

Bethany  
Presbyterian  
Church

Sharing, Caring,  
Believing, Doing

# The Church Mouse



**Bethany Presbyterian Church**



**Christmas Joy**  
OFFERING

**December 19 our Christmas Joy offering will be collected.** The recipients are chosen by Presbyterian Church USA. Half of our gifts will be used to help students learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools

and colleges equipping communities of color. The other half will be used to support church leaders – past, present and future. Please be generous as you consider supporting those who have helped and will help our faith development in the future. Thank you. Community and Global Mission Committee

**The Christian Education Committee** would like to invite everyone to an all generational event planned for December 12, 2021.

Our Advent Family Celebration will begin with a children's program during the service entitled, "The Friendly Beasts". Our children will share their talents during the service!

All are invited following the service to join the children in decorating Christmas cookies for the shut-ins and enjoying a pizza lunch.

\*Pizza will be supplied, but please sign-up in the narthex or by calling the church office by December 10th.



## **December 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

7:00 PM Service: Communion,  
Candlelight Service

11:00 PM Service: Communion,  
Candlelight Service,

Bethany Choir and Handbell Choir

**December  
2021**

Volume 24,  
Issue 12

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**Special points of  
interest:**

- Stephen Ministry
- Shipmates
- Life Groups
- Presbyterian Women
- Contemporary Worship
- Church Calendar

### ***Bethany Mission Statement***

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

**Deadline for the  
January  
Newsletter is on  
December 7, 2021**

# Pastor's Page:

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Dear Friends,

How many of you have real Christmas trees in your house? I am talking about real deal Christmas trees - the kind that you have to water and have needles that fall on the floor. How many of you have artificial trees? You may be interested to know that this year, about 24.5 million real trees will be sold during this Christmas season and about 10 million artificial trees.

Christmas trees are a big business (as you can imagine) in this country. Thirty-six million Christmas trees are produced in this country every year and more than one million acres of land have been planted in Christmas trees. Over 100,000 people work full time in the Christmas tree industry. More than 1 million acres of land in this country are dedicated just to planting Christmas trees. Roughly 21% of United States households will have a real tree in their home this year versus 48% that will have an artificial tree.

We cannot even imagine in this day and age celebrating Christmas without a richly decorated Christmas tree. It just doesn't seem right, but have you ever wondered why we have a Christmas tree and how it originated and whether or not there is a deeper meaning to the tree than just lights and tinsel and decorations?

Did you know that the custom of the Christmas tree began in Germany over 1300 years ago? It was originally called, "The Christ Baum" or "Christ tree."

The first known decorated Christmas tree was in the city of Riga, in the country of Latvia, in the year 1510. It was because of a great Christian, who we have all heard of, named Martin Luther, that the Christmas tree came to mean to us what it means today.

Martin Luther lived about 500 years ago and as he was walking through the woods, late in the evening, it was getting dark, and as he looked at the trees in the forest, he noticed behind them a beautiful backdrop of stars. He came up with the idea of trying to reproduce the effect of having stars on trees. In 1535, he decorated a small Christmas tree with candles for his children to show them how the stars twinkle through the night. Martin Luther was actually the first person in history that brought the Christmas tree from the outside to the inside.

The Christmas tree is symbolic of the birth of Christ. The tree's branches are viewed as an emblem of new life. Being triangular in shape it represents the trinity.

But Christmas is really about joy. Each of us may look to some tradition like a Christmas Tree to trigger that joy. But the Christmas Tree is merely an expression of the spirit of joy born again into our souls.

Wishing you a joy-filled Christmas,

Dr. Bob Spratt

## With Our People

### With sympathy

**Christian love and sympathy** is extended to Al and Joyce Adaskin, Sarah Smith at the passing of Lisa Adaskin.

### Joy

We celebrate the baptism of Wesley Justice Foreman. The parents of Wesley: Ryan and Laura Foreman. Proud Grandparents: Craig and Darlene Foreman. Sponsors: Courtney Foreman and Michelle Kohler.



**PLEDGE UPDATE:** As of November 12, 2021, we have 109 pledges with \$247,828 pledged for 2022. If you did not receive an estimate of giving card please call the church office at 663-3000.

## Fiscal Focus

2021	October	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$29,624.69	\$297,549.94	74.33%
Expense	\$29,362.43	\$292,702.78	73.12%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$262.26	\$4847.16	

## Per Capita Reminder

per  
capita

For those who have not yet submitted their 2021 per capita contribution, there is still time to send it in before the end of the year. The amount for 2021 is \$35.14 per member.

### CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP TASK FORCE

The Contemporary Worship Task Force invites you to join us in planning worship services that will provide our church community with options for hearing God's Word, in a relaxed, energized, personal, and meaningful way. If you would like this opportunity, please contact Cindy Hetzler at 585-317-1946 or [cindyhetzler34@gmail.com](mailto:cindyhetzler34@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

## Contemporary Worship



Please join us on December 26th, at 11:30am for our contemporary worship services. The style of these services is more informal than our traditional services, but just as meaningful. The sermons are delivered in a more relaxed, conversational style. Jacob has worked hard to choose music that is upbeat and relevant. We hope to see you there!



