

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church



SAVE THE DATE: WORSHIP IN THE PARK 2021 - Please join the Spiritual Growth committee as we return to Greece Canal Park's Millennium Lodge September 12, 2021 at 11:00 for Worship in the Park 2021. More information to follow. We hope to see you there!

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN in the CONGREGATION

We will resume in person monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 14th at 10:00 am. All women are welcome to join us. We feature monthly speakers and they address a variety of topics.



The speaker for September will be Rebecca S. Letterman Ph.D.

Professor of Spiritual Formation at Northeastern Seminary
Dr. Letterman's presentation will focus on the following scripture: "Rahab and Ruth: How Marginalized Women brought God's Goodness to God's People". Sometimes "diversity" feels "threatening" or uncomfortable. This study will explore ways in which women "from the margins" offered God's salvation to God's people, who in turn offered God's salvation to them. It is a prime example of the way diversity actually enriches a faith community.

Bethany Mission Statement

We are a welcoming Christian family who worships God and nurtures spiritual growth through friendship, learning, music and serving others.

**August
2021**

Volume 24,
Issue 8

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Special points of interest:

- Stephen Ministry
- Shipmates
- Interested in Singing?
- Activity Brochure
- Life Groups
- Presbyterian Women

**Deadline for the
September
Newsletter is on
August 7, 2021**

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

I pulled an old box of photographs off the shelf – well, actually they fell off. I was digging through the closed for something – I can't exactly remember what, when I knocked this old shoebox off the shelf. It was filled with pictures that I had hoped to one day transfer into a photo album.

As I looked down, scattered about my feet were frozen moments in time, permanently etched on photographic material. As I crouched down to put them back in the box, those pictures seemed to smile up at me. In every single picture I glanced at, people were smiling. In each and every photo there was someone wearing a great big toothy grin. It was delightful! I guess smiling is contagious, because it wasn't long before I realized that I was smiling too, as I looked through those prints. So I got comfortable and took a leisurely stroll down memory lane, photo after photo, and smile after smile.

I was left with a new appreciation for cameras and their ability to capture smiles and freeze them in time for future enjoyment. But I wondered if we stored smiles on film because we don't see as many as we used to. Perhaps they're becoming a vanishing breed. Maybe we need to defrost our own smiles and start wearing them today. Perhaps our smiles have been packed away in the closet and it's time to bring them out for everyone to enjoy. Many we could even bring a few smiles to someone else.

But what's there to smile about? We can smile because we have a great God who loves us and care for us, not matter what life brings our way. We can smile as we celebrate the new life which is ours through Jesus Christ. We can smile as we put away our doubt and fear and work to bring about God's kingdom on this earth. Maybe if we open our hearts a little wider to God, we could all smile a little more, and the world would be a little bit brighter.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Connie Slapar and family at the passing of Lonnie Slapar

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the Merkel family at the passing of Dottie Merkel.

Joys

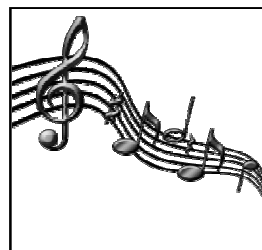
We welcome Michael Allen Slavinski who was baptized on June 27, 2021. Parents of Michael, Katie and Ben Slavinski. Proud Grandparents and Sponsors: Kim & Karen Bolinger and Mike & Kathy Slavinski, and Great grandfather Don Cork.



Fiscal Focus

2021	June	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$25,482.68	\$182,334.56	45.55%
Expense	\$33,118.99	\$177,029.02	44.22%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$7,636.31	\$5,305.54	

2021-22 ACTIVITY BROCHURE: With Eileen Sengillo's assistance, the Spiritual Growth Committee is gathering information for the 2021-22 Activity Brochure. We will base the brochure on last year's rendition but expect a number of changes as things are beginning to look more "normal" again and last year's brochure was modified for COVID. If you have any updates (date/time/meeting place/new material being studied/discussed) or additional activities to be included, please email Eileen at sengillo.bethany@gmail.com. Also, if your activity is no longer happening, please let Eileen know to delete it so it doesn't get included. If you have any questions, you can also call Carrie Buri at (716)390-8941. Thank you!



Interested in singing in the Bethany choir but wanting to try things out first? Join us August 15th at 9:15AM in the sanctuary for our "come-and-sing" family choir! We will briefly rehearse an anthem as well as sing during the hymns during our 10:00AM service. All are welcome, ages 0-100! Ability to read music is not required. Please contact Jacob Montgomery at: jmontgomery.bethany@gmail.com with any questions.

