



CROSSROADS

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

from the pastor...

Lent is structured in a way this year that we start March in the middle of Lent and on the last day of the month we close with our Easter celebration. So often Lent feels disjointed, it doesn't get the commercial attention our Christmas season does in the Christmas/Advent season it is all around us, whether we want it to be or not. Lent is a quieter season, demanding our intentional mindfulness to remember its sacred presence amidst our busy daily lives.

On Ash Wednesday for those who were able to attend the service, we set intentions, in conversation with another in the shared space. In the end, we offered our intention to God and asked those gathered to bear witness. Before participating in the Ash Wednesday service, I had already done a bit of intention-making for the season of Lent with a new friend of mine who practices Islam.

As Ash Wednesday approached, she asked me if there was anything specific, she needed to do for me on that day, which led to a conversation about the day and the Lenten season that followed. She decided that she too, in solidarity with me and my tradition would set an intention for the Lenten season. We shared our intentions, and every day since then we have checked in with each other about how it is going.

It has been a profound experience to have someone who is not even from my faith tradition walk alongside me this Lenten season. To help root me back to the foundation of the faith and the importance of why we do certain things. It has been a reminder to me of how important it is that we talk about and share our faith with others because in doing so, the practices are enriched and there is a greater accountability to living my faith boldly and publicly.

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March 24th	Palm Sunday WORSHIP 10:45am	
March 28th	Maundy Thursday WORSHIP 7pm	
March 29th	Good Friday WORSHIP 7pm	
MARCH 31ST	Easter Sunday WORSHIP 10:45am	

BETHANYSF.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/BETHANYUMCSF
ALL WORSHIP IN PERSON & ONLINE
1270 SANCHEZ STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA

COMING SOON

- March 10 - Bagged Lunches
- March 24 - Palm Sunday
- March 28 - Maundy Thursday
- March 29 - Good Friday
- March 31 - Easter Sunday, Easter Egg Hunt

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At the end of the week Ramadan will start for those who practice Islam and it is my turn to return the favor of learning and walking alongside my friend in ways that I can best support her through this holy season in her tradition.

For those who set Lenten intentions, I invite you to reflect on how they are going. Check in with your Ash Wednesday buddy and if you don't have a buddy please reach out to me I would be happy to help facilitate a Lenten buddy to walk along with you this Lenten season. Additionally, it doesn't need to be someone from our church or even our faith tradition. Take this opportunity to share this piece of yourself and your faith with others, and invite other people to journey with you as we continue to head towards our Easter Resurrection.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Sadie



PHOTO GALLERY

A PEEK AT RECENT ACTIVITIES IN THE BETHANY COMMUNITY!



SUPER BOWL CHALLENGE

Bethany Collected 80.3lbs of food for the Super Bowl Challenge issued to us by the Annual Conference that is home to the Kansas City Chiefs. Great job Bethany! All together the California-Nevada Annual Conference collected 30,908.10 pounds of food. The Kansas City Chiefs total was 168,253 lbs. But really everyone wins because lots of food was collected for local food banks.

CAFÉ BETHANY DOES MARDI GRAS

Our 2nd Annual Cafe Bethany does Mardi Gras, was a success with lots of food contributed by many community members, king cake, conversation & music. Thanks to everyone who made the event a success.



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PHOTO GALLERY

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HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR MISSION EDUCATION CENTER

Thanks to everyone who has contributed hygiene products for Mission Education Center on Noe Street just a few blocks from our church. This is a school that serves newly arrived immigrant children in the city and many of the families are unhoused. The hygiene products will go to the school to support the families who often go without. Thanks to our youth Eli and Emerson who sorted and inventoried the items with Marilyn.



BLESSING BAGS

Thanks to those who helped refresh the blessing bags from Seeds. On our 3rd Sunday of Lent folks were encouraged to take some of the bags and keep them in their cars so when they see someone in need they can offer a blessing. Inside the bags are socks, hand and feet warmers, some food, water, a note of love, and a few other odds and ends. It is a way for us to connect with our neighbors on the street as we continue to work for permanent solutions so all have shelter, safety, and food.



PHOTO GALLERY

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SEASON OF LENT, ASH WEDNESDAY

21 people attended our Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 14th. Together we shared our intentions for the season and committed to be in dedicated prayer for and with our "intention" partner during the season of Lent.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Be sure to save the date for our **Holy Week Services** starting with Palm Sunday on March 24th, a Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm, Good Friday Service at 7 pm, and ending with our Easter celebration on Sunday, March 31st. It's a great time to bring friends and family to worship.



LENT *calendar*

This Lent, Bethany will focus on ministry to migrant families who have recently come to San Francisco.

Collect personal hygiene supplies for Mission Education Center.

- **Feb. 18 - Mar. 31:** bring donations to church (Travel-sized containers are GREAT!)

A request from the school social workers, who report that new families prioritize what little cash they have for food



Sunday, Mar. 10 after church: Sack lunch Ministry: Prepare lunches for families at 2 shelters (In addition to lunches for Open Cathedral).

Apr. 5 or 6, TBD: Cooking party to prepare meals to freeze for families living in hotels without cooking facilities.



Holy Week

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- CELEBRATE -
Easter
- AT BETHANY -

WORSHIP
SUNDAY MARCH 31, 2024
10:45AM

1270 Sanchez St.
bethanysf.org

EGG HUNT
TO FOLLOW
WORSHIP



EASTER EGG HUNT

MARCH 31ST 2024

FOLLOWING OUR EASTER WORSHIP
BETHANY CHURCH | 12 NOON

UPCOMING EVENTS

On March 10th, we will continue with our sack lunch ministry with SF Night Ministry. Six times a year we create 100 sack lunches for our unhoused neighbors in San Francisco.

NIGHT MINISTRY - BAGGED LUNCHES

Join Bethany in providing bagged lunches for our unhoused community members

- Donate food: deli meat, cheese, bread, water, juice, soft fruits, packaged desserts, and chips
- Assemble sack lunches on select Sundays after service at Bethany in 2024:

JANUARY 14, 12pm
MARCH 10, 12pm
MAY 12, 12pm
JULY 14, 12pm
SEPTEMBER 8, 12pm
NOVEMBER 10, 12pm



INQUIRE @ BETHANYSF.ORG/CONTACT

Bible Study

Wednesdays 3-4pm on zoom. Join to discuss the scripture for the coming Sunday. All are welcome. Email Marilyn for more info mherand@sbcglobal.net

Small Groups – Sign-up at bethanysf.org !

Group options:

- 2nd Saturdays each month @ 8:30am
- 2nd Wednesdays each month @ 7pm

Zoom Office Hours

Have a question? Want to check in? Chat? Stop in anytime between 12-1pm on Wednesdays for Pastor Sadie's office hours. <https://zoom.us/j/97919674908>

community celebration board

The LaFors-Kelemen family celebrated Dylan's 21st birthday on February 22nd! Dylan is in Madrid for a Spring semester abroad. The family will meet up this week in Granada!



Congratulations to Pastor Sadie who achieved the Dean's List at the University of San Francisco Law School for Fall 2023

CONTACT US

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

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Find us online at www.bethanysf.org
FB [@bethanyumcsf](https://www.facebook.com/bethanyumcsf) and IG [@bethany_umc_sf](https://www.instagram.com/bethany_umc_sf)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 4: Reid Bond
- 9: David Chavez
- 11: John Avalos
- 15: Zach Brown
- 16: Kimiko Goeller
- 22: Liam Horton O'Connor
- 26: Shirley Perkins
- 31: Carolyn Nash

