



Worship Update

We're now into our third month of outdoor in person hybrid worship. (That's a mouthful lol), and the worship committee wanted to provide you with some updates and clarity to any questions you might have, or at least do our best.

- 1. Are we ever going back inside to worship?** Yes! One day we will return indoors to our beautiful sanctuary. Initially, we had hoped to return indoors after labor day, but given the newest Covid surge with the Delta variance the worship committee and I have decided that for the time being the science still tells us that gathering outside is the safest option.
- 2. Why are we still masking even outside?** We have a fabulous vaccination rate among those eligible at Bethany. Around 100% of us are vaccinated who are eligible to do so. However, children under the age of 12 can't receive the protection offered by the vaccine, and we also serve a population with other vulnerable individuals. I myself am immune compromised due to the medications I take for my crohn's disease. The science is still uncertain at how well the vaccine works for folks like myself. One of our Wesley-an three simple rules is to Do No Harm, and wearing masks is a simple way to ensure we are able to gather in the safest ways possible.
- 3. What about fire season? What then?** As most of us have experienced for the last several years, fire season is a very real reality for California and there are currently fires burning in the most northern part of our state. Often our air quality is impacted by these fires which would then make it unsafe for us to gather outside for worship, and also not ideal for us to gather indoors given covid.

My first prayer is for a very mild fire season. But should our air quality reach an unsafe level we would ask a small team to come into the building to produce our life stream wor-ship and ask others to worship with us online.

- 4. Will the online worship continue?** Yes! Online worship is here to stay, and it will get better and better in terms of quality, ability to follow what's happening, platforms. etc. Upgrades to all of that are currently in the works and we are so grateful to all of you who continue to be part of our online Bethany community.
- 5. Will things ever go back to "normal"?** I think being flexible is our new normal. These past 18 months of ministry have been some of the most challenging of my entire career. I follow guidelines and recommendations daily. I track procedures and learn protocols with the sole intent of keeping our beloved community together, but more importantly together safely. We will continue to plan and engage in our ministry knowing that our plans may have to shift along the way. I thank you for your willingness and grace in this process.

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Fire Response Letter

From: CNUMC Communications

Now the largest such fire in California History, the Dixie Fire is a devastating moment in time. Small towns, like Greenville, Crescent Mills, Canyon Dam and others virtually wiped off the map. No lives lost yet, but many lives changed.



The California Nevada Conference is responding to help. The UMC churches in Quincy, Portola, Greenville and Susanville are assisting evacuees. The Conference Early Response Team served for three days at the Local Assistance Center in Quincy this past weekend. We expect to return as the next assistance locations open. We will be responding over the coming weeks as survivors need help with housing, food, clothing and living expenses.

The most important part of our services is to be a ministry of presence – listening to survivors as they grieve their loss, express their fears and ponder an uncertain future. The local pastors and the Early Response Team have a willing ear and open heart.

Most of the survivors are long term hill country residents living a modest lifestyle in close knit communities. They know and care for each other over generations. We are struck by how they are reluctant to ask for the help they now need from the “outside” world. Proud people.

Our immediate support has included distributing \$10,000 worth of gift cards, emergency hygiene kits, wildfire buckets, cleaning supplies and local church assistance. We envision this support repeating, plus addressing other needs, as the next few weeks unfold. And even now, we are anticipating the long-term recovery.

The most immediately useful way to help is to donate financially.
Go here <https://calnev-reg.brtapp.com/disasterresponse> to give to the California Nevada Disaster Response Fund.

We are determined to see this tragic event through. Our prayers and support will help many survivors.

For more about how you can help assist with this and other wildfires, contact Sonja Edd-Bennett, the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator at sonjaeb@calnevumc.org or Steve Elliott, UMVIM Coordinator for our Conference at UMVIMCoordinator@calnevumc.org. They can provide suggestions as to what local churches can do and explain available training opportunities.

