



## Pastor's Reflection

**Cha-cha-cha-changes...** I feel like that's been our refrain for the past 61 weeks. With constant shifting advice and news about how to best and most safely engage in our world in the midst of a global pandemic. Do you remember the early pandemic days with the lines at the grocery store and the hoarding of toilet paper? When finding masks was complicated and new. Now, we seem to have realized toilet paper isn't something we need to hold in bulk, you can buy masks everywhere and, in every style, and now San Francisco is moving into the yellow tier which means more things are opening up.

As we've all been busy navigating ALL of that, I've also been tasked with making sure that when and how we do church is safe, and now it's time to begin to think about what returning to some form of in person worship looks like. I want to warn you all, it's not going to look the same as it did pre-pandemic. Singing guidelines still make it a pretty dangerous activity especially indoors. We're still not advised to share communion in the way we are used to. No fellowship just quite yet. But, for those who were with us on Easter, we do know that we can be together and we can be together safely even in this new way and new form.

Our worship committee is busy preparing a plan for re-opening our church to in person activity, and soon (within the next week) you'll all be receiving an assessment that will help guide our decisions. We will take all information under advisement, but it probably won't make everyone happy, and I hope if that's the case you can offer us all grace, and roll with the changes and the missteps and the trial and errors that will inevitably find us.

What I also know is that when we do return in person we will most likely start outside on our patio space like we did for Easter. There are many reasons for this. First, the science tells us that being outside is the safest place we can be, and the risk of any transmission is very small when we are outside. As your pastor, I want to keep all of us safe. One of the 3 simple rules of the Methodist tradition is to do no harm. Being outside to begin is a way that I see that I can offer to have us join together in our beloved community, while also doing no harm.

My second reason for starting outside is for admittedly personal reasons. Even though I am fully vaccinated, I receive immunosuppressant drugs via infusion every six weeks for my Crohn's disease. There isn't great data yet to know how the vaccine will help support and protect those of us with compromised immune systems, therefore I feel safest outside. In addition to my own health concerns, my son has a chronic kidney disease. He cannot wait to go back to church and so again being outside is just the safest for all of us with more fragile immune systems.

Being your pastor in this season has been a wild ride, and it is not yet over, in fact it will just continue to evolve and change. I thank you all for being with us on the ride, for your faithfulness in remaining connected and in service to our church and community, and I so look forward to seeing your faces.



*Be Bless, Rev. Sadie Stone*

### In This Issue

- Pentecost—the Basics
- Habitat for Humanity, day of service
- Making our Dreams Come True
- Bible Study Group
- Pride Planning
- Budget Update
- Volunteer Opportunities

## Pentecost Sunday—the Basics



Pentecost Sunday is coming up on May 23rd. Pentecost is celebrated on the 50th day (the seventh Sunday) from Easter Sunday, and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, and is observed as the birth of the early Christian Church.

### **Acts 2:1-4 reads:**

*"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."*

Ministers and congregations often wear red vestments and clothing in celebration as well. Celebrations may depict symbols of the Holy Spirit such as dove or flames. Red flowering plants, such as geraniums, at the altar and around the church are also typical decorations.

These symbolize the renewal of life, the coming of the warmth of summer, and the growth of the church at and from the first Pentecost.

***Wear your red on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd!***



# Habitat for Humanity — Day of Service, May 1, 2021

Bethany participated in **Habitat for Humanity's "All Faith Build 2021"** on May 1st. Our Bethany Team helped with a construction build at a Daly City location.



Thank you Shannon Horton for coordinating and participating! Other participants included Joel Creager, John Nelson, Cathy Personius, Julie Freeman, Lyra Hall, and Rev. Sadie Stone. **Thank you all for the hard work and representing Bethany! Great Job!**



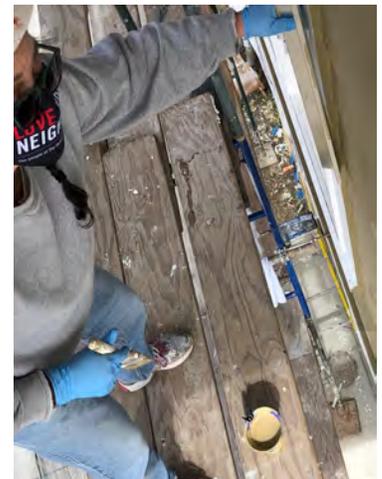
Some quotes from participants:

**Shannon:** *"It was an incredible day working with such an amazing organization. I look forward to our continued partnership and getting out there again!"*

**John:** *"Working with Habitat for Humanity was a very rewarding experience that offered in a small way the ability to help other people who don't have a decent place to live. It was so gratifying and put a human face to the project by working alongside people who actually were going to live at Geneva Village. I appreciate Habitat's vision which is in line with my values that decent housing is a basic Human right!"*

**Cathy:** *"I have a new appreciation for construction workers--their stamina and attention to detail is inspiring. I felt very unsure of my ability at first, but the staff was very supportive and encouraging."*

**Julie:** *"Our day working for Habitat was hard work, but it was rewarding. The staff was well organized, helpful & offered frequent "thank you's." I had the opportunity to meet a woman who will move in to a finished condo with her husband and four children. Talking to her put a human face on why we gave up our Saturday with paint brushes, hammers & caulk guns."*



## Ministries for the Homeless

We continued our ministries to the homeless with 100 bagged lunches prepared and distributed on May 9th. We also collected socks for distribution.



