

CROSSROADS



Bethany United Methodist Church Newsletter

January-February, 2016

Note from the Pastor

As we journey through this season of Lent, some will choose to give up something. Some will go about their lives as if it was ordinary time. Some will choose to be more reflective. Some will take something on. Whatever your practices this season, will you join this photo-a-day challenge and share with the community how you perceive each word of the day? No explanation needed. After all, a picture is worth a thousand words. Tag us on your instagram photos with [@rethinkchurch](#) or on twitter [[@umrethinkchurch](#)] with [#rethinkchurch](#) or [#rethinkphoto](#).

You don't have to be a great photographer. This project is more about the practice of paying attention and being intentional, than it is using the right filter or getting the perfect shot [though we totally encourage you to get creative!]. If you don't have instagram or twitter, we'd still love for you to share your photos. Just share them on your facebook page and tag us, or post them on our facebook wall. You can also post them to the Bethany UMC Facebook page. .

Let's start this 40-day journey together, sharing glimpses of our lives with one another. Let this be an intentional time, even for a few minutes a day, to pause, remember and reflect.

(<http://www.rethinkchurch.org/articles/spirituality/2016-lenten-photo-a-day-practice>)



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LENT photo-a-day

<i>february</i>	<i>march</i>	
10 gather	1 witness	21 thanks
11 voice	2 found	22 steadfast
12 look	3 power	23 rejected
13 injustice	4 help	24 need
14 celebrate	5 endure	25 path
15 settle	6 celebrate	26 enter
16 go	7 spirit	27 celebrate
17 mighty	8 silence	
18 refuge	9 faithful	
19 love	10 surround	
20 live	11 world	
21 celebrate	12 listen	
22 vision	13 celebrate	
23 covenant	14 path	
24 shelter	15 remember	
25 joy	16 people	
26 see	17 restore	
27 heal	18 beloved	
28 celebrate	19 have	
29 thirst	20 celebrate	

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HOLY WEEK AT BETHANY

*Maundy Thursday Service with Soup Dinner
Thursday March 24th @ 7:00pm*



Good Friday Service Friday March 25th @ 7pm



Sunrise Easter Service 7am



Pancake Breakfast to follow



Easter Celebration 10:45am



Ash Wednesday in the Mission

On Ash Wednesday Rev. Jeanelle Ablola and I stood on the corner of 24th and Mission to distribute Ashes to those we passed on the streets. This is a practice I've done for the last 3 years, and as Jeanelle and I stood there in our clergy collars, with our signs, we talked about how difficult Ash Wednesday is to "sell" to folks who aren't part of the tradition. Weird looks, confusion, questions asking what it is we're doing with our bowl of ashes, and we try to explain this season in our tradition. Reflection, repentance, the reminder of our mortality, "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

Lent takes on a very different tone than our Advent and Christmas celebrations, but there's a space and a need to take these 6 weeks of Lent and do this work. To focus inward, to focus on the areas where we need to grow, areas we need to change, ways we need to realign ourselves to God, so that we can do the work that Jesus calls us to do.

Sister Joan Chittister writes, "Lent is a call to weep for what we could have been and are not. Lent is the grace to grieve for what we should have done and did not. Lent is the opportunity to change what we ought to change but have not. Lent is not about penance. Lent is about becoming, doing and changing whatever it is that is blocking the fullness of life in us right now. Lent is a summons to live anew."

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-Sister Joan Chittister

My hope and prayer for Bethany is that during our 6 weeks of Lent we'll journey together looking at the things in our lives we need to Give Up, so that we can be energized, renewed, and focused for the work ahead. Together let's Give Up, Trust God, Gain more.

*Blessings,
Pastor Sadie*

**Tuesday
Taizé Service
During Lent at
7pm**



Lent is a season of introspection and reflection in the six weeks leading up to Easter. Our Tuesday Taizé services during the Lenten season offer a chance to worship in new ways. Join us on Tuesdays starting February 16th, Feb. 23rd, March 8th, and ending on March 15th at 7pm in the Bethany UMC Sanctuary.

Taizé is a monastic community located in Taizé, France. A Taizé worship service involves sung and chanted prayers, meditation, a period of silence, liturgical readings, and sometimes prayer stations. There is no preaching. The prayers consist of "short chants, sung and repeated again and again."

Lenten Sermon Series

What are you Giving Up this Lent?

Lent is the Season of 40 days before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Traditionally, Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

This season during Lent at Bethany UMC we're going to examine and focus on some of the things we need to "Give Up" in our lives. Each week reflecting on a new topic; inadequacy, distractions, certainty, labels & stereotypes, and negative personal narratives.



Join us in this season of self-examination and preparation as we Give Up, Trust God, & Gain More than we ever thought possible.



December Bell Appeal Concert

Bethany Pays All of Its Tithe

Bethany UMC in 2015 paid all of what it owed for tithe — \$22,200. It was the first time since 2002 that the church was able to pay 100% of what it owed to the larger, general UMC. In the intervening years, the percentage varied from a low of 3% in 2004 to a high of 76% in 2013.

A tithe is a faith term going back to Old Testament days — that we owe back to God at least 10% of what God has given us, which is everything. Often, as perhaps even happens in our own families, we give to the church after we pay for everything else — necessities as well as luxuries. For a church, that can mean that everything from a pastor's salary to electricity and water are considered as coming first (there really were no luxuries for Bethany). In 2014 Bethany decided it would regard a tithe payment to be on par with any other bill — pay half of what was owed each month, at the very least. We came close in 2014, and made it completely in 2015.

The sources of our tithe payment were \$17,249.14 from our regular weekly offerings, \$1,510 from our special Easter collection, \$595 from Thanksgiving, \$1001.69 from the Christmas collection, \$510 from the pre-Thanksgiving Holiday Fair, \$365 from a member specifying tithe — and \$969.17 from the coins that our children collect in an altar mission tin each week.

Tithe funds support minority colleges, bishops' salaries, our general and jurisdictional conferences, and our California-Nevada conference office in West Sacramento. But, by far, most of that money goes to the worldwide mission work of our general United Methodist Church. We aid health care in Africa to tornado relief in our own country.

For the rest of our budget in 2015, Bethany members and visitors paid all of pledges and even came up with some extra cash when things were looking low — a total of \$148,690.84 in income for the year. Expenses were just a hair over that — at \$150,966.11, with the difference made up from 2014 carryover cash.

Steve Wereb, our new finance chair in 2016, intends to guide a refining process of our bookkeeping by moving us to QuickBooks. A goal is to program the software to continue keeping separate trustee and operating accounts, but also to ease a combining of the two to show the whole range of Bethany financing.

— Bruce Pettit, Operating Treasurer

January Birthdays

3: Jeanette Given
7: Rick Grube
9: Stan Watson
21: Mattie Armstrong
25: Laura Fischer
25: Paulina Personius
25: Elizabeth Pittman

Happy
Birthday

February Birthdays

1: Bruce Pettit
8: Harold Spiva
12: Queen

Contact Us

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

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