

Bethany  
Presbyterian  
Church

Sharing, Caring,  
Believing, Doing

# The Church Mouse



**Bethany Presbyterian Church**

**January  
2023**

Volume 26,  
Issue 1

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**What is  
Per  
Capita?**



### 2023 PER CAPITA

2023 Per Capita is 36.45 per Active Member (\$22.50 to Presbytery of GV, \$4.10 to Synod of the Northeast, and \$9.85 to General Assembly). You may mail your per capita to Bethany noting on your envelope what it is for. Please consider sending an additional \$36.45 that will cover the costs for a Member (in Nursing Homes, away at school, etc.) that may not be able to! Per Capita provides the means to strengthen the connections of our work, and build lasting relationships to help all Presbyterians share God's love through mission and ministry!

### PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

Every church is apportioned a share of the expenses of the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly for ecclesiastical purposes. The apportionment is based on church membership. The amount varies with the needs of the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly, and is a regular expense payable by this church at the spring meeting of presbytery. The amount to be paid this year per communicant member is \$36.45. Bethany is responsible for paying a total amount of \$11,445.30

Stewardship  
Update



**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE:** As of December 23, 2022, we have 114 pledges with \$268,521 pledged. We need your support! If you have not yet filled out your estimate of giving card please do so. If you did not receive an estimate of giving card, please call the church office at 663-3000.

### **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

**Deadline for the  
February  
Newsletter is on  
January 14, 2023**

## Pastor's Page:

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Dear Friends,

There is an ancient legend about two angels who flew to earth to gather people's prayers. Wherever people bowed in prayer--by their bedside at night, in a chapel, or on the side of a mountain--the angels stopped and gathered the prayers into their baskets. Before long the basket carried by one of the angels grew heavy with the weight of what he had collected, but that of the other remained almost empty.

One basket was full, while the other remained empty. Into the first basket were put prayers of petition. "Please give me this . . . Please let me have that." Into the other went the prayers that said simply, "Thank you."

"Your basket seems very light," said one angel to the other. "Yes," replied the one who carried basket containing the simple prayer "Thank you." He added, "People are usually ready enough to pray for what they want, but very few remember to thank God when God grants their requests."

These are the two words that distinguish us as human beings from the rest of the animal kingdom: "Thank you."

The need to express gratitude is one of our most human attributes. Saying "thank you" is a statement of character; it is a statement of grace. I would be remiss if I didn't thank those who helped me when I hurt my back. A big thank you to Rev. Andrew Ferreira for preaching during my absence. Thanks to Stephen Ministry Leader Kim Bolinger and Pastoral Care Deacon Beth Thomsen for providing pastoral care. The Session, Personnel Committee and Church Staff for their understanding and support. The cards and prayers from folks in the congregation helped with my healing. And of course, Brenda, for nursing me back to health.

That's why we are here. To say, "Thank You . . . to so many people who do so much and Thank You . . . to God for healing us and loving us and watching over us." It's a statement of our character. It's a statement of our faith. And it is a reason for our worship.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year,

Dr. Bob Spratt

## With Our People

### With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Karen McIver and family and the passing of her mom.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Irene Crawford and family at the passing of Phil Crawford.



**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.

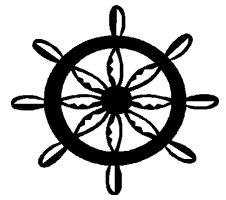
## Fiscal Focus

2022	November	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$25,406.77	\$329,856.34	76.65%
Expense	\$48,077.89	\$361,706.93	84.05%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$22,671.12	-\$31,850.59	

### Shipmates Lifespan Program

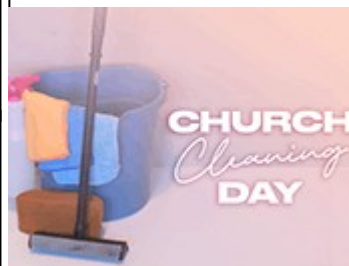
Save this date: February 11, 2023

**Lifespan** is one of the largest not-for-profit organizations in Monroe County. They provide excellent information navigating our complex system of medicare, housing and home services for the elderly. On Saturday, Feb. 11 Shipmates will meet at Bethany for an overview on the many Services provided by our greater Rochester community. **All are welcome to attend.** More details to follow in January bulletins.



