

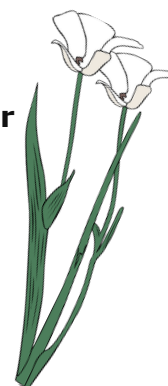


Easter at Bethany

Maundy Thursday Service with Soup Supper
Thursday March 29th @ 7:00pm

Good Friday Service
Friday March 30th @ 7pm

Easter Celebration
Sunday April 1st at 10:45am



Pastor's Reflection

On Saturday March 3, almost 20 of us gathered for a "Dreaming & Planning" session of the church. We heard updates about the financial status of the church, information about next steps into the sanctuary church process, and talked about ways to increase our outreach and presence in the community now. We also spent a little bit of time thinking longer terms about how to reach those who are not currently here among us, and perhaps will have no desire to ever cross the threshold of the doors of a church.

What is a universal human experience is the desire for community. We need each other. It took me awhile to fully understand the extent and value of community, but when Eli and Emerson were born and I was entering my 3rd year of graduate school, 3000 miles away from family. It was very clear, that I needed community.

Often people marvel that I was able to finish school with no decrease in workload, but I was only able to do so because of sacred community. Eli & Emerson were loved by an entire community of students. Classmates who gave up free time so I could attend my own classes, a network of people who brought me food, and held babies, and studied at my home, so that I could accomplish everything I needed. I could not have survived that last year without a community of support.

There are times in our lives we are able to offer the help and support that others, and other times we are on the receiving end of that support and love. This is what sacred community has to offer to one another. Opening ourselves up to serve one another and to be served.

My prayer always is that we can serve Christ and serve the people in all ways. That we can be the hands and feet of Christ in all our words and actions, and that others might come to know us through a desire to connect with the love and warmth of a sacred and holy community. Amen. *Pastor Sadie*

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What is Holy Week & Why is there so much church?



Holy Week is the week in the life of the church that leads up to Easter Sunday. It begins on Sunday March 25th with Palm Sunday, and we begin to remember and retell the story of Jesus' last moments on Earth before his crucifixion.

In some churches Palm Sunday is used as a way of telling the story from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with the Palms all the way to Good Friday. I, however, like to offer separate services for the various moments in the last week.

At Bethany I will be offering a Maundy Thursday service which recounts the last supper and foot washing of Jesus' disciples and a

Good Friday service which tells of Jesus' last moment of life before his execution on the cross.

Holy Week is a lot of church. It's a lot of services, but it's important for us not to rush to Easter. The joy and the celebration and the mystery of Jesus' resurrection is only made possible by the darkness of the betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion. It's a sacred week, and one of my favorite times in our tradition. Please carve out time to join us in our Holy Week Celebrations this year.

UMCOR Sunday on March 11, 2018

Join us on March 11, 2018, when we celebrate UMCOR Sunday.

Formally known as One Great Hour of Giving, on this day we are able to give to support the local, national and global relief efforts of the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

In addition to disaster assistance, UMCOR provides support to refugees and migrants around the world through its partnership organizations.

Today, more than 65 million people worldwide have been forcibly displaced from their homes due to conflict, persecution or natural disasters. Over 21 million of those are refugees, more than half of whom are under age 18, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency.



Syria has been hit particularly hard with more than 6 million civilians displaced by the country's ongoing civil war.

A \$90,000 grant from UMCOR recently provided hygiene and bedding kits for vulnerable people in Aleppo, Syria, forced to leave their homes because of the seven-year conflict.

These kits offer a little help and hope amid the human suffering.

Your generosity helps the United Methodist Committee on Relief make a difference around the world. Gifts on UMCOR Sunday help cover the agency's administrative costs so UMCOR can continue to guarantee that 100 percent of all other donations go toward specific relief projects.

Please consider making an extra donation today to support this amazing agency that does work around the globe.

Hi Bethany!

Though long overdue, Lisa and I wanted to pass a note letting you know how things are going for us in Texas! Well, the weather is weird. We have "summer", and "not summer." It's unbearably hot in the summer, then freezing cold in the off-season, mixed with balmy, tepid, humid days. You can see 80° and 20° all in the matter of two or three days. We don't understand it. Lisa's job is going well; she's still in the Whole Foods training designer position that brought us here. I found a barista job at a local, queer café downtown. Austin is definitely liberal for the



South, though many people who live here grew up in rural Texas, so their definition of liberal has a lower bar. Still though, people are really (really) friendly here, and if we had to move to Texas we feel lucky to have landed in Austin. We have a really cute house at the end of our tree-lined street, in a great neighborhood (much closer to downtown than most folks live.) We've spread out into three bedrooms, and a studio in the huge yard that our pups LOVE. It has space for gardening and hanging out the laundry. And I once, and only once, made the mistake of running into the giant cactus back there!

