

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

**March
2023**

Volume 26,
Issue 4

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Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 6 - 7PM The Passover was a festive occasion—a celebration of the nation's release from Egyptian bondage. We will be presenting *The Actual Passover During the Time of Jesus.*

Good Friday Service, April 7 - 7PM
Come and celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Easter Sunday, April 9 - 10AM
Come and celebrate Christ's Resurrection

Easter Offering – Greece Ecumenical Foodshelf to support the elderly basket program

The Community and Global Mission Committee has designated the Greece Ecumenical Food and Clothing Closet's Basket Program as the recipient of this year's Easter offering. The Basket Program serves 45 to 50 very low-income senior citizens each month. Participants receive food deliveries personalized for their dietary requirements and preferences. Most of these clients no longer use a stove.



Judy Henderson, a member of Bethany, has been responsible for this program for many years. She presented a Moment for Mission during a February Worship service. In addition to the offering, Bethany members have been contributing food items for the Basket Program throughout Lent.

Bethany Mission Statement

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

Special points of interest:

- Stephen Ministry
- Shipmates
- Church Calendar
- Presbyterian Women (insert)
- Potluck Sunday Picture Page
- Community & Global Mission

**Deadline for the
May
Newsletter is on
April 14, 2023**

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

A distinguished historian declared that, "Once the modern world convinced itself that nothing is real except what we can see, taste, and touch, the modern world has gone downhill ever since." Today's world seems to operate under the assumption that there is no reality, other than what we can see.

Mary Magdalene appeared at the tomb of Jesus early Easter morning. When she saw that the huge stone at the door of the tomb had been rolled away, and that the tomb was empty, she immediately saw what had happened. Obviously, someone had stolen the body of Jesus and she did not know where they had put him. Even when an angel appears and asks her why she is weeping, Mary still says that someone has stolen the body of Jesus.

Even when Jesus himself appears to Mary, she first thinks that the risen Christ is a gardener. Mary just can't get it out of her mind that she is at a cemetery, a place of death and loss. She can't refocus her eyes, even when the risen Christ is standing right in front of her.

What does it take to get us to see what is there? We've all had the frustrating experience of seeing something at some distant point across the landscape. And then we say to the friend beside us, gesturing as we speak, "Look, over there!" The friend looks, squints, but can't see. The thing is so obvious, so apparent. But the friend just can't get it. We attempt to point to certain landmarks, hoping that the friend will move from seeing those apparent objects to this less apparent thing we are trying to get them to see.

What enables us to see? What is it that turns our heads in the right direction, and brings everything into focus? For Mary it was the risen Christ. He did not leave her to rely on misperceptions, but rather he called to her. He turned her gaze away from what was expected and accustomed toward what was being revealed. Maybe that is why we call Christianity a revealed religion. You can't see it until it is revealed, given to you, until one has experienced the gift of the presence of the Risen Christ, and then one's eyes get in focus.

That's Easter. It wasn't just that Jesus was raised from the dead. It was that He was raised for us. He returned to his friends, revealed himself to them, and enabled them to see and to believe. They got a vision of who they were meant to be, of who they could be. Their world changed. May it be the same for all of us.

Wishing you a blessed Easter,

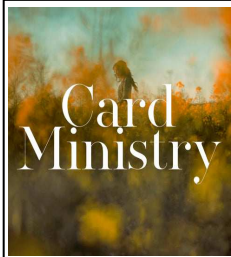
Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Doris & Greg Ludek and family at the passing of Doris's father Rev. Jesse Patrick.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Tracey & Tim Ladd and family, Amber & Don Burns and family, at the passing of Linda Taylor.



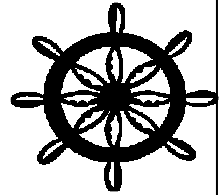
Pastoral Care Deacon Card Ministry

There is a box of greeting cards in the Narthax. Please feel free to take a card to let a church member know you are thinking about them or praying for them or celebrating with them! You might know about a special situation a church member is facing, or perhaps someone asked for prayers during the morning service. The Pastoral Care Deacons encourage you reach out and touch someone with God's love!

