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## News from Bethel – March 24, 2021

(a mini-newsletter about fast approaching exciting stuff!)

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Greetings Bethel folk – this is a quick newsletter to update you on Holy Week – Easter happenings, and a few other bits of news. We are hoping to launch a full-scale newsletter soon – so those of you who “do stuff” – (projects at Bethel, Kids stuff, Special events, etc.) be ready to keep us updated! Plans are for a monthly newsletter....



### PALM SUNDAY

We have a great service planned – and Pastor Sylvia needs YOU to be a part of it! Here’s how –

1. Come to Bethel on Thursday (March 25<sup>th</sup>) at 3:30 to be in a **Palms Video**. Bring a palm branch if you can – or any kind of foliage/flowers/or even home-made signs or paper palms etc. to have as we process (masked and socially distanced, of course). We will have some palms there for folks as well. There is a chance of some rain – and if that happens, we will move inside – still masked and distanced, and shoot the video inside.

2. If you can’t come in person on Thursday – just take a “selfie video” (or even a pic) of you and your household

waving your branches/flowers/(even homemade paper ones or signs....) to welcome Jesus. Send it to Pastor Sylvia. If it is a small file you can just email it ([sylvialeemann@gmail.com](mailto:sylvialeemann@gmail.com)). If it is too large, upload it to this URL: <https://spaces.hightail.com/uplink/sylviamann>

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

We will be offering online services for Holy Week. The services will live-stream at their “official” time, then will remain available for viewing later if desired.

All online services will be available on our website Home Page, YouTube, Twitch, and of course on Facebook – on both our Bethel Congregational UCC page, and Pastor Sylvia’s page.

Our online services are also available on demand through our ROKU and Amazon Fire Channels.

**Maundy Thursday** – Thursday evening, April 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7pm. A service of prayer, reflection, music, and meditation. Join us.

**Good Friday** – Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Noon. Readings, Prayer, Music. (We have openings for readers – contact Pastor Sylvia to volunteer!)

**Holy Saturday** (“Easter Vigil”) – Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at Noon. This will be a meditative/music/prayer time. The video will post at noon, and will remain available to be experienced any time.

**NOTE** - We are launching a “**Holy Week Resources**” page on our website. It is still a work in progress, but feel free to visit, and keep checking – it is being updated with more great “stuff” on a daily basis. <https://betheluccontario.org/holy-week-resources>

### MORE STUFF

**Bethel Bunny** – We hear that the “Bethel Bunny” is planning on making some visits on Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup>... being organized by Donna and Deanna.

**#Francis Incident Donations Needed:** We have received an alert from the Lampkin Foundation that there is an urgent need for clothing for 14 - 18 year old survivors of the Francis Incident.

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Sizes Medium & Large are needed.

**D'Andre D. Lampkin Foundation** (909) 906-2068 2151 E Convention Center Way, Suite 210 Ontario CA 91764. E-Mail: [info@lampkinfoundation.org](mailto:info@lampkinfoundation.org) | <https://lampkinfoundation.org/>  
To make donations for the Francis Incident: <https://lampkinfoundation.org/donations/francis-incident>. Clothing or other Item donations can be dropped off at their offices or you can contact Pastor Sylvia [[sylvialeemann@gmail.com](mailto:sylvialeemann@gmail.com)] to work something out.

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## **EASTER SUNDAY – RESURRECTION RALLY**

Sunday April 4<sup>th</sup> at 1pm – We'll meet at Bethel and have a great celebration! Bells, prayers, music - outside (Euclid side – maybe utilize the median....). There will also be cool stuff for kids and grown-ups to help us rejoice in the Resurrection. 1pm – masks, social distancing.

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## **BETHEL KIDS!**

Join Ms. Deanna each Sunday at 11am for a special time of sharing, checking in, visiting, and just enjoying each other! (Sometimes special things happen!!!) For more info, email [info@bethelucanario.org](mailto:info@bethelucanario.org) with Kids in the subject....

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## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

Bethel's OGHS offering is scheduled for Sunday March 28, Palm Sunday! Remember to plan on including something for OGHS in your offering this week. (You can give anytime, of course).

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## **HOW TO SEND OFFERINGS**

1. Visit the website (<https://bethelucanario.org>) and use the green or yellow give/donate buttons to use a credit or debit card.
2. Use Zelle (through online banking or the stand alone app) to transfer your offering to us. Verify our email: [info@bethelucanario.org](mailto:info@bethelucanario.org) We are "Bethel Congregational Church".
3. Mail to Bethel Congregational Church, 536 N Euclid Ave, Ontario, CA 91762

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## **A Note from Pastor Sylvia**



Wow – it has been a whole year since we went virtual/online because of COVID-19 Quarantine. And here we are – ready to Praise God, connect with one another, and move through Holy week to Resurrection together! Even in this year of extraordinary challenges, we have found that we are NOT cancelled – we are deployed, alive, and active, and we praise God for that!

As we work to prepare our building and sanctuary for a safe return – let's remember – WE are the church – the church is NOT just a building. We have been gifted a good number of face masks, and are now working on plans to make our facility safe

for returns, as we continue to monitor guidelines and numbers. We need to remain online for a while longer – but we are now working on our compliance plans and procedures, so that we are able to return to full in-person worship, we will be ready.

We have learned a LOT in this past year – and one of the amazing things is that we have an extensive reach through our online ministries. We have actually grown in membership, and our "attendance" (folks engaging with our online worship) has steadily grown. We intend to keep it all going – even when we return to in-person worship in our sanctuary. This means that Pastor Sylvia will be seeking some talented techies to help run our hybrid ministries (IRL/Virtual). We are also working on improving our internet service at the building – but that is a challenge. Stay tuned, and excited!

—Pastor Sylvia

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