

Bethany  
Presbyterian  
Church

Sharing, Caring,  
Believing, Doing

# The Church Mouse



**Bethany Presbyterian Church**

**December  
2022**

Volume 25,  
Issue 12

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**Children Around the World Carol Service  
Sunday, December 18, 2022  
10:00 AM**

You know the expression "it takes a village" well four committees: Christian Education, Community and Global Mission, Congregational Life and Spiritual Growth have combined our talents to bring you "Christmas Around the World." We'll begin our trip with

worship in Rome. We invite everyone to bring the baby Jesus from your crèche to be placed on the alter for a blessing. This tradition comes from Rome. You'll enjoy singing carols old and new from near and far.

After the service join us in the large hall for an international pot-luck lunch. Once again we invite you to bring a favorite dish to share from your cultural heritage.

Following the meal we will continue our fellowship by decorating cookies and making ornaments for our shut-ins to brighten up their holiday. Make and take an ornament for yourself as well. Come and celebrate in faith and fellowship!



**Special points of interest:**

- Stephen Ministry
- Shipmates
- C&GM
- BYF
- Church Calendar
- Presbyterian Women (insert)



**December 24th  
Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service**

(One service Christmas Eve)  
7:00 PM Service: Communion,  
Candlelight Service,  
Bethany Choir and Handbell  
Choir

**Worship Christmas morning  
December 25th at 10:00 AM**

***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 14, 2022**

# Pastor's Page:

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Dear Friends,

How many of us will have a real Christmas tree in our house this year? I'm talking about the kind that you have to water and that has needles that fall on the floor.

The rest will have artificial trees. This year, about 24.5 million real trees will be sold during this Christmas season and about 10 million fake trees.

Christmas trees are a big business 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 with Christmas trees.

Over 100,000 people work full time in the Christmas tree industry. Roughly 48% of United States households will have a real tree in their home this year versus 21% that will have a fake tree.

We can't even imagine celebrating Christmas without a richly decorated Christmas tree. The custom of the Christmas tree began in Germany. It was originally called, "The Christbaum" or "Christ tree."

In the year 1510, Martin Luther was walking through the woods, late in the evening, and as he up 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.

Remember this tree was known as the Christ tree. A tree represents life. A tree takes carbon-dioxide out of the air and through a process known as photosynthesis it produces oxygen which gives us the ability to live. Likewise, "the Christ tree" gives us the spiritual oxygen that we need to live.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas,

Dr. Bob Spratt

# With Our People

## With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Jan Bansbach and family at the passing of Jack Bansbach.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the Brown family and the passing of Phyllis Brown.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the Welk family at the passing of Nancy Welk.

**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	October	Year to Date	% Budget
<b>Income</b>	\$31,005.03	\$304,449.57	70.75%
<b>Expense</b>	\$28,791.32	\$313,629.04	72.88%
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	\$2,213.71	-\$9,179.47	

## Clothing Donations

We were generous in November! We collected and donated 158 pair of underwear and 190 pair of



socks. Some were adult sizes, some child sizes, some women styles and some men styles. Many needy Greece residents will receive our donations through the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf and Clothing Closet. Thank you for your generosity.

## Giving Tree

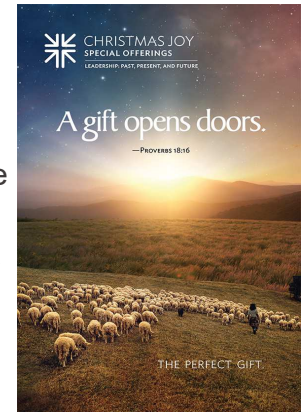


During December, please clip warm hats and gloves to the Community and Global Mission Tree in the Narthex. We will deliver them to Angels of Mercy after January 1,

2023. There are many people who will need help staying warm this winter. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.



Bethany Presbyterian Church will join with congregations around the country, supporting past and future church leaders. Thank you for your generous support. The collection of gifts will begin December 20.



## Stephen Ministry

Welcome to the official start of the holiday season. How did November get here so quickly? Seems like we just put all of the decorations away and it is time to bring them out. Kudos to those who leave their Christmas lights on their house year round and just need to plug them in. You probably know where all your decorations are too, right?

We are ready to have visits with our friends and family and share the changes that took place this past year in our lives. Hopefully, we have been able to face all of these changes with the people that we love. After all, whatever has occurred has touched them all in one way or another.

Births, marriages, graduations, and new homes are achievements that bring us such joy! These are all new beginnings and new beginnings are exciting. There may also be events of the past year that have saddened your heart. You may have lost a loved one, family and friends may have had to relocate, jobs status has changed, and relationships with friends and family have become different and our world has been rocked.

The following words are from a book titled "Hope Will Find You" by Naomi Levy. "We live in a broken world. Inside us there beats a heart that has been broken more times than we'd care to remember. But there will always be someone to help us pick up the shattered pieces and begin the process of repair. Sometimes with glue, sometimes with love, sometimes with miracles. Always with God."

