



# BETHANY BRIEFS

November-December 2019

Bethany Presbyterian Church

1818 Queen Anne Ave N, Seattle WA 98109

206.284.2222

www.bethanypc.org

## *Eyes for Emmanuel:*

### Seeing Advent Through the Incarnation

by Pastor Doug Kelly, Head of Staff

*He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.*

-Isaiah 11:3-4

I finally got to my optometrist at the end of the summer. Sure enough, I needed a new prescription for my glasses. Not a huge change, but enough for a new set of lenses. Advent is Bethany's time for eye check up.

Last May, Amy Eyster, our Worship Elder, hosted a gathering of some elders and staff where we prayed through and reflected on some of the upcoming Advent lectionary scripture passages. We shared our hopes for Advent and looked for God to show up in new ways. A team was assigned to identify a theme for Advent from these passages and we have arrived at "Eyes for Emmanuel: Seeing Advent through the Incarnation?"

Advent is the season of staying awake for God's incarnation into our world. We await not only the baby Jesus, but King Jesus who will reign with justice and love. Isaiah says that this shoot from Jesse's stump will not judge by appearances, but by righteousness and "equity for the meek of the earth."

How can we discern God's movement beyond appearances? Could our inability to see God move be because our eyes are at fault?

My senior high school year on the baseball team at Oceanside High was a disaster. Always known as a glove at shortstop, I was suddenly fumbling every short hop grounder. My batting average plummeted. My technique

was fine; the coach liked my swing and my footwork around second base was tops. The problem didn't become clear until the next fall at college when I found 60 minutes of reading painfully exhausting. A-ha! I couldn't play shortstop, couldn't hit because I could not see the baseball; my eyes were at fault.

Will you see Jesus on the move this Advent? Here are a few thoughts on how we can join in on this advent theme:

***Intentionality/practices*** - Where will we focus our gaze? How can we see beyond our own limited perspective/our own eyes? What intentional practices can we have that keep us centered on Christ? (Two suggested practices: make a commitment to be in worship every Sunday of Advent; practice an Advent candle ritual at home, connecting corporate and family worship.)

***Relationships*** - who can we be in relationship with to expand our current perspectives and sense of understanding?

***Hope/wonder*** - how can we be a creative people to foster our sense of hope and wonder.

Having Eyes for Emmanuel means allowing the incarnate Jesus to not simply enter your heart but to transform your eyes.



## Thanksgiving Worship Service

*Thursday, November 28 - 10:00am - Sanctuary*

Join in a multi-generational 50-minute service of praise, thanksgiving, and song with a children's message and brief homily. Worshipers of all ages are invited to share aloud, if they desire, something they are grateful for.

## Welcoming Advent

*Saturday, November 23 - 4:30-6:30 pm - Fellowship Hall*

Everyone is invited to our annual Welcoming Advent event. We'll begin with a delicious pasta dinner, followed by a 25-minute child-friendly Advent Worship service in the sanctuary. We'll conclude the evening by creating advent wreaths, working on a Matisse Paper-Cut Windows art project for the Ramp Room, and assembling an outreach project - all while munching cookies and milk! Please RSVP online at [www.bethanypc.org](http://www.bethanypc.org). Cost is \$5.00 per person or a maximum per family of \$20.00 (pay at the door).

## Advent Taizé

*Tuesday, December 3 - 6:30-7:30 pm - Queen Anne United Methodist Church*

Take a mini-retreat from our increasingly loud and complex world by coming to our taizé prayer service, consisting of meditative singing and periods of silence.

## Advent Reception

*Sunday, December 15 - after both services - Fellowship Hall*

Share a favorite holiday treat associated with the Christmas season, or just something that you really like for our Advent Reception. We would love to have a smorgasbord of finger food that represents the tastes of Bethany.

## Caroling with Coastland Commons

*Monday, December 16 - 6:00 pm - meet at Northminster Presbyterian Church*

Coastland Commons, a new worshipping community in the PC(USA)—which is co-directed by our worship director, Kyle Turver—is hosting their fourth annual caroling event, and all are invited! We'll meet at Northminster Presbyterian at 6pm; more details to follow. Questions? Contact Kyle Turver at [kylet@bethanypc.org](mailto:kylet@bethanypc.org).