### BEGINNING HANDBELL LESSONS:

If you think it looks like fun to play handbells, you're right! We are planning four evenings of handbell lessons. Come and see what it's like, whether you are interested in joining a choir or not. We will learn basic ringing skills, how to read music, and how to play and enjoy bell music--all in a beginner-only supportive environment. You are encouraged to come to all four lessons, which will be Wednesday evenings at 6:00 in our Bethany sanctuary, January 25 through February 15. To sign up or for more information, contact Jean Coniber at [JConiber@frontiernet.net](mailto:JConiber@frontiernet.net).



### INVITATION TO ALL:

Your Congregational Life Committee has scheduled a Bethany Cleanup Day on January 21 from 9:30 to 12, followed by lunch at a restaurant to be determined. Many hands

make light work and we all want our Bethany home to shine! Please consider coming out to share your morning with us and reward yourself with lunch and great company afterward.

**AFGAN UPDATE:** I inadvertently omitted two names of Bethany Women who faithfully crocheted/knit square: Shirley Georgi & Elisabeth Benschop. An apology from Beth Thomsen.



## Stephen Ministry

The holidays have just passed and we still have that warm feeling of family and friends making our holiday complete. It's a wonderful time of the year. New goals and new memories. But there is also something we renew over and over at Christmas.

The most significant reason of our Christmas season is the birth of our Lord, Jesus. As most parents do, I am sure Joseph and Mary wondered how their tiny son would live out his life and which roads he would take. They knew he was special, but there is no way they would understand or expect him to have the impact that he did on people all over the world. They had the gift to the world in their hands. They could not have comprehended what he would show us, and teach us with his kindness and love to all. He asked us to do the same so his story would continue.

A small statement puts it simply: "Always show more kindness than is necessary, because the person receiving it needs more than you will ever know". Jesus taught us that compassion is for every season. He expects us to demonstrate it to others. That is our agreement we made with him when he came into our hearts.

Bethany offers a group of Stephen Ministers to help you understand the kindness and love from our Lord when it does not feel as if it is present in our lives. Things can get overwhelming and maybe a couple of conversations with a Stephen Minister can guide you back to the comfort you need to deal with events that are troubling you. We are the trouble shooters! If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister, please contact Dr. Bob or Wendy Watt.

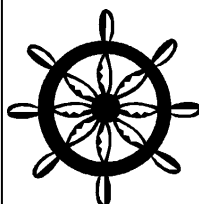
Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers,

Cindi Sywulski

# thank you

Special thanks to all my Bethany friends for their wonderful support and prayers during my recent battle with covid. ~ Wayne Crawford

To My Bethany friends,  
Thank you so much for your cards, calls, Bible verses and wishes. After 42 days in the hospital, I am finally home. I never realized the value of a card or a call. God bless you all, ~ Sandy Ericson



We are starting the New Year 2023 but stop, our program will take you back to the 50's. Come join us with Donovan Shilling to explore what happened with events, persons, and places during each year of the 1950's. He will go back with topics that will include cost of living, entertainment, and other changes in life over 70 years ago.

Donovan is a retired middle school science teacher and administrator, has taught classes on local history to adults at the Rochester Museum and Science Center for more than 20 years, and is a long time member of the Greece Historical Society. He has written more than a dozen books about the history of Rochester.

Please join us Saturday, January 14th in the large hall at noon for lunch followed by our 1950's program and a short meeting. This program is opened for our congregation and friends who would enjoy hearing about the 50's. More information will be coming in the bulletins, save the date.



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.

## **BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

### **in the CONGREGATION**



#### **What Presbyterian Women Do?**

Presbyterian Women understand that scripture asks us to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. As such, Presbyterian Women provides information about justice and peace and ministry to inform mission and community-building work.



[Nurture Faith](#)

[Support Mission](#)

[Work For Justice and Peace](#)

[Build Community](#)

[Develop Leaders](#)

#### **November Meeting:**

On Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, Jeannette Johnson presented information on the Greece Community Center. She shared the many classes and activities that the Greece Community Center has to offer. In addition, Jeannette explained the renovations and expansion that is happening for future enjoyment.



#### **January Meeting and P.A.D. Project:**

Our group created 100 monthly cycle kits for Mothers in Need of Others (MINO) at our January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. MINO maintains a resource room of supplies for women and their infants. Over 145 agencies and more than 600 caseworkers rely on MINO's resource room to help to their clients. This will be the fourth year we have done a P.A.D. project.

#### **Women's Brunch:**

During the months January, February, and March, all women and friends are invited to share fellowship at **Long Pond Family Restaurant on the last Saturday of the month at 10:00 am.**

#### **Christmas Luncheon:**

32 Bethany women celebrated the Christmas season at Bella Pasta Restaurant on **Saturday, December 3, 2022 at noon.** We enjoyed a Chicken Buffet and delicious cake. Many thanks to Jesse Smith for providing centerpieces and favors, Gail Kuhner for making beautiful favors, Karen Dobbins for getting the cake, Karen McIver for leading in us in Christmas songs, and Jeannette Johnson for taking pictures.





