

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church



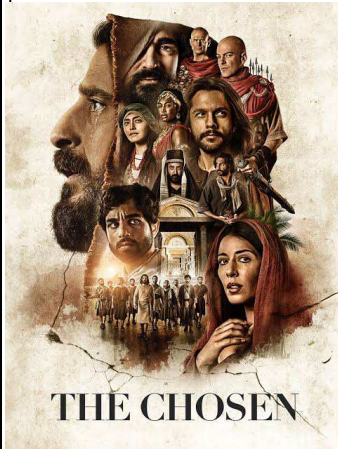
STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE: As of Thursday, December 19th, we have 101 pledges totaling \$277,725.60.

If you have not yet filled out your estimate of giving card please do so. If you did not receive an estimate of giving card, please call the church office at 663-3000.

2025 – Per Capita

Please note that the per capita for 2025, the amount Bethany pays the Presbytery per member each year, is \$38.50. We continue to appreciate each member assisting toward this annual amount. The total can be paid in one lump sum, either by check or on-line. It can also be paid incrementally on the on-line donation option. If paying by check, please indicate it's for per capita in the memo line. The on-line option has a pull-down menu to select "per capita". We thank you in advance.

The Chosen Series



Looking for something different this Winter? Come join Spiritual Growth in watching "The Chosen" series. This will be shown every Monday 11-12:30am starting Monday January 13th-March 31st. If you haven't seen the TV series, you have missed a wonderful up-close story of Jesus as he begins his preaching of God's word to the people.

Bring your lunch, and after the movie we can eat and informally discuss what we have seen. We will meet in the small hall on Monday January 13th at 11am. Looking forward to having you join us.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex.

For those at home please call Eileen in the office to say you're interested.

**January
2025**

Volume 28,
Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page

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**Special points of
interest:**

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

**Deadline for the
February
Newsletter is on
January 24, 2025**

Bethany Mission Statement

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

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday, as I walked across the parking lot to the outside door of the church, I realized that I had made a set of tracks in the new fallen snow. I noticed that my footprints weren't the only ones leading there. Other early risers had walked on the blanket of snow. Although I really couldn't tell by looking at them, I had a pretty good idea who they belonged to. The footprints were evidence of typical early Sunday morning church traffic.

As the morning continued there were more and more footprints leading up to the door of the church, and when worship was over, there were also footprints leading out from the church heading off in every different direction.

Unknowingly each person that crossed the threshold had left a temporary impression in the snow. But more importantly, each and every person that crossed that threshold had made a permanent impression in the life of the church. After worship, as I stood outside the church and gazed at the footprints that streamed out in every direction, I said a little prayer. I asked God's blessing that each and every person who made those temporary footprints in snow would also make a lasting impression in the world.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Charles Steiner and family at the passing of Dorothy Steiner.



If you would like to beautify the sanctuary on Sunday mornings by purchasing flowers for the chancel in memory of a loved one or in honor of, order forms are available on the table in the narthex. Make your check payable to: Bethany Presbyterian Church, in the amount of \$46.00 for a communion table piece. Place a check in the envelope and place in the offering plate or mail to Bethany church office.

Fiscal Focus

2024	November	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$9,040.16	\$550,914.22	111.81%
Expense	\$31,343.07	\$481,487.83	97.55%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$22,302.91	\$69,426.39	



Jennifer's Closet We're getting ready for the colder weather and, based on feedback from our shoppers and our current inventory, we are looking for the following items to be donated:

- *Men's, baby toddler, kids', and teen clothing
- *casual adult clothing
- *bras
- *costume jewelry
- *casual shoes and boots (no heels, please)
- *small household items
- *new or like new sheets, blankets, and towels
- *please, no pillows or thick comforters unless they are new
- *bags with carry handles

There are approximately a dozen people who volunteer and keep Jennifer's Closet in "business." 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 Bethany Congregation

Dear Bethany Presbyterian Church Congregation,

I hope this message finds you all well. I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for your prayers, cards and kind support as I navigated recent heart issues. Your thoughtfulness in mentioning me in the church bulletin deeply touched me and reminded me of the power of faith during challenging times.

