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# March @ Bethany

## Bethany Presbyterian Church

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### From the Pastor

Lead with Love  
Lead with Grace

Dear friends,

At our Ash Wednesday service, we created jazz. Jazz takes the straight, expected path and improvises in such a beautiful way that an even better sound emerges. Without electricity at church, our planned service was not going to be possible. We improvised ourselves into a beautiful intimate time of prayer and song and silence and candles and ashes. We set up the



Christ candle surrounded by lots of tea candles on a few tv trays near the entrance to the sanctuary, so that people who entered weren't forced to navigate the chairs in the dark and find their way to the front. We brought down one of the candelabras from the chancel and added two more candlesticks to the table. We had about six or seven chairs around the candles. From where we sat, the candle light lit our starry ceiling with a beautiful unexpected sparkle.



In a weekly essay in the webzine "Journey with Jesus" Dan Clendenin writes, "I love Lent. It reminds me that I don't need to be stuck in old ways of thinking and acting. Renewal is possible. I can wipe the mud off my glasses. Hit the reset button. I don't need to wait for old age to magically impart a new perspective on what matters most and why." He continues, "In a culture that glorifies excess and indulgence, hubris and bravado, Wednesday's ashes signify an outrageously counter-cultural act of humility. Lent is the most brutally realistic liturgical season of the year — it's a time when we tell the truth about ourselves, our brokenness, our mortality, and

nevertheless trust in God's redemptive love. We celebrate the gift of life with all its blessings and sorrows."

By the time our next newsletter comes to you, we will be nearing the excitement and glory of the upcoming Easter celebration. Until then, how will you use this 40 day journey you have been given? What will accompany you? Upon what foundation will you rest? What truth will you tell about yourself?

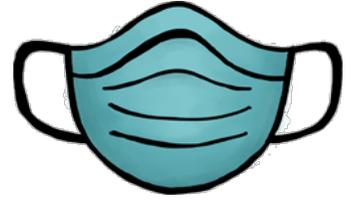
You are safe. You are loved. You are full of the grace of God. As always, let's talk.

Blessings,  
Pastor Deb



## Update on COVID Protocols

During the pandemic, Bethany implemented several recommended safety measures to protect our congregation and visitors. The Session regularly monitors our Covid responses and requirements. We now feel that since California is in a different phase of Covid management, we will no longer require proof of vaccination or masking in our building. Masks are optional. We encourage everyone to be safe and considerate with each other in our numerous interactions. Thank you for your care and concern for each other during these past few years!



## Lent at Bethany

### Adult Education

*Practice Generosity* is the title of our Lenten Adult Ed this year. While English dictionaries define the term as, “a readiness to give more of something than is necessary or expected, that is, out of one’s abundance”, biblical teachings describe the practice as one rooted in justice and concerned with all of humanity’s needs. Generosity looks after the welfare of our neighbor’s mind, body, spirit, and life in community. Jesus’ ministry is a practice of generosity. With his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus gives both from the abundance of his divinity and within the limits of his humanity. The grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit not only propel but compel us as followers in our practice of generosity from both our abundance and our limits. More than money, the Bible offers many aspects of generosity. Four aspects we will explore are resources, wisdom, justice, and power. Generosity is not a kindness. It is an expectation. It is a practice of love in action for God and our neighbor. As his followers, we build on his tradition and continue his mission in our gratitude for God’s grace.

