
May @ Bethany

Bethany Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor



Hello friends,

As we continue to celebrate Eastertide in the month of May, we enjoy the glory of all of the Alleluia's, and imagine the hope of the world resting on the *new believers* in those days. Or should I call them the newly *astonished*. I wonder if they were sure what it was they believed, or if they just knew that they were astonished.

There's a difference between knowing something will happen, describing it, and actually witnessing it. Think of the waves that crash on the shore during the King Tides we experience here on the coast. We understand the science, how water moves, and why the crash of waves along the rocky coast happens. We know that it will be amazing. We believe that it will happen. But to actually experience the power of water and the beauty and force of the

giant splash is astounding.

Many of the gospel writers end their writing with accounts of Jesus' resurrection and maybe advice to their disciples. But it is the Book of Acts that recounts some of the Church's early history. The Book of Acts is not a history book, but it is an account, written in a certain style, that was written after the first generation of believers. "A passing remark from the German New Testament scholar Ernst Kasemann... 'You do not write the history of the Church, if you are expecting the end of the world to come any day.'" (Skinner, Matthew, Interpretation Bible Commentary series, Acts, 2025, p.8)

The author of the book of Acts seeks to help the Church come to terms with the fact that if the end times are not imminent, the Church will need to know where it has come from and what some of the early events were. Having just been astounded by the reality of Jesus' death and resurrection, what did those early believers do next? We have just finished celebrating the resurrection of Jesus and may be asking "what next?" We will be looking at the book of Acts for the month of May in order to explore along with the early believers what it means to live in a time of not yet. Where is the kingdom of God? What will the kingdom of God look like? Are there piece of the kingdom of God all around us? What do you think?

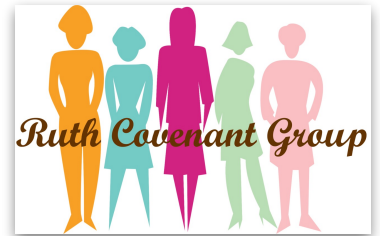


The month of May comes with more Springtime beauty, flowers, sunshine, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, weddings and anniversaries, new birth – all that the resurrection means to us in all aspects of our lives. May you be astounded.

Blessings,
Pastor Deb

Community Life

The Bethany Ruth Covenant Group will meet on Monday, May 12th 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 the daily reflections for Week 2, pages 47 - 57. Please read and make note of the ideas that resonate with you and come prepared to share those ideas. We plan to share those reflections at the beginning of the meeting, followed by 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. Easter blessings to everyone!

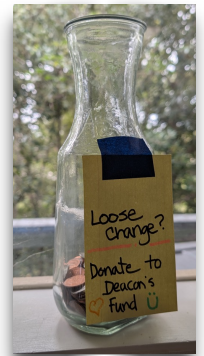


Campership Support for Westminster Woods Summer Camps

Bethany has sent \$3400 in scholarship assistance to Westminster Woods as a way to offer support for children who might not otherwise be able to attend camp. The camperships were taken from two Memorial Accounts, one from Orville Wycoff's fund and one from Bill Quickert's fund. Both of these men and their families would have wanted these funds to be utilized in this way, and we are very grateful to continue their legacies of support for people in financial need.

Least Coin Bottle

In years gone by, Bethany always had a glass milk bottle set out on the back table to collect the small change in their pockets. The money used to be donated to the Least Coin Offering of the Presbyterian Women. Because Bethany no longer has an affiliation with Presbyterian Women, we thought the least coin bottle could be used to collect funds for the Bethany Deacons. So, if you find your pockets or purse loaded down with extra coins, maybe you'll consider lightening your load! The Deacons will thank you!



Community Action



We continued to have a good response for needs at the Shelter in April. Thanks to all who responded to the Shelter's needs. Ongoing donations to Catholic Worker Hospitality House can be brought to Bethany Church or call Lyn Hughes at 650-867-0667 for pickup.

Peace and Global Witness Offering

The Peace and Global Witness offering is collected each year to help promote peace in the world. One-fourth of the offering remains with the local church, and this year's offering provided \$208 to be used as Bethany decided. After some deliberation, Bethany's Leadership Team, formerly Bethany Session, voted to send the funds to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program to help with assisting people after the huge fires in Southern California. Many thanks to the congregation for their generosity.



