

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

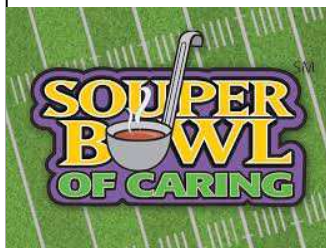
February
2025

Volume 28,
Issue 2

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The Annual Meeting of Bethany Presbyterian Church has been called for Sunday February 16, 2025 immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is hearing reports, receiving the 2025 annual budget and the Pastor's terms of call, and for any other business that may properly come before the meeting.



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY: On Sunday, February 9, the youth of Bethany will be collecting donations after the Sunday service and are urging you to contribute to the Souper Bowl of 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.

NEWS ABOUT THE FORMER MANSE AT 2984 DEWEY AVENUE

At the Session meeting on Sunday January 26th, there was a unanimous vote to take down the former manse at 2984 Dewey Avenue. A devastating flood damaged the whole first floor and a decision was made by Session that the building was too heavily damaged and is beyond repair.



Special points of interest:

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

Deadline for the
March
Newsletter is on
February 24, 2025

Bethany Mission Statement

Bethany is where God's love nurtures friendship, hope, and peace.

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

As Presbyterians, we believe in the power of prayer, especially when many people pray for the same prayer request. We believe prayer can positively change the world in which we live and help those in need.

The Bethany Presbyterian Church Prayer Chain is starting anew. The Prayer Chain is here to meet your prayer needs, as well as those of your family and friends.

Everyone is welcome to join our ministry. You may participate by receiving e-mails with prayer requests.

All prayer concerns are kept confidential within the prayer chain. If you feel the call to pray for others and would like to be a part of this special ministry, please e-mail me at drspratt.bethany@gmail.com. We would love to welcome you as a "new link" in our prayer chain.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Cheryl and Ron Fisher and family, at the passing of Cheryl's dad, Ian Williamson.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Pat & Ken Connor, grandchildren Kristen Klink and Hannah Connor, great-grandchildren Kaitlin Marsh and Jackson Hector, at the passing of Pat's dad, Elmer "Jack" Ernisse.



Donation of the Month Ideas

Community and Global Mission tries to collect something each month and donate them to various organizations. We are always looking for ideas for donations. Do you have an organization you support? An idea for something our congregation can collect? If so, please send an email to Cheryl Fisher at cfisher97@gmail.com.



Fiscal Focus

2024	December	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$33,280.44	\$584,194.66	118.36%
Expense	\$38,916.19	\$520,404.02	105.43%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$5,635.75	\$63,790.64	



Jennifer's Closet is open Tuesdays 1:00-3:00, Thursdays 9:30-noon, and the third Saturday of the month from 10:00-1:00.



Thank you for all the cards and prayers to my dad Ian Williamson over the past 2 years. Additionally thank you for the cards and prayers for Ron, Katie, Ethan and me upon his passing. We have another angel watching over us. We will be having a memorial service June 20th at his Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church located near Poughkeepsie.

Love, The Fisher Family

*Thank you from
Donna and Dwight Ferguson*

We thank you, caring friends of Bethany, for your seasonal cards and remembrances. Donna is healthy but unable any longer to care for Dwight at home. She drives several times a week to visit with Dwight at Arden Court. He has a daily companion at his health care facility, and enjoys some of the planned activities, taking walks, listening to Talking Books and of course, Steeler games!

We send our thanks to our faithful friends in Rochester. Please let our friends know how grateful we are to be on the receiving end of their prayerful petitions.

Dwight and Donna Ferguson



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Minister Article – February 2025

February is a month when many of the “snow birds” have landed safely into the warmer temperature areas of our country. For those of us here in the north, we consider ourselves the group that can endure the snow donation and the weather complications for the next couple of months. Yesiree, that’s us – the hearty ones that love a challenge! Snow is a challenge that we prepare for with our shields of salt, shovels, snow tires and safety ready at all times.

But what about the challenges that we are not prepared for? In some cases, if we know something is going to happen, we try to prepare for it and give it the “wait and see” policy. With God’s guidance and love we will do the best we can with what is facing us. It’s the events in life that we are not prepared for that we feel we are reaching into the dark to try and find answers for. Why are answers so important to us when we are facing an unexpected loss? Do we believe that a direct explanation of why something happened will help us accept it easier or understand it better? Is it really answers we are seeking or is it ways to cope with the feelings we are dealing with? We know God loves us, but there are times when a reminder of this can be helpful. The faith community of Bethany provides great comfort to us, but some answers to your questions may just be buried in your heart, and a basic watering is what is needed to bring them back into bloom.

Stephen Minister are gardeners of the spirit, and want you to know we are available to you to help bring your flowers of love and life back to the surface. If you would like to visit with a Stephen Minister, please contact Wendy Watt or Dr. Bob. In Memory of Cindi Sywulski (Cubby) written February 2011

BABY SHOWER / PARTY for JENNIFER’S CLOSET

All are welcome to a BABY SHOWER in the Bethany large hall on February 15, 2025, from 1:00 until 3:00. A lunch of homemade soups will be served, followed by cake and good fellowship.

Please bring an unwrapped gift, new or gently used, for the families who come to Jennifer’s Closet.

Gift suggestions include diapers (only new!), bottles, washcloths, towels, crib sheets, blankets, pacifiers, toys and children’s books, and clothing (sizes 0-3 months through 24 months.)

