

Bethany  
Presbyterian  
Church

Sharing, Caring,  
Believing, Doing

# The Church Mouse



**Bethany Presbyterian Church**

**December  
2023**

Volume 26,  
Issue 12

**Inside this issue:**

Pastor's Page	2
---------------	---



We invite you to join us **THIS SUNDAY, December 3rd at 10:00AM** for a special Music Sunday service featuring Vivaldi's monumental Gloria. In addition to the Bethany choir, the performance will include musicians from the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Eastman School of Music, and the greater Rochester community. We are truly lucky to make beautiful music in a beautiful space, lifting our voices together in worship! You do not want to miss the special celebration to start the Advent season.

**THE "JOYFUL NOISE SINGERS"** will present "A Night for Dancing" Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> during the 10:00 AM service. Come enjoy the Nativity story in a new enthusiastic way!

**ALL-CHURCH ADVENT POT LUCK LUNCH:** Everyone is invited to enjoy a pot luck lunch with your church family December 17<sup>th</sup> following the 10:00 AM service. Following lunch enjoy cookie decorating and card making. Look for a member of the Spiritual Growth Committee who will be asking you to sign-up for the lunch.

### **Community Supper**

provided by David Watkins, Director of Dining and Hospitality for Episcopal SeniorLife Communities.

Wednesday, December 20, at 6PM

\$10.00 per person, payable in cash at the door.

Bethany's Large Hall

Join us in the sanctuary following the meal as Bethany's Celebration Ringers and Jacob Montgomery will present a Christmas Concert and Sing-A-Long.

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

(One service Christmas Eve)

11:00 PM Service: Communion, Candlelight Service,  
Bethany Choir and Handbell Choir

Worship December 24th morning at 10:00 AM

### **Special points of interest:**

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

### **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 18, 2023**

# Pastor's Page:

---

December 2023

Dear Friends,

The weather outside has turned cold. Inside the church, our sanctuary is warm, not only because the thermostats are turned up, but because of the love and spirit we share as a church family.

The holiday season is upon us. We as a church prepare for Christmas by lighting an advent candle each week during our worship service. Week by week, we prepare for the coming of the Christ child as we light the candles on our Advent wreath. We light the way for the coming of the Christ child, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world.

It can be difficult to remember that we are Christians during the Christmas season. It's hard to "Turn the other cheek," when someone pushes in front of us in line in a crowded department store, or pulls ahead into a parking spot that we have been sitting in our car waiting for in a busy parking lot. Peace and good will? "Bah Humbug," we may mutter to ourselves.

There is a way to hold onto the holiday spirit. Join us every Sunday morning as we gather together as a family of faith, hope and love. Come to our sanctuary, a safe haven from the commercialized chaos of the holiday season. Spend one hour each week, to meditate on the true meaning of Christmas. Come and be a part of our church family, where people will be kind and friendly. Worship with us on December 3rd as we enjoy Music Sunday. We will celebrate at our regular Sunday morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. on December 24th. Spend Christmas Eve with us as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child at one worship service at 11 pm.

Spend an hour each week with us to make it feel like Christmas in your heart. Let us hold on to the true meaning of Christmas and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It won't mean that people won't push in front of you when you're standing in line in the stores, but after spending time worshipping God, it may not bother you quite as much. Let us hold on to the true meaning of Christmas as we hold on to God and each other.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas,

Dr. Bob Spratt

**LIFE GROUP:** Would you like to be part of a new Life Group?! A Life Group is a small group of people who meet regularly to share food, fellowship, Bible or book study, and prayer. It is a wonderful way to connect with a smaller group and feel "at home." If you are interested in leading or joining a new Life Group at Bethany, please contact Carrie Buri at theburis@yahoo.com or (716)-390-8941.

The Community and Global Mission Committee has designated the residents of Beatrice Place for the December Donation of the Month collection. The folks at Beatrice Place enjoy coming together to enjoy crafting and fellowship. The crafting helps to combat some of the isolation and loneliness they experience. Donations of craft supplies are always welcome. C&GM will have an Angel Tree in the Narthex with ornaments listing a variety of craft materials. Please consider helping out our friends by selecting an ornament and purchasing the item. The supplies can be returned to Bethany. [Items include: Elmer's glue, scissors, rulers, Modge Podge, acrylic paints and brushes, colored construction paper, colored pencils, fine tip markers]

Next year, the committee is hoping to schedule a time when Bethany congregants can go to Beatrice Place to help lead a craft project and socialize with the folks who live there. Be on the lookout for that opportunity. Thank you for your donation.

