



Bethany United Church of Christ

Embracing the Community

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Winter News 2020

Finding Our Way

by Pastor Colleen Samson

When a calendar changes to a new year, what do you think about? Do you look backward at the past year, do you look forward to the new year, or do you do both? Are you hopeful or fearful as you wonder what the new year will bring? We are told as Christians, "Do not be afraid!" Many places in scripture we read those words. So, as we face an uncertain future, we know that God is with us and there is nothing to fear.

The hardest thing to do is to find our way when we are not sure which way to turn. If you are considering moving to a retirement community, which one is best for you? If you do not have enough income, how might you earn more? If your child is lost in life, how can you best help her? When you are having relationship difficulties, which way should you turn? These are all reasonable, everyday questions we face. You can probably think of some specific things in your life.

The first thing to do is to ground yourself. You can do that by meditating. Meditation helps you make an intentional connection between yourself and God. Therefore, you can find an answer that is deep within yourself where the Spirit of God resides. Meditate with an open mind; try not to let outside thoughts enter to distract you. If other thoughts distract you, go to a repeated phrase like, "Oh God, be merciful to me." Try meditating for ten minutes a day at the beginning of the day. This spiritual practice will help you be connected, calmer, and see things more clearly.

Make prayer the center of your life. Give thanks and praise to God. Pray for yourself, for others, your church, and for those in need. Ask God to make you a vessel of love and peace in the world. Then you must act. Go out in faith, and be God's servant in the world.

As this calendar year begins, journal about your meditation and prayers. You will learn to see God at work in your life, in our church, and in the world. Therefore, you will not be anxious about an uncertain future, because your faith will increase along with your trust in God's presence.



Bethany is a community of justice and peace serving the needs of people on their spiritual journey.

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

Every Sunday Morning

Adult Faith Formation 9:30
Sunday School 9:30
Worship Service 10:30



Scriptures

January

January 5 Jeremiah 3: 7-14
January 12 Isaiah 42: 1-9
January 19 Isaiah 49: 1-7
January 26 Isaiah 9: 1- 4

February

February 2 Micah 6: 1-8
February 9 Isaiah 58: 1-9a
February 16 Deut. 30: 15-20
February 23 Exodus 24: 12-18
February 26 **Ash Wednesday**
Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

March

March 1 Psalm 32
March 8 Psalm 121
March 15 Exodus 17: 1-7
March 22 Samuel 16: 1-13
March 29 Psalm 130

April

April 5 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29
April 12 Jeremiah 31: 1-6

Preaching Series for Lent begins March 1, 2020

LOOKING FOR LOVE IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| First Sunday in Lent | Look for the Resistor | Matthew 4:1-11 |
| Second Sunday in Lent | Look for the Helper | John 3:1-17 |
| Third Sunday in Lent | Look for the Thirst-Quencher | John 4:5-42 |
| Fourth Sunday in Lent | Look for the Shepherd | John 9:1-14 |
| Fifth Sunday in Lent | Look for the Liberator | John 11:1-45 |
| Sixth Sunday in Lent | Look for the Unexpected | Matthew 21:1-11 |
| Easter Sunday | Finding New Life | John 20:1-18 |

Watch the Bulletin for Details about:

Ash Wednesday *Maundy Thursday* *Easter Sunrise*



Worship at Bethany

Plans made for the months of February, March, and April.

- Communion services will be Feb. 2, Mar. 1, Apr. 5, and Easter Sunday, Apr. 12.
- Blanket Sunday, planned by the Missions Committee, will be observed during worship in February.
- An Ash Wednesday service will be led by Rev.
- Samson on Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m.
- One Great Hour of Sharing information and offering will be in March.
- Palm Sunday on April 5 will include communion, palms on the altar and for the congregation.
- A Maundy Thursday service on April 9 will be planned and led by Rev. Naish. Time and type of service to be decided.
- Easter Sunday on April 12: Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. Breakfast following in Fellowship Hall, Worship and Communion at 10:30 a.m. with lilies placed in the sanctuary.
- Observation of Earth Day will be Sunday, April 26.

FELLOWSHIP PLANS FOR 2020

Meet and Eat:

| | | |
|------------|------|-----------------|
| February 6 | 6:00 | Butcher Boy's |
| April 2 | 6:00 | Captains Galley |
| June 11 | 6:00 | JD's BBQ |
| August 6 | 6:00 | Box Car |
| October 1 | 6:00 | Nagano's |

Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations Fellowship Times at Bethany

March 29 January, February, and March



January

4 Tommy Little
24 Colleen Samson

February

3 Larry Sink
14 Sarah Bostian
17 Vivian Cline

March

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | |
|----|--------------|
| 20 | Gina Beard |
| 23 | Aris DeJesus |
| 27 | Jerry Pope |
| 29 | Beth Graham |



**Daylight Savings
Time Begins
March 8, 2020**