CROSSROADS

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2024

Pastor Rob ceded his space this month to share this greeting from our new bishop ... Bishop Sandra K. Olewine

Hello Cal-Nev Family,

I am honored and humbled to greet you in the name of the Risen Christ on this first day of September 2024 as your new episcopal servant. I am in wonder and awe – and still a bit surprised – to be at this juncture with you.

The passage from Isaiah, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Is 43:19a) is resounding in my heart these days. One constant in our walk of faith is that God is always doing a new thing. Change, growth transformation, opportunity, and possibility are our bread and butter, staples of a faith that is vibrant and alive. As each day begins, we can trust that God is at work and is inviting us to have eyes that see and hearts that respond.

I am excited for the privilege to join you in God's work of newness, seeking to bring grace, mercy, hope and love to bear on the world. As we get to know each other, we will have the opportunity to learn how God has and is moving in our lives and to discern what God is urging us to do together as we move forward in this season. As I shared at the Western Jurisdiction Conference, we have work to do. Near and far, healing, restoration, justice, and community are needed. As Jesus followers, we are called to that work with every fiber of our being. I cannot wait to get started with you on this work.

I am grateful for the many people who have already begun to welcome me among you. Bishop Carcaño was gracious with her time to orient me to the Annual Conference. My prayers are with her as she transitions to the retired relationship and discerns how God is calling her in this new season. At both the bishop's residence and the Conference office, staff have gone out of their way to ease the challenges of moving and getting settled.

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COMING SOON

Sept 11, 14 - Small Groups resume

Sept 14 - Chamber Music Concert

Sept 21 - Upper Noe Block Party

Oct 4 - Ring Out Danger

Oct 6 - "Do Unto Others sermon series starts

Oct 13 - Blessing of the Animals

Oct 20 - Sanchez Block Party

Oct 24 - Josh Kornbluth discussion, Citizen Brain

Oct 25 - Labyrinth walk

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The Episcopacy Committee has supplied luscious and creative meals this last week, displaying great care for dietary concerns of family and friends who have been helping me move. And through Facebook posts, emails, cards, and texts, many of you have been loving in your words and expansive in your hospitality as I prepared to come among you. My heart is full.

As we start our journey together, remember that in this call to change and newness also comes the promise of constancy. Scripture tells us, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lam 3:22-23) Grace sufficient for whatever is before us is promised. We will not journey alone. Thanks be to God!

Blessings, Bishop Sandra K. Olewine

PHOTO GALLERY

A PEEK AT RECENT ACTIVITIES IN THE BETHANY COMMUNITY!

RING OUT DANGER

On Friday, September 6th at 9:30 am, in front of Bethany, we rang our bells and were part of ***Ring Out Danger: People of Faith Opposed to Gun Violence.***
https://ringoutdanger.org
Children enrolled at Primeros Pasos daycare joined us in ringing for peace on our patio. We will ring bells the first Friday of every month at 9:30 am.

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PHOTO GALLERY

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WELCOME BACK SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 8TH

September 8th was a big Sunday at Bethany!

- We blessed and delivered backpacks to the Mission Education Center in Noe Valley, which serves newly arrived Spanish-speaking students.
- We "officially" welcomed Pastor Rob Herrmann and provided blessings through our Bethany tradition of "Laying on the Hands."
- We welcomed District Superintendent Sun Hee Kim (Pastor Rob's boss) as she visited Bethany.
- And, we once again assembled bag lunches for the unhoused in our community.

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PHOTO GALLERY

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Also from September 8th, a picture of Kate and Thomas – two educators conferring!

BUDGET UPDATE

by Steve Wereb, Treasurer

This provides an update of Bethany's budget which includes funding from our donations and rental income, and the costs to support our Staff, our Programming, to operate our Building, and our Tithe payment to our United Methodist Church Regional Conference.

For the total year of 2024, total donations are expected to be $127,243 and rental income is expected to be $166,375 for total income of $293,618. Our costs are made up of Staff and Programs ($153,410), the Tithe payment to our UMC Conference ($29,362 or 10% of our income) and Building Costs and Repairs ($138,123). Overall, we have budgeted for a deficit of -$27,277 which will be funded from our reserves.

Through August, we have received $84,342 in donations and $110,721 in rental income for a total of $195,063. Our expenses through August were $194,219.

Thank you for your support and generosity.

Kind regards, Steve Wereb, Treasurer

Summary of Donations

Expected Giving for 2024 ==> $127,243

Actual Giving thru 8/31/24 ==> $84,342

Left To Go ==>$42,901

Actual vs. Budget	**Actual thru 8/31/24**	**Budget for 2024**	**Actual vs. Budget**
Donations	84,342	127,243	(42,901)
Rent	110,721	166,375	(55,654)
:ome	195,063	293,618	(98,555)
Staff & Programs	99,607	153,410	(53,803)
Tithe	18,000	29,362	(11,362)
Building Costs	61,590	100,081	(38,491)
Building Repairs	15,022	38,042	(23,020)
Total Operating Costs	194,219	320,895	(126,676)
Net Result	**844**	**(27,277)**	**28,121**

UPCOMING EVENTS

On September 14th @ 3pm, the Bethany community is invited to attend this free concert in the sanctuary.

Upper Noe block party – On Saturday, September 21st from 11 am to 3 pm, Upper Noe Neighbors will be hosting a block party at the Upper Noe Valley Recreation Center at Sanchez and Day streets. Bethany will be participating with a table. Contact Cathy Personius if you'd like to help out (cathy.personius@gmail.com)

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 resume after Summer Break – Sign-up at bethanysf.org

Group options:

-2nd Saturdays each month @ 8:30am – next meeting September 14th

-2nd Wednesdays each month @ 7pm – next meeting September 11th

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sanchez Street Block Party – Sunday, Oct 20th from 12-3 pm
For the fourth year in a row, Bethany will be hosting a Block Party on Sanchez Street, between Clipper and 26th Streets, in collaboration with Primeros Pasos (our preschool tenant), Friends of Slow Sanchez, and Noe Café. Across San Francisco, the city will be sponsoring over 30 block parties and Sanchez is one of the most popular.

There will be live music, Zumba dance session, Rabbit Hole Theater will be once again providing children's activities at round tables on our patio, and there will be lots of arts and crafts for families. The Fire Department will visit with a firetruck. Noe Café will be providing expanded food and drinks for purchase.

We still need volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up and to assist with all the activities happening during the event. If you'd like to help out, please contact Steve Wereb at stevewereb@gmail.com

We'll also provide a Chipotle lunch in the multi-purpose room for the volunteers helping out.

This is an incredible opportunity to engage with our community, have some fun and spread some joy!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Dates! We also have a lot coming up in October.

10/6 to 11/3/24 – "Do Unto Others" sermon series by Marcia McFee

10/6/24 – World Communion Sunday

10/13/24 – Blessings of the Animals Sunday

10/20/24 – 4th Annual Sanchez Street Block Party

10/24/24 – Discussion with Josh Kornbluth, Citizen Brain, at 7 pm

10/25/24 – Interfaith Labyrinth walk at 7pm

community celebration board

Thanks to Evan and Sheryl for taking strips off the prayer wall!

Thanks to all who were able to support and participate in the Welcome Back Sunday on September 8th!

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** and IG **@bethany_umc_sf**

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2: Adela Keleman
3: Jerry Winniczek
11: Maranda Personius
20: Joel Creager
22: Alicia Saradpon
26: Pastor Rob Herrmann