## Christmas Eve Worship Services

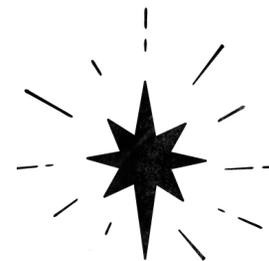
*Tuesday, December 24 - Sanctuary*

4:00 & 5:30 pm

Christmas Eve Family Worship Service

8:00 & 11:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship Services



# First Sundays: Faith Formation 2020

*Growing Hearts and Minds at the Start of Every Month*

---

Bethany's Adult Christian Education team is initiating a new series to empower adults to grow in Christ. First Sundays: Faith Formation will meet on the main floor of the house at 7 Howe Street. (If you haven't been in that room in the last year, you'll be amazed at this new space God has given us.) Led by a competent and caring faculty, our classes will range across the spectrum: scripture, theology, history, spirituality, the arts, the Christian life today, and outreach/justice (also covered by our monthly Outreach Book discussions). Watch for more publicity as January nears, but here is our tentative schedule for this winter and spring:

- January 5th: Science and Faith, Eric Long
- February 2nd: Community as a Spiritual Discipline, Jeff Van Duzer
- March 1st: TBD
- April 5th: TBD
- May 7th: Jonah, Peter Moe
- June 5th: Christian Perspectives on Islam, Tim Dearborn

## Grief and Loss in the Holidays

---

The holidays are coming - for some, these are the toughest days of grief.

Perhaps someone you loved died? Our thankfulness for the life we lived with our loved one is so attached to our missing. Are you aware how few people feel comfortable bringing up the name of the deceased in front of family members?

*"It's as if they're afraid I'm going to crumble into a puddle of tears," a widow recently said. "I miss talking about him; he was such a part of my life and theirs, too."*

*"I miss Dad, even after his being gone five years. He loved the ritual of looking for just the right tree. And now my mom's gone. I want to talk about Mom, but I don't want to wear my friends out."*

Be brave enough to bring up the name of a person who's died, and give the gift of conversation to the bereaved this holiday season. We need our memories to remind us of who we are.

During the holidays, people are more acutely aware of the loss of their dreams.

*"I wish I could skip the holidays. I'm always reminded of what I don't have . . . a spouse, kids, a big home to decorate, a loving family to spend time with, close friends who include me in their festivities . . . I try to be grateful, but with the holidays come sorrow and envy for what I wish I had."*

If you anticipate grieving as the holidays approach, please consider joining our **Grief and Loss in the Holidays Support Group**. These gatherings are designed for people who have experienced loss and would like to talk about how to prepare for making their way through the holiday season. The discussion will be led by Kevin Henne, chaplain, and sponsored by Stephen Ministry. We'll meet Sundays, November 10 and 17, after 9:00 am worship in Bethany's Parlor. Brochures entitled "Grief in the Holidays" are also available on the welcome table in the lobby. Questions? Contact Linda Cutshall at [lindac@bethanypc.org](mailto:lindac@bethanypc.org).

## CONTACT US

*Reach our Office*

[bethany@bethanypc.org](mailto:bethany@bethanypc.org)  
206-284-2222  
3 Howe St.  
Seattle, WA 98109

*Head of Staff*

Rev. Dr. Doug Kelly  
[DougK@bethanypc.org](mailto:DougK@bethanypc.org)

*Director of Congregational Care*

Linda Cutshall  
[LindaC@bethanypc.org](mailto:LindaC@bethanypc.org)

*Associate Minister for Youth and Young Adults*

Rev. Danielle Merseles  
[DanielleM@bethanypc.org](mailto:DanielleM@bethanypc.org)

*Minister to Children & Families*

Dianne Ross  
[DianneR@bethanypc.org](mailto:DianneR@bethanypc.org)

*Director of Worship Ministries*

Kyle Turver  
[KyleT@bethanypc.org](mailto:KyleT@bethanypc.org)

*Director of*

*Wednesday Night Dinner*  
Rev. Barb Williams  
[BarbW@bethanypc.org](mailto:BarbW@bethanypc.org)

*Communications & Systems Manager*

Suzanne Mason  
[SuzanneM@bethanypc.org](mailto:SuzanneM@bethanypc.org)

# Welcome New Members!

---



**JENN CAVANAUGH**

Jenn is a freelance writer, editor, and teacher who loves art, music, languages, travel, and a good hike. She has spent a quarter of her life abroad, and her family is currently transitioning back to Queen Anne after over 5-1/2 years in Paris. Her husband Jason Pratt is also joining Bethany at this time. Her daughter Nora attends McClure Middle School, and her daughter Teagan attends Coe Elementary.



**JASON PRATT**

I love to travel and visit other countries, having been fortunate enough to get to live in two of them (Japan and France). I've been a member at Church At The Center, which then merged to form Capitol Hill Presbyterian (where I was also a member). When I moved to France, I joined the American Church in Paris as an associate member, which allowed me to retain my membership with Capitol Hill Presbyterian, which I had the intention of rejoining. However, it closed during our time in France. I've worked for Microsoft for the last 20 years.



**JEREMY CHAN**

I was born and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia. I moved to Seattle in 2015 to do my residency in Child Neurology at Seattle Children's Hospital. During my spare time, I like to cook and eat with my husband, Matthew Karolak.