Fiscal Focus

2023	February	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$25,348.52	\$68,204.58	14.38%
Expense	\$30,612.60	\$65,475.84	13.81%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$5,264.08	\$2728.74	

AHOY!! SHIPMATES!!



Drop Anchor! We're traveling across land on April Fool's day! Mark your calendar for April 1st at 12PM in the Large Hall.

Where are we going, you ask? Along the infamous Route 66,

then head into Arizona

Our guide...Steve Eggert

More information to follow in the church bulletin.

Start packing your bags.



UPDATE ON MAJOR PROJECTS DURING 2023:

We have an updated cost to refurbish and upgrade the light fixtures in the Clark Park entrance as well as replacing the ceiling fans and multi-speed switch. We have awarded a contract to Landmark Electric for an estimated cost of \$4,823. If anyone is interested in helping fund this repair in part or in total it would be greatly appreciated. Property Committee Chair, Dick Bauman.

EMERGENCY CONTACT: At times, families or individuals may find they need pastoral support for various reasons ranging from a long-term matter or an emergency. In the event of a pastoral emergency, this can be sought by calling the church office (585) 663-3000 during normal business hours or after hours at (585) 496-4699. In addition, there are several members of the congregation that can be called on for support called Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times. To receive support from a Stephen Minister contact Kim Bolinger at (585) 227-2540 or Wendy Watt (585) 415-2351.



If you would like to beautify the sanctuary on Sunday mornings by purchasing flowers for the chancel in memory of a loved one or in honor of, order forms are available on the table in the narthex. Make your check payable to: Bethany Presbyterian Church, in the amount of \$46.00 for a communion table piece. Place a check in the envelope and place in the offering plate or mail to Bethany church office.



Stephen Ministry

Easter season is here. This is such an important part of our Christian lives. It is a combination of all emotions from the heartache of the crucifixion to the magnificent rising of our Lord from what was thought to be our most heart wrenching loss. He tried to teach his disciples that he would return to verify his teachings, but I imagine nothing says it better than seeing him with their own eyes. He taught them so much in his limited time on this planet, so in retrospect, as much as I believed Him and in Him, the sight of him returning was the grand finale, as we say. "Take the love you have for me and spread it around." What a wonderful basic message. Simple and direct.

Sometimes, though, we may feel that we are not able to give that love and that we are not receiving it either. Not sure where or what to do. Don't forget that you're human. It's okay to have a meltdown. Just don't unpack and live there.

Hopefully, you want to be headed back to be with the people who make you smile, and to get involved with your interests and your community again. This is taking the love of our Lord and passing it around.

Bethany offers you a "starter kit" if you are not sure how to get going in the positive direction. We are the Stephen Ministers. Our purpose is to listen to you, pray with you, and to have the presence of another that says to you "it's too much for you to bear but I will be with you." We offer you confidentiality and want you to feel safe and comfortable speaking with us.

If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister, please contact Dr. Bob or Wendy Watt.

Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers,
Cindi Sywulski

thank you!

A big thank you to everyone for your kind words, cards, and prayers at the time of Jack's hospitalization and passing. ~ God bless, Jan Bansbach

**Potluck Dinner
and Line Dancing
at Bethany
April 29, 2023
6:00-8:30**



Please join the Congregational Life Committee for a potluck dinner followed by a fun evening of line dancing at Bethany! We will eat at 6:00 and then David Interlicchia of Dance Biz will lead the group in line dancing from 7-8:30. Many of you are familiar with David as he teaches at the Greece Community Center, Hilton Parma-Rec, Nashville's, as well as his own studio. David does a great job teaching a group with all experience levels—from master to novice. So, there's no experience necessary—just come for the fun!! All age groups and, of course, friends are welcome! Please bring a dish to pass and \$6/person to cover the cost of the instruction. Sign-up for this event will take place in the narthex in April or you can contact Carrie Buri (716-390-8941 theburis@yahoo.com) or Jen McGarity (585-764-5529 mcvamp22@gmail.com) or Deb Haskins from the Congregational Life Committee.

