



Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



Meghan Buri:

Meghan will be graduating from Hilton High School with Salutatory Honors. She is a member of and the secretary for Hilton High School's National Honor Society, a member of the French National Honor Society, an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate, and a Bi-literacy Seal candidate. She is excited to be attending Villanova University in the fall with a focus on political science/pre-law and hopes to study abroad as her high school trip to France was cancelled because of COVID. She will be working at Target this summer and is looking forward to seeing her Bethany family there!

Journey Spratt:

Graduating from Greece Arcadia

He is an honor graduate.

He is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club and played Varsity football.

Journey will be attending the University of Buffalo in the fall, majoring in Computer Science.

He knows more about Madden football than just about anyone.

KJ Honan:

Graduating from Greece Olympia.

Decided on University at Buffalo and going undeclared but most likely go into engineering or architecture. At this time, class honors haven't been announced.

KJ is a black belt in Karate.

Rachel Patanella:

Graduating from Rush Henrietta High School.

A member of the French Honor Society.

Will be majoring in Physics at RIT.

Really excited to start this new chapter!

Gavin Watt:

Graduating from Greece Odyssey

He is currently part of the WEMOCO program and does carpentry.

As of now, he hasn't decided on future plans but may do a work co-op with carpentry. This summer he will continue to play travel soccer.

Gavin is also an Eagle Scout!

June/July
2021

Volume 24,
Issue 6/7

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Bethany Mission Statement

We are a welcoming Christian family who worships God and nurtures spiritual growth through friendship, learning, music and serving others.

Deadline for the
August
Newsletter is on
July 7, 2021

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

Charles Dickens opens the book "A Tale of Two Cities" with the line "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." During our present global recession, many believe that these are the worst of times.

During the twentieth century the pendulum swung to both extremes. The 1890's began a time of wild optimism. There was widespread confidence that they were living in the best of times. Christians were busily building the kingdom of God and welcoming what was expected to be "the Christian Century." Ralph Waldo Trine launched the "positive thinking" movement. Katharine Lee Bates wrote a popular hymn containing the words "America! America! God mend thine every flaw." America's few remaining flaws could be fixed! This was the spirit of the age.

Then there was a sudden, chilling change. It began with World War I. Optimism crumbled. Writers like William Butler Yeats in his poem "The Second Coming," portrayed a world in which goodness had lost the upper hand. He died in 1939 as the worst atrocities of the century were barely getting underway.

Neither extreme of the last century serves us well at present. What serves us best is the Bible, which gives a balanced, truthful assessment of good times and bad. It doesn't leave us in a fool's paradise or in a gloomy valley.

So what are we to do? Olga Frankevich fled the Soviet police in 1947 during a Stalinist purge. She eventually emerged from a house in the western Ukraine, where she had hidden under a bed for 45 years. Olga reminds us of people who live timid lives as if they were hiding under the bed, never aware that the power God offers them exceeds the powers that harass them.

Let us remember that God will give us the strength we need in difficult times. With God's help we will not merely endure, but will triumph.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to April, K.J. and Brandon Honan and family at the passing of April's dad, Richard Claycomb.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: There will be a congregational meeting after worship on June 13, 2021 in the sanctuary for the purpose of electing church leaders.

Fiscal Focus

2021	April	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$37,633.25	\$132,844.40	33.18%
Expense	\$25,403.09	\$111,944.47	27.96%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$12,230.16	\$20,899.93	

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICES

For the months of May, June, July, and August, the contemporary worship services will be moved to 11:30, following the traditional worship services. They will continue to be held on the last Sunday of each month.

Our goal is to create a worship experience that meets the spiritual needs of our congregation, in an alternative, contemporary format. Your input is welcome. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact any committee member or email: contemporaryrelaxedatbethany@gmail.com

CELEBRATE



Graduate Recognition Sunday
June 6, 2021
10:00 AM





Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers,
Cindi Sywulski

Ramblings of the Claury

Thank you, Bethany!