Lisa and I found a church right off the bat when we got here; it was important for us to start to build that part of our lives right pretty quickly. Our church, the First United Methodist Church of Austin (FUMC, or First Church) is beautifully statuesque, sitting right next to the Capitol grounds. We are Reconciling, have a female senior pastor, as well as two associate pastors, one of which is a Deacon. Why so many pastors? FUMC has well over 1,000 members! (Easily 50 of them are kids under 12!) The service we attend is very traditional, with a huge choir and an even bigger pipe organ. Both adults and kids go to Sunday school. It happens in the hour between the two services. Our group has folks primarily in our 20s and 30s with no children (but lots of dogs!) Our group does a social outing and a service day each month. The church is where we've really found our good friends. Something cool FUMC did last year was get together and hash out a Marriage Discernment process. After many, many meetings and a church-wide vote (supervised by the DS) a 93% positive vote established the policy that until LGBTQ couples can be married by the Methodist church, absolutely no weddings will be performed on the premises, or by our pastors anywhere. It was really exciting to see so many members stand in solidarity with LGBTQ community.

I think we've settled in. We're in a little bit of shock that we've been here for a year already. It's been hard to adjust sometimes, and we miss you all very much. But I think I can finally say that Texas is home now. There's so much to do in Austin, and we're really starting to do lots of exploring. We always love to hear from y'all, so feel free to email us anytime! My email is eli_pittman@yahoo.com and you can get to Lisa at heartlu38@gmail.com. We hope everyone is well and thriving. Much love to you!

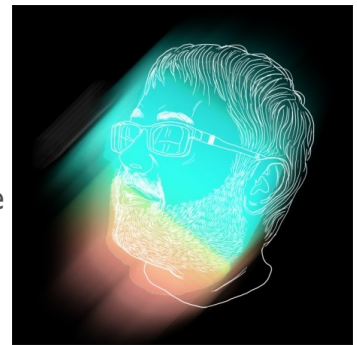
Elizabeth and Lisa

WE'RE LISTENING ACCOLADES & SUGGESTIONS WELCOME

Is there a compliment about a church staff member that you're just bursting to share? Perhaps there's something that's been bothering you or you have an idea for a better way for our church to function. Don't keep it to yourself. Honest, open communication is key to a healthy and active congregation. You have a voice and your SPRC (Staff Pastor Relations Committee) is the place to be heard. You are welcome to share your thoughts in person or writing with anyone on SPRC. Anything provided to SPRC is kept in complete confidence within that committee unless you wish otherwise. That being said, anonymous comments are not accepted because we operate in a transparent manner. This year's SPRC members are our Chair Jeff Friant, Shannon Horton, Gloria Soliz, Josh Webster, Doug Hogin, Kate Armstrong, Thomas MacBurney IV and Pastor Sadie. Comments concerning a particular staff person are best communicated to the SPRC member acting as that person's liaison. Pastor Sadie's liaison is Jeff, Ray's liaison for his position as music director is Thomas and liaison for our Office Administrator Ann is Shannon. Written and signed comments may also be left in the SPRC mailbox in the office.

Second Sunday Concert Series March 11, 2018: MICHAEL BANG

[Michael Bang](#) is a Bay Area musician who does far too many things. He sings, he plays a lot of instruments, he writes songs, he composes, and he's in 3-6 bands at any given moment. However, the most important thing for this paragraph is that he leads a forward looking folk group with a rotating cast of players (including members of [Iron Henry](#), [The Riot Professor](#)) that put out their debut full length "The Dead End" in summer 2016. Described by The Deli Magazine as an "avant-classical-folk ensemble" Bang counts among his influences Elliott Smith, Sufjan Stevens, and Nick Drake. If you'd like to try and keep up with it all, he also plays in an indie rock band called The Riot Professor, a garage rock band called [Veins](#), and is a composer of classical music. Music is all he does, and he wants you to hear it, at a live performance, on recordings, as sheet music, or just as the vibrating air that it is.



It is my absolute pleasure to introduce the Bethany community to Michael Bang. He and I met when we were students at UCLA. He was a rugged, no-nonsense musician, whose music in those days sounded very experimental and avant-garde to me, but which always possessed a unique lyricism in spite of (and sometimes because of!) its unapologetic edge.

Being multi-instrumental as well as a great singer is part of what makes Michael's music so engaging. Whether he's playing solo in an intimate folk style or rocking loud and hard with his Veins bandmates, he puts on an unforgettable show. What we'll be hearing this Sunday will be more like what I would describe as "forward-looking folk". I'm excited to be performing some of his songs with him and with another beloved colleague of mine, Timothy Silva. I hope to see all of you there!

