

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

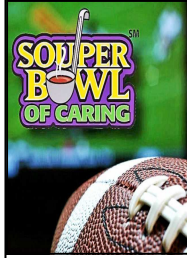
**February
2024**

Volume 27,
Issue 2

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On **Souper Bowl Sunday, February 11**, the youth of Bethany will be collecting donations after the Sunday service and are urging you to contribute to the **SOUPER BOWL for CARING**. This is a national youth-led effort to off-set the excesses of football mania by collecting money to support the Food Cupboards in their local communities. All money collected is taken directly to the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf to feed our neighbors in need.

The **Community and Global Mission Committee** has designated Lifespan as the recipient of the **2024 Ash Wednesday offering**. Lifespan is a regional no -profit agency that helps older adults and their caregivers take on the challenges and opportunities of longer life. Lifespan is a trusted source of unbiased information, guidance, services and advocacy for those they assist and provide training for both professionals and the community. Their services are provided in Monroe County with some services extending to Seneca and Genesee counties and to the Pennsylvania border.



Along with dedicating the Ash Wednesday offering to Lifespan, the Church and Global Mission Committee, in partnership with Beatrice Place, will be sponsoring **Lifespan workshops at Bethany**. Workshops are open to Bethany members as well as the community. They will be held as a part of the Lunch and Learn series and take place at 12:30pm in the large hall on **TUESDAYS** (please note change of day).

March 26

Scams

April 23

Substance Misuse

Sign-up for the luncheons will be in the narthex.



The **Annual Meeting** of Bethany Presbyterian Church has been called for **Sunday February 18, 2024 immediately following the worship service**. For the purpose of hearing reports, receiving the 2024 annual budget and the pastors terms of call, and for any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

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
- Lenten Recital Series
- Church Calendar
- Presbyterian Women (insert)
- Jennifer's Closet
- CPR instruction class

**Deadline for the
March
Newsletter is on
February 15, 2024**

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

February 14th is Ash Wednesday and begins the season of Lent. The word "Lent" originally meant "Springtime." Lent began as a time of purification and preparation. In the early church, baptisms were only performed on Easter Sunday. Over the centuries, the church began to baptize and confirm people on days other than Easter Sunday.

Lent is still the church season in which we prepare for Easter Sunday. It is a special time of prayer and reflection. Most of all, it is a time to ready ourselves for the humble thankfulness and sheer joy of Easter morning – it is a time to ready ourselves to meet our risen Lord once again!

This year, we continue our own tradition of preparing for Easter by gathering together on February 14th at 7 pm in the sanctuary for Ash Wednesday worship with the imposition of ashes.

On five successive Thursdays, February 22, 29, March 7, 14 and 21 we will hold a concert at 6:30 pm and a Lenten Vesper service from 7 – 7:30 pm in the sanctuary with communion.

March 24th is Palm Sunday, where we will celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem during 10 am worship in the sanctuary with the distribution of palms.

Maundy Thursday, March 28th, we will hold a special worship service in the sanctuary at 7 pm.

Good Friday, March 29th, at 7 pm we will hold a Tenebrae worship service in the sanctuary.

Easter Sunday, March 31st, we will proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ during 10 am worship in the sanctuary with communion.

Join us for any or all of these worship experience, so we can prepare our hearts to receive the gift of grace on Easter.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Jerry Sywulski and family, at the passing of Cindi Sywulski.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Cindy Stanek and family, at the passing of Doug Stanek.



Happy Birthday!

**February 8,
Greta Mayer
1121 S. Park Ave.
Titusville, FL 32780**



Thank you!

Thank you everyone that has sent me cards throughout the year.

~ Don Cork

Fiscal Focus

2023	December	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$133,562.00	\$460,448.67	97.11%
Expense	\$42,809.74	\$461,605.76	97.36%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$90,752.26	-\$1,157.09	



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. 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

Here we are in the alleged second month of winter. I say alleged because we are planning only three months of this brrrr cold. We are all aware it can extend past that and we are all prepared. Maybe with a snarl, but here we go!