I am happy to share that I am recovering well and feeling stronger each day. Your prayers and encouragement have been a source of great comfort and strength, and I am truly blessed to have such caring people thinking about me!

As I continue on this path of recovery, I pray that I will remain in good health and look forward to being able to connect with you all in the near future. Thank you again for your love, support, and faithfulness.

With gratitude and blessings,
Shanna Sengillo



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Minister Article – January 2025

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 its 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 Dr. Bob.

Happy New Year from Kim Bolinger, Wendy Watt, Jim Hetzler, April Honan, and Bob Spratt – your Bethany Stephen Ministers.

In Memory of Cindi Sywulski (Cubby)
written January 2015

COMMUNITY SUPPER: Wednesday, January 15th at 6PM. Dinner menu: pulled pork, mac n' cheese and roasted vegetables. After supper, Val Fowler will be speaking on "What It Means to be a Presbyterian."

LUNCH AND LEARN: "Habitats for a healthy Mind" Join Brian Potvin, Director of Community Dementia Services at Episcopal Senior-life Communities for an interactive program designed to help you protect yourself against cognitive decline through simple, impactful lifestyle changes. Thursday, January 23rd 12:30 PM. Menu: Creamy Cauliflower soup, coleslaw with pickled red onion, chicken and fontina sandwich.

PROJECT REGENERATION: The Bethany Session has been working for over a year with Rev. Dr. Rose Niles, Ministry Relations Officers for the Presbyterian Foundation on Project Regeneration. Project Regeneration is a free consultative service to guide congregations through a process of prayerful discernment through a series of meetings, held on site or virtually, to help churches consider a strategic approach for the future.

There is a Project Regeneration Task Force whose members include Jim Hetzler, Craig Johnson, Jennifer McGarrity, Wendy Watt and Dr. Bob Spratt. Their goal is to meet with every church group at Bethany. This will be an opportunity to learn more about Project Regeneration and ask questions and make suggestions for the future strategic plan for Bethany Presbyterian Church.

The next meeting scheduled for the congregation will be scheduled on January 19, 2025 at 11 am after worship in the sanctuary. Bethany has a glorious past, let's make it an even brighter future.

EMERGENCY CONTACT: At times, families or individuals may find they need pastoral support for various reasons ranging from a long-term matter or an emergency. In the event of a pastoral emergency, this can be sought by calling the church office (585) 663-3000 during normal business hours or after hours at (585) 496-4699. In addition, there are several members of the congregation that can be called on for support called Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times. To receive support from a Stephen Minister contact Kim Bolinger at (585) 227-2540 or Wendy Watt (585) 415-2351.

