



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY IN DECEMBER

Hangings of the Greens Sunday

December 8, 2024

Invite your friends to join us for our annual holiday get-together, an all-generation event!

Featuring a potluck dinner, and a cookie walk where homemade cookies can be purchased and music too.

Some will be decorating the Christmas tree and others singing Christmas and holiday music in the Parlor.



Dinner in Haver Hall will start promptly at 6pm. We need everyone to help clear the tables and help clean up before we move into the Parlor for caroling and decorating at 7pm.

We hope to see you and yours at this traditional Northbrae event! The group sing of the 12 Days of Christmas will be something to remember.



We need Cookie Bakers!



Please bring your cookies for the Cookie Walk to the kitchen on Sunday morning or to the stage in Haver Hall when you come for the event. If you have questions, contact Karen Queen: (510) 654-8923



Holiday Gift Bags For Options Recovery.

Toiletries, warm caps, socks, pajamas, slippers, and tee shirts are on the list for this, our seventh season of providing Christmas gifts for clients of Options Recovery Services. Gift Bags will be available in the parlor. Return your bags on or by Sunday, Dec 15, under our tree. This is Northbrae's way of wishing a Merry Christmas to those folks who are working hard to find a new positive life path. You might even include a little chocolate treat!



Christmas Eve Service

Join us on
Christmas Eve
(12/24) for an
Candle light Service
10:00 PM in the
Chapel

There will be carols for
all to sing, choir,
soloists, classical
guitar, and trumpet,
candlelight,
and community,
as well as Christmas
readings and
meditation.

All are welcome to join
us to celebrate and
contemplate what is
most meaningful to
you at this time of year



Sisters in Spirit Christmas Party

All the women of the church are invited to an evening of good food, good conversation and fun as we gather to celebrate the Christmas season. This is a pot luck dinner where we exchange gifts, play a game and enjoy each other's company.

When: Friday, December 13, 6:00 PM

Where: Sarah Miyazaki's home

596 Santa Barbara Rd,
Berkeley, CA, 94707
(510) 524 - 1416

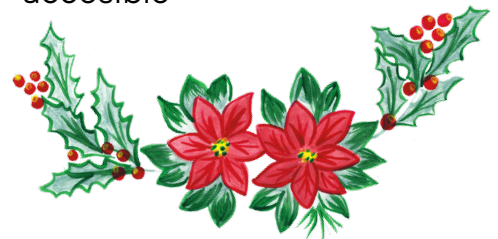
What to bring:

- A finger food dish for the pot luck dinner: meat balls, crackers and cheese, sushi, frittata, etc. Something simple to serve and eat. Bottled beverages
- Dessert will be provided
- A gift to exchange: Perhaps something new that you were given and never used

And yes there will be a game to play this year - with prizes

Many thanks to Sarah Miyazaki for hosting this year's party.

Please try to carpool if you can as parking is limited. Wheelchair accessible





A Note From Christy

A wonderfully healthy patch of milkweed grew in the Sacred Hoop Garden over the summer and into the late fall. Monarch butterflies took notice. On the underside of the milkweed leaves, they laid their eggs. Tiny ravenous caterpillars hatched from those eggs and ate and ate leaf after leaf. In no time they were mature and full-bodied. It was then that the magic of transformation began. The caterpillars stopped eating and attached the very end of their bodies to the underside of leaves and hung upside down in a J-shape. And then the chrysalises appeared. They gradually turned from green to black as the wings, legs and antennae of the butterflies began to take shape within them. Finally, the moment of emergence arrived and the butterflies broke out of their chrysalises fully formed.

I was lucky enough to actually see a butterfly just after it had emerged from its chrysalis. What a marvel. This gorgeous flying being had once been a wingless, wormlike creature.

How can it be???? Metamorphosis is simply awe-inspiring.

This capacity to inspire awe has made the butterfly a sacred symbol within countless spiritual/religious traditions. The experience of metamorphosis is something the human spirit longs for. Within the Christian tradition, this longing is often tied to the season of Advent as we prepare to welcome a child, the human incarnation of love. We celebrate the power of that love to bring transformation...to our own hearts, our relationships, our country, our world.

This is the radical hope of our spirituality: that hate may be transformed into love, that exclusion may be transformed into inclusion, that war may be transformed into peace, that alienation may be transformed into belonging, that loneliness may be transformed into community.

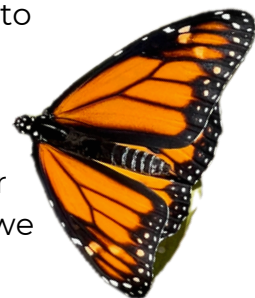
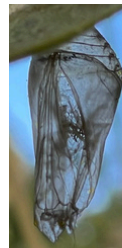
In our country at this time in history, it often feels as if the caterpillar of our alienation is incapable of transformation into the butterfly of our ideals. Yet, we affirm its possibility, however distant and unattainable it may seem.

May the monarch butterfly be our inspiration.

Blessings,
Christy

The Sacred Boiler

Thanks to funds from the Columbarium Committee, Northbrae installed a brand-new, state-of-the-art boiler: the second in the Chapel's history! Utilizing a radiant heating system, the boiler heats water to 100°F and pumps it through a vast array of one-inch pipes buried in the floor, spaced about nine inches apart. Thank you to the Columbarium Committee for this truly amazing upgrade to our beautiful Chapel.



YEAR END GIVING



The form below is to donate poinsettias for the altar, either as a year-end gift to the church, or in memory of a loved one:

•Enclosed is my Year End Christmas Gift Offering of \$_____

•Enclosed is a Christmas Memorial Gift of \$_____

This gift is in loving memory of:_____

From (Name): _____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____



For a printable form use the QR code on the right:

Please return this form along with your donation either to the office or to the offering plate during Sunday service.

If you cannot print this form, you can email the information requested to northbrae3@gmail.com, or mail to

Northbrae Community Church
941 The Alameda,
Berkeley, CA, 94707