SAWS2 – Strong Able Women Supporting Sisters – began in 2011 as Women with KMC. Some of the women who had spent many years travelling with KMC for a week each year to work at a housing ministry decided to stay home (our own beds and showers!) and work instead over a build season with the Women Build program at Flower City Habitat for Humanity.

In 2020, SAWS2 celebrated our 10th year as a Women Build team. Over these 10 years, we have helped build 10 houses in the JOSANA neighborhood of Rochester; more than 75 different women have participated in Women Build as part of our team, and we have raised over \$100,900 to support our volunteer building. In the past few years, SAWS2 has been the top fund-raising and volunteer-providing team for Women Build.

Bethany Presbyterian Church has been the solid foundation of our team throughout this decade of service. Our core group of Bethany members has expanded greatly to include friends, family, work colleagues, and acquaintances, but our ties to Bethany remain strong. Many Bethany members have been part of our team, and, when they can no longer volunteer, they have remained staunch supporters of our work. We are touched and humbled that our team has been consistently and generously supported over these 10 years by donations from Bethany's Presbyterian Women, the General Mission Fund, and by the congregation through special offerings. We take your support and your faith in our work seriously; we are proud to represent an entire faith community as we construct these houses.

As we look back over these past 10 years, we would like you to share our satisfaction and pride in what we have accomplished, as our achievements would not have been possible without you. To begin, we have made possible home ownership for 10 hard-working families. The parents have held jobs as school bus drivers, medical office receptionists, health care workers, Walmart employees, restaurant servers, and school district maintenance staff. They were able to buy their homes at low- or no-interest because we raised funds to build them and provided the labor. These families are experiencing stability, safety and putting down roots as they have never been able to before and the children reap the benefits in the form of better health, better educational outcomes, and an increased ability to focus on the future.

Beyond the individual families, the JOSANA neighborhood has benefitted from the sustained attention of Flower City Habitat, of which Women Build has been an important part. Flower City's work has increased the number of owner-occupied dwellings, which decreases crime and improves the neighborhood's stability and attractiveness as a place to live.

In a less evident way, our team has provided volunteers with the opportunity to learn new skills and meet new people. We welcome any interested woman to our team, with the result that women of all ages and walks of life from all over the greater Rochester area have been able to try construction, and experience the increase in confidence that results. In the past year alone, SAWS2 work days provided these opportunities: A volunteer who worked during a gap year between high school and college in order to explore career interests.

- A mother and her adult autistic daughter who worked for a day so the daughter could try a new experience.
- A young woman working as a restaurant server interested in getting into the construction business.
- Volunteers taking college classes in architecture who wanted to learn more about the building side of the field.
- Newly retired volunteers looking for meaningful ways to contribute to their community while learning new skills.
- Women who have worked with Habitat in other communities who have now moved to Rochester; they joined Women Build to meet new people with shared interests and commitments.

REQUEST FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP VIDEO CAMERA OPERATORS:

Are you anxious to get back into the sanctuary? Would you like to learn a new skill? We are looking for volunteers to assist in live streaming our Sunday worship services as camera operators. Please contact Ron Fisher (rfisher97@gmail.com) or Jim Hetzler (jmshetzler@gmail.com) for more information. *COVID-19 protocols are followed for everyone's protection.*



Interested in sharing your musical gifts in worship? Please email our music director, Jacob Montgomery (jmontgomery.bethany@gmail.com) about using your talents to praise God and enhance our online service. All are welcome for both traditional and contemporary service offerings.

SERENDIPITY LIFE GROUP #3: is one of the Life Studies groups at Bethany. The meetings are relaxed and based around passages from the Serendipity Bible. The discussions are not "heavy" and are relatable to our everyday lives and experiences. It is an enjoyable experience to get to know the other members of our church family. Any questions, please call Jack Bansbach at 227-1265. We are currently meeting via Zoom every other week, Monday's at 3PM, next meeting March 1st.



BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under Heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1 ~ NRSV

"Life Group 4 Bible Study" has grown with many blessings since beginning last September. We have decided on a new name for our group: "BIBLE FELLOWSHIP".

We want all to feel welcome to join us throughout this summer, and we hope to continue through 2021 strengthening our foundation, fulfillment, forgiveness, and freedom through Jesus Christ sharing God's word. Our own various versions of the Bible miraculously come together like a melodious rainbow from God.

We also wholeheartedly volunteer our life experiences encouraging and learning from one another. Sharing these things is a gift, and we invite you all to join in this harmony.

Friday, May 21 @ 3:00 pm ~ Large Hall

Friday, June 25 @ 3:00 pm - Large Hall

Friday, July 23 @ 3:00 pm - Large Hall

Friday, August 27 @ 3:00 pm - Large Hall

Friday, September 24 @ 3:00 pm - Large Hall

Covid limit now to 25 people.

Please phone Bev Bennett 585-225-0206

A peace that preeminents all understanding by Jesus way.

-Philippines 4:7 ~ Our Bible

Technology Update

The Bethany Technology Team is made up of Jacob Montgomery, Mike Kuitunen, Ron Fisher, and Jim Hetzler with technical support from Brian Leavitt and Kolby Foryst of BRL Solutions. For the last 15 months, we've worked to purchase and install the equipment we needed to bring worship into your home during the pandemic, and we thank you for your patience and encouragement as we've learned how to make everything work. We are entering a new and exciting phase as we shift our focus to include enhancing in-person worship, as well as the continued refinement of our weekly live stream.

Session has approved much-needed upgrades to our sound system, allowing us to purchase \$10,000 of equipment including wireless microphones, transmitters, receivers, headsets, and a mixing board that will work with our sound system to ensure clear, rich, balanced sound in the sanctuary and at home. We are working Tony Kowalczyk of AM Productions to install and balance these components along with the new mixing board with audio presets to provide simpler, more reliable switching as we switch between singers with piano accompaniment, singers with the organ, the lay liturgist, the pulpit and so on.

When you return to the sanctuary, you'll notice that we've added two new monitors in the chancel. We will be adding a video switcher that will allow us to move from using a single camera to incorporating additional cameras, graphics, and text for in-person and home viewing. This should greatly reduce the number of huge transitions that you've suffered through from a single camera swinging from the back to the front of the church and panning in and out as we try and track the movement throughout the service. We will be able to move toward preset scenes and smoother transitions as we switch between multiple cameras.

It all sounds complicated, and it is, but we have been fortunate to have Brian Leavitt's expertise and support throughout. We have been doubly blessed, as Brian's company and our church have received thousands of dollars worth of equipment through the generous donation of an anonymous benefactor who is committed to extending the reach of our church and bringing the Good News to a broader audience through technology. We refer to her as "Our Angel", and she has again stepped in to pay for 50% of our new audio equipment.

Our goal is to have the equipment we need in place by the end of the year to support in-person and live streaming worship and to be able to manage this independently, with two or three volunteer members from the congregation. We will be establishing a designated fund for anyone interested in financially supporting the purchase, maintenance, and upgrades of this equipment.

Along with your financial support, we are looking for volunteers to join our growing technology team. Whether you're a tech-savvy teen interested in broadcasting or you're still struggling to change the clock on your microwave after daylight savings, we can show you everything you need to know in 15 minutes or less and have you running the camera or sound before the prelude. If interested, please contact Jim Hetzler (317-1956 or jmshetzler@gmail.com). Thanks to all for your support.

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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www.bethanyrochester.org

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**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

Nursery Child Care Worker

Jennifer Watt

The Session

Craig Johnson, Budget & Finance

Wendy Watt, Christian Education

Deb Petersen, Community & Global Miss.

Jennifer McGarrity, Congregational Life

Bev Murray, Nominating

Jim Hetzler, Personnel

Carrie Buri, Spiritual Growth

Helen West, Worship & Music

Dr. Bob Spratt, Moderator

Treasurer

Carl DeGraff

