

CROSSROADS



Bethany United Methodist Church Newsletter

September 2021

This year ... it's Broadway

Each fall I like to do a sermon series that in some way connects the secular with the sacred. To date we've done: Mr. Rogers, The Golden Girls, and Dolly Parton. This year it's Broadway. The inspiration for this year's theme comes in part from the knowledge and background of our new music director Evan Alparone, but also from my own love of musicals.

I grew up renting VHS tapes from the library of all varieties of musicals and to this day when traveling, or just having a bad day there's always a musical theater number to fit the tone and mood of the moment.

I also believe that the veil between the secular and the sacred is thin to almost non-existent. The sacred is everywhere around us, and God can be found in every aspect of our lives. Our faith is one that's meant to be lived in our world in our communities. Jesus didn't round up his disciples and go away and build an isolated monastery, but instead took to the streets meeting people where they were and teaching the lessons of faith using the parables of the everyday experiences of the people.

If you were a fisherman, Jesus had a lesson for you in that. A tax collector, Jesus had a lesson for you, a farmer, a laborer, a landowner. Our scriptures are made up of lessons and stories and teachings from the day to day activities of people's lives and we can still apply the same lessons to our practices today.

The sacred is all around us, and sometimes it comes in the form of Broadway music. I hope you'll enjoy this month's worship and music as much as I do.

In Faith,

Pastor Sadie

In This Issue

- Bethany's new logo
- Small Groups
- Erin & Lyra's Wedding
- Update on Honduran Family
- Budget Update
- October Block Party
- Upcoming Events

Crossroads brings you the news from Bethany United Methodist Church

Introducing Bethany's New Logo!



After a thoughtful process full of thoughtful discussion, Bethany has a new logo to share! We're very thankful to James Kang (the consultant who helped us, and was the former director of communications for the California-Pacific Annual Conference).

Our goal was to come up with a logo that is ... simple, sleek, 21st century, put together, memorable, historical yet transitional, new, fresh, young familial, LGBTQ, Noe Valley, but also not only Noe Valley, progressive, alive, vibrant, and moving forward. Phew! That's a long and interesting list — right?!

We wanted to recognize the "neighborhody feel" of Noe Valley, while also conveying a sense of ... new-ness, open-ness, embrace-ing, and relation-ality.

As part of our process, we conducted an online survey sent out to bethanysf@googlegroups.com (you may have participated) and the feedback was that the "**Bethany**" name is well recognized. We are also aware that Bethany is often referred to as "**the church on clipper and sanchez.**" And finally, we concluded that it was important to include our key mission statement of "**guided by God's radical love for all**" as what we identify with and stand for.

We hope you love it! Now, it's time for some new t-shirts!

Introducing Small Group Ministries



Following up from the August Sermon Series, *"Life Together: Practices of Community,"* we are launching our small groups program.

There are currently three group meeting options from which to choose:

- 2nd Saturday of each month at 8:30am, starting October 9th, co-led by Julie Freeman and Shannon Horton
- 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, starting October 13th, co-led by Jeannette LaFors and Steve Wereb
- Every Wednesday at 3pm, led by Marilyn Herand

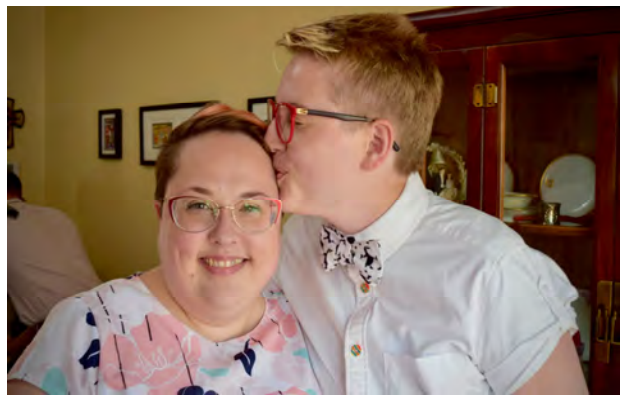
Please sign-up here: <https://bethanysf.breezechms.com/form/ba5684>

With the small groups, our goal is to provide an opportunity for further relationship building within the Bethany Community, as well as providing an opportunity for new members of our community to get involved and engaged. We'll plan to reflect on the monthly sermon series along with key scriptures for the month. We hope to have thoughtful conversation reflecting upon what's currently going on in the world and in our lives. This will also be a time for a spiritual check-in. In tradition of the Methodist Church, John Wesley would open up all small group meetings with the question "How is it with your soul?" That's a far deeper question than, "How are you?"

