

Bethany  
Presbyterian  
Church

Sharing, Caring,  
Believing, Doing

# The Church Mouse



**Bethany Presbyterian Church**

**May  
2025**

Volume 28,  
Issue 5

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## **ROC CITY RINGERS BRING BELLS IN BLOOM TO BETHANY:**

The Roc City Ringers, a community handbell choir, will give a free concert here at Bethany on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM. Called "Bells in Bloom" the concert will feature a variety of music from classical to "Wicked." Please join us for an evening of bell music.

**MUSIC SUNDAY:** May 18th will be our Music Sunday for the spring! The Bethany choir will be singing the Presbyterian Communion Service in F by American composer Florence Price. We will also be joined by guest musicians from the Eastman School of Music. Please join us at 10am 5/18 to hear this rarely performed work!



**Special points of  
interest:**

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

**Angels  
of  
Mercy**

May 21st - 6pm

**HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
AWARENESS  
PRESENTATION**

following the Community  
Supper - Dinner menu: Ribs with  
Macaroni and Cheese, baked  
beans. \$10 payable cash at the  
door. (please note: dietary  
restrictions.)

Bethany Presbyterian  
Church, Large Hall  
585-663-3000  
for reservations

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## **May Community Supper Angels of Mercy: Human Trafficking Awareness Presentation**

Angels of Mercy states that human trafficking has become \$150 billion a year industry; 1/3 takes place in the US and New York State is one of the top destinations for Human Trafficking and abduction. Please join us May 21, 2025 at 6:00PM for a Community Supper prepared by Episcopal SeniorLife Communities followed by a presentation from Angels of Mercy on this important topic. Dinner is \$10; dietary restrictions can be accommodated if

notated. Menu: Ribs with Macaroni and Cheese and baked beans.

**Deadline for the  
June  
Newsletter is on  
May 18, 2025**

## **Bethany Mission Statement**

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

# Pastor's Page:

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Dear Friends,

From the beginning, the primordial waters and sea were given great respect. The water is often viewed as a place where evil lurks. There is much uncertainty about the waters and about the storms that rage on them. Fisher folk and sea traders understand the power and might that the raging sea can possess. Currents and storms leave boats at the mercy of the sea and even the best of Captains struggle under the wind and waves.

The gospel of Mark tells the story of a time when Jesus and his disciples faced a terrible storm. They had set out to cross the Sea of Galilee. As they got part way across the lake, "A furious squall came up and the waves broke over the boat so that it was nearly swamped." The Sea of Galilee is notorious for its storms. The Sea of Galilee, (which is really a large lake) is below sea level, with mountains rising to the east. On the west, the Judean hills bend and twist, so that there are narrow corridors, which the wind can roar down. Violent storms come up very quickly in this area known as the Golan Heights.

It had been a tough day, and Jesus was exhausted from the crowds. He had fallen asleep in the stern of the boat, despite the storm. Even the disciples were surprised by the severity of the storm. They panicked, like so many of us do, and woke Jesus up and expected Jesus to react the same way. When Jesus didn't panic, their fear led to anger, for they felt Jesus didn't care. After calming the storm, Jesus asked them why they were so afraid, He was concerned that they had no faith.

As Christians, we often unexpectedly find ourselves getting caught up in the storms of our lives: a loved one dies, we lose a job, our family falls apart, we are depressed or we get stressed out from all that life has dealt us. There are places in our lives that are filled with uncertainty and fear.

As growing disciples, we are left in the boat to answer Jesus' questions. Can we trust Jesus? Do we know that God is concerned, even when we do not perceive God's presence. Is our faith strong enough to count on God for our every need? When will the storm end? Why do we so often seek everyone's help except God's when life is overtaking us.

Perhaps that is where the problem lies for most of us. We become fearful when the storms of life howl and the waves threaten us because we think we are in control. We think we can save ourselves. We think we can fix the problem on our own. We think we have all the answers. We think it all hangs on us.

The good news is that we are not in control, God is. We must remember in the storms of life, amid the chaos of suffering, through all the temptations that we face, in the unexpected hurricanes and tornados that blow against us, God is present and God is in control. We must remember that we need to be faith-filled and not fear-filled.

Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and place our faith in the Son of God who has the power to calm the storms on the sea as well as the storms within our very being.

Wishing you smooth sailing,

Dr. Bob Spratt

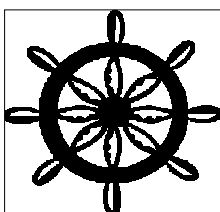
## With Our People

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Gail Kuhner and family at the passing of her sister Carole Carroll.



### Shipmates May Program

Come learn about our Stephen Ministers from our own Kim Bolinger. He will tell us that a Stephen Minister is much more than a friend who visits weekly. They are trained to understand your concerns and provide Christian love and spiritual support.



Crisis Care: includes people who have had a hospitalization, a terminal illness, death of a loved one, divorce, natural disaster, car accident, or other urgent situation.

There are four more kinds of Care that they provide. Please come to learn how fortunate Bethany is to have this group of people.

May 10th small hall 2pm dessert with coffee and tea after.

## Fiscal Focus

2025	March	Year to Date	% Budget
<b>Income</b>	\$60,589.87	\$128,378.83	26.43%
<b>Expense</b>	\$42,556.72	\$106,867.61	22.00%
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	\$18,033.15	\$21,511.22	



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.

### Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention Monday & Wednesdays

1:00—1:45PM

until May 28, 2025

**Bethany Presbyterian Church**

To register: Please call Lisa Clement  
585-363-0446

For more information, please contact  
Julie Battaglia at 585-368-5372

Suggested contribution of \$25 for materials  
and series.

*Tai Chi provided by*



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.

**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, 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.



## Stephen Ministry

I know it may be past the initial time of stating a goal or a “resolution” for this year, but my pledge to myself is to get back in touch with friends that I have not either seen or spoken with in what I consider way too long. I have regretted not getting in touch with other friends in the past and yet I did not make the initial contact. There is no reason not to get in contact with someone, it’s just the decision of who initiates it. Why not you? Friends and family need to know that they are important to you. How will they if you don’t show or tell them?

I have started contacting friends from my past and so far it has been a very positive experience. They are pleased to hear from me. I pick good people for friends, and we pick up right where we left off with lots of updating on our lives and sometimes news of losses that leads to both of us knowing that the other is there for us even now. It’s the words “you are not alone” put into action.

Here at Bethany, you have available to you Stephen Ministers who are hoping you will take the initiative to visit with them. Is it our Lord that you would like to feel more secure with? Maybe we can give you a gentle nudge to reach out to someone that you would really like to restart a friendship with. It could be that you have been dealing with a loss and find that more than a card or a casserole is needed to help you get past this pain. We sit with you, pray with you, and most of all, listen to you. Again, you are not alone. Listening, caring, and confidentiality are the three top words on our list.

If you would like to set up a visit with a Stephen Minister, please contact Wendy Watt or Dr. Bob to get started.

Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers.

In Memory of Cindi Sywulski (Cubby) written  
April 2016



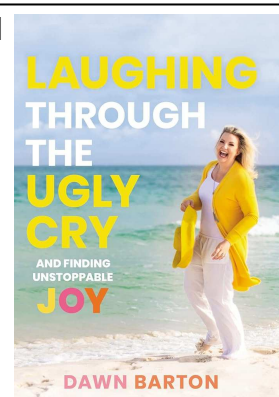
### Bethany Men's Club

The Bethany Men's Club meets to support various missions and church sponsored events throughout the year (Adopt-a-Highway, parking lot and grounds clean-up, church maintenance and repair projects, etc.). We also meet monthly for breakfast at 9AM on the first Saturday of each month. We will be meeting outside at Sawyer Park at 9AM beginning May 3<sup>rd</sup> and running through the summer months. Bring your favorite breakfast sandwich, beverage, and folding chair and join in the fellowship. Sawyer Park is located at 732 Long Pond Rd. across the street from Wegmans and next to the Northwest Family YMCA. The park has a shelter, so breakfast is mostly rain or shine, although we may relocate to a warm, dry spot if the weather forecast is particularly miserable. Contact Jim Hetzler ([jmshetzler@gmail.com](mailto:jmshetzler@gmail.com)) if you'd like to receive information about Men's Breakfast and other manly Men's Club activities.