## Making our Dreams Come True

By Julie Freeman, Covenant Council Chair

Over the last few months, members of the Bethany family—at our February planning retreat, during Fellowship time, at Covenant Council meetings -- have done some dreaming about what we should do to strengthen Bethany's ministry. It's not surprising that we have a number of great ideas. Our challenge is that our small—but mighty—family is already busy planning online worship, feeding the homeless, connecting with our neighbors and engaging in social justice. And even though COVID restrictions are lifting, we still don't know what we can do comfortably in the next few months.

We do have one great opportunity. Sanchez is now a slow street, and that may become permanent. That means more people walking by the church building, noticing what we are doing and reading our signs, maybe even talking to some members. For that reason, the Covenant Council has endorsed the idea of including the entire neighborhood in strengthening Bethany's mission. We would like to become a neighborhood church.

What does that mean? Some ideas include involving community members in preparing lunches for the homeless or filling our food barrels. We could plan some events outside the church building to start conversations about our social justice work, support of immigrants, and our faith community. At the same time, we don't want to neglect our members who must spend their time in their homes. We want to reach out to isolated members to keep the connections going.

Next steps? Because many of these ideas could be taken up by the Nurture/Outreach committee, they will meet to decide what is feasible for 2021. They may reach out to Bethany members for help. And if you are interested in working to get neighborhood members involved in Bethany's work, but you haven't raised your hand yet, just get in touch with Shannon Horton or Cathy Personius. We won't be able to make all our dreams come true in 2021, but we can start, And 2022 will be here before we know it!



## Easter Offerings — Thank You!

This year our Easter offering had two beneficiaries — the San Francisco Food Bank, and a fund to support Immigrants and Asylum seekers to our country. **We raised \$1,352 to support these causes!** Thank you for your generosity.



## Bible Study Small Group on Zoom *Starting Soon!*



We are organizing a **daytime Bible Study small group on Zoom**. The group will meet weekly and discuss the liturgy for the following Sunday church service. Discussions might center on how that scripture speaks to the present, and/or to us personally. The sessions will be "leaderless" and informal and open to all. The suggested meeting time is Tuesdays at 2 pm for an hour. Please contact Marilyn Herand ([mherand@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mherand@sbcglobal.net)) if you are interested.

## Planning for Pride 2021 at Bethany in June

**Planning for Pride 2021 at Bethany** is well underway.

While we're still living in strange and transitional times with COVID-19, we are planning some activities for Pride this year.



### Notably in the works:

- Thursday, June 17th, 7-8 pm — Zoom LGBTQ Trivia Game Night, with prizes!
- Sunday, June 27th, Noon-3 pm — Pride Sidewalk Station in collaboration with SlowSanchez — including, Bubble Making, Chalk Art, some Kids Games (e.g., Stepping Stones for hopping), and some Giveaways
- Wednesday, June 30th — Drag Night on the open patio with performers & music
- Date TBD — Booking reading by Rev. Tyler Sit — pastor and church planter of New City Church in Minneapolis ([grownewcity.church](http://grownewcity.church)), and author of book *Staying Awake — the Gospel for Changemakers*
- Stay tuned! Please contact Steve Werek ([stevewerek@gmail.com](mailto:stevewerek@gmail.com)) if you'd like to help out and/or have other ideas for Pride.