We encourage everyone to sign-up for one of these small group times.

Celebrating Erin & Lyra's Wedding!

Erin and Lyra got married in a small ceremony with their immediate family in attendance on July 27th. Sadie officiated and the ceremony took place at Gloria and Carole's home. It was a wonderful and happy event filled with much love!



Celebrating our Young Adults

pictures by Jeannette LaFors



Dropping Dylan off at Williams College and checking out the soccer field. Excited for him & this next chapter!



Celebrating Adela's 16th birthday with decorations

Update on the Honduran Family

by Cathy Personius



Photo by [Esteban Benites](#) on [Unsplash](#). Picture of Honduras, Santa Cruz de Yojoa Region

I would like to thank everyone in the church community for your support of the Honduran family seeking political asylum who moved into my spare room in December 2019.

About a month ago, they were able to move into their own apartment in San Francisco. Bethany's loan fund covered their deposit on the apartment and Dona Malan's move provided some furniture and kitchen utensils. Maranda and I still keep in touch with them. Their son has just started at Balboa High School. The father has been working dishwashing jobs for the past two years. The mother has recovered from her hip replacement surgery and would like to try working a part-time job. She has never before been able to hold a job because of her hip issue. Their political asylum case is on-going.

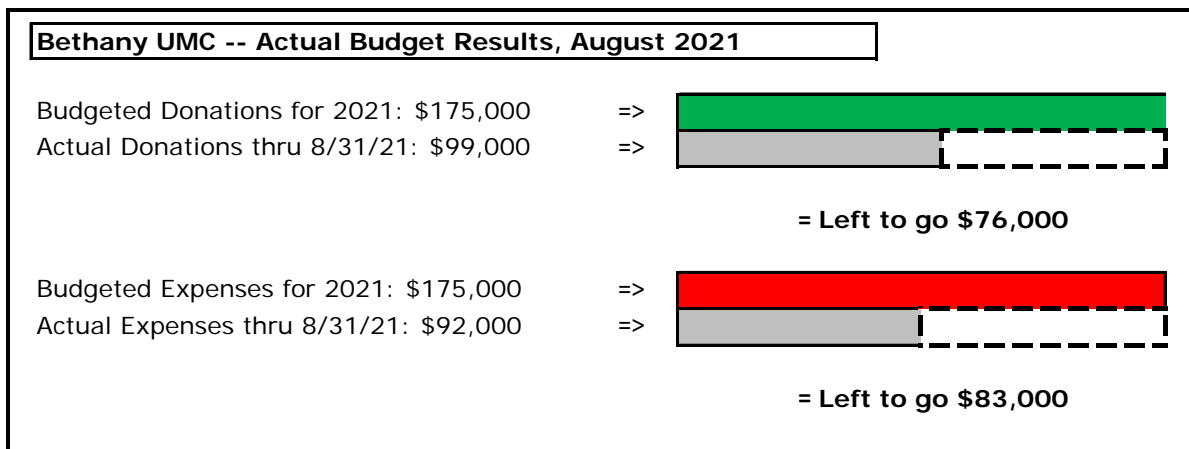
Their next immigration court appointment isn't until 2022. Before then, the father has to go to immigration court in Los Angeles to clear up some issues from his previous entries into the US. (He came here as a teenager and again after his son was born to find work to support himself and his family.)

