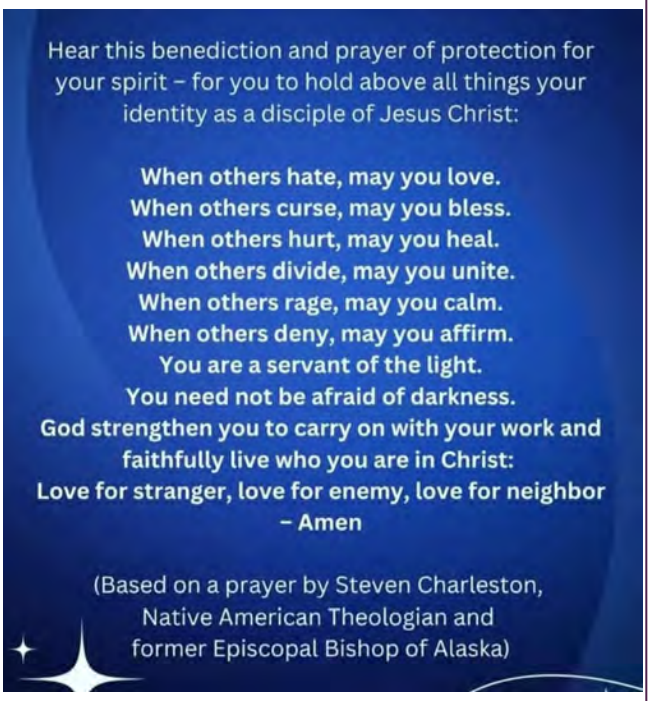
CROSSROADS

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024

We offer this prayer as everyone continues to process the election results.



COMING SOON

Nov 10 - Bagged Lunches & Charge Conference
Nov 20 - Trans Day of Remembrance
Nov 24 - Giving Sunday
Dec 1 - Café Bethany
Dec 6 - Ring Out Danger
Dec 13 - Labyrinth Walk
Dec 14 - Holiday Sing Along
Dec 22 - Bell Appeal Concert
Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Services
Dec 30 - Interfaith Winter Shelter Meal

Abundant Life

The world needs more community, more compassion, more justice and love – and that's exactly what we set out to provide each and every day.

We are a community on a mission! Following Jesus, we're called to thrive and to help our neighbors thrive, creating a beautiful, delightful, abundant life for all. Over the next 3 Sunday's (Nov. 10, 17, 24), we'll explore what this "abundant life" looks like, and celebrate some of the ways Bethany participates in God's graceful love for the world.

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PHOTO GALLERY

A PEEK AT RECENT ACTIVITIES IN THE BETHANY COMMUNITY!

SANCHEZ STREET BLOCK PARTY

On Sunday, October 20th, we held our 4th annual block party in collaboration with Primeros Pasos (our preschool tenant), Friends of Slow Sanchez and Noe Café. We were once again blessed with a beautiful day and a wonderful community celebration. Thank you to everyone that helped out to make this day possible !

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PHOTO GALLERY

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CITIZEN BRAIN WITH JOSH KORNBLUTH

On October 24th, special guest Josh Kornbluth discussed his latest work – *Citizen Brain*, a science based revolution of empathy – at Bethany.

LABYRINTH WALK

On October 25th, Bethany hosted another Labyrinth Walk for the neighborhood. Many thanks to Lizzy, Lawson, Walt, and Sheryl for building the labyrinth on October 20th during the block party so the neighborhood could see it. Some children attending the party tested it out! Many thanks to the performers on October 25th.

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PHOTO GALLERY

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FELLOWSHIP WITH PRIMEROS PASOS

On October 27th, we once again shared fellowship time with Gabriella Judd Cirelli from Primeros Pasos (our preschool tenant).

HONORING WOMEN BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS

October is breast cancer awareness month. During our worship service on October 27th, we honored the women survivors of breast cancer.

RING OUT DANGER

On Friday, November 1st at 9:30 am, in front of Bethany, we once again 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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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Once again, Bethany was a popular stop for families and children on Halloween!