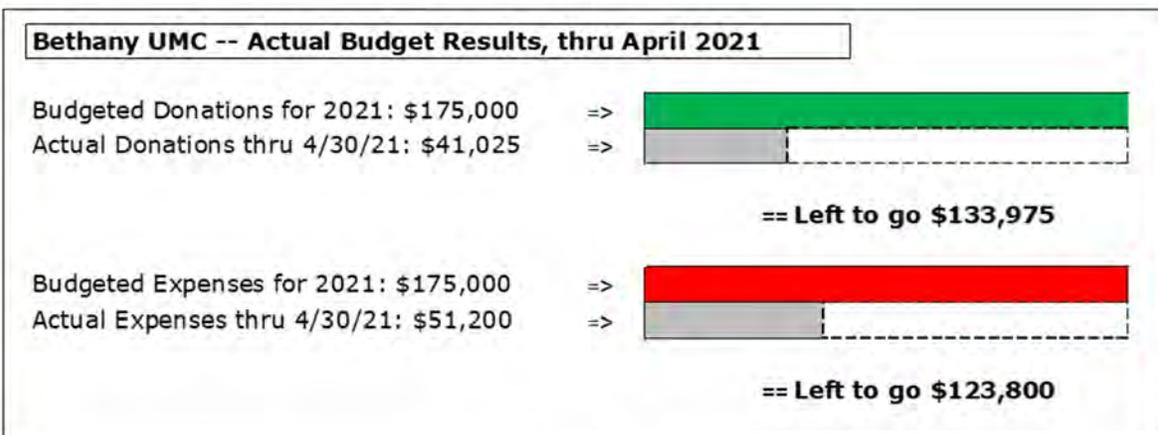
# Budget Update

## by Steve Wereb

The charts below give a picture of our Church Operating Budget for 2021. We have Budgeted Donations and Expenses of \$175,000. Pledges and timely donations are critical for us to operate the church. About 72% of our expenses are for our Staff, 16% is for our Conference Tithe (which is calculated as 10% of our donations and rental income), and 12% of expenses are for a variety of costs (including our Worship Service, our Programs, and Office Expenses). Our Tithe supports the greater United Methodist Church and is important for our standing in the denomination. The rental income from our building funds utility costs and repairs & maintenance costs, and is managed by the Trustees.

**Through April this year, our total donations have been \$41,025 and our expenses have been \$51,200 for a deficit of -\$10,175. We're running a little bit behind on collections this year. Remaining collections for the year need to be \$133,975 to meet our budget. Your support for our staff and mission is greatly appreciated.**

Kind regards, Steve Wereb, Treasurer



### Annual Budget



# Get Connected for Volunteer Opportunities



**Feed the Homeless:** About every 4-8 weeks we assemble 100 Bagged Lunches to distribute to the homeless. You can help by:

**Contributing food:**

- 100 sandwiches (meat/cheese preferred but PB&J ok) - please sign up in increments of 25 sandwiches.
- 100 individual bags of chips.
- 100 water bottles and/or juice pouches/boxes.
- 100 soft fruit pieces (bananas or oranges - suggest 2 or 3 per bag if small oranges/tangerines; applesauce ok as well).
- 100 individual dessert items.

**Help assemble food into lunch bags at the church. Help distribute to the homeless in the city.** Contact person is Shannon Horton. Future dates for donations and assembly are the following Sundays at 1pm: July 11th, September 12th, November 14th.

## Join our Food Bank Team:

We would like to organize a team of people to volunteer at the Food Bank. You can help by:

- Volunteers are needed to pick up food bags and deliver them to individual households. These volunteer shifts are for 2-3 hours on weekday mornings and afternoons. Delivery could be done individually or could be arranged in pairs. In one car, one person would use the Food Bank smart phone app to map out the routes while the other person drives.
- Volunteers are needed at pop-up Food Banks or to package food. There are shifts weekday and Saturday mornings and afternoons (2-3 hours) to work at outdoor pop-up Food Banks or to package food in the warehouse on Illinois St. With some planning ahead of time, we would sign up as a team.
- Contact person is Cathy Personius



**Contribute to Monthly Sock Drive:** We are beginning a monthly sock drive to benefit the homeless. You can help by:

- Donating new socks (preferably white). Sock drop-off days will be scheduled at the church. Contact person is Bob Armstrong.

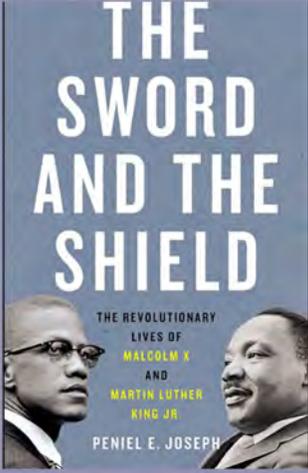
**Interested in any of these opportunities? Contact us at: [bethanysf.org/contact](http://bethanysf.org/contact)**

# VOLUNTEER



## Get Connected for Personal Growth

REFLECT.  
RESPOND.  
PRAY.



**New Book Study:**  
**The Sword and the Shield: The  
 Revolutionary Lives of Malcolm X and  
 Martin Luther King Jr.**  
**By: Peniel E. Joseph**

**Tuesdays @ 7pm**  
**Thru May 11th**

## Sermon series continues ... "Dare to Dance Again"

**Bethany United  
Methodist Church**

*Dare to Dance Again*

**Dances of hope.  
Dances of justice.  
Dances of love.**

**April 11 - May 23**



### Contact Us

If you have articles, photos or announcements that you would like to share, please contact us!

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Visit us on the web at [www.bethanysf.org](http://www.bethanysf.org)

### May Birthdays



2: Camille Personius

4: Steve Wereb

6: Lisa Schaller

8: Eli & Emerson Stone

9: Manny Anes

13: Donna Calame

14: Mike Hamburg

14: Tom Kroner

19: Jeannette LaFors

23: Carole Noonan &

Gloria Soliz

29: Lukas Liawidjaja