

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



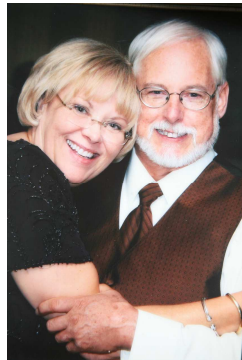
Bethany Presbyterian Church

Welcome Bethany New Members

Mary Lou Reardon - I was born in Troy, New York. Our family moved to Hudson, NY when I was seven and I remained in the area until moving to Rochester in 1987. I have four adult children and three grandchildren living locally. I was a dental assistant for many years. Upon moving to Rochester, I took a job at a local law firm doing word processing and retired 28 wonderful years later as Administrator and HR director. My hobbies include reading, quilting and other needlework. My interest include volunteering at the Community Food Cupboard and singing and the Irondequoit Chorale and serving on their boards. I chose Bethany because I enjoy the beautiful and renewing services, I appreciate the open , friendly and inclusive way visitors are made to feel welcome and the church's commitment to mission and dedication to helping those in need within and outside of our doors.

Heide Jorgensen—I was born in Rochester at the Genesee Hospital. My father was born in Germany and came here when he was in his 20's. My mother emigrated from Switzerland in her 20's. also. I have one sibling , my brother, Karl who lives in Florida. I was married to Fred Jorgensen in 1961. He passed away after 40 years of marriage. I have 2 children , Karin and Erik who both live in the Rochester area. My granddaughter is married and lives in Palmyra. I married Tom Murray in 2006. I've been retired for many years after working in several area medical offices. Then did lots of volunteer work. In 1993 I founded a not-for-profit community singing group the (The Irondequoit Chorale. It's like a business and keeps me quite busy with 3 main concerts each year; with 72 members. I love to sing, garden, read, ride my tricycle and occasionally travel. Bethany was my first choice after visiting several churches in the area. It was so friendly and welcoming I was impressed by all the social activities that are offered as well as how much out reach in the community is done. I'm glad I found you!

William McElveney -



Bethany Mission Statement

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

**July/August
2025**

Volume 28,
Issue 7-8

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page

2

Special points of interest:

- Stephen Ministry
- Worship in the Park
- Church Calendars
- The Present Word

**Deadline for the
September
Newsletter is on
August 14, 2025**

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

Many of us will get away at some point during July and August. Some of us will take lengthy trips by automobile. Spending all day traveling in a car with your family can make everyone restless.

Long road trips have been improved by the use of electronic devices, like DVD players, iPods and Nooks, to name only a few. They help pass the time and are marked by long periods of silence as the kids are engrossed playing a game or listening to music.

One family, I know takes turns reading a book aloud which captures everyone's attention and imagination. You'll be amazed how well everyone listens. It's exciting to try and guess the ending or discuss favorite parts of the book.

Family conversations can be enlightening, you'll hear about "the thing I never got a chance to tell you." There are also wonderful opportunities to do faith sharing, to hear and learn how God is at work in the lives of your family. A lot of things need to be taken with you for an enjoyable road trip, don't forget to take God, God loves to travel.

Happy Trails,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Pat & Ken Connor and family, at the passing of Pat's mom.



OPEN

Tuesday's - 12:30PM—3:00PM

Thursday's - 9:30AM—Noon

Fiscal Focus

2025	May	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$24,245.25	\$161,914.83	45.89%
Expense	\$46,149.41	\$199,778.65	41.12%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$21,904.16	-\$153.887.21	



Mark your calendars for Worship in the Park on September 7, 2025! Once again, we'll kick off the school year with our Sunday worship service and a pot luck lunch at Greece Canal Park's Millennium Lodge on 241 Elmgrove Road. Because of the lodge hours, we'll be having the service at 11:00 (not 10:00). The Spiritual Growth committee will be providing the hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, condiments, drinks, and paper products; sign-up sheets for sides and desserts will be in the Narthex in August. More info to follow. We'll see you at the park!