Worship Updates

Good Friday

On Good Friday, Bethany opened the doors of the sanctuary from 12-3 pm. Several stations were set up around the room with activities for prayer and reflection. The congregation was welcomed to come for a time of personal reflection and quiet, pondering the story of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Many thanks to Rev. Deb, Cathleen Torres, Roxane Wales, and Roberta Franchini for preparing the sanctuary and stations, and thanks to Rev. Deb and Elaine Tennant for removing the stations and liturgical art in preparation for the Easter Sunday services.

Easter

Easter was celebrated on Sunday, April 20th, starting at the crack of dawn with an Easter Sunrise Service at 6:15 am. Even though a cloud cover prevented us seeing the actual sunrise, the sky lightened as we

gathered to sing, celebrate, and hear the Easter story. Following the early morning service, everyone joined in for coffee, hot cocoa, fruit, sweet sticky rolls, and other treats. On the way home from the service, Tamra's grandson Kenny stated, "I liked that story, Gramma." That was pretty cool!!

The 10:00 am service was joy filled as several young families joined us for worship. Rev. Deb invited all the youngsters up to the communion table to ponder the reason why butterflies are a great symbol of Easter. It was a tender and sweet time with many really great responses and a lot of big smiles from the congregation! There was wonderful music from Chancel Choir and Prayz, with a good variety including the organ and tone chimes! The feeling was very celebratory and light! Thanks to everyone who attended worship and added to the jubilation! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!!



Worship Plans

The Season of Easter began on Easter morning and continues through June 8. Rev. McGuire plans to use the Book of Acts as inspiration for her sermons, leading up to Pentecost. Between now and then, these are some of the special worship events:

May 4 - Communion Sunday - May the 4th be with you!

May 11 - Mother's Day

May 18 - Faith and Housing Weekend - focus on housing in San Mateo County

May 25 - Memorial Day Weekend

June Pride Month - There will be a focus on inclusion and welcome of all God's children.

June 1 - Choir's last Sunday before the summer season. The choir will fill all four music slots and be lifted up with thanksgiving for their weekly offerings.

June 8 - Pentecost - Please plan to join us as we celebrate the story of the Holy Spirit filling up God's people and spreading throughout the land.

June 15 - Father's Day

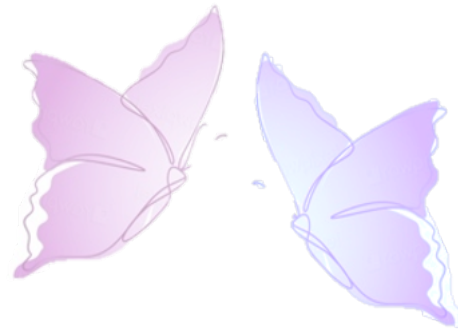
Bethany Spring Tea

Bethany Presbyterian Church is hosting a Spring Tea on Saturday, May 17th 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.

Tea tickets are \$25 and will be available for sale beginning April 27 after worship. Jorie Abbott will be selling tickets on April 27, May 4, and May 11. Tickets can also be requested by calling the church office at 650-589-3711. Please request tickets by Wednesday, May 14, so plans for set-up and food preparation can be finalized.

There will be a basket raffle to raise funds for the Stanford's Children's Hospital. Raffle tickets are \$5 apiece or 3 for \$10. The baskets will be a variety of themes, and hopefully one will tickle your fancy! Chris Angeles will offer a sign-up for a home baked Loaf of Bread a Month.

There are other special treats awaiting tea participants, and flyers regarding the event details will be available for you to take and distribute. We encourage you to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to attend, and if you have any questions regarding the event, please contact the church office or call Tamra Hollenbeck - 650-430-5749.



May BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| 5 - Steve Cady | 13 - George Lynch |
| 7 - Ryan Hood | 22 - Ronan Nicolosi |
| 8 - David Cady | 24 - Dave Wales |
| 9 - Walt Bird | 30 - Norma (Skip) Quickert |

Anniversaries

- 27 - Corey and Janine Valine
30 - Frank and Donna Goodwin

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 June newsletter:

Tuesday, May 20, 10:00 am

1st Sunday: Communion at Worship Service

2nd Monday: Ruth Covenant Group 6:30 pm

3rd Monday: Financial Trustees 5:30 pm

Buildings & Grounds,
Community Action committees
– As scheduled

Worship Committee - As scheduled

Worship Thanks

Lent and Good Friday

Lent is now behind us as the Season of Easter stretches forth through Pentecost. Many thanks are due to everyone who helped make Lent, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter such heartfelt and meaningful times.

