

Bethany  
Presbyterian  
Church

Sharing, Caring,  
Believing, Doing

# The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

February  
2023

Volume 26,  
Issue 2

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Pastor's Page

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## ANNUAL MEETING

The **Annual Meeting** of Bethany Presbyterian Church has been called for **Sunday February 19, 2023 immediately following the worship service**. For the purpose of hearing reports, receiving the 2023 annual budget and the pastors terms of call, and for any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

### Souper Bowl Sunday



On **Souper Bowl Sunday, February 12**, 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.

### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP February 22 at 7:00pm



This meaningful worship experience is an opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God who made us and to prepare to begin the journey of Lent with Jesus toward the cross.

The Community and Global Mission Committee has designated the Greece Ecumenical Food and Clothing Closet Basket Program as the recipient of this year's Ash Wednesday offering.

#### 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
- Shipmates
- Church Calendar
- Presbyterian Women

Deadline for the  
March  
Newsletter is on  
February 14, 2023

# Pastor's Page:

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Dear Friends,

February 22nd 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. An entire year's worth of converts to the faith would be baptized and brought into the church on that day. Lent was the time before Easter in which these converts would fast and pray, preparing themselves to be members of Christ's church.

Over the centuries, the church began to baptize and confirm people on days other than Easter Sunday. Lent was no longer a time of preparation for these events, but it remained a special time of prayer and fasting. After the Reformation, the discipline of fasting became unpopular. So, as a way of preserving Lent as a time of self-sacrifice, these church leaders encouraged people to give up something during Lent that they enjoyed.

The early church celebrated Lent only for a few days before Easter. Over the centuries, the length of the season grew until it was several weeks long. In the seventh century, the church set the period of Lent as the forty days (excluding Sundays) before Easter Sunday, in order to remind people of the duration of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm in the sanctuary for Ash Wednesday worship with the imposition of ashes.

On five successive Thursdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 we will hold a concert at 6:30 pm and a Lenten Vesper service from 7 – 7:30 pm in the sanctuary with communion.

April 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, April 6<sup>th</sup>, we will meet in the Large Hall at 7 pm to experience the Last Supper as Jesus celebrated it with the disciples. Reservations are required.

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

Easter Sunday 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 Charlotte Streams and family at the passing of Cliff Streams.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the family of Jane Lyth at her passing.



## Per Capita: It Doesn't Grow on Trees

What is Per Capita? Per Capita is the amount of money per confirmed teen and adult member that each congregation pays each year to make the Presbyterian Church [USA] 'work'. How much Total Will Bethany Remit for Per Capita in 2023? \$36.45 for each one of our confirmed teen and/or adult members. What we don't receive from generous donors like you has to come directly out of the church budget, reducing funds available for programming right here at Bethany. It's as easy as putting it in the offering plate marked "Per Capita".

## Fiscal Focus

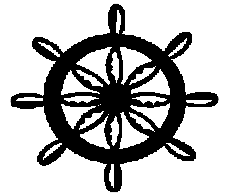
2022	December	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$85,757.79	\$415,614.13	96.58%
Expense	\$53,907.20	\$415,614.13	96.58%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$31,850.59	\$0.00	

## Shipmates

### Lifespan Program

Save this date: February 11, 2023

**Lifespan** is one of the largest not-for-profit organizations in Monroe County. They provide excellent information navigating our complex system of medicare, housing and home services for the elderly. On Saturday, Feb. 11 at noon Shipmates will meet at Bethany for an overview on the many Services provided by our greater Rochester community. **All are welcome to attend.**



**BETHANY BUNCO:** 2/18/23 Come spend a fun evening playing Bunco with your friends from Bethany! What's Bunco? A social game for the adults that is: Easy to Play No Skill Required Lots of Fun and Fabulous Prizes :-)  
Ron and Cheryl Fisher have offered to host an evening of Bunco and Beverages at their home, 78 Rose Dust Drive, Greece, NY 14626 on February 18, 2023 at 7:00pm. Please bring: \$3/person and a drink (the Sangria theme has worked nicely in the past - hint hint), snack, appetizer or dessert. As always - please feel free to invite others! Please RSVP to Carrie Buri (716-390-8941 or theburis@yahoo.com) so we can set up tables accordingly and know if anyone will be BANNED to the basement!