We have just finished the holidays and have been diligent in getting all of the decorations put away. When returning items to the correct boxes, do you stop for a second and remember how long you may have had one of them or where you got a particular ornament from? Do those thoughts put a smile on your face or do some of them give you a quick flashback in your heart? We try to maintain traditions, but sometimes we have to be open to changes and adjustments for all the members of our family and friends. Someone moved to a new location, loss of a loved one, or just accepting that family may not be able to make it home at the same time as usual. Adjustments are almost inevitable. Doesn't mean we have to like them, but we should find a way to accept them. Compromise. You can compromise your actions, but it can be hard to compromise your feelings. You accept that not all of the family could be here, but it still hurt your heart a little.

Bethany has a group of Stephen Ministers that can help you deal with the "left over from Christmas" heartaches. Putting feelings in perspective is not easy but it can help you understand and accept the changes. Per the calendar, February is labeled "remembering the loved ones in your heart" month. But it can also be the beginning of relieving the ache in your heart. Healing is a gift from God. You just have to ask. We can help you get the connection. If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Bob or Wendy Watt.
Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers.

Written by Cindi Sywulski

Ever wondered why we blow out candles on special occasions? A tradition can be traced back to the ancient Greeks. Burning candles was an offering to their many gods and goddesses. Also a special tribute to the Greek moon goddess...Artemis!



The Bethany Presbyterian Women along with the Community and Global Mission (CGM) Committee will be putting together "Birthday Boxes" in March for Mothers in Need of Others (MINO). Many of these mothers do not have the means or resources for a special celebration for their child. A "Birthday Box" contains the essentials to recognize a child's birthday.

Throughout February, the Presbyterian Women and CGM will be accepting donations listed below:

- 13X9 aluminum pan with lid, cake mix, birthday candles,
- short 10 oz. cans of frosting (available only at Dollar Tree),
- small plates and party napkins, noise makers and plastic forks

Please place items in the collection box labeled "Birthday Boxes" in the narthex. Monetary donations to purchase items are also welcome and will help provide a \$10 Family Dollar gift card in each box.

Thanks to generous donations from Bethany members, almost 80 arts and crafts items were delivered to Beatrice Place on Denise Rd in early January. The items included 144 individual watercolor paints, 57 brushes, 88 markers, and 620 sheets of construction paper and cardstock. The materials will be used in monthly craft programs by the residents at Beatrice Place.

Beatrice Place is an Episcopal Senior Life Community offering independent living apartments for seniors in the Rochester area. The apartments are located in a converted school and church and offer an on-site cafe, common areas and weekly church services. They offer a variety of health and wellness classes, open to residents and area seniors.

Beatrice Place is a sponsor of the monthly Lunch and Learn and Wednesday Evening Community Suppers held at Bethany.

**Community Suppers
followed by
Lenten Recitals
CPR Class
Active Shooter Training**



We are excited to be hosting two regular dining events in Bethany's Large Hall run by Episcopal SeniorLife Communities—Lunch and Learn as well as a Community Supper. Meals are prepared by Chef David Watkins, Director of Dining and Hospitality at Episcopal Senior Life Community and are delicious. And, dietary restrictions can be accommodated as long as Chef David knows in advance—just notate that when signing up!

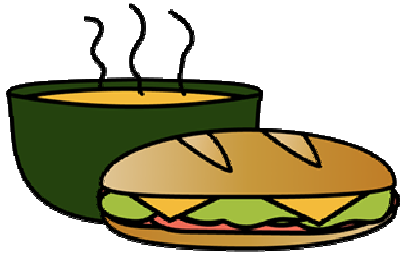
Lunch and Learn is \$8.00 and takes place on a Tuesday or Thursday (usually the last week of the month) at 12:30 followed by a presentation. For Lunch and Learn, the program following lunch is arranged by Beatrice Place.

The Community Supper is \$10.00 and takes place the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00. For the months of February and March, however, the dinner has been moved to the third Thursday in order to accommodate the program following dinner. Programs after the Community Supper are being organized by the Spiritual Growth Committee with help from Jim and Cindy Hetzler.

