



Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

**April
2026**

Volume 29, Issue 4

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**Special points of
interest:**

- Stephen Ministry
- Church Calendar
- Shipmates
- Jennifer's Closet
- Bethany Women

**Deadline for the
May
Newsletter is on
April 16, 2026**



Maundy Thursday service, April 2nd 7:00 PM
 Good Friday service, April 3rd 7:00 PM
 Easter Sunday worship service, April 5th 10:00 AM

Kids Birthday Party HUGE Success for Jennifer's Closet

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the Kids Birthday Party in early March. We collected an incredible 312 children's clothing items and welcomed nearly 50 people for a fun-filled celebration. The soup, breads, chai tea, and cake were delicious, and the games brought lots of laughter and joy. A special thank you to the Community & Global Mission team and Jennifer's Closet for organizing such a meaningful event.

Mark your calendars now—next year's event will be a Pajama Party on February 20th, 2027!



Bethany Mission Statement

Bethany is where God's love nurtures friendship, hope, and peace.

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 the Anderson family, at the passing of Pat Anderson.



OPEN
Tuesday's - 12:30PM—3:00PM
Thursday's - 9:30AM—Noon
Saturday—3rd of the month

Fiscal Focus

2026	February	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$35,705.79	\$55,382.52	9.95%
Expense	\$44,058.22	\$80,228.83	14.41%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$8,352.43	-\$24,846.31	

COMMUNITY SUPPER and SPEAKER:

Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00 pm – Representatives from the Monroe County Health Department IMPACT team will share information and Narcan samples with us. IMPACT stands for Improving Addiction Coordination Team, and we all can become “members” of the team by recognizing signs of an opioid overdose and perhaps saving the life of a loved one or a stranger by administering a dose of Narcan! Dinner will be provided by the Catering and Hospitality Department at Episcopal SeniorLife Communities. \$10 dinner fee is payable at the door. To register, sign up in the narthex or call the church office, 663-3000

Greece CROP Hunger Walk May 3rd Aldersgate Church

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

2026
CROP HUNGER WALKS

ENDING HUNGER
 ONE STEP AT A TIME

Join us for the Greece CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, May 4 at 1:00 PM at Aldersgate Church. This meaningful community event helps fight hunger both locally and globally one step at a time.

Twenty-five percent of the funds raised will support the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf, while the remaining 75% will benefit Church World Service (CWS), providing critical assistance to those in need around the world. CROP Hunger Walks reflect our shared values of faith, hope, and compassion in action.

You can make an impact by walking with our team or by donating. Online donations are especially helpful, as they allow funds to reach CWS more quickly.

To join our team or donate, please visit:
events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/bethany-presbyterian-church-greece-ny

We hope you'll be part of this important effort!

SAIL Exercise class at Aldersgate United Methodist

We are joining a class at Aldersgate on Dewey Ave. starting March 30-June 24 with our same teacher Julie from Lifespan. This class is 25 minutes of aerobics, 15 minutes of balance training and 20 minutes of strength training and stretch. 1:00-2:00 Mons and Weds. \$25. Questions? Contact Lisa Clement at lwcclement68@gmail.com



Stephen Ministry

One of the most important Christian celebrations is upon us – Easter. We have been going through Lent together as a church community and the celebration of Jesus rising from the tomb is very nearby.

I remember Easter baskets with a new pair of gloves, maybe a new hat and/or a new outfit for Easter morning at church. (I just dated myself...) It was a similar excitement to Christmas morning with bunnies and eggs instead of elves and Santas. Just like Christmas time, everyone was cheerful and wishing each other a happy Easter morning. Big dinner would follow with the family either at home or at another destination after church. The entire day was worked around the church service and it was another great tradition for us.

Through the years, we still look forward to the church service on Easter morning as the celebration ending Holy week. But, of course, parts of the celebration are different now. Some of our family members have passed on and others have relocated and started their own gatherings. That maybe so, but the meaning of Easter remains the same - God sent his son Jesus to pay for our sins.