### LAUGHING THROUGH THE UGLY CRY and FINDING JOY UNSTOPPABLE JOY by Dawn Barton

I encourage readers to check this book out. Read by Marlene McMaster and myself, the unbelievable ups and downs of the author are like a roller coaster. More surprisingly, is the fact that she found joy and included many biblical scriptures to coincide with the turmoil and joy. It is truly one of the most inspiring books ever!

submitted by Beth Thomsen





## **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.*



### **Women's Tea:**

On Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 49 women gathered to celebrate each other and the ways we have been blessed in our lives. We came together to share laughter and good times. The owner of Justice Flower Shop, Martha Morin demonstrated how to make a floral arrangement. The floral arrangements were displayed in the sanctuary the next day during worship in honor of Bethany Women who faithfully serve the Lord.

We collected 244 pieces of toiletries!!! These are very generous women, not only with their time, but with their finances. The toiletries will be going to the Coldwater Women & Children Residential Home.

"The Coldwater Women & Children Residential Home is a person-centered Christian program designed to address individual crisis situations through strengthening families. It offers a safe, comprehensive, and dignified environment for up to eleven families. This program helps women develop a plan for sustainable living which may include medical, vocational, and academic assessments as well as training in parenting, nutrition, job readiness, money management and self-care."



May we always remember to love one another unconditionally, no matter what life brings. We know many things can make a women feel beautiful, and that is her love for others. (continued on next pg.)

**Budget:**

The end of March budget shows our income at \$4,445. which includes \$75 for Neil Murray's memorial service. We received \$650. in new pledges during March. Total expenses are \$672.85.

**Afghans:**

Beth Thomsen delivered three afghans to Lipson Center and one lap robe to Jennifer's Closet.

**Women's Trip to Saints Place:**

A tour of Saints Place, a not-for-profit Catholic organization serving immigrants coming to the Rochester area, is scheduled for Monday, May 19. We will meet in the church parking lot and car-pool at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Linda Lamb at 585-770-4586 if you are interested.

**Women's Meeting June 10, 2025:**

Our June speaker will be Reverend Dr. Rebecca Letterman. Rebecca will be speaking 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.

Note: At this meeting we will be electing officers and enjoying lunch. Please bring a dish to pass.

**Display Case:**

Please take a minute to see programs and activities for women in the Parlor Display Case.

**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 April 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 Brunch:**

We will be sharing "Brunch and Fellowship" at *Bill's Long Pond Diner* on the last Saturday of the months of September through June at 10:00 am. Our next Brunch is Saturday, May 31, 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](mailto:kbolinger@rochester.rr.com).

# May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 9-Men's breakfast @ Sawyer Park
<i>4</i> Communion 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 11-Christian Education	<i>5</i> 11-The Chosen 1-Tai Chi	<i>6</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>7</i> 1-Tai Chi 6:30-C&GM 6:30-Worship & Music 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>8</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>9</i> 7-Bell Concert	<i>10</i> 2-Shipmate's
<i>11</i> <b>Mother's Day</b> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies	<i>12</i> 11- The Chosen 1-Tai Chi 2-PC Deacons 7-Life Group	<i>13</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>14</i> 1-Tai Chi 6-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>15</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>16</i> 11-Budget & Finance	<i>17</i> 10-Jennifer's Closet
<i>18</i> <b>Music Sunday</b> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies	<i>19</i> 1-Tai Chi 7-Stephen Minis- ters	<i>20</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 11:30-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>21</i> 1-Tai Chi 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>22</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 12-Session	<i>26</i> Memorial Day Church building closed	<i>27</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>28</i> 1-Tai Chi 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>29</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 10-Women's brunch @ Bill's Long Pond Diner





