

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church



The **Annual Meeting** of Bethany Presbyterian Church has been called for **Sunday February 20, 2022 immediately following the worship service.** For the purpose of hearing reports, receiving the 2022 annual budget and the pastors terms of call, and for any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

On **Souper Bowl Sunday, February 13**, 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 **Ash Wednesday** offering will be collected on Wednesday, March 2. The Community and Global Missions Committee has designated Recovery Fitness as the recipient of this year's donation. Jonathan Westfall, Executive Director, will be presenting a Minute for Mission at the Worship Service on Sunday, February 27.

Recovery Fitness is located in the Maplewood neighborhood at 1035 Dewey Avenue. They are a supportive community of physically active individuals brought together by sober living, committed to creating an environment of healing and recovering. Members, friends and families are empowered to discover their inner strength and confidence through adventure, fun and camaraderie.

Programs are free and open to anyone with 48 hours of continuous sobriety. Founded in 2015, Recovery Fitness welcomes friends, family members and those who choose to live sober. Additional information can be found at Recoveryfitness.org

Bethany Mission Statement

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

**February
2022**

Volume 25,
Issue 2

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Special points of interest:

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

**Deadline for the
March
Newsletter is on
February 7, 2022**

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

The story of Valentine's Day begins in the third century with an oppressive Roman emperor and a humble Christian martyr. The emperor was Claudius II. The Christian was Valentinus.

Claudius had ordered all Romans to worship twelve gods, and he had made it a crime punishable by death to associate with Christians. But Valentinus was dedicated to the ideals of Christ, and not even the threat of death could keep him from practicing his beliefs. He was arrested and imprisoned.

During the last weeks of Valentinus' life, a remarkable thing happened. Seeing that he was a man of learning, the jailer asked whether his daughter, Julia might be brought to Valentinus for lessons. She had been blind since birth. Julia was a pretty girl with a quick mind. Valentinus read stories of Rome's history to her. He described the world of nature to her. He taught her arithmetic and told her about God. She saw the world through his eyes, trusted in this wisdom and found comfort in his quiet strength.

They prayed together often. One day as they prayed, there was a brilliant light in the prison cell. Julia's sight was restored and they both praised God.

On the eve of his death, Valentinus wrote a last note to Julia, urging her to stay close to God and he signed it "From your Valentine." On each February 14, St Valentine's Day, messages of affection, love and devotion are exchanged throughout the world.

Happy Valentine's Day,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the dear friends and family of Helen West. Helen passed away on December 3, 2021.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Judy Price and Jeff Price at the passing of Judy's mother, Edna Lamouze.

Joy

We celebrate the baptism of Leonardo Patrick Regna. The parents of Leonardo: Melissa & Patrick Regna. Proud Grandparents: Steve & Wendy Watt.

We celebrate the birth of Jordyn Rae Hetzler. The first grandchild of Jim & Cindy Hetzler. Proud parents:

Dear Bethany Congregation,

Thank you all for the flowers, phone calls, ecards, cards that I have received while I have been out ill. I am on the mend but slower than I would like. I am currently working from home but I look forward to seeing everyone at Bethany soon. I am so blessed to be working for such a caring church. Thank you again.

Eileen Sengillo
Administrative Assistant
Bethany Presbyterian Church

Contemporary Worship

We were so happy to have received 50 surveys regarding contemporary worship. Thank you so much for all your feedback. Based on the information that we received, we will be moving the service to the **first Sunday** of the month. We will use bulletins, as well as the projector and technology. We will also be adding a few elements to the service, while continuing with the casual style sermon and contemporary music. We are in search of musicians that play guitar, drums, and/or other instruments to take part in these services. We are also looking for singers, and song suggestions. If you would like to be part of the Contemporary Worship Service Task force, please contact Cindy Hetzler at cindyhetzler34@gmail.com.

BYF Christmas Giving Tree Shopping

On December 6, 2021, a group from BYF and the Buri family met for dinner at Panera and then went Christmas shopping with wish lists in hand from the Giving Tree at Summit Federal Credit Union in Hilton. Thanks to the BYF members' comparative shopping and the price matching at Target, the group was able to purchase a nice gift(s) for each of the eight recipients from Villa of Hope. Thanks, everyone, for honoring the true spirit of the season by serving others!



Left to right:
Connor McGarrity,
Lucas Rudd, Alexa
McGarritty, Rorie
Gilbert

Left to right:
Matthew Buri,
Lucas Rudd,
Connor McGarritty,
Rorie Gilbert,
Alexa McGarritty,
Mark Buri





Stephen Ministry

Here we go into 2022!! Is everyone ready? I think I see some heads shake no. Mine too! Are we ever ready for the unexpected? We plan, discuss, prepare and wait for all to fall into place, but sometimes there is a speed bump we did not have any preparation for. Those are the tough ones.

We again are facing some changes in our lives. Both individually and as a community due to a medical issue that we thought was pretty much under control. We wore our masks, stayed the expected six feet apart, got our vaccines to prevent Covid and yet, we again find ourselves back to the beginning of having to change plans and schedules to protect our families, friends, and ourselves. Did we do something wrong?

I do not think the majority of us did anything wrong. We tried and will continue trying to control this issue the ways we are directed to because we know what we need to do.

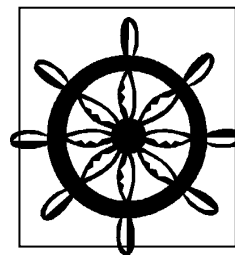
We can still contact each other by phone or text or any other ways of technical means we may use. We will hopefully be able to continue coming to worship either in person or on zoom and/or Facebook. These are some of our means of keeping in contact with each other which we at Bethany are known for the caring of our congregation. It is important to us.