Please join us for the Community Supper and stay for these valuable programs afterwards:

Thursday, February 22—Lenten Recital/Concert
Thursday, March 21—Lenten Recital/Concert
Wednesday, April 17—Community Cares CPR Class
Wednesday, May 15—Active Shooter Training

All money is collected at the door but, to make planning easier, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you can call Eileen Sengillo at (585) 663-3000. Keep in mind that final counts are due the Sunday before the event. These events are open to the community, so please invite your friends!



Grab-n-Go Drive-thru

For 1, 2 or 4 people/families will be offered to the community on February 10th from 11-1PM. This event is sponsored by the Community and Global Mission.

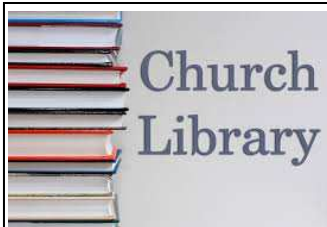
We need the congregations support in three ways:

February 9th 5-7PM: Make Soup and Sandwiches in Bethany Kitchen;

February 10th 10:30AM – 1:30PM Distributing Soup & Sandwiches;

February 11th (if needed) Distributing remaining soup/sandwiches to congregation after the 10:00 service.

Please sign up in the back of the church.



Re-Energizing the Bethany Library!

In an effort to re-energize the Bethany library, members of the Spiritual Growth Committee, with Session being aware, are sorting through the books in our library. Any book that hasn't been taken out since 2000 or that has never been taken out, has been put on carts in the Narthex.

This is an opportunity for the congregation to look through these carts and take any book that

you would like to add to your library at home. Any book that doesn't have a new home by May 1, 2024 will be donated to the used book store at the Greece Public Library.

We have started the process but, of course, would welcome help from anyone else willing to be part of this process. Please call Beth Thomsen at (585) 865-7181 or email at hawaiiinana@gmail.com.

LENTEN RECITALS AND SERVICES:

Our Thursday night Lenten Recital Series and Candlelight Services are back!

This year will feature recitalists including organists, improvisation, a wind quintet from the Eastman School of Music, and duets for piano and voice. The recitals will begin promptly at 6:30PM and last 25 minutes, followed by a special choral Eucharist service from 7:00 PM-7:30 PM. This special candle-lit service is almost entirely sung by the choir, featuring excerpts of Harold Darke's Communion Service in E, Gabriel Jackson's Preces and Response, and more. We hope you can join us starting on February 22nd through March 21st for these special musical presentations and services! Collaborating with the Episcopal SeniorLife Community Chef David Watkins, we will host a Community Supper preceding the recital at 6:00PM on the regular Thursdays that coincide with the Lenten recitals + services (February 22nd & March 21st). Be sure to sign up in advance either in the Narthex or by calling the church office at (585)663-3000. The \$10.00 fee for dinner will be collected at the door.



February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 7:15–Bethany Choir	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> 10-Worship, Childcare, 10:15-Youth Studies	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux	<i>7</i> 11-Staff Meeting 6:15-C&GM 6:30-Worship&Music 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>8</i> 7:15–Bethany Choir	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 9-Men's Club Breakfast
<i>11</i> 10-Worship, Childcare, 10:15-Youth Studies 11:15-Adult Bible Class	<i>12</i> 7-Life Group	<i>13</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women	<i>14</i> 11-Staff Meeting 6-Christian Ed 6-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>15</i> 7:15–Bethany Choir	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> Annual Meeting 10-Worship, Childcare, 11:15-Youth Studies 11:15-Adult Bible Class	<i>19</i> 7-Stephen Ministry	<i>20</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux	<i>21</i> 11-Staff Meeting 7-Budget & Finance 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>22</i> 6-Community Supper 6:30-Lenten Recital 7:15–Bethany Choir	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> 10-Worship, Childcare, 11:15-Youth Studies 11:15-Adult Bible Class 12-Session	<i>26</i> 7-Life Group	<i>27</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux	<i>28</i> 11-Staff Meeting 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>29</i> 6:30-Lenten Recital 7:15–Bethany Choir		

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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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

Bookkeeper

Tom Olney

Treasurer

Patric Donaghue

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