The Stephen Ministers at Bethany are the "someones" to help you pick up the broken world that has landed on your doorstep. Discussions, prayers, a listening ear, and confidentiality are the important tools we have right here on hand. Our repair shop is open.

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

**THANK YOU:** Please accept my most gracious thanks to everyone who was a part of celebrating my mom, Patricia Allan's life. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the service and at the brunch afterward. In addition, thank you to those who sent sympathy cards. My family and I were also grateful to everyone who helped set up and clean up, before and after, the service and the brunch. I am so blessed to be part of such a wonderfully caring church family. Thank you!

Nancy Cowan



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.



**HILTON-PARMA GAZEBO  
BAND COMMUNITY  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
Tuesday, December 6, 2022  
7:30PM. Dr. Charles P. Schmidt,  
Conductor. Donation: Non-  
perishable food items at the door.





**It is NOT too late to make your RESERVATION to attend our Annual Christmas Luncheon on Friday, December 9, 2022.**

**Red Fedele's BROOK HOUSE at ElmRidge Center**

We will start to gather around 11 AM for some light refreshment, and great fellowship, our Lunch will be served at 12 Noon.

The Luncheon will include:

Olives & Fresh Fruit Tray; Mixed Greens w/Dressing served family style; Hot Vegetable; Pasta with Red Sauce; Fresh Roasted Potatoes; Fresh Italian Rolls, Sliced Top Sirloin; Roasted Chicken.

**Entertainment will be provided by our own Tenor .... Jeff Tabor**  
**Carolling and enjoying the Christmas Songs**  
**will highlight the afternoon.**

Everyone receives a small Christmas present and someone will win their tables Centerpiece. All this for only \$30.00 per person.

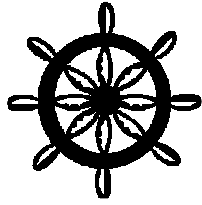
***Contact***

***Bob or Marie Watt at (585) 663-2264 to confirm your reservation,***  
***send your check to***

**Bonnie Bouton at 176 Parliament Circle, Rochester, NY 14616.**

Or you may drop off your check/cash on Sunday, Dec 4th in the Narthex immediately following the service.

***If you require a ride, let us know as soon as possible.***



### SHIPMATES

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, weather 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.

### Presentation on 1950s Rochester offered in Greece

A program titled "Rochester During the 1950s" will be presented by Donovan Shilling in cooperation with the Greece Historical Society on Tuesday, October 11, 7 p.m., at the Greece Public Library. The presentation features a year by year look into Rochester's past, including events, persons, and places

during each year of the 1950s. Topics include cost of living, entertainment, transportation, weather, and other changes in life over 70 years ago.

Donovan Shilling, a native of Fairport, has written more than a dozen books about the history of Rochester. He 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.



Donovan Shilling



Registration is required for this event. Call 225-8951 or go to <https://www.greecepubliclibrary.org/> then click on Events, then Calendar, then October 11.

Provided information and photo

PHOTOS OF THE PAST



1956: Downtown Spencerport. FILE PHOTOS

## Annual Report

### ANNUAL REPORTS

It's that time of year again!

Attention all Committees, Fellowship Groups and Ministries: Annual Report time is fast approaching! Annual Report deadline

is December 31st. If possible, please submit your report via email ([sengillo.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:sengillo.bethany@gmail.com)) to the church office. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



### Attention Snowbirds:

If you are going to have a temporary address this winter, please let the church office know the dates that you will be gone. This will enable the office to get your newsletter to you in a timely fashion.

# December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 2-Property 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 9-Men's Club Breakfast 11:30-Presbyterian Women Luncheon at Bella Pasta
<i>4</i> 10-Worship, with Communion Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies 11:15-BYF 11:30-Contemporary Worship	<i>5</i> 7-Stephen Ministers	<i>6</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 7:30-Hilton Gazebo Band Christmas Con- cert	<i>7</i> 12:30-Staff meeting 2-Memorial Committee 6:15-C&GM 6:30-Worship & Music 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>8</i> 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>9</i> 11-Shipmates at Brook House	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies	<i>12</i> 7-Life Group	<i>13</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 7:30-Congregational Life	<i>14</i> 12:30-Staff meeting 6-Christian Ed 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>15</i> 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> <b>Christmas Program</b> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 4-BYF	<i>19</i> 7-Stephen Ministers	<i>20</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel	<i>21</i> 12:30-Staff meeting 7-Budget & Finance 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>22</i> 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> <b>7-Christmas Eve service</b>
<i>25</i> <b>Christmas Day</b> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> New Year's Eve



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## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church  
3000 Dewey Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14616

Phone: 585-663-3000  
[www.bethanyrochester.org](http://www.bethanyrochester.org)

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Rochester, New York  
Permit No. 881

**Change Service Requested**  
**Mailed November 30, 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