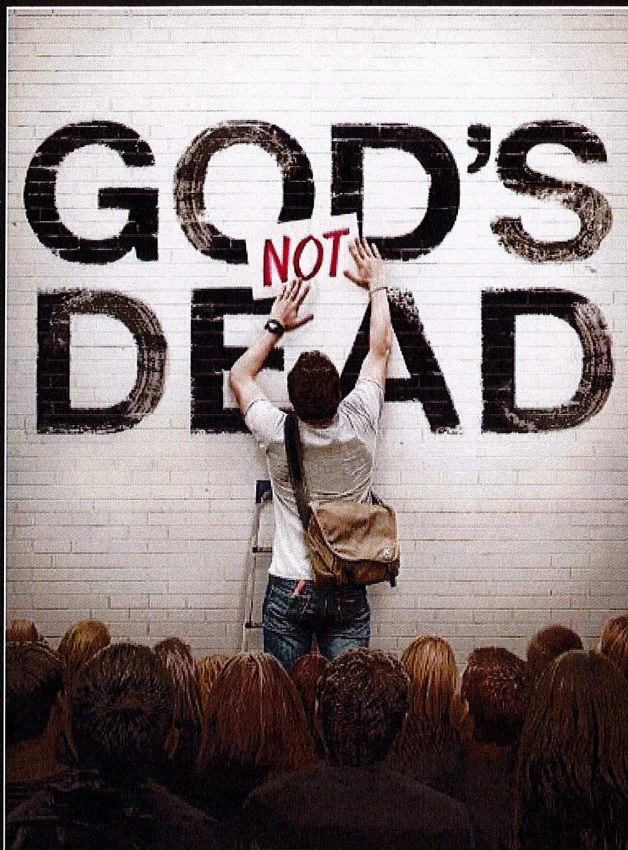
SHIPMATES MATINEE THEATRE

FIRST RUN MOVIES
FREE ADMISSION

FEB 08, 2025

POPCORN - DRINKS
SNACKS

GATHER AT NOON - MOVIE BEGINS AT 1:00



Freshman university student Josh Wheaton attends a philosophy class where Professor Radisson (an atheist) requires all students to submit a signed statement stating "God is dead" and never existed. When Josh refuses because of his own beliefs, the professor challenges him to defend his position or he will "fail" him. This leads to a series of confrontational presentations between himself and the professor, with the class as jury.

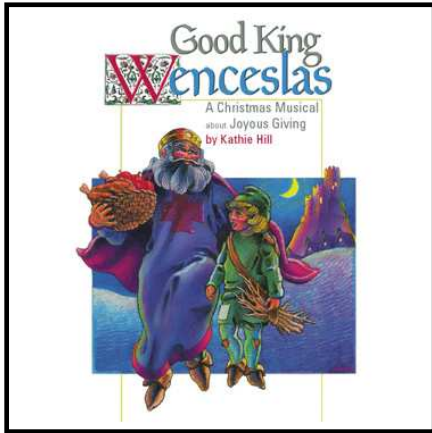
FREE ADMISSION - SignUp is Required



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

Some movie snacks will be available at cost
(Popcorn, Candy, Water)

Movie is 1 hr 52 min in duration



Children's Program December 22, 2024



The C&GM committee would like to THANK the many members of our church who donated to the Cameron-Adopt-a-Family program that we sponsored this year. Because of your love and generosity, we have brought joy to eight families. All of the children will receive the gifts they asked for, plus a pair of pajamas, a warm throw blanket and a pack of Uno cards. The C&GM committee would also like to THANK everyone who donated to the winter accessory collection. We collected a total of 123 hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves that will be divided between Jennifer's Closet and the Veterans Outreach Center. As always, this congregation has reached out to bring joy and warmth to others in need.



SHIPMATES PRESENT "STRAIGHT TALK"



Todd Baxter, Monroe County Sheriff

Saturday—January 11, 2025
11:00 AM—Bethany Large Hall
\$7.00 p/person

Lunch includes: Subs, chips and dessert with "home-brewed" ginger ale (other beverages will also be available.)

You'll not want to miss this dynamic Law Enforcement Officer. Main topic of today is "Emergency Preparedness Tips", (in case of blackout or 911 down); and then notable things happening in our area; and how the public is getting along with the police force these days.

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> New Year's Day	<i>2</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> Communion 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 11:15—Adult Bible Study	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>8</i> 6-Worship & Music 6-Christian Ed 6:30-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>9</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 11-Shipmates
<i>12</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 11:15—Adult Bible Study 12-Session	<i>13</i> 11-The Chosen 7-Life Group	<i>14</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>15</i> 6-Community Supper 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>16</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>17</i> 11-Budget & Finance	<i>18</i> 10-Jennifer's Closet
<i>19</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies	<i>20</i> 11-The Chosen 7-Stephen Ministers	<i>21</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Committee 11:30-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>22</i> 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>23</i> 12:30-Lunch & Learn 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 10-Men's Breakfast 10-Women's Brunch
<i>26</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 12-Session	<i>27</i> 11-The Chosen 7-Life Group	<i>28</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>29</i> 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>30</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>31</i>	

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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Mailed January 6, 2025



Ministries Team

Head of Staff / Sr. Pastor Dr. Bob Spratt	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
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	

