

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 22, 2026 immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is hearing reports, receiving the 2026 annual budget and the Pastor's terms of call, and for any other business that may properly come before the meeting.



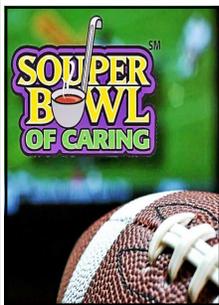
**February
2026**

Volume 29, Issue 2

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page

2



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY: On Sunday, February 8, 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.

GROUP STUDY CLASS: This Lenten season, Dr. Bob will be offering a group study class on the series "How Do You Walk the Walk You Talk?" by Kay Arthur. You've probably heard the expression "Words are cheap." Maybe someone said that to you when you made a promise - and they added, "Yeah, sure! We'll see." And that's it! They will wait and see if you promise is really true, if it will really come to pass - if you're going to "walk the walk you talk." This is what we're going to explore in this six week Bible Study on the book of Ephesians. The class will meet after worship in the library for six weeks beginning February 15, 2026 and ending on March 22, 2026. Everyone is welcome and there is no homework! Please sign up by contacting Dr. Bob or the church office.



Special points of interest:

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

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

**Deadline for the
March
Newsletter is on
February 16, 2026**

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

There's an old story about a pulpit search committee that had spent months searching for a new pastor of a large, prestigious downtown church. Dozens of candidates had been considered and eliminated. No one was to be found who was smart enough, good enough, good looking enough, competent enough, to be their new pastoral leader.

One night, when the committee had gathered for its usual meeting, one of the members said, "We have been sent an interesting letter of inquiry and resume, and I would like you to consider this person." Then he began to read from the letter. The letter said:

"I would like to be considered as your new pastor. I've only been in the ministry for a few years, and I must admit that my years of ministry have been rather tumultuous. I did not grow up in the church but was drawn into the church as an adult through a rather dramatic religious experience, so dramatic that I was incapacitated for a number of days after I met Christ. Then I quit what I was doing and began to roam about preaching the Gospel. Some people liked my sermons, but a lot didn't. I have been arrested on at least four occasions and had served time in three different jails. On one occasion, after one of my sermons, the congregation was so incensed that they dragged me out of the pulpit, beat me, and escorted me out to the edge of the town before dumping me. In the churches that I have served, I think that I have been a loving pastor, but also a strict one. I write this letter to you while I am in jail. I hope to be released from jail sometime soon, but I have found that when it comes to jail time, one never knows. However, I hope that you will consider me as your new pastor. As soon as I get out of prison, I would certainly like to have gainful employment."

"Is this some kind of joke?" one committee member asked. Who is this guy that wrote this?" another asked.

The person holding the letter said simply, "It's signed, St. Paul." The great missionary to the Gentiles, the one who founded so many churches, created Christian theology, and spread the Gospel throughout the Mediterranean world.

God calls ordinary people to do extraordinary things. What is God calling you to do?

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the Knapp and Insalaco families, at the passing of Laurinda Insalaco.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Charlie Dennett and family, at the passing of Kay Dennett.



OPEN
Tuesday's - 12:30PM—3:00PM
Thursday's - 9:30AM—Noon
Saturday—3rd of the month

Fiscal Focus

2025	December	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$43,850	\$373,231.00	97.9%
Expense	\$43,956	\$499,399.00	102.8%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$106,000	-\$126,168.00	

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Calling all teachers, teaching assistants, and caring adults interested in helping with youth Christian education: **WE NEED YOU** to join the Christian Education Team. Teachers needed for short-term commitments as short as one Sunday per month, 2 or 3 Sundays over a few months, or even just one Sunday! We have the curriculum. We have the space. We have the students. Now, we need you! Contact Andrew at aferreira.bethany@gmail.com if you are interested.



Join Community & Global Mission and Jennifer's Closet for a Kids Birthday Party February 21st, 1PM, Bethany Large Hall

Includes Lunch and Games
Please bring Clothes Age 5-12 unwrapped or gently used to support Jennifer's Closet

Thank you from Sharon Nichols

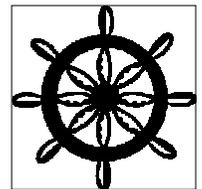
Dear Bethany Congregation,

Thank you so much for the Christmas tree, cards, and cookies. Your kindness and thoughtfulness truly meant a lot to me, and I appreciate it very much. Wishing you all a blessed and Happy New Year.

With sincere thanks,
 Sharon Nichols

SHIPMATES - MARCH 14TH

Grab your binoculars, hiking boots and bug spray for a trip to the upper Amazon tributaries in Peru! Sally Kuehl will share her adventures with the Shipmates, March 14th in the large hall.





Stephen Ministry

Whew! We made it through the holiday season! So much happening at Bethany, home, the stores, Amazon and all possible means of taking care of our lists. Family here, we traveled there, etc. Now we can sit back a bit and deal with the snow and all of it's accessories.....