*Bethany Second Sunday concerts are FREE and open to the public. While we don't charge an admission, donations are welcome and encouraged, and 100% of that money is paid directly to the performers.

Bethany Knitters: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm



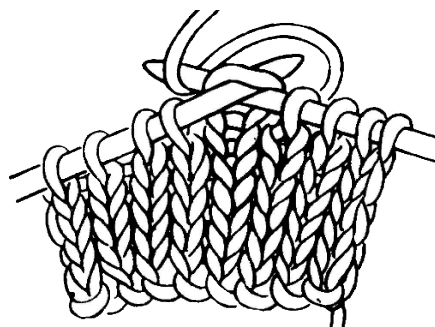
I am continually amazed by the transformative power that knitting can have on people who practice it. Our little bimonthly group continues to attract new faces from around the community, and while this hobby isn't for everybody, those who have developed an interest in honing their skills and knitting in community with others continually express gratitude to Bethany for opening its doors and providing a safe space with free guidance and instruction. None of this could be possible without the donations that periodically find their way to the group; really GOOD yarn and needles can be quite expensive! (Sheep have to eat, mills that clean and spin the fleeces require a labor force and energy, wooden or metal tools must be machined, yarns move from various corners of the world, and so on and so

forth—there is a huge chain in the making process!)

While my initial intention when I established the group was mainly to make practical and spiritual gifts for those in whom we saw a need, it has become clear that Bethany Knitters is serving another very important purpose: that is in the connections it has made between the friends who found our group, in the skills and self-empowerment they have gained by studying knitting and fiber, in the joy they experience when they create something beautiful that provides warmth and expressions of love to those who receive such handmade gifts... and in the reminder it has given us all in how something as silly as "two sticks and a bit of string" can bring people together to inspire fellowship, hope, and creativity!



Bethany Knitters welcomes new and returning guests every first and third Tuesday evening, 7:00-8:30 PM. Instruction and materials are always free. Donations are also welcome—and while we are good on yarn for now, we can always use needles, crochet hooks, and any other new or good condition (i.e., usable and reasonably clean/undamaged) notions that you or someone you know may be looking to get rid of!



Revelation: Singular or Plural?

By Bruce Pettit

Jerry Winniczek, driving me home from church last month, railed against *Revelation* – the final book of the Bible. Jerry contended that *Revelation* is more to blame than anything for keeping swaths of people away from our Christian churches. Even if non-believers are unaware of the book itself, they have been affected by its legacy: offering Christians over the centuries the permission to harshly judge other people.

Jerry's harangue sent me scurrying back to Princeton professor Elaine Pagels' *Revelations* (2012) – which told how *Revelation* made it to the Bible.

The great theological dispute of the fourth century AD was whether Jesus was equal to, or subordinate to, "God the Father" in divinity. The fight among bishops raged for fifty years. It seems there was a variety of "revelations" floating around (hence Pagels' title in plural), and various bishops latched onto a revelation that supported his position as orthodox and all the others as heresy.

If armies don't decide how history goes, it falls to the person with the most persuasive (or brow-beating) powers. In fourth century Christendom that was a bishop named Athanasius – who finally won on the divinity of Jesus: fully equal to "the Father." Winning begets winning, so he also won on the "correct" revelation – John's on the island of Patmos. Although John's beasts at the end of the first century were Rome, Athanasius made the beasts his adversaries. He tried to burn all other revelations. Again, winning begets winning: Athanasius then decreed all 27 books of the New Testament in 367 AD, and their order, and that has remained ever since.

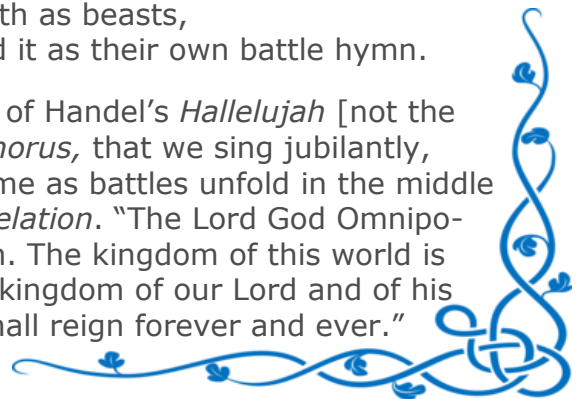
"Martin Luther hated the Book of Revelation, until it occurred to him to make the Catholic Church the beasts."