Roxane Wales, our own Chancel Empress - Thanks you for the excellent work making the sanctuary reflect this time of the Christian calendar, including the changing of the colors for Good Friday, and the quick thinking for the preparation for Easter. We are so grateful your mom is already recovering from her fall, and we are also grateful for the faithful team of supporters who took over the changing of the liturgical art for Easter morning! Roxane also has taken over the working of the sound board during worship to help keep the sound balanced.

Dave Wales, B&G chair extraordinaire - Thanks for organizing the spring work day and encouraging everyone to chose a task that spoke to them! And thank you for jumping in to change out the Lenten art for the glorious Easter season!

Bonnie Morgan - Thanks for volunteering to help Dave and Roxane by stepping forward when word went out about Roxane's mom. The sanctuary looked so beautiful when the sun rose that early Easter morning!

Cathleen Torres, Office Administrator - Thank you for ordering the palm branches for Palm Sunday, and for providing the Sunday Bulletins and worship guides in such a timely and professional fashion. We appreciate you!!

Rev. Deb McGuire - Thank you for the thoughtful and thought provoking sermons and opportunities for study, reflection, and joy throughout the season. You are a treasure, Deb.

Jessica Reddell Popovich, Director of Music - Thank you for your enthusiasm, encouragement, and dedication to finding music that fits our small choir, provides just the right amount of challenge to the singers, and produces a very satisfying result for the choir and the congregation. You are such a gifted pianist and your work of finding varied music and arrangements for us is really appreciated!

Chancel Choir and Prayz Band members - Thank you, Lyn Hughes, George Lynch, Craig Bray, Dave Wales, Bonnie Morgan, and Tamra Hollenbeck, for your efforts to bring good music and an energized spirit to worship each week. Music is one of Bethany's hallmarks, and your participation makes it happen week after week!

George Lynch - George wears so many hats on Sunday mornings that, when he isn't there (which is rare!), it is really evident how much he handles! Thanks for being the Bethany Guy Friday every Sunday, George. What would we do without you?

Craig Bray - Thank you for being the Lay Reader whenever called upon, and especially on Easter Sunday. The Easter story is such a powerful part of our church history, and when read by Craig, it takes on an urgency and power that is electric and felt throughout the room! Thanks also for being the elf behind the rising and falling sanctuary stars!

I'm sure there are more thank yous that I'm forgetting. Every single person in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings is a blessed part of the fabric of Bethany's life. Thanks to all of you for being a part of *this* part of the Body of Christ! He is risen! He is risen indeed!!



Leadership Meeting Highlights - April 8, 2025

Pastor Report (Deb)

- Tuesday 3 pm Bible Study is awesome and may continue beyond Easter.
- Discussion about changing May Session meeting date. Agreed to no Session in May and meet next on June 10, 2025.
- After discussion - Pride Flag will be raised for all of June. Tamra will obtain a new flag.
- Ad in the Daily Journal announcing Bethany Easter week services have been placed and will appear 4 days the week before Easter.
- Thank you for funding Pastor Study Leave. Currently taking 8 wk class about community discernment and will attend Mercy Center Silent Retreat August 11-18.
- Thank you, Tamra for procuring liturgists.

Financial Trustees (Lyn)

- We are in need of more check signers and it is agreed Tamra, George, Roxane will be authorized through Wells Fargo Bank. Appointment will be set up by Lyn.
- Lyn is in the process of finding more Sunday donation counters.

Community Action (Lyn)

- Large amounts of Shelter donations have been transported to the Catholic Worker Hospitality House. Thanks everyone!
- We might have a Shelter Drive after Lent/Easter.

Community Life (Roxane)

- Spring Tea May 17. Planning meeting will be April 10. Tea will be in honor Bev Bristow and Paulette Emfinger with proceeds to Stanford Children's Hospital.
- Movie Night and Puzzle Night will be planned.

Worship (Tamra)

- Discussion about Deb's preaching schedule. Session trusts her to follow her inspiration. Hymn choices reviewed.

Personnel (George)

- Don Mulford will preach when Deb is away August 17.
- Cathleen Torres will be away June 16-27. Roxane will contact Cathleen about assisting with voice & emails.

Other Business

- Loose Change Jar collections on Coffee Time table will be donated to Deacons Fund

Next meeting- Tuesday, June 10, 2025 @ 4:30 PM @ Hollenbeck home.

Financial Trustees

Financial Issues:

- March financial reporting not available at time of reporting and will be included in a future newsletter.
- 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 continues to find 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
- In progress: Kitchen update, cleanup, and clean out
- In progress: On-line giving opportunities; Pastor Deb continues to work on this issue
- Patio repair: On hold for now
- Upper roof repair: On hold for now

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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