It is a new year. New Year resolutions have been made. It's a day to day situation so if you miss one day, you can get back on the wagon and start over again. No one needs to know. You can forgive yourself. The Lord already has.

Or, is the forgiving part difficult for you? Sometimes it feels it is easier to forgive someone else rather than yourself. Hanging on to a feeling of guilt or anger is so hard on the heart – especially when it has been a long time. Chances are, this feeling you have is not perceived by anyone else. Your friends and family may have no idea that you are being so sad or so hard on yourself because you never talk about it. It's just renting a spot for free in your mind and heart.

Was it something you did or something you did not do? Maybe it was something you said, or something you should have said. If you look up the word perfection in the dictionary, the definition is not "human beings" (I doubled checked). We just don't fit the description of perfection. God made us that way. If we had been made perfect, how would we learn his love and compassion?

Would you like some assistance in relieving those feelings and clearing your mind and heart? Maybe a Stephen Minister could help you. There is no list to follow on how to set things right with ourselves or with someone else. We don't do lists. Everyone is different and have different needs so there is no specific rules to follow. We listen, and listen, and listen some more. Just talking about something bothering you to someone who does not judge is a gift we are offering. We want to be one of the perks you have at Bethany. Think about it. We are only a call away.

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

A Happy and Healthy New Year to you from the Stephen Ministers, Kim Bolinger, Bob Spratt, Wendy Watt, Jim Hetzler and April Honan.

In Memory of Cindi Sywulski (Cubby) written
January 2019

LENTEN OFFERINGS



Monroe County's Housing Unit staff, along with many other housing partners, participated in the 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count which found 1,194 people are experiencing homelessness. This is a **13% increase** from 1,056 people in 2024. This count includes sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. Included in the 1,194 people are 133 families with children under the age of 18 who are experiencing homelessness.

C&GM has decided to designate the money collected at our Lenten Offerings (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter) go to Open Door Mission's Community Cares Initiative (CCI) in support of Greece Housing Needs. This program helps various communities (Greece Schools being one) by providing money in the way of rent payment or a security deposit to prevent homelessness.

Thank you for supporting the efforts being made to mitigate homelessness in our community.

In December, the Community & Global Mission Committee had two efforts for Christmas. First, with the congregation's support, we supported 12 Cameron Community children with Christmas presents. We are so grateful for the gifts provided and Cameron was delighted! Second we used a portion of our funds to give a Greece Central School family of 6 a joyous Christmas. They are living in a hotel room and Mom is working hard and saving all her earnings to get her family back in a home. The 5 children did not expect to have any Christmas this year. Greece Central provided the family with winter coats and we made sure they had hats, mittens, games, toys, books and treats. With great joy, we helped turn a quiet and uncertain Christmas into one filled with happiness and hope!! Thanks to our church family for all you do to support our initiatives.

SAIL (Stay Active and Independent for Life): Cardio, Balance, Strength, Fitness. Mondays and Wednesdays 1PM – 2PM, starting February 2 through March 25. Bethany Large Hall. Contact Lisa Clement 363-0446 or sign-up in the narthex. Provided by Lifespan. We ask for a suggested contribution of \$25.

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.



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 May which meet on Saturday. We have speakers who present on a variety of topics. We also coordinate service projects, Christmas Luncheon, Women's Tea, and fellowship opportunities.

Women's Christmas Luncheon: Saturday, December 6, 2025 @ Noon (Bella Pasta Restaurant): On Saturday, December 6th, thirty-five women enjoyed a delicious lunch at Bella Pasta Restaurant. We celebrated December birthdays especially Isabel Rodwell's 100th birthday. It was a wonderful way to begin the Advent season.

January Meeting: At our meeting Dr. Spratt explored New York Times bestselling author Lysa TerKeurst's book "It's Not Supposed to Be This Way: Finding Unexpected Strength When Disappointments Leave You Shattered." He shared how to turn disappointments into the divine appointments our souls need to radically encounter God. We, also, took a moment to remember the women who have gone to be with our Lord. "Those we **Love** can never be more than a thought away for as long as there's a **Memory** they live in our hearts forever."

Budget: The women's group started 2006 with a carryover of \$6,125.87 from the 2025 budget. The pledge letters were mailed to all women in the congregation on January 13th. As of January 20, we have received \$700 in pledges.

At our Christmas Luncheon in December, we held a free will offering and collected \$336. At the January 13th BPWC meeting the women voted to split the funds giving half to Sewing Machines and the other half to the Education Scholarship Fund for Communities of Color. The Treasurer issued a check request for \$336 to be mailed to Presbyterian Church U.S.A. noting the amount should be split with \$168 going to each of the above.

Annual Report: Bethany Presbyterian Women in the Congregation's Annual Report was submitted to Eileen Sengillo.

Correspondence: We have received "Thank you Letters from:

The Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf & Clothing Closet
for our donation of 373 cleaning supply items.

The Rochester Presbyterian Home
Gil Langswager
Eileen Sengillo

Also, we received a certificate of Appreciation from Heifer International which is in the Display Case in the Parlor.