Julia Ward Howe

Martin Luther hated the *Book of Revelation*, until it occurred to him to make the Catholic Church the beasts. In our U.S. history, Julia Ward Howe in 1861 adapted from *Revelation* for her "Battle Hymn of the Republic" – God loosening "the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword." The Union Army wanted to portray the South as beasts, so it adopted it as their own battle hymn.

All the lyrics of Handel's *Hallelujah* [not the "A" word] *Chorus*, that we sing jubilantly, ironically come as battles unfold in the middle parts of *Revelation*. "The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. He shall reign forever and ever."



Summer Cooking Camps at Bethany!

Simran & Stacie from A Little Yumminess are bringing their popular cooking camps back to Bethany again this June and July. Little ones will take a culinary trip around the world, and older kids will take a tour around Asia or spend a week learning about classic French cuisine. Kids will practice a variety of cooking skills, and explore flavors and food traditions from around the world as they prepare their own snacks and lunch each day. Please join us!

Spots are still available, but camps are filling up fast! For details and registration info, visit www.alittleyum.com/kids.



Bethany will once again participate in the San Francisco Interfaith Council's

WinterFaith Shelter Walk 2018

Supporting the San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter

Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 1:30 pm at Lake Merced
(Meet at Parking Circle at intersection of Lake Merced and Sunset Blvds.)

Be sure to wear your Bethany t-shirt!

For more info, contact Pastor Sadie!



Hello World, We Are Here New Signage Installed

By John Nelson

It took over 6 years but finally Bethany UMC received a brand-new look, exterior SIGNAGE, woohoo!!!! Two new exterior signs were installed on the building at the corners of Clipper and Sanchez and what a difference it has made. Both signs are made out of metal with raised letters and are very attractive, large and very visible. Many, many thanks go to Angie Barajas owner of Studio 19 who designed our signage and donated her time and cost to Bethany! We also received donations of \$5,270 towards the fabrication cost of \$15,000. The remainder of the cost was funded from the Board of Trustees budget. We of course are still accepting donations. Checks can be made out to Bethany UMC Board of Trustee. We are very excited to let the world know that we are here at the corner of Clipper and Sanchez!



MARCH 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Moldovan PS <i>(PS hours: 8:30-5:30)</i> Firecracker Math 345-650 Bell Appeal 7-9 Al-anon 7-9	2 Moldovan PS	3 Dreaming & Planning 10a-2p Vanderbilt Overnight Youth group thru 3/11
4 Food Bank Collection Worship 10:45 Fellowship 11:45	5 Moldovan PS	6 Moldovan PS Curry Without Worry 1-5 Bethany Knits 7-830	7 Moldovan PS SF Sangha Meditation 7-9	8 Moldovan PS Firecracker Math 345-650 Bell Appeal 7-9 Al-anon 7-9	9 Moldovan PS	10 Rice Overnight Youth group thru 3/17 SURJ Banner making 12-4:45
11 <i>*Daylight Savings*</i> Worship 10:45 Fellowship 11:45 Bethany Concert 6	12 Moldovan PS	13 Moldovan PS Curry Without Worry 1-5 Bethany Ensemble 7-830	14 Moldovan PS SF Sangha Meditation 7-9	15 Moldovan PS Firecracker Math 345-650 Bell Appeal 7-9 Al-anon 7-9	16 Moldovan PS	17 SURJ 12-4:45
18 Worship 10:45 Fellowship 11:45	19 Moldovan PS	20 Moldovan PS Curry Without Worry 1-5 Bethany Knits 7-830	21 Moldovan PS SF Sangha Meditation 7-9	22 Moldovan PS Moldovan Spring Recital 430-530 Firecracker Math 345-650 Al-anon 7-9	23 Moldovan PS	24
25 Worship 10:45 Fellowship 11:45 UCLA Overnight Youth group thru 3/31	26 A Little Yumminess 8a-4p	27 A Little Yumminess 8a-4p Curry Without Worry 1-5 Bethany Ensemble 7-830	28 A Little Yumminess 8a-4p SF Sangha Meditation 7-9	29 A Little Yumminess 8a-4p Firecracker Math 345-650 Maundy Thursday Soup Service 7-8p Al-anon 7-9	30 A Little Yumminess 8a-4p Good Friday Service 7-8p	31

It's Spring Break Season

which means college groups at our church while they're here in our city on service trips.

March 3-10th - Vanderbilt University

March 10th-17th - Rice University

March 24th-30th - UCLA

Be sure to say hello if you happen to see any of our guests calling the church home this month.

March Birthdays

1: Thomas MacBurney IV

4: Reid Bond

15: Joan Harp

22: Liam Horton O'Connor

26: Shirley Perkins



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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