
April @ Bethany

Bethany Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor



Dear friends,

I have to be honest, as a pastor *and* a Giants fan, it was really tough for me to decide whether to lead with Christ is Risen, or Go Giants! The Giants' home opener is on Good Friday. What a thing to do to your emotions in one day – reflect on the worst day in Jesus' life followed by opening day baseball. It makes my brain spin to imagine that juxtaposition. I did not grow up a big baseball fan, nor did I grow up in the church. It just proves to me that God can turn one's life around in so many ways.

Easter (Christian), Passover (Jewish), Ramadan (Muslim), Vesak Day (Buddhist), Vaisakhi (Sikh) are all important spiritual celebrations that occur in April this year. It is not unusual for world religions and spiritual teachings to celebrate newness, new life, service, gratefulness, light over dark, that coincide with the earth's season of new birth. The butterflies, the chicks bursting from eggs, the transformation of the light over darkness that this rotation of the earth brings... these are all examples of the cycles of life that bring us joy.

Our faith however is not cyclical – our faith tells us that the love of God in Christ is available to us every day. The love God has for us is unimaginable. Un-imaginable because however great we think God's love is for us, it's even more. We have access to that love any day, no matter the calendar day or season. During those times when the world's darkness is large, remember that God's light will overcome it. During those times when our personal darkness threatens to overcome us, remember that God's love will overcome that too.

God has been working in the life of this beautiful Bethany church that we get to share. Every time we have been able to gather for a fun event or a work event, the spirit present in the laughter of games and puzzles, the

sneezing of the work dust, the taste of the glorious food, has been God's spirit lifting this community. May God bless the sustaining love and praise found in the voices and hearts that enter this place.

You are safe. You are loved. You are full of the grace of God. And Go Giants.

As always, let's talk.

Blessings,
Pastor Deb

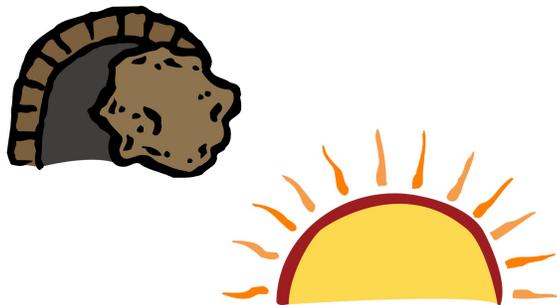
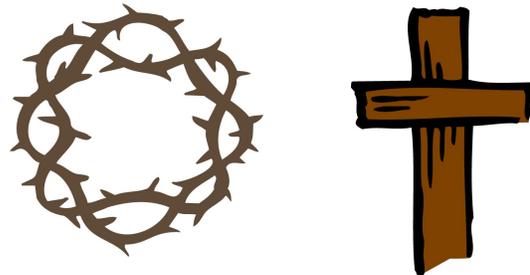


Easter Week at Bethany



Palm Sunday ushers in this most important week in the Christian church. The service on April 2 prefaces the experience of **Holy Week** by observing Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and then looking ahead to the Crucifixion.

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, April 9, YES! we will have our traditional **Easter Sunrise** service, beginning at 6:30 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!

Celebrate with our Sikh friends and neighbors

Help celebrate with our Sikh brothers and sisters on April 14 - Vaisakhi marks the first day of the month of Vaisakh and is traditionally celebrated annually celebration of spring harvest.

During this festival, Sikhs hold kirtans, visit local Gurdwaras (that's downstairs), community fairs, hold nagar kirtan processions, raise the Nishan Sahib flag, and gather to socialize and share festive foods. Check out the full write-up on Deb's door.



Community Life

Game Night

On March 17, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a wonderful dinner and game night. There were 17 people in attendance and the church was filled with lots of noise as those "winning" their game shouted out their joy and those not winning, sighed at their loss.



Thanks to everyone to came out to this fun evening, and a special thanks to Jean Edge for all her help in the clean-up/tear down efforts. You are the best Jean!



Next events

Movie Night – April or May

Barbecue - June or July

Look for dates and more information in future newsletters regarding these events!

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!



