, and they are willing to lock up the chains at night and open them up in the morning. The chains will be open during the day. Dave and George will also have keys. We will give this plan a 3-month trial to make sure it is effective. George is monitoring the security cameras in the parking lot and inside the church building.
- A workday will be organized before Easter.

### **Financial Trustees:** Lyn reported.

- A budget for the 2024 year was presented to Session. It was approved by the Financial Trustees, and the Session approved it by consensus. Session members had the opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the current budget. The budget will be presented to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 18, and they will be allowed to have their questions answered.

### **Worship:** Pam reported.

- There will be an Ash Wednesday service on 2/14/24 at 5:00 pm..
- Jessica is out on medical leave until the beginning of April. Amy Stephens-Chen will be playing the piano during worship all of February and March 24 and 31. Pam will play on March 3, 10, and 17.
- Pam and Fred Matthews will be moving to Missoula, MT probably in the late spring. Pam is encouraging a discussion about Bethany's music program in the future.

### **Community Action:** Lyn reported.

- Lyn remains chair of Community Action, including work on Catholic Worker and other benevolent actions. She is no longer chair of Community Life. There will be a different way to organize Thanksgiving Dinner, Spring Tea, Movie Nights, Game Nights, and other enjoyable activities.

### **Other Business:**

- Bethany needs someone to help with IT issues.
- The next meeting date will be on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 4:30 pm.



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## **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.

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## **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.

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### **Bethany Presbyterian Church**

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



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