## Stephen Ministry

A step outside will tell you what time of year is here. Cool air, leaves with color, or leaves missing all together, or that “white stuff” has reared it’s head. It is winter and time for one of the most treasured celebrations of the Christian faith. The birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The types of recognition have changed through the years, but the anticipation has been experienced for thousands of years.

Our children, as we did when we were young, have other thoughts on their minds for this holiday. It can mean lots of goodies, toys, songs, plays, and maybe a special show or movie to look forward to. We all enjoy those parts of the holiday too. Their excitement can generate excitement for us just watching them.

But, again this year, this holiday brings with it some unfortunate changes in routines that had been established long ago. We may have to rethink the amount of purchasing we can justify, once again limit the amount of family and friends we can entertain for various reasons we had hoped would be back to normal by now.

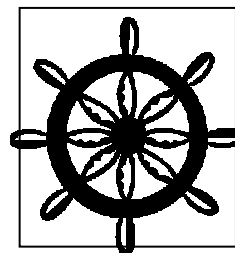
But, my friends, we do recognize the needs of others for clothes, blankets, toys, dinners, and warmth even more at this time of the year also. We are caring people and love to reach out our hands to help in any way we can. Back to basics. That is the message our Lord brought with him to teach his disciples to teach us, and for us to teach each other by showing the love we have been given.

The Stephen Ministers are here to do just that for anyone thinking they may have something troubling them that has taken away some of the shine of the holiday. It can happen if we cannot be with family, or friends, or feel we have nothing to contribute to anyone to show God’s love. Just feel like they are sitting on the sideline watching, but not involved. That is the reason we are here. Please understand, you are not alone. We’re right here - just a phone call away or a decision to speak with one of us about your concerns is all that is needed.

Wishing you a warm, safe Christmas holiday and a blessed New Year from the Stephen Ministers. If you would like to contact a Stephen Minister, please reach out to Dr. Bob or Wendy Watt.

Peace from your Stephen Ministers,

Kim Bolinger, Wendy Watt, Bev Bennett, Jim Hetzler,  
April Honan, Tracy Kimbill, Kay Dennett, and Cindi  
Sywulski



...AHOY...  
Mates and Lasses!!  
Shipmate 2022 information  
Mark your calendar!!

January - no meeting  
February - 2/12/22 - Greece Historical society  
March - 3/12/22 - US Border patrol  
April - 4/9/22 - Seneca Park Zoo  
May - 5/14/22 - Hurd Orchard luncheon  
June - 6/11/22 - Picnic in the Park

Note: All congregation attendees/guests are welcome.  
If you see a program that interests you....please join us!

First Mates:  
Karen Dobbins/ Edna Hamlin

BYF/Youth Deacon Alumni—11:00 Christmas Eve Candle lighting Let’s start a new tradition! If you are a former BYF member or Youth Deacon and will be attending the 11:00PM Christmas Eve service, please come to the front of the church at the end of the service to help distribute the candlelight for the singing of “Silent Night.” We look forward to seeing you there

**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.

**PRESENT WORD:** The Present Word has resumed meeting in person every Sunday at 9:00 am. 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.

### Using Bethany's Large Hall and Kitchen

Now that we are back fully functioning again, a reminder about using the Large Hall and kitchen...

**PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS THAT ARE IN THE A FRAME BOX IN THE KITCHEN!**

- Do not adjust any controls. If there are concerns/problems please contact the office, Jim, the Sexton, or Pat Hemmenway, 225-1652.
- Do not leave any unmarked foods in the refrigerator or freezer
- Please check each time about trash can maintenance, which may be different on different days.
- When finished, please fill out the form to let us know how things went or if there were any problems.



### 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, 2020. We have decided on a new name for our group: "BIBLE FELLOWSHIP".

We want all to feel welcome to join us 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, December 17, @ 3:00 pm - Large Hall  
All welcome!

Friday, January 28, @ 3:00 pm - Large Hall  
All welcome!

Please phone Bev Bennett 585-225-0206

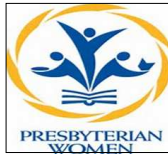
A peace that preeminents all understanding by Jesus way.  
-Philippines 4:7 ~ Our Bible

Bethany Youth Foundation (BYF) On October 30, a group of youth spent the evening enjoying the renovated BYF Room—eating submarine sandwiches and playing Wii video games, air hockey, and corn hole. The group was joined by BYF alumni volunteer leaders Alexa Johnson, Joshua Buri, and Matthew Buri. It was fun to be together as a group again! If there is a BYF activity or event you'd be interested in leading, please contact Carrie Buri at (716)390-8941.