Staff picnic at Sawyer Park—July 14,





Stephen Ministry

Our lives have returned to a somewhat “normal” status with stores, restaurants, malls, and entertainment areas being opened after sixteen months. It is nice to see actual faces again. If you are still concerned, there is no question if you have decided to continue to wear a mask. That is your choice.

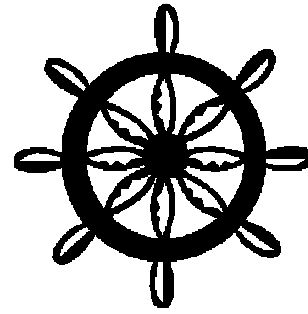
Along with Covid, there have been some side effects of unrest in our country that has had a major effect on all of us. Being in “lock down” was hard on all levels. We were kept from our daily routines of going to work and in many areas, our home became our office. Our home became our children’s classroom. Our home became our college aged children’s university. Along with family celebrations, most of our gatherings were halted. The loss of loved ones has hit us hard and it’s been a pressure test for all of us.

But, my friends, we are surviving and trying to comfort each other with complete understanding of what everyone has been dealing with. That’s because we have all been there and care for one another as Christians do.

This is what the Stephen Ministers do for Bethany. By you helping each other, it has been a time of exhaustion, and you may be worn down. You may need some time for you without feeling guilty or selfish about it. Just some quiet time with a Stephen Minister is an outlet for your weary state of mind. It’s okay to take a break and open yourself to a one on one conversation, some prayer, an opportunity to vent, and not feel guilty about taking care of yourself. God is watching over you. Let us discuss with you a simple way of reconnecting with God and remind ourselves of his love and guidance.

If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister, please contact Dr. Bob or Wendy Watt. We are waiting to help you take that big relief breath a somewhat.

Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers,
Cindi Sywulski



SHIPMATES AND OPEN TO OTHERS INTERESTED

WHEN: SAT. SEPTEMBER 11, 2021

WHERE: LARGE HALL

TIME: 1 PM

We are welcoming Christopher Brandt and Katie Eggers Comeau from Bero Architecture to give their program on James H. Johnson who worked in the Rochester area from 1957 until his death in 2016. During this period, he was responsible for a remarkable body of work, designing and constructing some of the area’s most distinctive public, private, and religious buildings, as well as an iconic piece of public art. He was known locally as the designer of St. John the Evangelist Church and Our Lady of Mercy Rectory in Greece, the “Mushroom House” in Perinton, the Liberty Pole in Rochester, and Temple Sinai in Brighton.

Following the program we will have a short business meeting and dessert. The low cost of \$2.00 a person will cover this event.

Please contact Beth Thomsen 865-7181 or e-mail: hawaiinnana@gmail.com if you’re coming.

SHIPMATES

Save the date: October 10, Shipmates will attend the New York Museum of Transportation and take the museum's Fall Foliage Trolley Ride. Note that this is a **Sunday** -- the museum and Trolley Rides are open only on Sundays. Guests are welcome. Reservations required. More info next month!

PRESENT WORD: The Present Word will resume meeting in person every Sunday at 9:00 am beginning September 19th. What is The Present Word? The Present Word Bible Study is based on a uniform Series, a plan for reading and studying the Bible. The objectives of the series are to help persons increasingly:

1. to know the content of the Bible,
2. to understand the message of the Bible in light of their experiences and relationships, and
3. To be aware of God's self-disclosure, especially God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ, that they may respond in faith and love-to the end that they may know who they are and what human situation means, grow as the children of God rooted in the Christian community, live in the spirit of God in every relationship, fulfill their common discipleship in the world, and abide in the Christian hope.

All are invited to participate in The Present Word on Sundays at 9:00 am in the Small Hall.



Dear Bethany Congregation, Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and phone calls during my recent mishap. My cast is off now and is replaced with a brace. I am going through physical therapy and anticipate a complete recovery.

Sincerely, Eileen Sengillo



BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under Heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1 ~ NRSV

"Life Group 4 Bible Study" has grown with many blessings since beginning last September. We have decided on a new name for our group: "BIBLE FELLOWSHIP".

We want all to feel welcome to join us throughout this summer, and we hope to continue through 2021 strengthening our foundation, fulfillment, forgiveness, and freedom through Jesus Christ sharing God's word. Our own various versions of the Bible miraculously come together like a melodious rainbow from God.

We also wholeheartedly volunteer our life experiences encouraging and learning from one another. Sharing these things is a gift, and we invite you all to join in this harmony.