BUDGET UPDATE

by Steve Wereb, Treasurer

Through October, we received $105,872 in donations and $139,726 in rental income for a total of $245,598. Our expenses through October were $258,991. In the coming months, we expect significant repairs, including for our bell tower which is estimated to cost over $28,000 and for which we've received an insurance payment of $7,145. Our budget for the year is $293,618 in donations and rental income, and $320,895 in expenses, which would result in a deficit of -$27,277 and be funded from our cash balance.

Also included below is giving information. The distribution of pledges is shown below. Overall, our total average pledge amount is $5,670 per person. We have 13 people giving between $1 and $6,000, 3 people giving between $6,001 and $9,999, and we have 3 people giving over $10,000. Total donations through October have been $105,872 across 52 people (for both pledgers and non-pledging donors) which results in an average gift of $2,036 person. For perspective, to have a balanced budget and eliminate our budgeted deficit of -$27,277, we would need another 5 people giving $5,670. Our available cash on October 31st is $101,425.

We are very fortunate to have the financial support of our community which helps to sustain Bethany and fund our staff and programs.

Thank you for your support and generosity.
Kind regards, Steve Wereb, Treasurer

Summary of Donations

Expected Giving for 2024 ==> $127,243

Actual Giving thru 10/31/24 ==> $105,872

Left To Go ==>$21,371

Actual vs. Budget	Actual thru 10/31/24	Budget for 2024	Actual vs. Budget
Donations	$ 105,872	$ 127,243	$ (21,371)
Rent	139,726	166,375	(26,649)
Total Income	245,598	293,618	(48,020)
Staff & Programs	124,701	153,410	(28,709)
Tithe	21,000	29,362	(8,362)
Building Costs	78,074	100,081	(22,007)
Building Repairs	35,216	38,042	(2,826)
Total Operating Costs	258,991	320,895	(61,904)
Insurance received	7,145		7,145
Net Result	**$ (6,248)**	**$ (27,277)**	**$ 21,029**

Cash Balance, 10/31/24 $ 101,425

Distribution of Pledges			
Gift Amount	Number of Households	Pledge Amount	%
$1 to $2,500	8	$ 10,330	10%
$2,501 to $6,000	5	$ 23,900	22%
$6,001 to $9,999	3	$ 21,500	20%
$10,000 & Above	3	$ 52,000	48%
Total	19	$ 107,730	100%
Average/person		$ 5,670	

YTD Donations Received		%
YTD pledges received	$ 79,759	75%
YTD other donations	$ 26,113	25%
Total donations	$ 105,872	100%
Total number of givers	52	
Average gift/giver	$ 2,036	

Abundant Life

During November, we will be conducting our annual Stewardship Campaign for 2025. Our theme this year is Abundant Life. We'll explore what this "abundant life" looks like, and celebrate some of the ways Bethany participates in God's graceful love for the world. We ask for your financial support and commitment to Bethany. Our commitment to God's work through the well-being of our church community is reflected in our annual stewardship campaign. These gifts, given as a spiritual act of faith, allow us to continue serving and supporting one another.

Pledge cards have been mailed and you may also submit your pledge online via the QR Code above, or through this URL link:
https://bethanysf.breezechms.com/form/12544d999610

Sunday, November 24th is Giving Sunday, when we'll joyfully and beautifully celebrate our mission of creating life-changing community in an often lonely, disheartened, fragmented world. We hope to receive your pledge for 2025 by November 24th.

Gracious God, thank you!

Thank you for all the gifts we notice, and all the gifts we don't.

Thank you for the ever-flowing river of your grace, your justice, your compassion, and your love.

Let our gratitude overflow into generosity. Let your gifts to us overflow into gifts we give to others. As your children, made in your image, let us be creators of abundant life for all.