# Bells in Bloom

## Spring Handbell Concert Series

Friday May 9 7:00 pm

Bethany Presbyterian Church  
3000 Dewey Avenue in Greece

*Concert is free and open to the public*

Monday May 12 6:30 pm

Henrietta Library  
625 Calkins Road

*Concert is free - Register at [hpl.org](http://hpl.org)*

Thursday May 15 6:30 pm

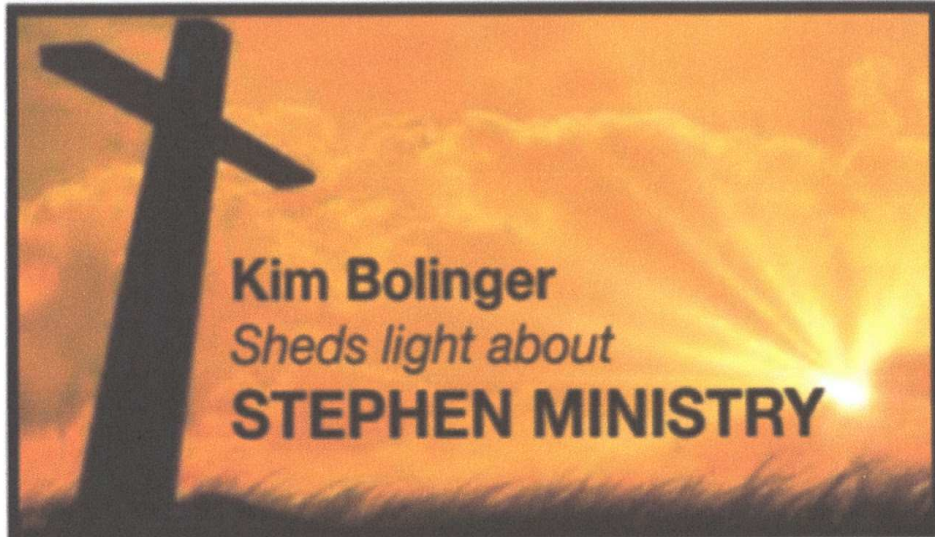
Penfield Library  
1985 Baird Road

*Concert is free  
Register at [penfield.org/library](http://penfield.org/library)*





## **SHIPMATES INVITES EVERYONE !**



**SATURDAY - May 10, 2025 - 2:00 PM**

**Everything you wanted and need to know  
about Stephen Ministry at Bethany !**

*Presented by Kim Bolinger*

*We will learn about the 5 different types of need  
In which Stephen Ministers can provide care:  
CRISIS CARE - FOLLOW-UP CARE - CHRONIC CARE  
PREVENTIVE CARE and SUPPORTIVE CARE*

*This is a FREE EVENT ... please register in the Narthex*

*Light refreshment will follow the presentation.*

**If you require the personal assistance of a  
Stephen Minister please contact the church office  
(585) 663-3000**

**All conversations are private and confidential !**

ABRIDGED VOCAL SCORE

# Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat

Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER    Words by TIM RICE



HAL•LEONARD®

**Coming Soon!**

*On Sunday, June 8, Youth Sunday, Pentecost,  
The Joyful Noise Singers will present a concert version of  
"Joseph and The Technicolor Dreamcoat."*

In addition we will recognize our senior Alexa McGarrity who will sing a solo and assist in worship along with David Covert and all the youth.





# Shipmates Annual Fellowship Picnic June 14, 2025

11AM-4:00 PM

Towpath Shelter Greece Canal Park

Only \$8.00 per person

Everyone Welcome

Members, Family and Friends of Bethany

Please  
signup in the Narthex at  
Bethany !

## FUN - GAMES & GREAT FELLOWSHIP

Mail checks to:

Edna Hamlin, 165 Tioga Drive  
Rochester, NY 14616

Please make your check out to  
**Bethany** and on the memo line  
indicate **"Shipmates Picnic"**

Don't forget to bring your own placesetting  
(dish. Bowl, knife, fork, spoon, and beverage)

# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church

3000 Dewey Avenue

Rochester, NY 14616

Phone: 585-663-3000

[www.bethanyrochester.org](http://www.bethanyrochester.org)

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**Mailed April 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

### Custodians

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

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