GREECE ECUMENICAL FOOD SHELF SUMMER

NEEDS: Food: (Regular sizes, not large please) Cereal, 1 lb. boxes of pasta shapes, baked beans, chunky soup. Personal Care: Bars of hand soap, small bottles of laundry and dish detergent. Baby: Diapers size 5 and 6 and wipes. Homegrown fruits and vegetables – plant now! Our clients really appreciate them.

COMMUNITY PICNIC: Bethany's Community Outreach Task Force invites you to a picnic in the Large Hall on July 19, 12:00 until 2:00. Our purpose is for Bethany members to meet and interact with local neighbors. We hope to discover what services, etc. they might like us to provide. Jennifer's Closet has been a very successful first step to meeting community needs and we want to do more. However, we need to know what would be appreciated!!! Please plan to attend the picnic, please volunteer to help with set up, cooking, etc., and please help us financially to purchase food! Sign up on Sunday mornings. Donations will be accepted by a Task Force member. Bethany Community Outreach Task Force, Heidi Johnson, Wendy Watt, Judy Price.

THE PRESENT WORD

The Present Word is an adult Bible study curriculum that studies the Bible over a six-year period. Each quarter works its way through different books of the Bible and focuses on a different theme. Participants study a passage of scripture, discuss its deeper meaning, and reflect on how the passage is relevant in our world today. The Present Word meets Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM in Bethany's Library from September through May. A new session will be starting September 14, 2025 and all are welcome. Please join us!



Stephen Ministry

I hear lawn mowers, birds, and people talking about opening their pools. I see flowers, green grass, bikes being ridden and kids actually playing outside. I guess this is the beginning of summer. At this point, I pay little attention to what the weather forecast is. Weather forecasters have the best jobs: “possibility”, “maybe”, “looks like”, “could happen”. No commitment there! That’s because it is out of their hands!

So many factors in our lives are out of our hands. Good and bad. The good surprises are welcomed and enjoyed. The bad ones, not so much. When the good things happen, we look up and say, “Thanks, I know that was you”. We have understood that thanking God for the good things can also bring us just as close as prayers for guidance.

The difficult times, especially the unexpected ones, can rock our world and throw our step off. We have a knee jerk reaction to What? Where do I go from here? How can we change this? And why did this happen? We realize how non prepared we are and feel so lost. It is so hard.

We all know that God is aware of our feelings and is there to wrap his arms around us. Christians just know. But sometimes, we need to speak with someone to reassure ourselves and to help guide us through these feelings.

That is one of the reasons for Stephen Ministers. We want to help you realize that God is truly there and help you to make your heart steadier to deal with whatever you have been handed. We listen to you, and pray with you hoping that we can help you become stronger again just by feeling His love. We are the “set up crew” for God to begin His frame work of helping you to become stronger.

Think about it and if you would like to visit with a Stephen Minister, please contact Wendy Watt or Dr. Bob.

Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers,

In Memory of Cindi Sywulski (Cubby)
written July/August 2017

Growing up in Sweden Meet Ben (Our Music Director)



att växa upp i Sverige

All are welcome to meet Ben Kjell on Saturday, September 13 at 2:00. He will share his experiences growing up in Sweden and what led him to become an organ student at the Eastman School of Music. Coffee, tea, punch and desserts will be offered. Fee will be \$5.00 More information about registration will follow in August. This will be the first program offered by Shipmates for the 2025-2026 program year.

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.

JENNIFER'S CLOSET: Jennifer's Closet is now accepting donations. We are in need of kids clothes 4-16, shoes and sandals – practical mens, womens and kids. Men's shorts, t's and pants. Lightweight and windbreaker jackets. Women's tops and shorts. Womens pj's, robes and bras. Junior clothing and teen boys clothing. Purses, costume jewelry, hats. Bags with handles. We are also looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in helping out weekly, or occasionally, please contact Lisa Clement at 585-363-0446.

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, Women's Tea, and fellowship opportunities.