## Fiscal Focus

2023	October	Year to Date	% Budget
<b>Income</b>	\$30,649.89	\$303,569.18	64.03%
<b>Expense</b>	\$37,602.05	\$368,259.82	77.67%
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	-\$6,952.16	-\$64,690.64	



**Jennifer's Closet—Now Open—located in the basement at Bethany. By appointment only: Jennifersclosetny@gmail.com**

Jennifer's Closet served 17 families in the first month of operation, this includes 3 families who just moved here from Haiti. With the help of 25 volunteers, we sorted donations, set up our storage and the sorting room, and established a website. <https://www.jennifersclosetny.com> (website). We would like to thank the following volunteers: Pam Auld Jan Banschach, Lisa Clement, Rick Clement, Pat and Ken Connor, Jim Cruppe, Karen Dobbins, Sandy Ericson, Ron Fisher, Cindy Hetzler, Jim Hetzler, Craig Johnson, Sue & Teresa Kredovic, Gail Kuhner, Heather Kruspe, Carolyn Ladieu, Cheri Livoti, Mary Leader, Jeff, Sue and Sarah Malak, Karen Mciver, Sally Phillips, Judy Price, Jennifer and Kurt Smith, Journey Spratt (website), Dr. Bob (rack assembler), Marie Watt, and Wendy Watt. Special thanks to Rick Clement for painting the clothing closet rooms and removing closet doors, and Jim Hetzler for removing the stage and ordering our banner.

Hours: Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30-noon. December 2nd Donations accepted and sorting party 10am-noon Stop by before going to the delicious Women's Luncheon!! We are currently accepting only children and teen clothing at this time (no shoes, boots, purses please). If you have holiday wear to donate, please include those in your donation. WE NEED PANTS HANGERS! Please donate to the shopping cart in the Clark Park Entrance. Contact: Brenda Spratt: (585)643-4170 and email: [jennifersclosetny@gmail.com](mailto:jennifersclosetny@gmail.com). You can now make monetary donations to Jennifer's Closet through the Community and Global Missions Committee. Make checks payable to Bethany Presbyterian Church and in the memo section write: Jennifer's Closet.



## 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.

*Written by Cindi Sywulski*

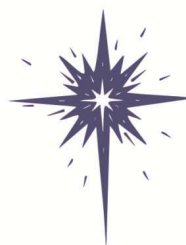


### Notes from Community and Global Mission

Thanks for all the Bethany Family has helped with:

We raised \$618 for Peace & Global Witness with 25% going to Family Promise, 25% going to Genesee Valley Presbytery and 50% going to PCUSA Peace and Global Witness

We collected 6 bags of plates and serving utensils for Family Promise. They were



## Christmas Joy OFFERING

### Follow Christ’s Lead This Advent Season

With Christ at the center this holiday season, we can follow in his example of servant leadership by serving our brothers and sisters in faith. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we are able to support those in our community and give them the gift of hope.

Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering help the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provide critical financial assistance to eligible church workers and retired pastors and their families in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The Christmas Joy Offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. These schools are dedicated to creating opportunities and environments for students built on a foundation of Christian values. The Offering benefits Menaul School and Presbyterian Pan American School, two secondary schools that ready students for a path of higher learning, as well as Stillman College, where graduates are prepared for lives of leadership and service.

By supporting the Christmas Joy Offering, you share in the hope of Christ and celebrate his leadership by providing support to our church workers, racial ethnic young people, and their families.

We will be collecting the Christmas Joy offering at the Christmas services

## **BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN in the CONGREGATION**



*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.*

### **November Meeting:**

Kristen Mathis, founder and CEO of Home Start Hope spoke to our group about helping women transition from a hard place in life to ultimately giving them stability and hope for a better life.

### ***Christmas Luncheon***

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023 @ Noon- 3:00 BELLA PASTA RESTAURANT**

Menu: Chicken Buffet (baked chicken, pulled pork, pasta, salt potatoes, salad, rolls, butter, beverages and dessert)

\*Registration will begin the first Sunday in November in the Narthex.