**MATT KAROLAK**

I was born and raised in small-town Arizona, completed graduate school in Nashville, TN. I currently work at UW South Lake Union in the Neurology department as a post-doctoral research fellow and have a side hustle as a part time bookkeeper. I enjoy world travel, cooking, eating, and shellfishing in the glorious outdoors of the PNW with my husband Jeremy Chan.



**SUSAN O'CONNELL**

I live in Uptown Queen Anne. I work for Boeing in Renton, currently in functional test quality assurance. I enjoy cooking, especially fermenting things, growing orchids, and driving my Mustang convertible with the top down in the summer.



**BEVERLY ROGERS**

I am a part-time massage therapist, and have been in practice for over 30 years. I'm an avid listener of KBCS-FM and NPR, I enjoy going to Hula classes (which I started in May), and walking with friends or by myself. I also love morning journaling, contemplation, and reading.

*Please Note: Bill Clarke was also received in membership on November 3, 2019 - we were missing some information at press time, so please watch for a follow-up on Bill in our next issue.*

# Welcome New Members!

---



**GLORIA SANDFORD**

I am a psychotherapist practicing in the University District. I love learning new things, travel, and sharing good food and fellowship with friends. At Bethany, I love to be a part of the healing prayer events and the choir when I can.



**CLAUDIA STEINMAN**

I moved to Seattle two years ago after 40 years of living in the Northeast: Boston, NYC and Westport, CT. I had retired from careers in social work, then real estate and was ready to downsize. The nearness to my daughter, in the midst of her PhD in Public Health at UW, 6 and 9 year old grandchildren, and the beauty of the Pacific Northwest drew me here. I am enjoying attending performing arts & lectures, and all the joyous activities with grandchildren. I found Bethany (or perhaps Bethany found me) hidden behind the lines of people on their way to Wednesday Night Dinner and wanted to learn more. Since then, I have embraced the BPC community and its commitment to service to others.

## Special Wednesday Night Dinner Giving Tree & Christmas Meal Coming Up!

---

*Barb Williams, Director of Wednesday Night Dinner*

Did you know that we provide a hot, healthy, homemade meal to 150 people every Wednesday evening in our Fellowship Hall? Wednesday Night Dinner is a time for people to come together and enjoy both a meal and fellowship, and to encourage one another in life and faith.

**The Wednesday Night Dinner Giving Tree** is an annual opportunity for us to give gifts to people who come to our dinner. We can be generous to our friends in need. The Giving Tree will be in the lobby of the Fellowship Hall on Sunday December 8 and 15. You pick a tag and return the gift or gift card to the church office by December 18. Suggested donation is \$25. Gifts will be distributed to appreciative Wednesday Night Dinner participants throughout the year. If you are not able to purchase a gift or gift card, you can drop off money in an envelope at the church office and let us do the shopping. Gift card ideas (\$25) include: Safeway, Starbucks, Goodwill, and Arco Gas cards. Gift ideas include: New winter scarfs, gloves, hats, and large, sturdy backpacks.

I can think of several of our guests who might be especially thankful for a gift: a woman who recently lost her job and lives in her car, another woman who is a recent immigrant from Turkey and will be starting community college this winter, a young man who lives with his parents in a tent community, and a man living in low income housing who comes to Wednesday Night Dinner just to be with his friends. Your gift will be appreciated by all our friends.

We have a special need for table hosts and servers for our Christmas meal on Wednesday December 18 where we are expecting 200 people for dinner. Send me an email at [barbw@bethanypc.org](mailto:barbw@bethanypc.org) and let me know that you can serve our community on this date.

You can also support the Wednesday Night Dinner ministry throughout the year -- join us for a meal on any Wednesday, doors open at 5:30 and dinner is served between 6:00 and 7:00PM. Bring your children and other family members. High school students can earn community service hours by coming to the dinner. Specific opportunities for service throughout the year include joining our prayer team and being a greeter at the door. If you are not able to join us in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays, pray for our volunteers and participants wherever you are.



*Your community thanks you!*

# Coming Up in Children's Ministry

---

## Advent/Christmas/Epiphany - Schedule of Events for Children & Families

- Saturday, November 23 – “Welcoming Advent” dinner, worship and craft making – VERY child friendly (see ad with more details on back of this issue)
- Thursday, November 28 – All church Thanksgiving Service 10 a.m. (quite kid friendly)
- Sundays, November 3 – Dec 1 Una voce choirs for children K-8th grade 10:30-11:15 in Howe St. houses
- Sunday, December 8 – Una Voce choirs sing in worship at 9 and 10:45 a.m.
- Sunday, December 15 – Christmas reception after both services (VERY kid friendly!)
- Monday, December 23 – “Walk Thru” for 5th graders and staff leading 4 & 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve worship services
- Tuesday, December 24 – 5th grade-led Christmas Eve services at 4 and 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, January 5 – Epiphany Celebration for all 1st-5th graders in Fellowship Hall during the 9 a.m. service



## Upcoming Youth Events

### Fall Retreat - November 15 - 17

Get ready for a fun weekend with your friends as we head to Gig Harbor to play, worship and grow in our relationship with Jesus together!