### **Heifer International Project:**

At our December Christmas Luncheon, we collected \$368.00 for the *Heifer International Project*. This donation enables us to send 1-1/2 girls to school.

BPW continues to support the mission of the church at home and worldwide which include the following organizations: Presbyterian Church USA: General Mission, Thank Offering, Birthday Offering, Church Women United: Least Coin Offering and General Fund, Church Worldwide Services-Blankets, Presbyterian Home, Camp Whitman Camperships, Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf & Clothing Closet, Flower City Habitat for Humanity SAWS2, Journey Home, Open Door Mission, Open Door Mission Coldwater, Jennifer House, Foodlink, Allyssa's Angels, and ROC Recovery Fitness and other Special Projects.



### **BPWC Budget Update:**

In December we were hosts at two Memorial luncheons for which we received \$100. Thank you to Heather Kruspe and all who helped. Although we are wrapping up this budget year, we were blessed with two donations totaling \$110. Those dollars will be added to pledge dollars. To date income is at \$11,644 and expenses at \$8,121. It appears we will be carrying over approximately \$3500 into 2023. Thanks to all for their generous donations which allowed us to support agencies doing the Lord's work.

### **Pledge Letter Mailing:**

After our January meeting, women will be preparing *Pledge Letters* to be mailed out the following week. We are very grateful for the generous donations from the wonderful women of Bethany. These donations have supported the mission of the church at home and worldwide which include the following organizations: Presbyterian Church USA: General Mission, Thank Offering, Birthday Offering, Church Women United: Least Coin Offering and General Fund, Church Worldwide Services-Blankets, Presbyterian Home, Camp Whitman Camperships, Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf & Clothing Closet, Flower City Habitat for Humanity SAWS2, Journey Home, Open Door Mission, Open Door Mission Coldwater, Jennifer House, Foodlink, Allyssa's Angels, and ROC Recovery Fitness and other Special Projects.

### **January 2022- December 2022 Annual Report:**

Karen Bolinger wrote the 2022 Annual Report for the Congregation Meeting with the assistance of Linda Lamb and Beth Thomsen.

### **Afghan Mission Project:**

Joyce Adaskin had one afghan and one smaller one ready for Beth. Joan Vogt gave Beth 102 squares which Sharon Nichols took home. Beth will deliver them when they are ready to Open Door Mission.

### **SAVE THE DATE: Bethany Women's Retreat**

**On Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am** all women and friends are invited to our retreat, *Wonderfull World- Where Women Explore God's Wonder and Love*. Last year we traveled to North America, Asia, Antarctica, and Africa. This year we travel to Europe, Australia, and South America. Get your passports ready!

### **Building Caring Relationships:**

Any woman currently active or inactive with BPWC and would like to be added to the *Bethany Presbyterian Women in the Congregation Communication Distribution List* please contact Karen Bolinger- 585-227-2540 or [kbolinger@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kbolinger@rochester.rr.com).

# January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> 10-Worship, with Communion Childcare, Roots & Wings	<b>2</b> Church building closed	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 12:30-Staff meeting 6:30-Worship & Music 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<b>5</b> 2-Property 7:15-Bethany Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9-Men's Club Breakfast
<b>8</b> <b>Communion</b> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, with Communion Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies 11:15-C&GM	<b>9</b> 2-Pastoral Care Deacons 7-Life Group	<b>10</b> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women 7:30-Congregational Life	<b>11</b> 12:30-Staff meeting 6:30-Spiritual Growth 7-Christian Ed 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<b>12</b> 7:15-Bethany Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 12-Shipmates
<b>15</b> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies 12-Session 4-BYF	<b>16</b> 7-Stephen Ministers	<b>17</b> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Committee 7-Contemporary Worship Task Force	<b>18</b> 12:30-Staff meeting 6-Community Supper 7-Budget & Finance 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<b>19</b> 7:15-Bethany Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9-Church clean-up day
<b>22</b> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies 12-Session	<b>23</b> 7-Life Group	<b>24</b> 9:30-Belles & Beaux	<b>25</b> 12:30-Staff meeting 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<b>26</b> 7:15-Bethany Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10-Presbyterian Women's brunch
<b>29</b> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies 12-Session	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:30-Belles & Beaux				

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## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church  
3000 Dewey Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14616

Phone: 585-663-3000  
www.bethanyrochester.org

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**Mailed December 26, 2022**

**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