Bagged Lunches for the Homeless

Once again, on Sunday, July 11th, we prepared bagged lunches and collected socks for the homeless. With the pandemic, the needs of the unhoused have only increased. We were able to prepare 100 bagged lunches for distribution in the city. Many thanks to everyone who helped out purchasing food and assembling the lunches.



Budget Update — thru July 2021

The charts below show our Church Operating Budget for 2021. We have Budgeted Donations and Expenses of \$175,000. 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 (Worship Service, Programs, Office Expenses). Our Tithe supports the greater United Methodist Church and is important for our standing in the denomination. Separately, the rental income from our building funds utility costs and repairs & maintenance costs, and is managed by the Trustees.

Through July this year, our total donations have been \$87,000 and our expenses have been \$86,000. Remaining collections for the year need to be \$88,000 to meet our budget. Your financial support is greatly appreciated and needed!

Kind regards, Steve Werek, Treasurer

Bethany UMC -- Actual Budget Results, July 2021

Budgeted Donations for 2021: \$175,000	=>	
Actual Donations thru 7/31/21: \$87,000	=>	

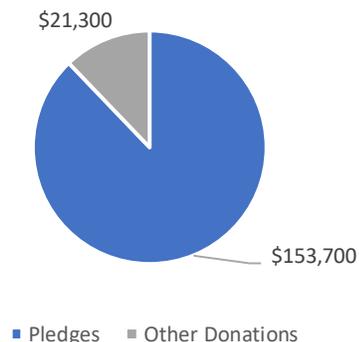
== Left to go \$88,000

Budgeted Expenses for 2021: \$175,000	=>	
Actual Expenses thru 7/31/21: \$86,000	=>	

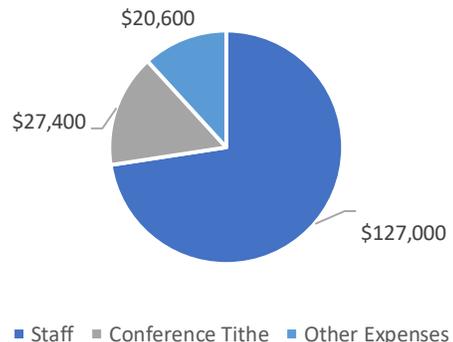
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Annual Budget

Donations \$175,000



Expenses \$175,000



For the Calendar — Upcoming Events
Put these upcoming October Events on your calendar now!

Blessing of the Animals

Noe Valley Community Blessing **Saturday Oct. 2nd**
Bethany Worship Service & Blessing **Sunday Oct. 3rd**
Look for more details to come!



Look for our annual Blessings of the Animals on October 2nd for the Noe Valley Community and October 3rd as part of Bethany's worship service.



On October 17th, "**Sunday Streets SF**" is re-launching which empowers local communities to transform one to four miles of car-congested streets into car-free community spaces for kids to play, seniors to stroll, organizations and businesses to connect and neighbors to meet. Over 100 block party permits are being sponsored across the city. **Bethany is planning to host a block party on Sanchez Street between Clipper and 26th Streets**, in collaboration with the *Friends of Slow Sanchez* and *Noe Café*. Contact stevewereb@gmail.com if you have ideas and/or want to help!



Our annual Stewardship Campaign is planned for October 17th and 24th.

August Sermon series *Life Together: Practices of Community*



Volunteer Opportunities

We have a number of volunteer opportunities at Bethany, including:

- Helping with bagged lunches for the homeless
- Collecting socks for the homeless
- Being part of our Foodbank team
- Being part of our Habitat for Humanity work team



Contact us at: bethanysf.org/contact for more information



Bible Study Small Group on Zoom, Wednesdays 3-4 pm

We have a **daytime Bible Study small group on Zoom**. The group meets weekly on Wednesdays 3-4 pm and discusses 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. Please contact Marilyn Herand (mherand@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested.

Contact Us

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

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