There may be some things that we would like to have contact with someone to talk about in a more individual way. Nice to have concerns from others, but if it is a situation that needs special one on one attention, then the Stephen Ministers are here to listen and maybe help you to make that confusion or pain become clearer and not so controlling over your heart and mind. We are here to lessen your burdens. That's just what we do. And, this is a confidential time for both parties. The amount of visits is up to you and your personal Stephen Minister.

If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister, please contact Dr. Bob or Wendy Watt.

Wishing you all a safe, healthy, peaceful, and Happy New Year from the Stephen Ministers.

Cindi Sywulski



Shipmates

Due to the Covid epidemic there will be no Shipmates meeting in February. We expect to be meeting again on Saturday March 12, 2022. We will hear about the Border Patrol operations at their Headquarters which is located on Stutson Street in Irondequoit.



Tree of Warmth: Thanks to all who donate hats and mittens to support Keeping Our Promise. These donations will warm the hands and heads of many!

Donations: In December, Session approved C&GM Motions for the following:

1. \$1000 to the local Afghanistan Refugees organization www.keepingourpromise.org
2. \$500 to the Veterans Outreach Center
3. A water theme donation to Heifer International with \$750 for Water for Life \$750 and \$250 for a Water Buffalo

If you have any organizations you wish our committee to consider don't hesitate to reach out to one of our committee members: Cheryl Fisher, Judy Price, Cherie Livoti, Pat Connor, Jeannette Gruttadauria, MaryEllen Campbell.

The Welcoming Committee wishes to begin the New Year by extending our sincere loving gratitude to each one of our Bethany Family and Friends with hope we all may grow, renew, and develop our own life adventures in 2022.

As a Winter lift, we want to share with you some of our Happy and Thankful things written by our congregation on our Big Harvest Pumpkin left in the entrance last Fall:

God, Holy Spirit, Jesus
Jesus loves me
Bethany Family
Family was written several times!
Having so many relatives
Family and friends written a bunch!
My boys!
Children
A grandchild on the way!!
Employment
Love
Football, Bills, Giants, Mets
Let's Go Brandon!
Good Health mentioned a few times.
Grandma
Grandpa
Mom
Dad
brothers and sisters
Fellow volunteers
Thankful for us new
Gratitude for company
My sins are forgiven.
Joys and Concerns
Dr. Bob
Wayne on elevator
Richard greeting us
Thankful for Al Adaskin
Choir and Music
Lord's Prayer and Apostles Creed
Eileen in office
Pets: Dolly, Phantom, CoCo, Lizzy, Zippy Cider,
doughnuts, pizza, pumpkin pie, toast Hot chocolate
Chocolate and sweat pants Ice cream and a full cook-
ie jar My allowance Going out to eat No chores My
bed, when it's made.
God's creation
Good weather
Staying safe
Healing
I'm glad to be a Christian
Partaking in Holy Communion
The Bulletins and finally The Mouse!

A Joyful New Year to you all with Christian Love from the Welcoming Committee: Richard Britton, Wayne Crawford, Gail Kuhner, Bev Neroni, Mike Kuitunen, Cathy Stuart, Bev Bennett

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, February 25, @ 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

Happy Birthday

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



February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 10-Belles & Beaux	<i>2</i> 12:30-Staff Meeting 6:15-Liturgy Team 6:30-Worship & Music	<i>3</i> 7:15 Bethany Choir	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> :9-Men's Club Breakfast
<i>6</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, with communion Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Sunday School 11:30-Contemporary Worship	<i>7</i> 7-Stephen Ministers	<i>8</i> 10-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women 7:30-Congregational Life	<i>9</i> 12:30-Staff Meeting 6:30-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>10</i> 7:15 Bethany Choir	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11-Spirituality & Social Justice 11:15-Sunday School	<i>14</i> 7-Life Group #2	<i>15</i> 10-Belles & Beaux	<i>16</i> 12:30-Staff Meeting 6:30-C&GM 7-Budget & Finance 7-Christian Ed 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>17</i> 7:15 Bethany Choir	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> Congregational Meeting 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Sunday School	<i>21</i> 7-Stephen Ministers	<i>22</i> 10-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Comm. 7-Contemporary Worship Task force mtg	<i>23</i> 12:30-Staff Meeting 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>24</i> 7:15 Bethany Choir	<i>25</i> 3-Bible Fellowship	<i>26</i> 10-Women's Brunch
<i>27</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Sunday School 12-Session	<i>28</i> 7-Life Group #2					

The Presbyteries of Genesee Valley & Geneva Present
CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING DAY

Back to Basics
Saturday, March 5, 2022
via Zoom

****REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, March 1, 2022****



The 2022 CLD focuses on elder/deacon training and leadership development with two courses—*see descriptions below*:

- **COURSE 1 - Called and Equipped: Training for Elders and Deacons**
- **COURSE 2 - Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory**

Courses are designed for:

- new elders & deacons
- elders & deacons at large
- pastors

Courses are FREE—all are encouraged to attend!

Schedule of the day--

- **9–9:15 a.m.** Welcome & instructions for COURSE 1
- **9:15–11:15** – COURSE 1 - Called and Equipped: Training for Elders & Deacons
- **11:30 – 12 noon** Worship – *for registrants attending one or both courses*
- **12 noon – 1:30 p.m.** - COURSE 2 – Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory

Register online at www.pbygenval.org - Congregational Learning Courses.

Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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www.bethanyrochester.org

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Mailed January 28, 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

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

Love is **PATIENT**,
Love is **KIND**.
It does not **ENVY**,
it does not **BOAST**,
It is not **PROUD**.

1 Corinthians 13:4-6