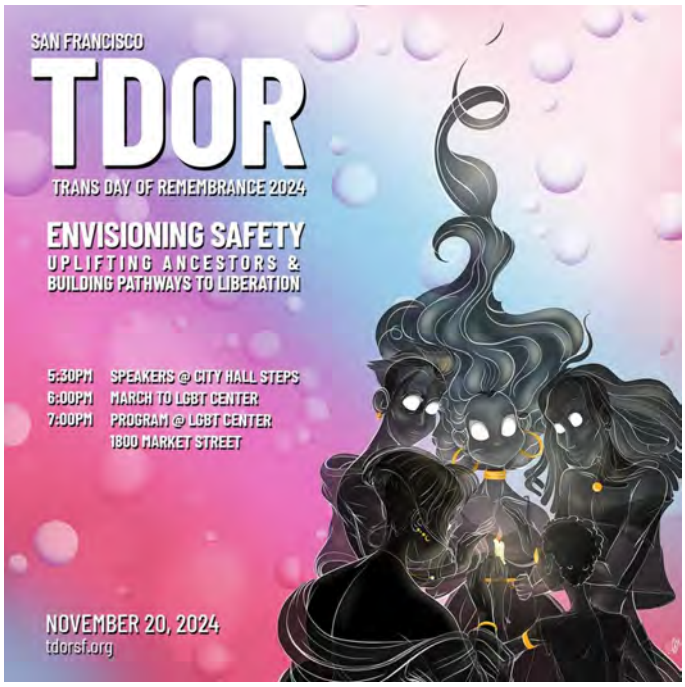
In the joyful, generous name of Jesus we pray.

Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Charge Conference, Sunday, November 10th at Noon – Our Charge Conference this year is November 10th at Noon. This is a meeting of the church members to vote on official church matters.

On November 10th, 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.



On November 20th, San Francisco and the rest of the world will observe the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) to honor those we have lost and build momentum to end the ever-increasing violence against trans and gender non-conforming communities. A rally will start at 5:30 pm at the City Hall steps.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 6th @ 9:30 am, every 1st Friday of the month, we ring our bells in solidarity with ***Ring Out Danger: People of Faith Opposed to Gun Violence*** (**https://ringoutdanger.org**). Please join us, in front of Bethany, no ringing experience is required.

Labyrinth Walk, Friday, December 13th @7pm
Join us for another evening of contemplative music and explore the deeply centering tradition of walking the labyrinth, a journey inward and then back out. The service is very casual and is designed to be whatever you make of it.

We will play music for about an hour and during that time you can sit and listen, sing along, walk the labyrinth, dance the labyrinth, or do whatever it is that you need in the moment.

December 14th @ 5-8:30 pm, once again the Bethany community has the opportunity to join Songbird Studios for a Holiday Sing Along. Please register using the QR Code provided.

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

community celebration board

From Jeannette LaFors ... Our upcoming Advent season features Celtic traditions, and one of San Francisco's premier choral ensembles is featuring Celtic musical traditions at their annual winter holiday concert! The **San Francisco Girls Chorus returns on Monday, December 23th at 7pm** to the Davies stage for this favorite Winter tradition. This year, the concert highlights Celtic folk music and features violinist Edwin Huizinga and Mandolinist Ashley Hoyer. Jeannette purchased a block of eight ($35/each) tickets together before they got all snatched up! Please let her know if you are interested in being a part of a Bethany group at the performance (jlafors@stanfordalumni.org or 415-425-7589). It would be really fun to go together. Adela, Jeannette's daughter, plans to attend and sing. She is looking forward to joining her friends and fellow alumnae onstage for the sing-a-long portion of the program (at the end). The entire audience is also traditionally invited to sing a couple verses to finish the night and put everyone in the holiday spirit. If you'd like to buy your own tickets, they are available here: **https://www.cityboxoffice.com/ances.asp?evt=3124.**

Thank you Cathy and Thomas for help with the Prayer Wall.

Thank you Steve and all those who contributed yet another enjoyable Block Party.

Thank you Pastor Rob for bring us "Citizen Brain" by Josh Kornbluth. It was a good reminder to foster empathy. Thanks to Pastor Rob for refreshments and to Steve for setting up the refreshments.

Thank you Lawson and Lizzy for bringing us another meditative and thoughtful Labyrinth. Thanks to Walt and Sheryl for helping to outline the labyrinth along with Lawson and Lizzy.

Thanks to all who brought candy to distribute on Halloween and to all those who came to pass out the candy.

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
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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4: Marilyn Herand
14: Doug Hogin
18: John Nelson
25: Caryn Cranston