



# CROSSROADS

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024

from the pastor...

Dear Church Family,

I invite you to read these opening words from one of my favorite poems called **V'ahavta** by Aurora Levins Morales:

*" Say these words when you lie down and when you rise up, when you go out and when you return. In times of mourning and in times of joy. Inscribe them on your doorposts, embroider them on your garments, tattoo them on your shoulders, teach them to your children, your neighbors,*

*your enemies, recite them in your sleep, here in the cruel shadow of empire: **Another world is possible.**"*



I love this poem because as I read these words, I am reminded that Jesus came to teach us and show that, indeed, another world is possible. These words are not mere poetic flourishes; they are a call to action, a reminder that even in the darkest of times, there is light, and in the cruelest shadow of empire, there is hope.

"Another world is possible." These words echo in our hearts and minds, urging us to envision a future where justice, compassion, and equality reign.

I have been inspired by the student movement happening across our country through the college encampments calling for divestments from Israel in support of Palestine; we see the power of community coming together to effect change. We witness young minds brimming with passion and determination, eager to challenge the status quo and pave the way for a better tomorrow. From advocating for social justice to sacrificing comfort and even their place in their universities, these gatherings exemplify the spirit of hope and possibility.

But it's not just within the confines of the encampments that change is taking root. It's happening in our neighborhoods, our workplaces, and even in the corridors of power. People are awakening to the realization that we hold the keys to shaping this world, and seizing the opportunity to make a difference, one small act of kindness at a time.

*(cont'd on next page)*

## COMING SOON

May 12 - Sack Lunches

May 19 - Café Bethany does  
Pentecost

June 2 - Memorial Service for  
Laura Fischer & Joan Harp

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- Pastoral Reflection
- Photo Gallery
- Justice for Brandon Lee
- Apache Stronghold stays overnight at Bethany
- Upcoming Events
- Community Celebration Board

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As members of this church community, let us heed the call of "V'ahavta." Let us embrace the possibility of a new world, not as some distant utopia, but as a reality that is within our grasp right now. Let us teach these words to our children, our neighbors, our enemies, and let us recite them in our sleep, knowing that with every breath we take, we are breathing life into a vision of a world where love, justice, and peace prevail.

In times of uncertainty, let us hold fast to the belief that another world is possible. And let us march forward with courage and conviction, knowing that together, we can turn this vision into a reality.

With hope and solidarity,

Pastor Sadie

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

## PHOTO GALLERY

### EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS

At the end of March, Bethany held many services for Holy Week. Many thanks to Gloria and Carole for all the altar arrangements!



### LETTERS FOR PHILIPPINES

On April 14th, Bethany Members wrote letters to the family members of two indigenous activists in the Philippines who were abducted by the military. Bethany member Raquel personally delivered our letters of support and prayers on her recent visit to the Philippines.



# Justice for Brandon Lee

During April, Bethany member Brandon Lee launched his national speaking tour, with three tour stops in the Eastbay. One is at St. Paul's UMC in Fremont, the second stop is in Oakland, and the third in Berkeley. Brandon's tour continues to the South Bay later in May and then proceeds to Southern CA, the Pacific Northwest, and the D.C. area. This tour marks the first travel for Brandon since his assassination attempt in 2019. It offers Brandon an opportunity to tell his story and continue to advocate for those still living in the Philippines and fighting for Human rights.

If you want to stay updated on Brandon and his work and tour, visit: <https://www.justice4brandonlee.org>.

We hold him and his care team in our prayers as the tour continues, and Brandon travels further from home to share his story.



# Apache Stronghold- Overnight at Bethany



Did you know?

Bethany is not just busy on Sundays, but we host a variety of activities throughout the week. From concerts and recitals to private music lessons, AA groups and Al-Anon groups, community choirs, and overnight groups.

In April, Bethany was honored to host the **Apache Stronghold** overnight at our church. They are an indigenous group from Arizona fighting to protect their sacred land at Oak Flat. Since time immemorial Western Apaches and other Native Peoples have gathered at Oak Flat for sacred religious ceremonies that cannot occur anywhere else.

Known to the Apache as Chi'chil Bildagoteel, Oak Flat is listed as a historic site and was protected. However, those protections were eliminated in December 2014, and a last-minute provision transferred the Oak Flat to a foreign-owned mining company.

The 10-member group of the Apache Stronghold traveled to San Francisco on April 15th to appeal the 9th District Circuit Court, asking all 29 judges to rehear their case and protect their sacred land. Bethany was honored to offer them respite and lodging as they seek to preserve their sacred land and religious rights.

More information available here: [www.apache-stronghold.com](http://www.apache-stronghold.com)

# Café Bethany Does Pentecost & More

Pentecost Sunday commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and marks the birth of the Christian Church. We will take this year's Pentecost Sunday for one of our Café Bethany services, where we will eat brunch around tables, engage in worship, and most importantly, spend some time thinking about Bethany's Pentecost and the future of our church.

Pentecost this year will serve as a powerful reminder of the long-term vision and mission of the Church. On the first Pentecost, the apostles were empowered by the Spirit to spread the Gospel and establish the foundation of the Church, which has endured for centuries, transcending boundaries and cultures. Our work now is to reestablish the foundation of Bethany and ensure that our legacy will continue.

This Café Bethany will be entirely lay-led and will involve participation from our Covenant Council members who have been working hard on Bethany's 5-year plan. We look forward to engaging with the broader church about Bethany's vision for the future.

Pentecost reminds us of the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, which continues to guide and renew the Church in its journey.

Join us for this special service and conversation.



CAFE BETHANY DOES  
**PENTECOST**  
SUNDAY MAY 19TH  
@ 10:45 AM

JOIN US FOR A CAFE/BRUNCH  
WORSHIP SERVICE

PANCAKE BRUNCH SERVED

CONVERSATION AROUND  
TABLES

MUSIC & FELLOWSHIP

BETHANYSF.ORG



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**On May 12th**, we will continue with our sack lunch ministry with SF Night Ministry. Six times a year we create 125 sack lunches for our unhoused neighbors in San Francisco.

The flyer is titled "NIGHT MINISTRY - BAGGED LUNCHES" and is set against a background of hands packing brown paper bags. The text on the flyer includes:

- 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:

The dates listed are:

- JANUARY 14, 12pm
- MARCH 10, 12pm
- MAY 12, 12pm** (circled in red)
- JULY 14, 12pm
- SEPTEMBER 8, 12pm
- NOVEMBER 10, 12pm

At the bottom, it says "INQUIRE @ BETHANYSF.ORG/CONTACT". A logo for Bethany is also present, with the text "BETHANY SF" and "THE CHURCH AT CLIFTON & MARKET" around it.

## 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

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LAURA FISCHER & JOAN HARP JUNE 2ND AT 1:30 PM



Join us to honor and remember Laura and Joan, two long time members of Bethany, in a joint memorial service on June 2nd.

## Happy Birthday Evan!

We celebrated Evan's Birthday which was April 2nd – Happy Birthday Day Evan!!



## 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](http://www.bethanysf.org)  
FB @bethanyumcsf and IG @bethany\_umc\_sf

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

2: Camille Personius  
4: Steve Wereb  
8: Eli Stone,  
Emerson Stone  
9: Manny Anes  
10: Matt Keleman  
19: Jeannette LaFors  
23: Carole Noonan  
Gloria Soliz  
29: Lukas Liawidjaja