The community of Bethany remains the same but is always moving forward in all of our areas and traditions. Church school classes for both children and adults, game nights and all kinds of wonderful music is offered both for participation and your listening pleasure. The deacons continue to serve on Sundays and as needed. The pastoral deacons keep the elderly and those unable to attend in their prayers and also with visits and phone calls. The Presbyterian women contribute to both local and mission work. And lots of committees! Involvement. That's what keeps us going.

There is also our Stephen Ministry. We listen, and let those of you with some confusion, sadness, loss, change, or whatever has affected your life have a safe place to express your thoughts. This is an opportunity to start to lighten up whatever burden is troubling your heart or your spirit. We are pleased to have become part of the Bethany tradition. We have been blessed with Stephen Ministers and they are ready to listen, visit, pray, and be there for what has become difficult for you. If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister, please contact Dr. Bob or Wendy Watt.

Peace to you and Happy Easter from the Stephen Ministers,
He is risen!!

Memory of Cindi Sywulski (Cubby)
written April 2019

Wednesday Nights @ BYF



Wednesday Night Bethany Youth Fellowship is back! From March until school ends in June, Bethany Youth Fellowship will be meeting once per month at BPC. Wednesdays will not be the only time we meet, but these will be on our regular calendar during the school year. BYF will also join with the Genesee Valley Presbytery for larger youth meetings and events. Youth will receive a "question of the night" in the morning on BYF day that will relate to that night's gathering. Our schedule is: April 8th Pizza and Game Night; May 13th Pizza, Short Game, Film & Community Confab. In June, we will once again go white water rafting at Letchworth State Park.

BETHANY WOMEN'S TEA



You are cordially invited to attend a Women's Tea

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Eleven O'clock in the morning

Bethany Presbyterian Church- Large Hall

Catered by The Red Bird Café

Given with love by

Bethany Presbyterian Women and

Spiritual Growth Committee

Sign-up will begin Sunday, April 5, 2026,
in the Narthex and continue each Sunday
through April 26, 2026.

**In lieu of a registration fee, there will be a suggested
\$5.00 donation for Bethany Women activities.
A basket will be available at the sign-in table.*

BETHANY WOMEN

BPWC believes that an environment grounded in Christian beliefs promotes the full growth and expression of the individual. Such an environment renews, strengthens, and empowers the individual to participate in the life and work of the church, the servant community of Jesus Christ in the world.



Bethany Women's Meetings:

All women are welcome to share in fellowship. Please feel free to bring a friend. Women meet on the second Tuesday of the following months: September- June except for December and May which meet on Saturday. We have speakers who present on a variety of topics. We also coordinate service projects, Christmas Luncheon, Women's Tea, and fellowship opportunities.

March Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 - On Tuesday, March 10th, 20 Bethany Women enjoyed a trip to the Lamberton Conservatory. We had a private tour of this beautiful site.

Upcoming Activities: Save the Date!

Tuesday, April 14th Meeting Speaker- Benjamin Kjell, Director of Music

Women's Tea- Saturday, May 2, 2026 @ 11:00 am

Tuesday, June 9th Meeting Speaker- Reverend Laura Fry, Perinton Presbyterian Church Pastor, and Head of Staff

Women's Brunch:

We will be sharing "Brunch and Fellowship" at *Bill's Long Pond Diner* on the last Saturday of every month at 10:00 am. Our next Brunch is Saturday, April 25, 2026.

Display Case:

Please take a minute to see exciting programs and activities for women in the Parlor Display Case for the 2025-2026 year.

Building Caring Relationships:

Any woman currently active or inactive with BPWC who would like to be included in the *Bethany Presbyterian Women Communication Distribution List* please contact Karen Bolinger- 585-227-2540 or kbolinger@rochester.rr.com. May we always remember to love one another unconditionally, no matter what life brings. We know things can make a women feel beautiful, and that is her love for others.