# December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 10:30-Staff Meeting 6:30 Worship & Music 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>2</i> 7:15 Bethany Choir	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, with communion Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Sunday School 12-Session	<i>6</i> 10-Belles & Beaux 7-Stephen Ministers	<i>7</i> 10-Belles & Beaux	<i>8</i> 10:30-Staff Meeting 6:30-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>9</i> 7:15 Bethany Choir	<i>10</i> 11:30-Shipmates-(at Brook House)	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings Children's Program Advent Family Celebration 11:15-Sunday School	<i>13</i> 7-Life Group #2	<i>14</i> 10-Belles & Beaux 12-Presbyterian Women (at Bella Pasta) 7:30-Congregational Life	<i>15</i> 10:30-Staff Meeting 6:30-C&GM 7-Budget & Finance 7-Christian Ed 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>16</i> 7:15 Bethany Choir	<i>17</i> 3-Bible Fellowship	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Sunday School	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 10-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Comm. 7-Contemporary Worship Task force mtg	<i>22</i> 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>23</i> 7:15 Bethany Choir	<i>24</i> 7-Christmas eve service 11-Christmas eve service	<i>25</i> <b>Christmas Day</b>
<i>26</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Sunday School 11:30-Contemporary Worship	<i>27</i> Church building closed	<i>28</i> Church building closed	<i>29</i> Church building closed	<i>30</i> Church building closed	<i>31</i> Church building closed	

## BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN in the CONGREGATION



### **BPWC Budget Update:**

Linda Lamb submitted and reviewed Bethany Presbyterian Women's 2022 budget with Tom Olney. The final figures on carryover (2021 dollars to 2022) will not be available until we close the budget at year end. The pledge campaign for 2022 will begin in January.

In November there was no income to Bethany Presbyterian Women's budget. There was one expense for \$32.06 to procure bags for the February mission project.

This group has been blessed this year. We have taken those blessings and supported local and world-wide missions. Looking forward to 2022 and all the good works we have planned.

From your Treasurer, may you be filled with "Joy" this Christmas season and God Bless.

**Correspondence:** Lea Kone, Camp Whitman Director sent a letter to BPWC thanking us for our donation. Camp Whitman provides families of campers who have limited finances an opportunity for a quality camp experience.

**BPWC November Meeting:** Harbhajan Purewal of the Gurdwara of Rochester, a Sikh temple, shared with us about the Sikh religion and way of life. Sikhi (symbol for the faith shown left) teaches a message based on principles of love and oneness. It calls on all followers to be spiritual warriors. Meditation, service and justice are core aspects of the Sikh way of life. The three daily principles of Sikhi are truthful living, service to humanity and devotion to God.



### **The Pad Project:**

**Bethany Presbyterian Women will receive monthly mission donations in December.**

During the month of December BPWC will once again be collecting items for the *Pad Project*, which stands for providing access and dignity to women and girls. This initiative was developed by the local chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women. We are requesting donations of sanitary pads, tampons and pantliners which will be assembled into kits containing enough supplies for a typical 5-day cycle. Many agencies provide services to low income and homeless persons; however, many do not address this unique need women face during their monthly cycle. We have set a goal of 100 kits which will be provided to Mary's Place, a refugee outreach center located on Lexington Avenue in Greece.

Donations may be dropped off in the designated church basket located in the Narthex. We look forward to your support of this worthwhile mission project of the Bethany Presbyterian Women.

**BPWC Combination December Meeting and Christmas Luncheon: SAVE THE DATE!** It was decided that we will have our Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at Bella Pasta. All women are invited to join in this festive occasion. The cost is \$20.25 for a buffet which includes tax, gratuity and coffee or soda. We will be collecting donations for the Heifer International Project at this time as well.

**Bethany Women's Afghan Project:** We would like to recognize the following women for their labor of love in providing afghans to various organizations in the Rochester community: (These women were recognized on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> during The Work of the Church) Afghan transport – Beth Thomsen (delivers yarn, picks up assembled squares, delivers finished afghans) Afghan knitters – Joyce Adaskin, Sharon Nichols, Shirley Georgi, Joan Vogt, Cherie Livoti, Liz Benschop, Linda Lamb Afghan assemblers – Joyce Adaskin, Sharon Nichols Many, many thanks for generous time and talent! \*Beth Thomsen will be delivering 10 more afghans.

**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](mailto:kbolinger@rochester.rr.com).

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## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church  
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Rochester, NY 14616

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[www.bethanyrochester.org](http://www.bethanyrochester.org)

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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

### 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  
Steve Watt, Property  
Carrie Buri, Spiritual Growth  
Bev Bennett, Welcoming Committee  
Connie Slapar, Worship & Music  
Dr. Bob Spratt, Moderator

### Treasurer

Carl DeGraff



For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall  
be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called

*Wonderful Counselor,*  
**MIGHTY GOD,**  
*Everlasting Father,*  
**PRINCE OF PEACE.**

- Isaiah 9:6