

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

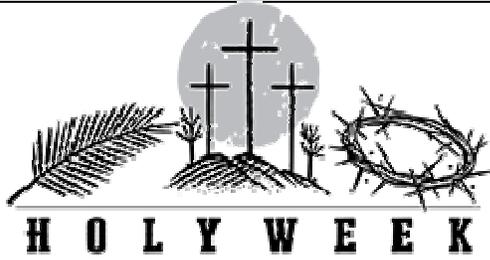
**March
2026**

Volume 29, Issue 3

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Pastor's Page

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H O L Y W E E K

Palm Sunday, March 29 10AM
Maundy Thursday service, April 2nd 7:00 PM
Good Friday service, April 3rd 7:00 PM
Easter Sunday worship service, April 5th 10:00 AM

One Great Hour of Sharing – PCUSA

What does the Lord require of you? To do justice and to love kindness and to work humbly with your God. (Michah 6:8)

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees – serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Presbyterians have a history of working to build a more just, resilient and sustainable future. When you give to OGHS you are supporting the gifts and talents of people and communities all over the world and offering opportunities for partnership, learning and witness that profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

Bethany will be collecting your OGHS gifts on Palm Sunday. Special envelopes will be provided, and our youth will be provided FISH Banks.



Special points of interest:

- Stephen Ministry
- Church Calendar
- Shipmates
- Jennifer's Closet
- Bethany Women
- Lily Order Form (insert)

Bethany Mission Statement

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

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

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

In ancient times, the forty days of Lent were observed through fasting, both from foods and festivities, and by other acts of penance. Today, some people give up a favorite food (e.g. chocolate) or activity (e.g., going to the movies, playing video games) for Lent, or they may instead take on a Lenten discipline such as daily devotions or volunteering with charity work.

I share with you this prayer by William Arthur Ward to use this Lenten Season to prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Easter.

Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God

Fast from words that pollute; feast on words that purify

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude

Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism

Fast from worry; feast on trust

Fast from guilt; feast on freedom

Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation

Fast from hostility; feast on letting go

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness

Fast from selfishness; feast on compassion for others

Fast from discouragement; feast on seeing the good

Fast from idle gossip; feast on spreading good news

Fast from being so busy; feast on quiet silence

Fast from problems that overwhelm us; feast on prayerful trust

Fast from talking; feast on listening

Fast from trying to be in control; feast on letting go.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Bob and Polly McCubbin and family, at the passing of Bob's mother.



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

Fiscal Focus

2026	January	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$19,676.73	\$19,676.73	3.53%
Expense	\$36,170.80	\$36,170.80	6.50%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$16,493.88	-\$16,493.88	

SOUPER SATURDAY

Save the date



*Inviting Jennifer's Closet clients
 and Bethany congregation*

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Serving 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Bethany Presbyterian Church

Large Hall

3000 Dewey Avenue

Made with PosterMyWall.com

COMMUNITY SUPPER

Wednesday, March 18th
 6PM

Bethany Large Hall

Dinner Menu:

Corned Beef, Colcannon
 Potatoes, Roasted
 vegetables.

\$10 dinner fee is payable in
 cash at the event.

To register sign-up in the narthex or contact the church
 office at 663-3000.

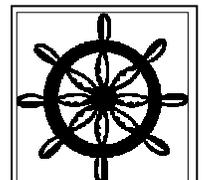
Provided by the Catering and Hospitality Department
 of Episcopal SeniorLife Communities.

Lenten Worship with special music to follow at 7:00PM in
 the sanctuary.



SHIPMATES: Saturday, March 14th
 11AM. Bethany Large Hall. Birds, mon-
 keys, dolphins... "oh my." Just a few of
 the wonders of Peru's Amazon tributaries.
 Sally Kuehl will share here stories
 and pictures. Sign-up in the narthex.

Cost \$8.00. If writing a check, make it
 out to: Heather Kruspe, 91 Parma Center Road. Hilton,
 NY 14468, with Shipmates in the memo section.





Stephen Ministry

March either comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb or vice versa. I think we have been dealing with the lion long enough so hopefully we are going to start seeing some lambs around here! It's been a difficult weather for the entire country so I hope there are enough lambs to go around.....

I'm sure some of you expert gardeners have already been looking through the seed catalogs and beginning to plan your flower and vegetable gardens. I admire that. You can create a vision in your minds in advance to what shall grow and where it should be.

