CROSSROADS

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

from the pastor . . .

As you know the season of Lent is a reflection of Jesus' 40 days in the desert as told with varying degrees of detail in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. (Read them here: Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13 and Luke 4:1-13) As Jesus spent 40 days being tempted (tempered may be a better term), the season of Lent offers us a time to intentionally consider those things that keep us from closer relationship with God and to commit to ways and practices to guide us back.

In the third century a new movement into the desert arose in response to the Christianity becoming an official religion of the empire. The desert mothers and fathers, *Abbas* and *Ammas*, as they came to be known, saw this as a corruption and journeyed into the desert to deny worldly distractions, seeking intimacy with God through silence, solitude, and simplicity. This Lent, we will observe these Abbas and Ammas and see what we can learn from their desert sojourns.

We begin Lent with **Ash Wednesday, February 18 with a service at 7:00pm.** During the service I will invite you to partner with someone for your Lenten journey. You and this person would at minimum commit to praying for each other during the Lenten season. If you would like to expand on the partnership - with weekly check-ins, sending cards, getting together - I encourage that while also advising to avoid it becoming a burden. The partnership is to encourage not discourage.

Our book group begins the **second Wednesday of Lent, February 25 at 7:00pm.** We will be reading *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis, in which a senior devil writes to his nephew, a junior devil who is learning the ropes of temptation.

(cont'd on next page)

COMING SOON

Feb 15	Café Bethany
Feb 18	Ash Wednesday
Feb 25	Book Study starts, *Screwtape Letters*
Mar 6	Ring Out Danger
Mar 8	Bagged Lunches
Mar 14	Church Work Day
Mar 21	Sound Bath
Apr 2	Maundy Thursday
Apr 3	Good Friday Labyrinth Service
Apr 5	Easter Sunday

IN THIS ISSUE

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

(cont'd from previous page)

Lent, with its tradition of intentionally drawing closer to God, has also been a time for preparing people to enter into church membership on **Easter Sunday, April 5**. If you would like to learn about membership in the United Methodist Church at Bethany (or would like a refresher!) is all about, contact me at rob.herrmann@cnumc.org by **Friday, February 20.**

Look elsewhere in this newsletter for the Holy Week schedule of services and The Screwtape Letters reading schedule.

Love, Pastor Rob

PHOTO GALLERY

A PEEK AT RECENT ACTIVITIES IN THE BETHANY COMMUNITY!

On January 4th, John Brett, from the San Francisco Night Ministry, joined us as a guest speaker.

On January 11th, we once again assembled 100 bagged lunches for the unhoused in partnership with the San Francisco Night Ministry.

Matching Scarves, when the time is right!

One day at Bethany, Lizzy recognized a scarf that Marilyn was wearing was the exact same one as she owned. They both agreed to wear it the following Sunday – Marilyn remembered, but Lizzy forgot. A few months later, they both happened to be wearing the same scarf. The time was right! Thanks to Jeff for snapping the cute picture!

(cont'd on next page)

(cont'd from previous page)

PHOTO GALLERY

On February 1st and 2nd, we cooked, delivered, and served warm meals at the Interfaith Winter Program for over 100 people at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Cathy organized the meals, and Bob & Kate, Walter, Josh, Shirley, Bill, Maranda, Jeannette G., Jeannette L., Jessia, Steve K., Jeff & John, Thomas, and Pastor Rob helped out with various cooking, delivering, and serving. Thanks everyone!!

(cont'd on next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ash Wednesday, February 18th

Service with imposition of ashes at 7pm

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1270 SANCHEZ ST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94127
bethanysf.org

The Screwtape Letters

C S Lewis

Wednesday evenings during Lent
February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1
7:00pm