To assist in planning, please sign up in the narthex any Sunday, or call Eileen at 663-3000. Reservations appreciated by Sunday February 9th

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CONFERENCE
 Sunday, Feb 16 – Wednesday, Feb 19
 Watson Conference Center

A Confirmation program intensive that covers:

- Bible basics
- Church and PC(USA) history, theology, etc.
- Worship and sacraments
- Christian fellowship

For youth in 6-9 grades
If older, already-confirmed youth are interested in attending, please contact Rev. Michelle

Cost: \$350 (includes programs, rooms, and all meals)
 Scholarships available

Register at:
<https://nbygenval.org/event/youth-conference-watson-retreat-center-2/>

Presbytery of Genesee Valley

BETHANY WOMEN



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.

Send A Girl To School: At our Christmas Luncheon, women made a personal donation to *Heifer International* and \$309 was collected for *Send A Girl To School*. Our donation empowers girls and young women through education, equips them with learning materials, and provides for their school expenses.

Church World Services Blankets: We will be receiving donations after worship service on 2/2/2025, 2/9/2025, 2/16/2025, and 2/23/2025 for blankets. Let us blanket the world in love!

February 11, 2025, Meeting- Valentine Cards Project: At our February meeting, we will prepare 100 Valentine cards for the Presbyterian Home residents. We will enjoy lunch together while we prepare the Valentine cards.

Budget: Happy 2025! Pledge letters have been mailed to all Bethany women. We carried over \$1983.11 from 2024 and we have approved expenses totaling \$3160 for 2025. Our goal for pledges is \$2500. Please prayerfully consider donating so we can continue our good works in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Afghans: Beth Thomsen delivered two afghans to Granville and Latta Road Nursing Homes and Jennifer's Closet. The tireless work of Beth Thomsen, Cherie Livoti, Joan Vogt, Sharon Nichols, and Joyce Adaskin is greatly appreciated.



New Active Members: We welcome Carol Collins, Terry McConnell, and Marie Watt.

Women's Tea- Saturday, April 5, 2025 @ 11:30 am: All women are welcome to attend an English Tea. It will be catered by *Red Bird Café* will include sandwiches and desserts. There will be a floral presentation by Justice Florist and time for fellowship and fun.



Display Case: Please take a minute to see programs and activities for women in the Parlor Display Case.

Bethany Women's Meetings: All women are welcome to share in fellowship. Please feel free to bring a friend. Women meet on the second Tuesday of the following months: September- June except for December and April which meet on Saturday. We have speakers who present on a variety of topics. We also coordinate service projects, Women's Tea, and fellowship opportunities.

Women's Brunch: We will be sharing "Brunch and Fellowship" at *Bill's Long Pond Diner* on the last Saturday of the months of September through June at 10:00 am. Our next Brunch is Saturday, February 22, at 10:00am



Building Caring Relationships: Any woman currently active or inactive with BPWC who would like to be included in the *Bethany Presbyterian Women Communication Distribution List* please contact Karen Bolinger- 585-227-2540 or kbolinger@rochester.rr.com.

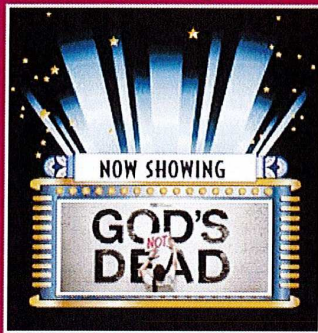
SATURDAY MATINEE



Feb 08, 2025

11:00 AM

Bethany Large Hall



God's Not Dead has a very clear message of faith triumphing over doubt and cynicism, and as the main character Josh wrestles with the core aspects of his belief system, a common theme emerges of standing up for your values and not "selling out".

More details to follow !

March 12, 2025

11:00 AM

Bethany Large Hall



Bob Lonsberry has spent over 40 years in the media production industry, working as a news columnist, broadcaster and radio show host. Lonsberry works on three radio shows with WHAM, WAIO (Radio 95.1) and WYSR stations across Western New York.

More details of his visit to follow !

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> 9-Men's breakfast
<i>2</i> Communion 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies	<i>3</i> 11-The Chosen	<i>4</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>5</i> 6-Worship & Music 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>6</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 11-Shipmates
<i>9</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 11:30-BYF	<i>10</i> 11-The Chosen 7-Life Group	<i>11</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>12</i> 6-Christian Ed-Zoom 6-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>13</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 10-Jennifer's Closet
<i>16</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 11-Annual meeting	<i>17</i> 11-The Chosen 7-Stephen Ministers	<i>18</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Committee 11:30-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>19</i> 6-Community Supper 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>20</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>21</i> 11-Budget & Finance	<i>22</i>
<i>23</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 12-Session	<i>24</i> 11-The Chosen 7-Life Group	<i>25</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>26</i> 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>27</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 12:30-Lunch & Learn 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>28</i>	

Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church
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We're on the Web!

Ministries Team

Head of Staff / Sr. Pastor

Dr. Bob Spratt

Music Ministry

Benjamin Kjell - Music Director
Jean Coniber - Bell Choir Director

Bookkeeper

Tom Olney

Treasurer

Patric Donaghue

Administrative Assistant & Mouse Editor

Eileen Sengillo

Custodian

Jim Cruppe
Jennifer Smith
Cornelius Yawn

Nursery Child Care Worker

Jennifer Watt

Youth & Children's Ministry Leader

Andrew Ferreira

The Session

Kim Bolinger, Budget & Finance
Wendy Watt, Christian Education
Judy Price, Community & Global Miss.
Michael DePew, Generosity
Bev Murray, Nominating
Jim Hetzler, Personnel
Rick Clement, Property
Heather Kruspe, Spiritual Growth
Karen McIver, Worship & Music
Dr. Bob Spratt, Moderator

