



January 2020

BELOVED EVERYBODY CHURCH

An ability-inclusive community. Following Jesus and celebrating the God-given gifts of people of all abilities.



We forgot to take a picture of all the friends gathered for the ordination service until most people had gone home...but check out this lovely group!



Laying on of hands and prayer after Rev. Dr. Bethany was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament within the Presbyterian Church (USA)

PASTOR BETHANY'S NEW YEAR'S REFLECTIONS

Happy New Year, friends! So grateful you're on this journey with us.

As 2020 gets underway, I've been reflecting on new ways God is calling us to live out our mission and vision: to affirm and celebrate the God-given gifts of all people, including folks with intellectual and developmental disabilities whose gifts and callings are too often ignored, and to remove the barriers that can keep people with intellectual and developmental disabilities isolated from the larger community. Sometimes this can feel really big and heavy and hard - especially noticing how so many cultural structures and values seem to push the status quo of burying the talents of our kinfolk with disabilities, treating them only as objects of ministry, and not as people God has gifted and called to be leaders and bearers of God's love and good news in the world.

But then I remember who God is, and that as the Creator of all people who loves us dearly and made us all for a purpose, God is *already* making space for everyone's gifts, empowering folks to live out their callings, and breaking down dividing walls. The work is God's, God is transforming our communities, and we have the privilege to participate in it. It is an adventure of getting a front-row seat for the powerful work of healing that the Spirit of God is doing, it is not something we have to try to do alone. And whether we participate or not, God is going to keep moving in the world. But knowing that, why wouldn't we want to pay attention, bear witness to the amazing beauty, and take opportunities to join in!?!

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19

★ Grateful for

- A fun time at a local dance for folks with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families and friends. Bethany even ran into a former student from when she taught special education in LAUSD!
- A joyful ordination service with lots of people getting a chance to experience some of the Beloved Everybody worship practices, and a celebration of our newly ordained pastor!
- The abundance of gifts in our core leadership team (of people with and without disabilities), and more opportunities where people are using those gifts in our gatherings in things like prayer, music, welcome, and connecting with the community.

♥ Prayer Requests

- We have started experimenting with various forms of marketing and advertising to get the word out about our community - but while we can create the ads, only God can touch hearts. So prayers that the ads would reach the right folks who are looking for a community like this, and that God would be preparing them for us, and and us for them!
- We're looking to create more connections and relationships with some of the other people and organizations in our area who work with or alongside folks with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Pray for these meetings to happen, and for us to connect over shared vision for people's thriving.

Upcoming Events

- **Jan 10**, 7-9pm: Dance Party! Monthly dance for folks with developmental disabilities and family/friends. Get your groove on with us at the Culver City Senior Center (4095 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA 90232).
- **Jan 12**, 1-3pm: Monthly gathering at Westminster Presbyterian Church (2230 W. Jefferson Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90018). Theme: God Provides.
- **Jan 18**, Dinner and entertainment with folks with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families and friends. \$10 per person, RSVP required. It's held at the Culver City Senior Center (4095 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA 90232) - but for all ages.
- **2nd Sunday of every month**, 1-3pm is our monthly BEC gathering time at Westminster Presbyterian.
 - Future 2020 dates: February 9, March 8, April 12 (Easter Event - stay tuned!)....

Support Beloved Everybody

Your donations create opportunities for friendship, discipleship, and mutual thriving between people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. It's thanks to your gifts that relationships of faith and prayer across abilities have been created that would have never happened otherwise.

Donate by Credit Card: Visit belovedeverybody.org and click DONATE.

Donate by Check: email us for our mailing address.

So grateful for your prayers and support of all kinds. Thank you!



Thank You
So Much!