The Community and Global Mission Committee has designated the Greece Ecumenical Food and Clothing Closet Basket Program as the recipient of this year's Ash Wednesday offering. The Basket Program serves 45 to 50 very low-income senior citizens each month. Participants receive food deliveries personalized for their dietary requirements and preferences. Most of these clients no longer use a stove.

Judy Henderson, a member of Bethany, has been responsible for this program for many years. She will present a Moment for Mission on Sunday, February 19 at the beginning of the worship service. The Ash Wednesday offering will be collected on February 22.

In addition to the offering, the Community and Global Mission Committee will be collecting specialized food items for the GEFS Basket Program during Lent. A collection box will be in the Narthex. Needs are:

- Low-sodium, high-protein soups
- Pre-made jello and pudding cups (regular and sugar free)
- Nutritional drinks such as Ensure, Boost, Muscle Milk, Premier Protein
- Salt free canned vegetables
- Sugar free canned fruits
- Low sugar cereals



# Stephen Ministry

We have made it past the mid point of winter – I think....It started earlier than I had plans for, but I have to admit that I love snow at holiday time. So I guess there is a good side to it too. There are usually multi sided opinions on every subject and I am sure on this one too. People, in general, are very solid on their thoughts of snow and quick to let you know their theory.

Some of us have some thoughts that we are debating with in our minds right now. Big questions and smaller ones, but all that can have an influence on our future and the now. I have a tendency to ask many people their thoughts on a subject, and then try to come to a conclusion that I proudly call my own even though any one within listening range has made a contribution to my decision.

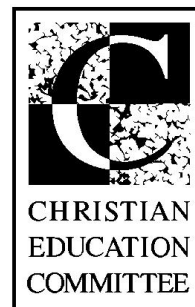
Indecision, and not understanding what is ahead can be overwhelming but having the reassurance that the Lord is always there to guide us can reduce the indecisiveness and stress we are creating for ourselves. Think of it this way, if God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. Face it. He’s crazy about you!

The Stephen Ministers are here to help you bring back that feeling of comfort and help that you may be looking for. Someone to listen to you and not judge you. Can’t get much better than that !

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

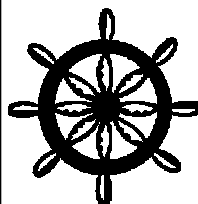
Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers.  
Cindi Sywulski

The Christian Education Committee wishes to thank the Spiritual Growth, Congregational Life and the Community and Global Mission committees for all your support of the International Pot Luck lunch, cookie decorating and ornament craft all contributed to fun and fellowship.

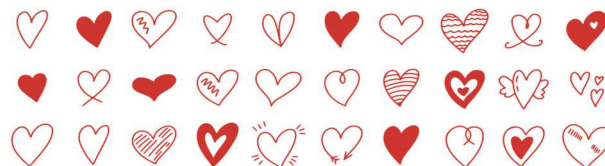


Additional thanks go to: Alexa and Connor McGarity, David Covert, Kaitlin Marsh, Deborah and Catherine Tedji for your artfull singing, reading and instrument played. Big thanks to Kim Rudd who carried on in my absence!

## Shipmates...



Trash...Garbage...Rubbish  
A “messy” topic”  
March 11th...come to large hall  
Learn what the future holds!  
11:30am presentation  
Light lunch to follow

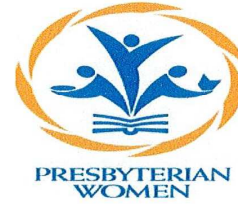


## Happy Birthday!

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



February 2023



Dear Bethany Family,

As you know, Bethany Presbyterian Women have collected money from the congregation for the Church World Service Blankets program after a church service.

We are grateful for your support. Because of your compassion,

- Families who have lost their homes to tornadoes, floods, earthquakes and other disasters are getting help with blankets, emergency food and shelter- and with rebuilding their lives and livelihoods.
- People struggling against crushing poverty and harsh climates and learning sustainable farming practices that will help them keep food on the table- and to market.
- Vulnerable children have access to clean, safe water and the nutritional food essential to growth, development and life itself.