We will play games, relax over puzzles and cookie baking, play basketball in the indoor court, toss the frisbee/football outside around the pond, meet some new friends, worship, pray together, connect with Jesus, have small groups, and have fun. Register online at [www.bethanypc.org](http://www.bethanypc.org).

### Save the Date:

The afternoon of Sunday January 12 is a Broomball Event at Highland Ice Arena, Shoreline. 6th – 12th graders from Bethany as well as a group of other youth from multiple other Presbyterian Churches in the Seattle area will come together to play Broomball.

# Ordination Reflections

*Danielle Merseles, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults*

When I moved to Seattle in 2007 for a position in architecture, I never imagined that God might call me towards a vocational shift, seminary, or becoming an ordained pastor. It was a long and sometimes difficult process, yet I was nudged along by the Spirit. Every time I got discouraged or questioned God's provision or direction, voices surrounded me with encouragement, help, and prayers. I honestly could not have done this alone! My Bethany family, you have been such an incredible part of this journey. Thank you so much for your love, support, questions, and prayers. Students, thank you for your honesty, joy, and love of laughter.

An ordination service is a celebration of worship, first and foremost. Jesus was so very present in that space, and it was a joy to glorify him alongside so many people from my life. We worshiped through music led by friends, colleagues, youth leaders and students. The lyrics I selected were reminders to me of God's promises and my identity as a beloved child. My current middle and high schoolers read prayers and led us in worship. My 9 year old god-daughter, Kaylee, and I read from the Jesus Storybook Bible (by Sally Lloyd Jones) about how Jesus invites little children to him no matter what. Pastor Doug spoke to the congregation. A key mentor in this whole process, Kendy, was here to preach, encourage me, and pray over me. She not only has been my supervisor, but also the first to encourage me towards seminary and has walked with me through this whole process. In ordination tradition, the new pastor receives prayer with people laying hands on them. A number of my original small group of 7th graders that I led as a volunteer were able to come and they got to be the first to lay hands on me. This prayer time was one I won't soon forget. My original youth at my back; my best friends, sister and goddaughter holding my hands; and a sea of Bethany youth and children around my legs and everywhere my eyes could see. Additionally, I was able to serve communion for the first time, which was an emotional experience. I stood in a room of 200 people I know and invited them to a table

big enough for all - young and old, certain and doubting, for all genders and identities, for those who regularly attend worship or showed up because they love me. Christ's love, which is deep enough to include me, was for everyone who came up hungry that afternoon. I served a sourdough bread from Sea Wolf bakery because I eat it over meals with friends and it infuses my taste buds with assurances of God's abundance and grace.

After worship, we all gathered in Fellowship Hall which had been transformed into the perfect party by so many Bethany folks who worked hard at moving furniture, ironing tablecloths, plating cookies, arranging flowers and creating such a welcoming environment. Thank you to the 30 families who blessed this party with your favorite cookies. I did get to try each one throughout the week after my ordination and they were all delicious! It was a joy to see everyone I love eating cookies, drinking milk, playing games, doing a puzzle, drawing, chatting, and just celebrating with me. I loved all the hugs and am grateful to everyone who waited around just to talk with me. Thank you for welcoming my sister into the festivities, as she mentioned how thoughtful and loving everyone was that day. I know there were multiple people who flew in or drove long distances to be here and I am beyond grateful for the hugs and smiles that filled me with joy on this special day.

As I reflect on the whole ordination, I realize how blessed I am in relationships. Younger people have been a crucial part of my journey and it was powerful to hear their voices declare God's truth. My friends give me space to have fun, relax, and be known. My sister, who flew in from Boston, is so supportive of me and made sure I was well celebrated all weekend. Mentors and folks older than me that have spoken into my life truly have transformed me with their words, prayers, and presence. Thank you for bearing witness with me to a Sanctuary that was a reminder of how Jesus offers grace, transformation, good gifts, and abundant love.

*Danielle's Ordination Service - October 13, 2019*





Bethany Presbyterian Church of Seattle  
3 Howe Street  
Seattle, WA 98109

Return services requested

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Seattle, WA  
Permit No. 438



## JOIN US AS WE PREPARE FOR ADVENT TOGETHER

Pasta & Salad Dinner in the Fellowship Hall  
Child-Friendly Advent Worship Service  
Wreath-Making & Matisse Paper-Cut Windows  
Assemble Welcome Kits for Refugees

**ALL AGES WELCOME!**

RSVP online: [www.bethanypc.org](http://www.bethanypc.org)  
Cost is \$5/person or \$20/family (pay at the door)