



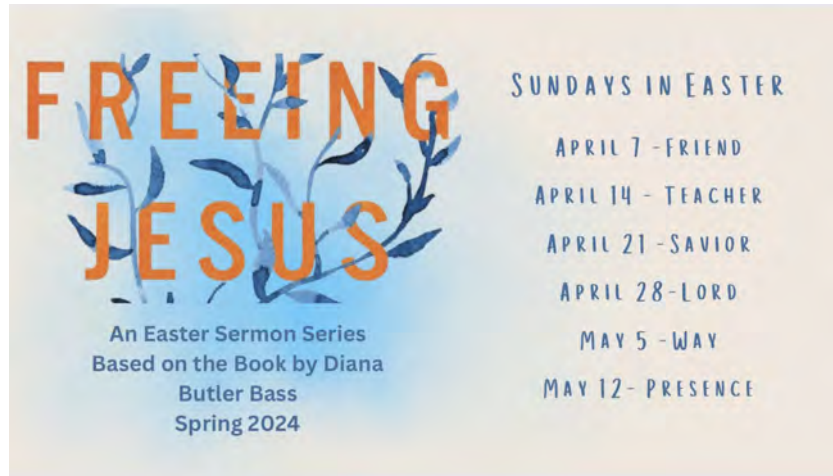
# CROSSROADS

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024

*from the pastor...*

As we move out of the season of Lent and into the season of Easter, we are starting a new series that will invite us into a time of reflection about who Jesus is to each of us. Diana Butler Bass, in her book *Freeing Jesus*, seeks to invite each of us to explore who Jesus is in new ways. Jesus, for some, is ". . . rabbi, prophet, teacher, miracle worker, itinerant mystic, political rebel, and rabble-rousing Jewish peasant . . ." (XVIII). Often nothing like the images of the iconography of the Christian tradition.



In an ever-growing secular world, sometimes we are hesitant to talk about Jesus, and for good reason. The church and Christian Faith are used to harm and weaponize, or maybe we simply don't know how to talk about our faith. Our relationship with Jesus grows and changes as we, too, grow and change. The goal of Bass's book and the goal of our sermon series over the next six weeks is an exercise in memory.

Remembering *then*, our past with all the sorrow and joy that it summons. It's an exercise in the *now*, how we apply the lessons learned from the past to our current situation, and it's an exercise in *what can be* to keep going in the midst of a world that is ever challenging and ever-changing (XXVI).

As we explore different ways that Jesus shows up, you are invited to think about the way Jesus has shown up for you. Bass writes, "Your six Jesuses may be different, or they may be the same but in a different order. Perhaps you have known eight or ten Jesuses. Or maybe you have only known one and are looking to know that Jesus more deeply or anew." (XXVI).

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## COMING SOON

April 10, 13 - Small Groups

April 14 - Letter Writing for  
Philippines

May 12 - Sack Lunches

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Pastoral Reflection
- Photo Gallery
- Upcoming Events
- Community Celebration Board

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We'll start with Jesus as Friend, then Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence. I hope you will journey with me this Easter season as we Free Jesus from the expectations of what we think should be and instead invite ourselves to imagine who Jesus has been and will be for you over the years.

With Blessings,

Pastor Sadie

## PHOTO GALLERY

### A PEEK AT RECENT ACTIVITIES IN THE BETHANY COMMUNITY!

# PHOTO GALLERY

### NIGHT MINISTRY BAGGED LUNCHES

On March 10th, Bethany made sack lunches for our unhoused neighbors in collaboration with the San Francisco Night Ministry.



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# PHOTO GALLERY

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## COMMUNITY FORUM ON WAR IN GAZA

On Wednesday March 20th, Bethany hosted a Community Forum in support of our Palestinian neighbors, co-organized by the Nurture/Outreach committee and Palestinian-American folks who live nearby. We came together to mourn the loss of loved ones to the genocide in Gaza and be with each other in community support and solidarity. We shared a potluck meal together after sundown in observance of the breaking of the Ramadan fast (iftar). We talked with each other, met our neighbors, and heard folks of all different ages speak about their lived experience of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict over many decades.



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Palm Sunday Altar**



**Palm Sunday Service**



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# PHOTO GALLERY

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## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Maundy Thursday**



**Good Friday**



**Easter Sunday**



**Easter Egg Hunt**

Thanks go to our youth and Nurture Chair Lyra for prepping the eggs for our Easter Sunday egg hunt.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Letter Writing for Philippines, Sunday April 14th** – For the past decade, the Philippines is still the most dangerous country in Asia for environmental defenders. Join us after service on April 14th to write thoughtful letters to two abducted indigenous environmental defenders families in the Cordillera region where Brandon Lee lived and worked for 9 years with the Igorot indigenous people. Your letters will be delivered by Raquel and brought to the family of the State sponsored abducted activists.

**On May 12th**, 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.

The flyer is titled "NIGHT MINISTRY - BAGGED LUNCHES" in a green banner at the top. Below the title, it says "Join Bethany in providing bagged lunches for our unhoused community members". There are two bullet points: "• Donate food: deli meat, cheese, bread, water, juice, soft fruits, packaged desserts, and chips" and "• Assemble sack lunches on select Sundays after service at Bethany in 2024:". A list of dates follows: "JANUARY 14, 12pm", "MARCH 10, 12pm", "MAY 12, 12pm" (circled in red), "JULY 14, 12pm", "SEPTEMBER 8, 12pm", and "NOVEMBER 10, 12pm". At the bottom left is the Bethany logo, which is a circular rainbow logo with the text "bethany" in the center and "THE CENTER AT CLIFTON & MARKET" around the bottom. At the bottom right, it says "INQUIRE @ BETHANYSF.ORG/CONTACT". The background of the flyer shows hands packing brown paper bags.

## 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](mailto:mherand@sbcglobal.net)

## Small Groups – Sign-up at [bethanysf.org](http://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

## REMEMBERING LAURA FISCHER

We share with you the passing of long-time Bethany member Laura Fischer who passed away on March 20, 2024. We take great comfort and assurance that she is now reunited with her love of 60 years, Joan, in eternal life. Last March, Laura offered us the following poem in anticipation of being reunited with Joan.

Laura Fischer offered us the following poem last March 2023:

We danced on carpet  
We danced on wood  
And cement and one time on marble  
Soon we will dance on clouds  
High in the sky  
Glad we will never again  
Have to say goodbye  
We will slip and slide  
And swing and sway  
And of course to the tune  
Of the Dazzling Bouquet.  
- Laura Fischer



## Happy 18th Birthday to Liam!

On March 22nd, Liam and his family celebrated his 18th Birthday – Happy Birthday Day Liam!!



## CONTACT US

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

**Bethany United Methodist Church**  
1270 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
(415) 647-8393  
bethanysfoffice@gmail.com

Find us online at [www.bethanysf.org](http://www.bethanysf.org)  
FB @bethanyumcsf and IG @bethany\_umc\_sf

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2: Evan Alparone
- 5: Cathy Personius,  
Jeff Stanley
- 8: Erin Halden,  
Mike West
- 10: Raquel Redondiez
- 17: Bailey Higgins-Eaton
- 26: Kelsey Laird
- 28: Robin Ann Palmer