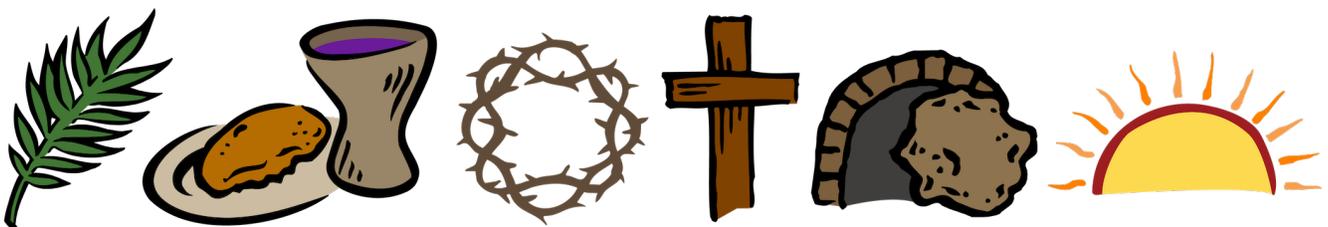


Please join us on Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm on the following dates:  
March 7, March 14, March 28  
**(Note: No class on Tuesday, March 21)**

Please call the church office, or contact Cathleen or Deb to reserve your book that we will use for the study!

### Looking ahead in Lent - save the dates!

March 31 - Good Friday | April 2 - Palm Sunday | April 9 - Easter Sunday



# Community Life

## 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 was sent from Bethany to our congregation. Included is an envelope for you to send your check directly to the Presbyterian Church USA. Since no portion of the OGHS offering remains with our church in San Bruno, we recommend you use the envelope provided to donate any offering you wish to provide no later than **March 31, 2023**. There are extra envelopes, along with an informational pamphlet, in the Narthex. Thank you!



## Game Night: Friday, March 17, 2023, 6:00 pm to 9:00

Come join in the fun at Bethany's Game Night on Friday, March 17, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.



What to Bring: Your favorite game(s), your favorite snack(s) to share, your friends

What Will be Provided: Sandwich makings,

drinks, dessert.

This will be a casual event but one that will be lots of fun, especially for those of you who are competitive! Hope to see you there!



## Spring Forward!

Don't forget to set your clocks - Daylight-Savings Time begins on March 12.

# Community Action

## News about our Partnership with Catholic Worker Hospitality House (CWHH) – San Bruno

We continue to collect various food items and other supplies for CWHH. A complete list of food and other needs is on the Catholic Worker Hospitality House website at

[www.catholicworkerhospitalityhouse.org](http://www.catholicworkerhospitalityhouse.org) If you have



donations, please place them in the CWHH basket in the Narthex, and we will ensure the items are delivered as soon as possible.

The Shelter needs blankets, throws, quilts, coats, jackets, and sweatshirts, either new or in good,

used condition.

Any donations can be brought to the church or can be picked up by calling the church or Lyn Hughes at (650) 867-0667.

## Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event or Similar Event

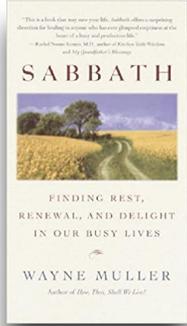
We are still looking into a meal-packing event to attend in the Bay Area or something similar. It costs quite a bit of money to host an event and you must have 40 volunteers ready to participate when you sign up.

Information about this type of event will be included in future Bethany Banner articles.



## Ruth Covenant Group

The Ruth Covenant Group will be meeting on Monday, March 13 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 have finished our book study of *A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community* by Adam Russell Taylor. It was a thought provoking and sometimes challenging study, and well worth the read. For our next



study, we will return to an old favorite, *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight* by Wayne Muller. Here is a description of the wisdom the book holds: "In today's world with its relentless emphasis on success and productivity, we have lost the necessary rhythm of life, the balance between work and rest. Constantly striving, we feel exhausted and deprived in the midst of great abundance. We long for time with friends and family, we long for a moment to ourselves...Now, in a book that can heal our harried

lives, Wayne Muller...shows us how to create a special time of rest, delight, and renewal - a refuge for our souls." Sound like something you'd like to pursue? Please join us! In addition to our discussion, there will be an opportunity for check-in, fellowship, and prayer. All are welcome to attend!