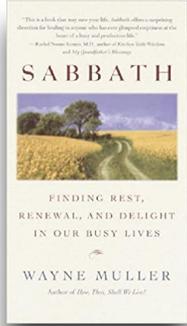
Community Action



- Discussion is underway for a possible "Bethany" day at Second Harvest
- Contact with San Bruno schools to find out what assistance is needed
- Continued communication with Peter Stiehler at Catholic Worker Hospitality House for needs they may have at their facilities

Ruth Covenant Group

The Ruth Covenant Group will be meeting on Monday, April 10th 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 are reading from the book *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives* by Wayne Muller. We will focus on the chapter entitled "Rest," reading pages 17-39. In addition to very gentle



prose, the author includes exercises that can be practiced by anyone, helping to bring sabbath moments into our daily lives. Sound like something you might be interested in? 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 hosted a Spring Luncheon and Parish Gatherings on Sunday, March 19 in the sanctuary after worship. It was a wonderful event, and it was a real joy watching everyone sharing stories and being in community. Thank you to everyone who participated and joined in the parish discussions, sharing your ideas, both aspirational and practical! The parish lists were shared and updates/corrections made. Copies of the updated lists will be available soon. Thanks to Cathleen Torres, Administrative Assistant, for attending worship and for all her support in preparing documents for the meetings. Please let your deacon know if you have any needs or requests we can help you with! With much love in Christ, Your Deacons
Kathy Fogle - Parish 1; Tamra Hollenbeck - Parish 2; Roxane Wales - Parish 3



Monthly events at Bethany

Sundays: Worship at 10:00 am
Coffee Hour 11:00 am
(rehearsals start 8:30 am)
Wednesdays: Prayz 6:00 pm
Chancel Choir 7:30 pm
Prayer Group 6:30 pm

1st Sunday: Communion at Worship Service
2nd Sunday: Worship Committee 11:00 am
2nd Monday: Ruth Covenant Group 6:30 pm
3rd Sunday: Deacons Meeting 11:30 am
3rd Monday: Financial Trustees 4:30 pm
3rd Tuesday: Session 4:30 pm
Buildings & Grounds, Community Action committees – as scheduled

Submissions for W@B: Tuesday mornings.
Submissions for the May newsletter:
Tuesday, April 18



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

March 21, 2023 - Session Meeting Highlights

Clerk of Session Report by Roxane:

After attending a community meeting, Tamra submitted an update on the new SummerHill Homes project. The development planned for the former Crestmoor High School site will provide 155 (4 BR, 2.5 or 3 BA) homes, 24 homes will be designated for low or moderate income families, 2 community parks, and 20 acres of open space. Additional meetings seeking San Bruno citizen's input will take place beginning in early April.

Pastor's Report by Rev. Deb McGuire:

Working with Cathleen Torres, BPC's new Administrative Assistant, is progressing smoothly. Planning Easter liturgies, pastoral care, Committee on Ministry work.

Financial Trustees Report by Lyn Hughes:

Working on securing bids for grounds-work to be done. Discussion about Room 9 and getting it ready to use for outside groups meetings. Efficient and mindful ways of eliminating unneeded furniture, pianos and supplies.

Buildings and Grounds Report by Dave Wales:

Detailed discussion about BPC ecological sustainability. It was agreed that we need to do all we can to make BPC eco-friendly and Dave has been researching adding a solar array to BPC. Probable costs will be brought to Trustees before approving.

Community Action/Life & Outreach Report by Lyn Hughes:

Game Night was LOL fun!
Other activities being planned - Movie Night, summer BBQ.
Lyn has been researching an event to help the world hunger problem.
Discussion about joining with the Sikh Association for some sort of event/celebration.

Personnel Report by George Lynch:

Secured Pulpit Supply for May 21 - Rev. John Chamberlin.

Worship Report by Pam Mathews:

On Good Friday, BPC will be open 12:00 Noon - 3:00 PM with three Prayer Stations set up. Detailed discussion about working the sound board and microphones. George will check on the availability of the hearing devices.

Next Session Meeting - April 18, 2023 @ 4:30 PM.

Financial Trustees

February

\$12359.00	Income
(\$16524.92)	Expense
\$4165.92	Difference

Year-to-Date

\$34,203.32	Income	63.390%
(\$39,128.3)	Expense	(81.806%)
\$4,924.98	Difference	12.416%

Financial Items:

- Continued contact with our tenant, the Sikh Association, on various items as we transition to our new 5-year lease
- Grounds Clean-Up - work continues on finding a vendor for our grounds clean-up and possible ongoing grounds maintenance
- Room 9 clean-up/removal of various large items in anticipation of use of the room for evening meetings; also discussion about new window treatments in this room
- Discussion regarding kitchen updates, ew cabinets, and island replacement/update
 - Patio repair - still on hold until early summer
 - Filed County of San Mateo Office of the Assessor 2023 Business Property form online

Note: Some quarterly pledges are scheduled for deposit in March 2023 which should assist our budget numbers. Thanks to everyone who faithfully provides their financial support each and every month!



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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Bethany is a member of More Light Presbyterians
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