Blanket Sunday: On Sunday, February 1st, Bethany Women will be asking the congregation to kindly donate to Worldwide Services- "Blanket Sunday" before and after the worship service.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 During our meeting we will be preparing one hundred Valentine cards for the Rochester Presbyterian Home.

Upcoming Activities: Save the Date! Blanket Sunday, February 1, 2026, Trip to Lamberton Conservatory, March 10, 2026 @ 10:00 am (We will carpool from the church parking lot), Women's Tea- May 2, 2026 @ 11:00 am

Women's Brunch: We will be sharing "Brunch and Fellowship" at *Bill's Long Pond Diner* on the last Saturday of every month at 10:00 am. Our next Brunch is Saturday, January 31, 2026.

OPEN TO ALL AGES

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Family and Friends Welcome

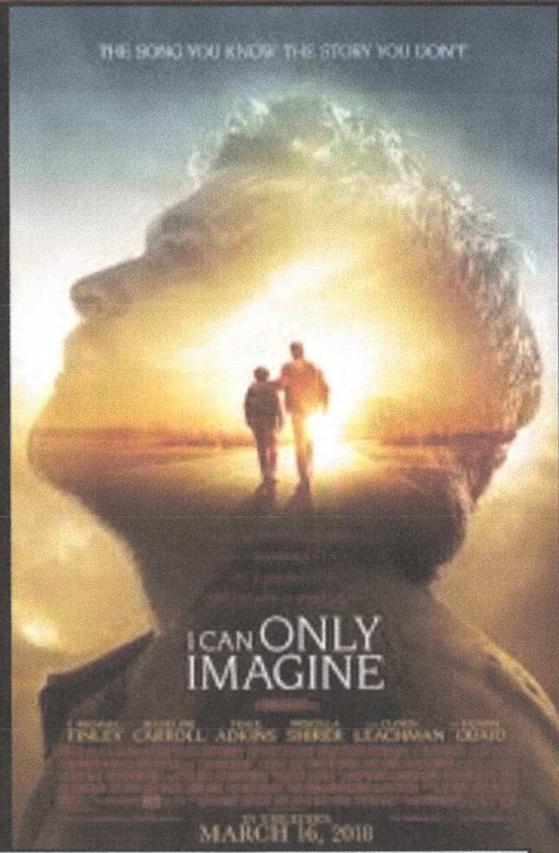
SHIPMATES MATINEE THEATRE

FIRST RUN MOVIES Sat - Feb 14, 2026 **POPCORN - DRINKS**
FREE ADMISSION **GATHER AT NOON - MOVIE BEGINS AT 1:00** **SNACKS**

The movie is based on the true story behind MercyMe's popular Christian song of the same name. It focuses on Bart Millard's challenging life, the band's lead singer, and his difficult relationship with his abusive father, Arthur.

The film portrays Bart's early life marked by his father's physical and emotional abuse, and the subsequent separation of his parents. Bart initially pursues football to please his father, but an injury leads him towards music. He eventually joins a band that becomes MercyMe.

The movie highlights themes of forgiveness, redemption, and following one's dreams, showcasing how even in difficult circumstances, faith can bring about transformative change.



FREE ADMISSION - SignUp is Required



You may bring your own movie snacks and lawn chairs (if you would be more comfortable).

POPCORN & CANDY will be available
(Please bring your own Beverage)

Movie length is: 1 Hour 50 minutes

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> 10-Worship, Childcare 9-Present Word 10:15-Youth Studies	<i>2</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 11-The Chosen 1-SAIL class 7-Stephen Ministers	<i>3</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>4</i> 1-SAIL class 6-Worship & Music 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>5</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 9-Men's breakfast
<i>8</i> 10-Worship, Childcare 9-Present Word 10:15-Youth Studies	<i>9</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 11-The Chosen 1-SAIL class 7-Life Group	<i>10</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>11</i> 1-SAIL class 6-C&GM 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>12</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 12-Shipmates
<i>15</i> 10-Worship, Childcare 9-Present Word 10:15-Youth Studies 11:15-Bible Study	<i>16</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 11-The Chosen 1-SAIL class	<i>17</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Comm. 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>18</i> Ash Wednesday 1- SAIL class 6-Community Supper 6-Spiritual Growth 7-Ash Wednesday Service 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>19</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>20</i> 11-Budget & Finance	<i>21</i> 10-Jennifer's Closet 1-Jennifer's Closet birthday
<i>22</i> Annual Meeting 10-Worship, Childcare 9-Present Word 10:15-Youth Studies 11:15-Bible Study 12-Session	<i>23</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 11-The Chosen 1-SAIL class 7-Life Group	<i>24</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>25</i> 1-SAIL class 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>26</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 10-Women's brunch at Bill's Diner

Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church
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Rochester, NY 14616

Phone: 585-663-3000
www.bethanyrochester.org

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Change Service Requested
Mailed January 29, 2026

**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

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
Cindy Hetzler, 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
Michael DePew, Clerk of Session

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

1 Corinthians 13:4-6