## Deacons Luncheon and Parish Gatherings

The Bethany Deacons will host a Spring Luncheon and Parish Gatherings on Sunday, March 19 in the sanctuary after worship. Please plan to stay and enjoy a lovely luncheon, followed by an opportunity to join together with others in your parish. The parish lists have been updated, and everyone is invited to gather to meet your deacon and share any concerns, questions, wants, and desires you have for the church. Parish lists will be available, and each deacon is tasked with making sure the information on the lists is correct and updated. Please plan to join in for a time of fellowship and connection. We look forward to spending some time with you!



## Monthly events at Bethany

Sundays: Worship at 10:00 am; coffee hour 11:00 am (rehearsals start 8:30 am)

Wednesdays: Rehearsals – Prayz 6:00 pm, Chancel Choir 7:30 pm; Prayer Time 6:30 pm

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

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday: Financial Trustees 4:30 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday: Session 7:00 pm

Buildings & Grounds, Community Action committees – as scheduled

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

**Submissions for the April newsletter:**  
Tuesday, March 28



9 - Roberta Henry  
13 - Linden Cady  
13 - Robyn Cox  
17 - Barbara Liedtke  
21 - Bethany Delander  
23 - Paulette Emfinger

25 - Monica Fontaine  
25 - Dave Marconi  
27 - Eddy Bray  
29 - Kelsy Parker  
30 - Cindy Marconi

### Happy Anniversary!

2 - David & Elizabeth Parker  
27 - John Lee & Evelyn Orr

### We remember these Saints of Bethany who were born in March

12 - Helen Liedtke  
12 - Donna Gartner

21 - Barbara DeLand  
27 - Clarene Broad

## Baby Shower For Ryan Hood and Bamboo Lin

On Saturday, February 19 at 1:30 pm, the sanctuary was filled with the sounds of laughter, love, and joy as many people came together to celebrate the pending birth of Ryan Hood and Bamboo Lin's baby boy. There were people from all different parts of their lives - family, work friends, play friends, Shelter Creek friends, Bethany friends - all there to offer support and advice to Ryan and Bamboo as they prepare to enter this next phase of their lives.

Many thanks are due to everyone who attended the shower and made the day a success. Also, many thanks to those whose efforts 'behind the scenes' helped create such a fun party: Lyn Hughes and Tamra Hollenbeck for organizing the event, setting up, and getting the games and prizes together; Donna Goodwin for the incredible Baby cookies and almond shortbread cookies (those didn't last long!!); Kathy Fogle for the delightfully decorated sugar cubes and the flower arranging expertise; and Chris Angeles for the delicious fruit salad and sandwich making help. Many thoughtful and helpful gifts were received, including two beautiful hand knit offerings from Carol from Shelter Creek and Berta Henry from Washington. There were a lot of oohs and aahs as those baby blankets and baby layettes were unwrapped! Thanks also to everyone who helped with the cleanup and getting the church back in order - Barbara Liedtke, Steve and David Cady, Dave and Roxane Wales, and others. The day was filled with good advice and many blessings, and those blessings will continue as we await the arrival of Ryson Lin Hood.



## February 21, 2023 Session Meeting

### 1. Clerk of Session

- A discussion was held regarding our current COVID requirements for attending worship and events at the church. The Session is grateful for the congregation's efforts in keeping everyone safe throughout the pandemic, and we are taking a new stance. The signs outside regarding vaccinations and masks will be taken down, and masks will be optional.
- Session meeting times. All present agreed that meeting at 4:30 pm works well.

### 2. Pastor's Report: Deb reported.

- Deb's vacation and study leave schedule for the remainder of the year is as follows:
  - April 19 - 25: Vacation and possibly the Westminster Woods Women's Weekend
  - May 15 - 22: Study leave; Festival of Homiletics
  - June 19 - 26: Study leave; Mercy Center Retreat
  - September 11 - 18: Vacation
  - November 27 - December 4: Vacation
  - December 25 - January 1: Vacation
- Deb has been helping Cathleen Torres, Administrative Assistant, get settled in, and things are going really well. Cathleen will be in the office on Tuesdays and Fridays, and working remotely M,W, and Th.