Friday, August 27 @ 3:00 pm - Large Hall

Friday, September 24 @ 3:00 pm - Large Hall

Please phone Bev Bennett 585-225-0206

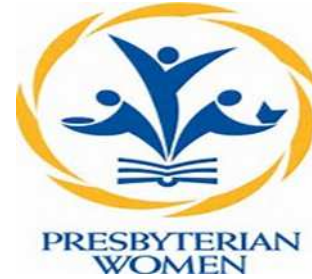
A peace that preeminents all understanding by Jesus way.
-Philippines 4:7 ~ Our Bible

August Birthday

Charlotte Shaw
165 Silver Lane Apt. 208
St. Augustine, FL 32084



BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN in the CONGREGATION



BPWC Budget Update:

There was no income nor expenses to the June BPWC budget. Check requests will be made to Tom Olney by Linda Lamb in July for all of our 2021 mission donations. A large portion of our 2021 budgeted dollars will be dispensed at that time.

BPWC made donations to the following organizations:

Bethany Presbyterian Women – 2021 Giving Portion of the Budget

PWC

Line No.	Organization	2019 – 2020 Donation	2021 Donation
7801	PW Churchwide	\$250	\$250
7803	Thank Offering	\$125	\$125
7804	Birthday Offering	\$125	\$125

Worldwide Mission

Line No.	Organization	2019 – 2020 Donation	2021 Donation
7811	Least Coin Offering	\$125	\$125
7812	Blankets	\$125	\$125
7813	Heifer International	\$ 0	\$ 0

Local Mission

Line No.	Organization	2019 – 2020 Donation	2021 Donation
7831	Presbyterian Home	\$450	\$450
7832	Camperships	\$100	\$100
7833	Church Women United	\$150	\$150
7834	Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf	\$500	\$500
7835	Flower City Habitat	\$200	\$200
7836	Open Door Mission	\$200	\$200
7837	Journey Home	\$250	\$250
7838	Open Door – Coldwater	\$200	\$200
7839	Jennifer House	\$500	\$500
7840	Thanksgiving Baskets	\$300	\$300

BPWC Officers:

At our June 8th meeting we approved the following women for officer positions:

Moderator- Karen Bolinger
Vice-Moderator- Karen Dobbins
Treasurer- Linda Lamb

Secretary- Jeannette Johnson
Historian- Lisa Clement
Member-at-Large- Mary Leader

We would like to express our appreciation for these women's willingness to serve as officers as well as our Sunshine Coordinator- Beth Thomsen and Memorial Reception Coordinators Charlotte Streams and Heather Kruspe.

Program Schedule for 2021-2022 BPWC Meetings:

The Coordinating Team met on Wednesday, July 14th at 10:00 am. We finalized the Program Schedule for our September- June- 2021-2022 BPWC meetings and developed a Proposed Budget for women to review in September and vote on in October.

BPWC Saturday Gathering at Sawyer Park:

We will gather at Sawyer Park on Saturday, August 28th at 10:00 am. Bring your own chair and snack. At this gathering we will decide if we want to have a Brunch at a restaurant.

Display Case in the Parlor:

A Display Case has been created in the Parlor that highlights the following information:

2021-2022 Program Schedule

Monthly Speaker Information

Yearly Donations to Organizations

Thank You's from Organizations

Devotion/Opening and Closing Prayer Schedule

Afghans:

We are very blessed to have many women knitting, crocheting and putting together afghans for various organizations. Beth Thomsen has coordinated the donation of three afghans to *Family Promise of Ontario County*. Thank you, ladies!

Building Caring Relationships:

Our faithful "Callers"- Heather Kruspe, Karen McIver, Linda Lamb, Beth Thomsen, Cindy Hetzler, Cheryl Fisher and Karen Bolinger continue making phone calls every month to check in with women who have asked to have a phone call. Any woman currently inactive with BPWC and would like to have a friendly call or be added to the Communication Distribution List please contact Karen Bolinger- 585-227-2540 or kbolinger@rochester.rr.com.

Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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Rochester, NY 14616

Phone: 585-663-3000

www.bethanyrochester.org

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Mailed July 30, 2021

**We're on the
Web!**

Ministries Team

Head of Staff / Sr. Pastor

Dr. Bob Spratt

Music Ministry

Jacob Montgomery - Music Director

Jean Coniber - Bell Choir Director

Jeff Tabor - Staff Singer

Bookkeeper

Tom Olney

Administrative Assistant & Mouse Editor

Eileen Sengillo

Custodian

Jim Cruppe

Nursery Child Care Worker

Jennifer Watt

The Session

Craig Johnson, Budget & Finance

Wendy Watt, Christian Education

Judy Price, Community & Global Miss.

Jennifer McGarrity, Congregational Life

Bev Murray, Nominating

Jim Hetzler, Personnel

Carrie Buri, Spiritual Growth

Bev Bennett, Welcoming Committee

Connie Slapar, Worship & Music

Dr. Bob Spratt, Moderator

Treasurer

Carl DeGraff