Do you question in your mind if you are putting everything where it should go? For you experts, maybe not, but there are some who are just not as sure as you. Becoming a new gardener can be overwhelming because you are not sure where to start. If you are not a first timer, you may be having difficulty focusing because something is just not the same this year as it was in the past. Have you lost interest in your project or have you lost some interest in life in general? You may have had to deal with a loss or major change and all of your energy has been turned to that. That is understandable, but you used to look forward to this time of the year and right now you just don't.

Think about speaking with a Stephen Minister here at Bethany. If this is a new situation for you and you would like help sorting out just where to get started on feeling closer to God, we can help to guide you with listening, prayers, and helping you to see what is right for you. If you are a "seasoned gardener" and things have changed since last year, we are here to help you decide if you want to restructure your garden or gather all of your tools together and realize that this is to be an enjoyable time with some nice warm memories to build on.

Either way, we are here to help you plant some seeds and watch God build or rebuild your garden. If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Bob or Wendy Watt.

Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers,

In Memory of Cindi Sywulski (Cubby) written
March 2019

Wednesday Nights @ BYF



Wednesday Night Bethany Youth Fellowship is back! From March until school ends in June, Bethany Youth Fellowship will be meeting once per month at BPC. Wednesdays will not be the only time we meet, but these will be on our regular calendar during the school year. BYF will also join with the Genesee Valley Presbytery for larger youth meetings and events. Youth will receive a "question of the night" in the morning on BYF day that will relate to that night's gathering. Our schedule is March 11th Pizza and Youth Bulletin Boards; April 8th Pizza and Game Night; May 13th Pizza, Short Game, Film & Community Confab. In June, we will once again go white water rafting at Letchworth State Park.

BETHANY PROVIDES LIFESAVING NARCAN



The Monroe County Health Department has installed a Naloxone Box by the steps in front of the Bethany building. In the box are free doses of Narcan, the medication that counteracts opioid overdoses.

This nasal spray will restore normal breathing to a person whose breathing has slowed or stopped as a result of overdosing on opioid medications, heroin, or other drugs that have been laced with the opioid fentanyl. Slowed or stopped breathing can cause brain damage or death.

Naloxone (Narcan) does not cause any harm to a person but may save a life!

MCDOH is grateful to Bethany to allow the placement of the Naloxone Box on our property, as it is the only box available to the public in the Dewey-Stone area. MCDOH will keep the box stocked as product is taken.

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.

February Meeting: During our meeting we prepared one hundred Valentine Cards for the Rochester Presbyterian Home residents. The Valentine Cards were delivered on Tuesday, February 10th to the Presbyterian Home. Heather Hebert, Director of Well-Being Engagement, received the Valentine Cards and shared that the cards meant so much.

Budget: Bethany Presbyterian Women in the Congregation have received pledges year-to-date totaling \$2470 toward our 2026 annual budget. Thanks to the generous women of Bethany, we are nearly at our goal of \$2500. Since January 1, we have incurred two expenses \$47.96 for the Valentine's Day cards mailed to the Presbyterian Home and \$100 was donated to Church World Services blanket program.

Blanket Sunday: BPWC requested donations for CWS - blankets. We collected \$290 on Blanket Sunday, Tom Olney received donations of \$253 and BPWC contributed \$100 from their budget. We have sent them a check in the amount of \$643. which will purchase 64 blankets to be given to disaster victims. We are blessed to have such generous and caring people at Bethany. Thank you all!

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2026: We will be meeting in Bethany's parking lot at 10:00 am for our off-site trip to Lamberton Conservatory.



Upcoming Activities: Save the Date! Trip to Lamberton Conservatory, Tuesday, March 10, 2026 @ 10:00 am (We will carpool from the church parking lot)

- Tuesday, April 14th Meeting Speaker- Benjamin Kjell, Director of Music
- Women's Tea- Saturday, May 2, 2026 @ 11:00 am
- Tuesday, June 9th Meeting Speaker- Reverend Laura Fry, Perinton Presbyterian Church Pastor and Head of Staff

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, March 28, 2026.

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

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 things can make a women feel beautiful, and that is her love for others.

SHIPMATES

The HOLOCAUST



SUNDAY
APRIL 12th
2:00 pm

You don't want to miss this

March 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 2-Memorial Committee 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 (Lamberton Conservatory) 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> 11-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> 1- SAIL class 6-Community Supper 6-Spiritual Growth 7-Lenten 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 11:30-Souiper Saturday
<i>22</i> 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	<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 12:30-Lunch & Learn 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 10-Women's brunch at Bill's Diner
<i>29</i> Palm Sunday 10-Worship, Childcare 9-Present Word 10:15-Youth Studies 11:15-Bible Study	<i>30</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 11-The Chosen	<i>31</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 12:30-Jennifer's closet				

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 February 27, 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

Join us
during this
season
of Lent.