### 3. Financial Trustees. Lyn reported.

- Bids are being sought for the cleanup of the church grounds and replacement of the patio. Lyn is in charge of getting the bids.
- Deb's contract has been renewed. The Pastor Nominating Committee is working to get the paperwork for the MIF completed and in to the Committee on Ministry before their next meeting on March 2.
- The negotiations for the lease with the Sikh group have been completed and accepted.

### 4. Buildings and Grounds. Dave reported.

- The old shed has been brought back up the hill and will be taken to the dump. There are several items that need to be removed from Room 9 downstairs also, so Session agreed to hire a hauling service to take things out of Room 9, the old choir room, and the Sunday School supply room.
- New stove pilots. The stove does not have electronic starters. 5 of the pilot lights will be turned off, leaving only the ones closet to the island lit. The other pilots can be re-lit as needed.
- Church-wide clean up day will be on Saturday, March 25.

### 5. Community Action/Life and Outreach. Lyn reported.

- We continue to collect items for the shelter. They are requesting warm clothing items during this cold time of year and paper supplies.
- Game Night with Pizza and Cookies is being planned and the date will be announced soon.

### 6. Worship Committee. Pam reported.

- Good Friday and Easter services will be discussed at the next Worship Committee meeting on March 12.

## Financial Trustees

We are grateful for your ongoing support. Thank you for your faithfulness!

Updates on the following issues:

1. **Renewal of Pastor Deb McGuire's 2023 Annual Contract/Mission Study:** Each committee member provided draft information to Pam Matthews, Chair of the newly elected BPC Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Next steps are consolidating the information received from the committee members to finalize the document to PoSF. We are now working towards a submission date in March so the document can be reviewed at the March Presbytery meeting.
2. **Renewal of the Sikh Association Multi-Year Lease (February, 2023 – March, 2028):** Michael Glass, legal counsel for the Presbytery of San Francisco, provided a redlined lease for review which included updates from the Sikh Association as well as the Bethany Trustees. The Sikhs accepted the lease as written, and Mr. Glass was notified that the lease was ready to be finalized for signature. We expect to sign the lease the week of February 20, 2023. The lease provides for a five-year lease with an option to renew the lease for an additional five years. There are 3% rent increases year-over-year for the next 10 years. We feel very fortunate we came to a lease agreement continuation with our tenant and thanks to everyone for their efforts in the lease negotiations.
3. **Cleanup of the Bethany Church Grounds:** The Trustees brought a recommendation to Session on 10/18/22 for a one-time cleanup of the entire Bethany grounds. This recommendation was approved. The Trustees are in the process of requesting bids for this project.
4. **Bids Received and Action Taken:**
  - a. **Replacement or Repair of the Patio Outside the Church Building:** This project has been on hold, but will be re-addressed in mid-2023. Bids will be reviewed and/or updated so the work can be started on the patio in the summer.
5. **Removal of Old Equipment/Furniture at Bethany:** An effort is underway to remove various equipment, such as unusable old pianos in Room 9, and items in storage under the stairs that will not be used in the future. These are items that can't be donated so must be hauled away. George Lynch is heading this effort. If questions, please contact George at (650) 580-4123 or Lyn Hughes at (650) 867-0667.

Questions about the BPC budget or general Trustees questions? Contact

**Lyn Hughes** – Chair, Financial Trustees  
**Dave Wales** - Secretary  
**Bonnie Morgan** and **Roxane Wales** - Members at Large

Questions about our tenant, the Sikh Association? Contact

Financial Trustees - **Lyn Hughes, Dave Wales, Bonnie Morgan,** and **Roxane Wales**  
 Buildings and Grounds - **Dave Wales**



### January and Year-to-Date

\$11,374.75	Income	66.513%
(\$15,484.40)	Expense	(79.147%)
(\$4,109.65)	Difference	(12.634%)



### **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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