THANK YOU: Bethany Presbyterian Women in the Congregation want to thank those who contributed to our annual blanket drive for Church World Service. The congregation donated \$506 during the month of February and BPWC donated another \$125 from their 2023 budget. \$631 was mailed to CWS in early March. This will purchase 63 new blankets to be used to warm refugees and natural disaster victims. Once again, our members have shown their Christ-like compassion by doing what they can for others.

POTLUCK SUNDAY



Maundy Thursday supporting Turkey-Syria Earthquake



Please help support the earthquake through PCUSA. A 7.8 magnitude earthquake near the Turkey-Syria border struck in the early hours of February 6, 2023. This earthquake is estimated to affect more than 23 million people. Solidarity grants to meet immediate needs, such as hygiene kits, psychosocial support, shelter, medicines, winterization items, food packages and more have been processed. Presbytery Disaster Assistance will be present for the long-term recovery.

Palm Sunday – One Great Hour of Sharing



Every gift makes a difference in the life of someone who deserves God's love and support.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT
03.02.22-04.17.22

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

This Palm Sunday offering is divided in the following manner: 32% of this offering goes to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance so communities can recover after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.

36% goes toward growing food security. The Presbyterian Hunger Program works to alleviate hunger and the system that causes poverty so all may be fed. 32% goes to Partnering in Progress. This program invests in communities responding to their experiences and educates Presbyterians about the impact of racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice. Please give generously to **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** on **Palm Sunday**.

Greece CROP Hunger Walk 2023 May 7th Aldersgate Church



This year's Greece CROP Hunger Walk will begin at Aldersgate Church. Walkers will confirm their registration at 1:00. Choose either the 0.5 or 2.5-mile route. 25% of funds raised will be donated to the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf and 75% will go to CWS for fighting hunger worldwide. Join Bethany's team or sponsor our team online here: events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/bethany-presbyterian-church-2 To make a cash donation, contact Cheryl Fisher, provide after Sunday Service or contact one of our walkers directly.

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> 9-Men's Club Breakfast at the Parkway Rest. 12-Shipmates
<i>2</i> Palm Sunday 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies 11:30-Contemporary Worship	<i>3</i> 6:15-C&GM	<i>4</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux	<i>5</i> 10-Staff meeting 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>6</i> 2-Property Committee 7-Maundy Thursday Service 7:45-Bethany Choir	<i>7</i> 7-Good Friday Service	<i>8</i>
<i>9</i> Easter Sunday Communion 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings	<i>10</i> Easter Monday Church Office Closed 7-Life Group 7-Nominating Comm.	<i>11</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 7:30-Congregational Life	<i>12</i> 10-Staff meeting 6:30-Spiritual Growth 7-Christian Education 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>13</i> 7-Bethany Choir	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 9:30-Women's Retreat
<i>16</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies	<i>17</i> 7-Stephen Ministers 7-Nominating Comm	<i>18</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Committee 12-Circle of Hope	<i>19</i> 10-Staff meeting 6-Community Supper 7-Budget & Finance 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>20</i> 7-Bethany Choir	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>23</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies 12-Session	<i>24</i> 7-Life Group 7-Nominating Comm	<i>25</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux	<i>26</i> 10-Staff meeting 7-Investment Committee 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>27</i> 12:30-Lunch & Learn 7-Bethany Choir	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 10-Women's Gathering at Sawyer Park 6-Line Dancing
<i>30</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies						

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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**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
Jennifer Smith

Nursery Child Care Worker

Jennifer Watt

Youth & Children's Ministry Leader

Andrew Ferreira

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
Dick Bauman, Property
Heather Kruspe, Spiritual Growth
Liz Whittingham, Worship & Music
Dr. Bob Spratt, Moderator
Linda Lamb, Clerk of Session

Treasurer

Carl DeGraff