COST: \$23.00, Cash or checks payable to Karen Bolinger.

### **Bethany Women's Monthly Meetings:**

All women are welcome to share in fellowship. Please feel free to bring a friend. Our meeting day is on the second Tuesday of the following months: October- June except for December and April which will be on Saturday.

### **January 9, 2024 Meeting:**

Speaker- Reverend Dr. Bob Spratt

Topic: *Stop Dating the Church and Commit!*

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

We will be sharing "Brunch and Fellowship" at *Bill's Long Pond Diner* in January, February and March on the last Saturday of the month.

### **Budget:**

In October our income received was a \$50 pledge and \$75 for the Jeff Tabor memorial. Expenses incurred were \$50 for honorarium for Kristen Mathis, speaker and \$69.16 for supplies needed for the Jeff Tabor memorial

### **Service Project: Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

Women will assemble *Birthday Boxes* for MINO-Mothers in Need of Others

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

*Women's Tea*- Saturday, April 13, 2024 @ 9:30 am (Large Hall)

### **Afghans:**

Joan Vogt knitted 104 squares. Beth Thomsen gave them to Sharon Nichols. Beth shared an afghan during the Work of the Church show casing a beautiful afghan done by Cherie Livoti and Joyce Adaskin. Bethany women have made hundreds of afghans over the years. They have donated several to Jennifer's Closet which went very fast. We are so grateful for these wonderful women whose time and talent are greatly appreciated.

### **Display Case:**

Check out the Display Case in the Parlor for Bethany Women's up-coming activities, programs, and events.

### **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).

# Shipmates Christmas Luncheon



**Friday- Dec. 08, 2023 - 11:00 AM**  
**Red Fedele's Brook House**  
**920 Elmridge Center Drive**

**Cost: Only \$30.00 per Person**

A Buffett luncheon will be served from 12:00 to 1:15 pm, with the main entree being sliced Top Sirloin and Roast Chicken. ( Gluten free spaghetti will be available upon request. )

**All Bethany Congregants, friends & guests are Welcome !**

For RESERVATIONS contact Sue Kretovic at 663-1537 and make your check out to "Bethany Presbyterian Church, and annotate the Memo Line: "Line 37-Shipmates Dec Luncheon"

**Reservation Deadline is Dec 01, 2023**

Mail to:  
Sue Kretovic, 119 Marwood Road,  
Rochester, NY 14616

**CELEBRATE WITH US !**



# December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 11-Staff Meeting 6:30-Worship & Music 7:30-Celebration Ringers		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 9-Men's Club Breakfast 12-Presbyterian Women Christmas Luncheon at Bella Pasta
<i>3</i> <b>Music Sunday</b> 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux	<i>6</i> 11-Staff Meeting 2-Memorial Committee 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>7</i> 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>8</i> 11-Shipmate's Christmas Luncheon at Red Fedele's Brook House	<i>9</i>
<i>10</i> 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies 11:15-Adult Bible Class	<i>11</i> 7-Life Group	<i>12</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux	<i>13</i> 11-Staff Meeting 6-Spiritual Growth 6-Christian Ed 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>14</i> 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>17</i> <b>Youth Presentation</b> 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings <b>Advent Celebration</b>	<i>18</i> 7-Stephen Ministry	<i>19</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Comm.	<i>20</i> 11-Staff Meeting 6-Community Supper 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>21</i> 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i> 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11 PM Christmas eve service	<i>25</i> <b>Christmas Day</b> Church building closed	<i>26</i> Church building closed	<i>27</i> Church building closed	<i>28</i> Church building closed	<i>29</i> Church building closed	<i>30</i>
<i>31</i> 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings						

---

# 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  
**PAID**  
Rochester, New York  
Permit No. 881

**Change Service Requested**  
**Mailed November 29, 2023**

**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

### 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

Wendy Watt, Christian Education  
Judy Price, Community & Global Miss.  
Bev Murray, Nominating  
Jim Hetzler, Personnel  
Heather Kruspe, Spiritual Growth  
Liz Whittingham, Worship & Music  
Dr. Bob Spratt, Moderator  
Linda Lamb, Clerk of Session

### Treasurer

Carl DeGraff