Grace and peace,

Moderator – Karen Bolinger  
Vice-Moderator – Karen Dobbins  
Secretary – Jeannette Johnson

Historian – Lisa Clement  
Treasurer – Linda Lamb  
Member-at-Large – Mary Leader

Below tear off and mail to: Tom Olney, 3000 Dewey Avenue Rochester NY 14616, or put it in Tom Olney's mail box in the Church office.

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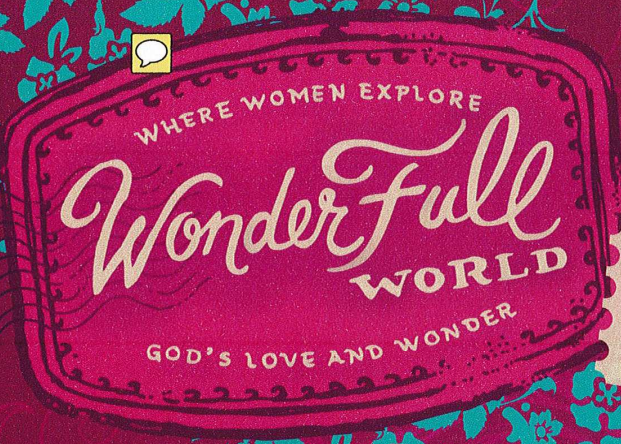
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write checks to: Bethany Presbyterian Church with Memo: Blanket Sunday- Designated Fund #16

Thank you and God Bless





Take a trip around the world!

WonderFull World takes you on a journey packed with friendship, God, and spiritual growth. It's a retreat you won't want to miss! Join us for a whirlwind tour of the seven continents, where we'll experience meaningful Bible studies, explore the wonders of a woman's heart, and have time for both quiet reflection and laugh-out-loud fun!

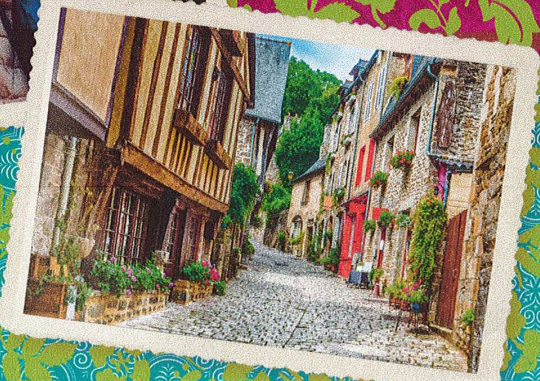
**Location:** Bethany Presbyterian Church  
Large Hall

**Date:** Saturday, April 15, 2023  
Check-in at 9:30 a.m. Lunch at 12:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Lunch will be provided by Bethany Presbyterian Women in the Congregation and the Spiritual Growth Committee

**For more information, contact:**

Karen Bolinger  
email - [kbolinger@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kbolinger@rochester.rr.com)  
585-227-2540



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# February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 10-Staff meeting 6:30-Worship & Music 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>2</i> 2-Property 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 9-Men's Club Breakfast
<i>5</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, with Communion Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies 11:15-C&GM	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux	<i>8</i> 10-Staff meeting 6:30-Spiritual Growth 7-Christian Ed 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>9</i> 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 12-Shipmates
<i>12</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies 12-Session	<i>13</i> 7-Life Group	<i>14</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women 7:30-Congregational Life	<i>15</i> 10-Staff meeting 6-Community Supper 7-Budget & Finance 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>16</i> 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> <b>Annual Meeting</b> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies	<i>20</i> 7-Stephen Ministers	<i>21</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Commit- tee 12-Circle of Hope	<i>22</i> 10-Staff meeting 7-Ash Wednesday Service 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>23</i> 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 10-Presbyterian Wom- en's brunch at Olympia Restaurant
<i>26</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies 12-Session	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 12:30-Lunch & Learn				

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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)

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**Change Service Requested**  
**Mailed February 2, 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  
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

**Love**  
**never fails.**

1 Corinthians 13:8