Community Supper and Lollypop Farm Presentation

Please join us on 4/15/26 at 6:00PM for April's Community Supper followed by a presentation from Shawn Bihler, an animal behaviorist at Lollypop Farm. Shawn said his presentation will "touch on various issues but will also provide a great basis on general dog and cat behavior." Shawn said he encourages lively discussions and will be happy to answer pet questions you may have for him.



YOU DON'T STOP HAVING FUN WHEN YOU GET OLD...

**SHIPMATES
UPCOMING
EVENT
CAR
RALLY
May 9**

YOU GET OLD WHEN YOU STOP HAVING FUN!

Signup begins on April 19th
Watch for details ...

The HOLOCAUST



**SUNDAY
APRIL 12.**
2:00 PM - Large Hall

\$5.00 *per person*
Hot & Cold Refreshments

SignUp in the Narthex

Make checks to Bethany PC
on the memo line indicate
"Shipmates"

Mail check to :
Shirley Georgi,
127 Crosby Lane, Rochester,
NY 14612-3328



**Sheila Weinbach widow of
Holocaust Survivor Kurt
Weinbach tells of his perilous
journey out of Austria. Kurt
grew up in his beloved
Austria and witnessed Hitler's
triumphant march into
Austria, when he was 9 years
old. His family escaped to
China with the help of a Nazi
General who had befriended
his father during World War I.
Sheila tells Kurt's story and
includes artifacts from his
life.**

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 1-SAIL class @Aldersgate 6-Worship & Music 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>2</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7-Maundy Thursday service	<i>3</i> 7-Good Friday service	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> Easter Sunday 10-Worship, Childcare 9-Present Word 10:15-Youth Studies	<i>6</i> Easter Monday Building closed 1-SAIL class @Aldersgate	<i>7</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>8</i> 1-SAIL class @Aldersgate 6-Christian Ed 6-Spiritual Growth 6:30-BYF 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>9</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 9-Men's breakfast
<i>12</i> 10-Worship, Childcare 9-Present Word 10:15-Youth Studies 2-Shipmates	<i>13</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 11-The Chosen 1-SAIL class @Aldersgate	<i>14</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>15</i> 1-SAIL class @Aldersgate 6-Community Supper 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>16</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>17</i> 11-Budget & Finance	<i>18</i> 10-Jennifer's Closet
<i>19</i> 10-Worship, Childcare 9-Present Word 10:15-Youth Studies	<i>20</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 11-The Chosen 1-SAIL class @Aldersgate	<i>21</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Comm. 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>22</i> 1-SAIL class @Aldersgate 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>23</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 10-Women's brunch at Bill's Diner
<i>26</i> 10-Worship, Childcare 9-Present Word 10:15-Youth Studies 12-Session	<i>27</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 11-The Chosen 1-SAIL class @Aldersgate	<i>28</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>29</i> 1-SAIL class @Aldersgate 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>30</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir		

Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church
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Change Service Requested
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**We're on the
Web!**

Ministries Team

Head of Staff / Sr. Pastor

Dr. Bob Spratt

Music Ministry

Benjamin Kjell - Music Director
Jean Coniber - Bell Choir Director

Bookkeeper

Tom Olney

Treasurer

Patric Donaghue

Administrative Assistant & Mouse Editor

Eileen Sengillo

Custodian

Patrick Pierre
Cornelius Yawn

Nursery Child Care Worker

Jennifer Watt

Youth & Children's Ministry Leader

Andrew Ferreira

The Session

Kim Bolinger, Budget & Finance
Wendy Watt, Christian Education
Cindy Hetzler, Community & Global Miss.
Michael DePew, Generosity
Bev Murray, Nominating
Jim Hetzler, Personnel
Rick Clement, Property
Heather Kruspe, Spiritual Growth
Karen McIver, Worship & Music
Dr. Bob Spratt, Moderator
Michael DePew, Clerk of Session



He is not here;
he has RISEN!

Mark 16:6