Email Pastor Rob for the ZOOM link
rob.herrmann@cnumc.org

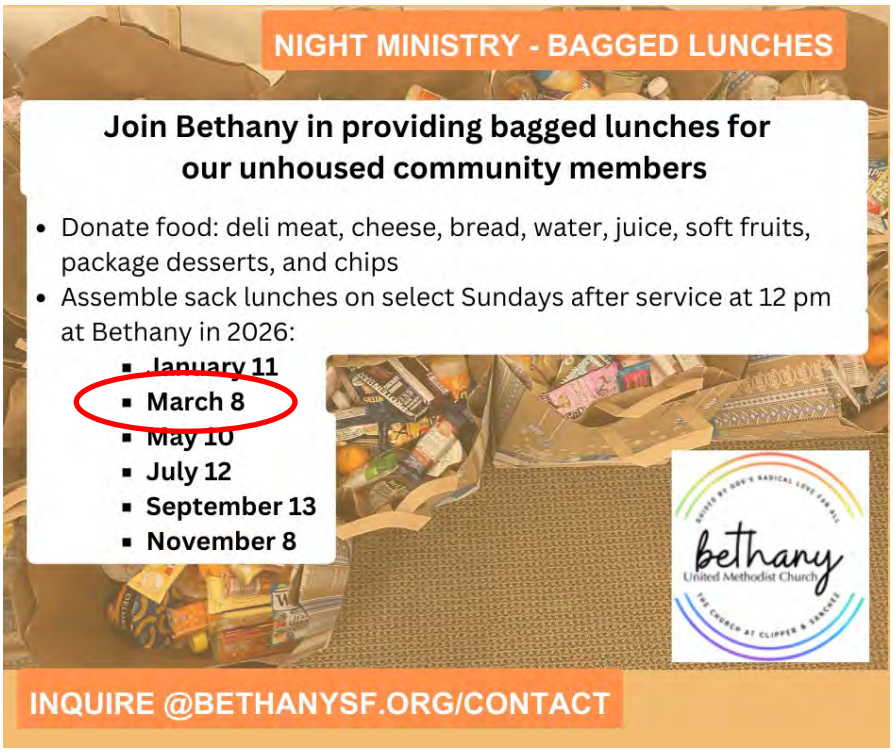
(cont'd on next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS

(cont'd from previous page)

March 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.

Bagged Lunches, Sunday, March 8th @Noon: We will continue with our sack lunch ministry with SF Night Ministry.



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

(cont'd on next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS

(cont'd from previous page)

Church Work Day, Beautifying Bethany, March 14th, 10 am to 2 pm. The Trustees are looking for volunteers to help with a Church Work Day to clean and beautify Bethany. Please see Thomas if you can help out at **tmacburney@gmail.com**

Urban Practitioner and
Bethany United Methodist Church present

A Sound Bath Healing

Saturday, March 21st at 10 am

Kick back, relax and leave it all on your mat! Release that Stagnation!

What to Bring

YOGA MAT
EYE SLEEP MASK
FACE MASK (optional)
BLANKET
PILLOW
whatever makes you comfortable

Visit:
BethanySF.org
IG: @UrbanPractitioner

BETHANY UMC
1270 SANCHEZ, SF, CA 94127
bethanysf.org

DONATE to Bethany

Labyrinth Walks in 2026

an evening of music & movement inspired by the world's spiritual traditions

Bethany will be hosting labyrinth services in the sanctuary at 7pm on: April 3, June 5, August 7, October 2, and December 4

Each first Friday of the even numbered months will be an evening of chants and contemplative music inspired by the world's spiritual traditions.

A deeply centering practice, walking the labyrinth is symbolic of the journey inward and then back out into the world. Sit & listen, sing along, walk or dance the labyrinth.

Free event. Donations Welcome.
Bethany United Metodist Church
1270 Sanchez St, Noe Valley, San Francisco

(cont'd on next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS

(cont'd from previous page)

Join us for Holy Week Services

- **Maundy Thursday,**
  April 2nd at 7pm
- **Good Friday on the Labyrinth,**
  April 3rd at 7pm
- **Easter Sunday Service,**
  April 5th at 10:45 am

community celebration board

On February 10th, Pastor Rob joined Lizzy and Thomas (not pictured) at San Francisco School District Educators Direct Action. Bob Armstrong was at Ocean Beach on February 11th.

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**
FB **@bethanyumcsf** and IG **@bethany_umc_sf**

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

8: Harold Spiva
22: Dylan Keleman