Budget Update — thru August 2021

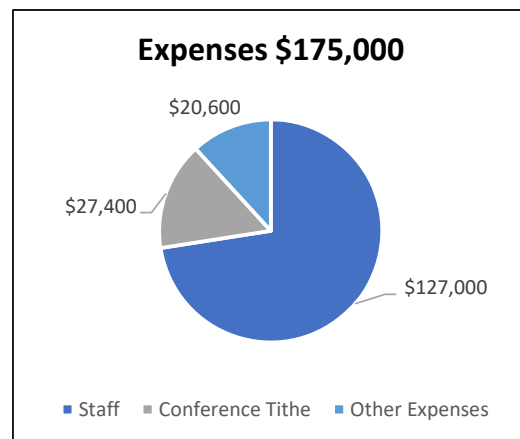
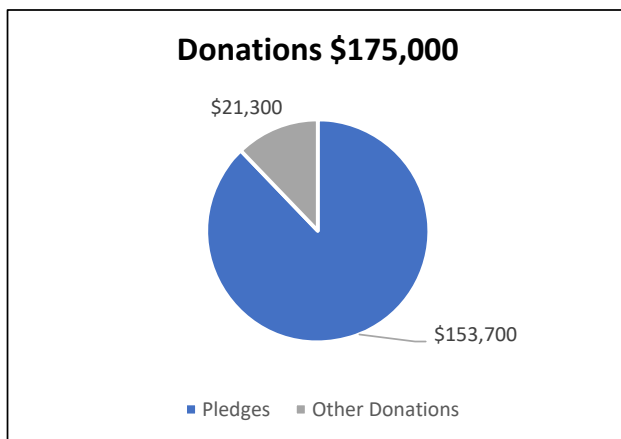
The charts below show our Church Operating Budget for 2021. We have Budgeted Donations and Expenses of \$175,000. About 72% of our expenses are for our Staff, 16% is for our Conference Tithe (which is calculated as 10% of our donations and rental income), and 12% of expenses are for a variety of costs (Worship Service, Programs, Office Expenses). Separately, the rental income from our building funds utility costs and repairs & maintenance costs, and is managed by the Trustees.

Through August this year, our total donations have been \$99,000 and our expenses have been \$92,000. Remaining collections for the year need to be \$76,000 to meet our budget. As of August, we're 67% of the way through the year, and have received 56% of our annual donations. Your financial support is greatly appreciated and needed! Thank you.

Kind regards, Steve Wereb, Treasurer



Annual Budget



Sanchez Street Block Party

Sunday, October 17th, 12-5 pm
Come and Meet Your Neighbors!



On Sunday, October 17th, from 12-5 pm, Bethany is hosting a block party in collaboration with the Friends of Slow Sanchez and Noe Café, on Sanchez Street between Clipper and 26th.

Our block party will be part of a city-wide celebration, called "Phoenix Day." On this day, "**Sunday Streets SF**" is re-launching which empowers local communities to transform 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.

Our goal is to bring together Sanchez neighbors for community building and to offer educational opportunities in the areas of health & safety, and opportunities for diverse cultural experiences and to have fun! We plan to offer volunteer sign-ups for Bethany ministries (e.g, Food Bank, Homeless Meals, Immigrants).

We're still in the planning stage but current ideas include: creating a community art banner on Bethany's grey wall where attendees can participate, having an extension of our prayer wall by offering a banner where attendees can write prayer requests or share what's on their minds, activities for children including providing art easels and sidewalk chalk, a balloon artist, participation from the Fire Department, programs for seniors with participation from the On Lok organization, a succulent planter table, a variety of music, and much more!

Sound like fun? — please plan to join us and contact Steve Wereb if you have ideas to share and/or can volunteer to help at stevewereb@gmail.com

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.



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

September Sermon series
God on Broadway



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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Visit us on the web at www.bethanysf.org

September Birthdays

- 1: Kevin Liu
- 2: Adela Kelemen
- 3: Jerry Winniczek
- 11: Maranda Personius
- 20: Joel Creager
- 21: Pastor Sadie Stone
- 22: Alicia Saradpon