Women's Meeting/Program June 10, 2025: Our June speaker was Reverend Dr. Rebecca Letterman. Rebecca spoke on "The Hill Between the Mountains." On the Hill of Golgotha, Jesus "reconciled all things to himself" (Colossians 1:20) in the most unexpected way. In doing so, he created a path for us as God's people from the mountain of Sinai to the mountain of Zion (Hebrews 12: 18-24). What does Golgotha - "the hill between the mountains" - have to teach us about participating with God's work in the world - in our families, our church, our community, and our country? And what vision of life with God does Mount Zion offer to us to help us live in faithfulness and hope? Come join us to learn three keys to vitality in our walk together with God. It was a blessing to hear Reverend Dr. Letterman's inspirational and spiritual approach to learning ways to walk in the hill between the mountains. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and shared fellowship with our sisters in Christ. We also elected the following officers for Bethany Women's Coordinating Team: Moderator- Karen Bolinger, Vice- Moderator- Karen Dobbins, Treasurer - Linda Lamb, Secretary/Historian, Lisa Clement - and Member-at Large, Mary Leader.

Budget: Income: Our April budget stood at YTD income of \$4670. At our June meeting, Kim Bolinger, Chair of Budget and Finance, came to our meeting to explain an honest mistake made in the 2024 carryover of Fund 25. The Fund 25 carryover of \$6020.72 was inadvertently not shown on the carryover line of our budget. That amount has been added and each month's budget up to the current May 2025 budget has been revised. Our new income stands at \$10,889.72. Because of the unexpected funds, the BPW voted and approved a donation of \$2500 to the organ repair fund. That donation will be made in July along with our annual local and worldwide mission donations. **Expense:** During the month of May donations of \$300 to Foodlink and \$500 to Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf were made. We also incurred a \$50 expense for the honorarium given to our May speaker. Total YTD expenses are \$1698.22. The July 2025 budget will reflect the majority of the annual expenses after all the local and worldwide donations are mailed.

Afghans: Beth Thomsen has two completed afghans and is waiting for one or two more to make a delivery. Thank you to all the Bethany crocheters & knitters who contribute to this worthwhile project.

Coordinating Team Meeting: On Wednesday, July 23rd, Bethany Women's officers will meet to develop next year's budget and finalize the Program Schedule. They will present the Proposed Budget to women at the September 9th meeting.

Display Case: Please take a minute to see programs and activities for women in the Parlor Display Case for the 2025-2026 year.

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, June 28, at 10:00 am.

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. May we always remember to love one another unconditionally, no matter what life brings. We know many things can make a woman feel beautiful, and that is her love for others.

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> Church office closed 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>2</i> Church office closed	<i>3</i> Church office closed 9:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>4</i> Fourth of July Church building closed	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> 10-Worship, with communion, Childcare	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 10-Staff meeting 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 9-Men's breakfast
<i>13</i> 10-Worship, Childcare	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 10-Staff meeting 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>18</i> 1-Budget & Finance	<i>19</i> 10-Jennifer's Closet 12-Community Picnic
<i>20</i> 10-Worship, Childcare	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 10-Staff meeting 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> 10-Worship, Childcare	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 10-Staff meeting 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet		

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9-Men's breakfast
3 10-Worship, with communion Childcare	4	5 10-Staff meeting 12:30-Jennifer's closet	6	7 9:30-Jennifer's closet	8	9
10 10-Worship, Childcare	11	12 10-Staff meeting 12:30-Jennifer's closet 6-Spiritual Growth	13	14 9:30-Jennifer's closet	15 1-Budget & Finance	16
17 10-Worship, Childcare	18	19 10-Staff meeting 12:30-Jennifer's closet	20	21 9:30-Jennifer's closet	22	23
24 10-Worship, Childcare 12-Session	25	26 10-Staff meeting 12:30-Jennifer's closet	27	28 9:30-Jennifer's closet	29	30
31 10-Worship, Childcare						

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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3000 Dewey Avenue

Rochester, NY 14616

Phone: 585-663-3000

www.bethanyrochester.org

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Mailed June 30, 2025

**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

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

... **BE CONTENT**
with what you have;
for he has said,
"I will never leave you
or forsake you."

Hebrews 13:5, NRSV

