

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church



Support the Pastor's Discretionary Fund – November 21st

Please help support our congregation and those in need. Our Thanksgiving Offering will go to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund for the coming year. Dr. Bob receives requests for assistance with rent, utilities, food, transportation, medical needs, children's expenses, and other emergency needs. He can use this fund to support these needs. Please support this fund to help others!

TOWN HALL MEETING—November 14, 2021 Bethany's Session invites you to a **Town Hall Meeting** on **November 14, 2021** immediately following the 10:00 worship service where the Organ Taskforce will address concerns brought before Session and will be available to answer questions. For a refresher on the information previously presented regarding the Father Willis Organ, ALL of the project documentation is available for your perusal in Bethany's library. Also, if you would like to be part of a committee or a member of Session, we would love to have you! The Property Committee and Stewardship Committee both have open positions. We are also looking for a Clerk of Session. If you feel called to serve and/or would like to offer your talents to Bethany, please contact Bev Murray of the Nominating Committee at 865-8507. Thank you!



FOOTBALL SUNDAY—November 14, 2021

Please join the Spiritual Growth and Congregational Life Committees on 11/14/21 for Football Sunday! Bring your friends, tailgate in the parking lot beforehand, and then join us in the Large Hall to watch the Bills take on the Jets at 1:00. Prefer not to tailgate? The Spiritual Growth Committee will provide pizza and water bottles; the Congregational Life Committee will provide a dessert. Of course, the congregation is encouraged to wear their favorite team shirt or colors to church that day. Questions? Call Carrie Buri (716)390-8941.

**November
2021**

Volume 24,
Issue 11

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Special points of interest:

- Stephen Ministry
- Shipmates
- Life Groups
- Presbyterian Women
- Contemporary Worship
- Church Calendar

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
December
Newsletter is on
November 7, 2021**

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

November 1, 2021 is All Saints' Day. We salute all the saints who have gone before us, whose faithfulness provided us with the faith we have today.

One of the most beautiful portrayals of saints is found in Revelation: "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'

Our faith has always been a universal faith. It's amazing that so many Christians forget this. Saints of God come in every color and speak every language.

Clarence Jordan went one time to do a revival service at a church in the Deep South. This was more than fifty years ago, when segregation was the norm in the South. Clarence Jordan got up to preach, and he realized that the congregation was not segregated at all. There were black folks and white folks all together. After the service, he asked the pastor, an old hillbilly preacher: "How did your church get this way?" The old hillbilly preacher said: "What way?"

Clarence Jordan said: "Well, black and white folks all together. Integrated. How did it happen?"

This old preacher said: "Well, there used to be about twenty people in this church. When the old preacher died, they couldn't get no one to preach. So after about two months, I told the deacons I'd preach. They couldn't get anybody else, so they said, 'Yes.' I got up the next Sunday, opened the Bible, put my finger down on that verse that says: 'In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, but all are one in Christ Jesus' (Colossians 3:11). So, I preached on that. I told them how Jesus makes all kinds of people one. When I finished, the deacons said they wanted to talk to me in the back room. When I got there, they told me they didn't want to hear that kind of preachin' no more."

Clarence asked: "What'd you do?"

The old preacher said: "I fired them deacons! If a person's not gonna' 'deac,' they oughta be fired!"

Clarence Jordan was amazed. "Why didn't they fire you?" he asked.

"They didn't hire me," said the hillbilly preacher, "so they couldn't fire me! You know, once I found out what bothered those people, I gave it to them week after week. I put the knife in the same place Sunday after Sunday."

Jordan was stunned. "And they put up with it?" he asked.

"Not really," said the old preacher. "I preached that church down to four people. Sometimes revival happens not when people come in, but when people go out. If people were going to stand in the way of the moving of the Spirit of God, it's better they be gone. After that, we decided that we were going to build the church on people who were actually serious about following Jesus. And that's when it started to grow."

Blessings,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the Dieter family at the passing of Shirley Fallon.

Per Capita Reminder

per
capita

For those who have not yet submitted their 2021 per capita contribution, there is still time to send it in before the end of the year. The amount for 2021 is \$35.14 per member.

PLEDGE UPDATE: As of October 22, 2021, we have 100 pledges with \$230,168 pledged. If you did not receive an estimate of giving card please call the church office at 663-3000.

Fiscal Focus

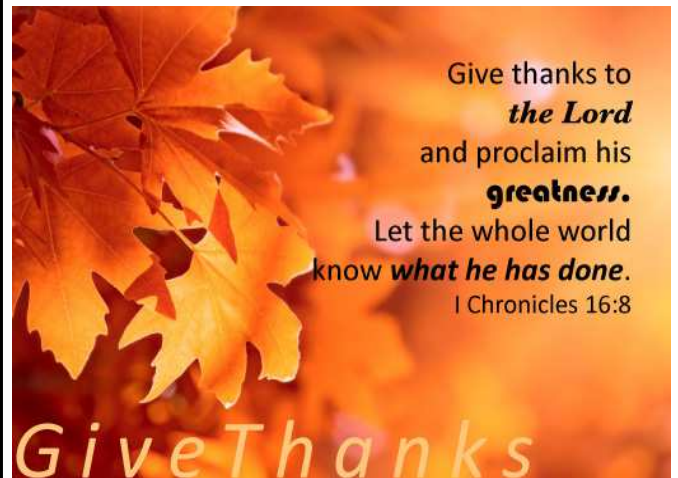
2021	September	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$27,798.80	\$267,925.25	66.93%
Expense	\$30,648.86	\$263,340.35	65.78%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$2850.06	\$4584.90	

**GOD'S
GOOD NEWS**

Greece CROP Hunger Walk 2021 a Success!

The total raised was \$6700.
Bethany raised \$1800 alone!

Thanks to Judy Montanari and Pam Hemmenway for participating virtually, Deb Petersen and Cheryl Fisher for walking, and Judy Price for supporting the day of the event. Most of all we support all those who donated to this cause. **THANK YOU!**



Contemporary Worship



Please join us on November 28th, at 11:30am for our contemporary worship services. The style of these services is more informal than our traditional services, but just as meaningful. The sermons are delivered in a more relaxed, conversational style. Jacob has worked hard to choose music that is upbeat and relevant. We hope to see you there!



Stephen Ministry

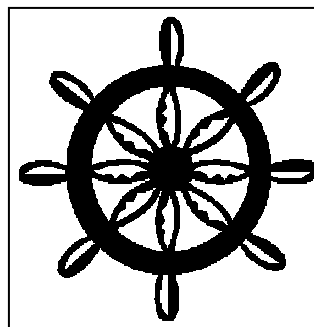
Sometimes I just don't know what to write, and then I will receive from a member of the congregation an appreciation of something I may have mentioned that they enjoyed or may have helped them in some way. That's the entire focus of the Stephen Ministers. It is our way of reaching out to you to give you a nudge that we are always here for you and we in return appreciate you contacting us to help you with something that is just not balancing well in your life.

We may reach out to you if we are aware of some loss, change, health issue, or if you are a caregiver to someone and you just need a quiet break to regroup. You may have a close friend who is concerned about you and feels that you need to just sit, take a deep breath, exhale, and let someone listen to you.

This time of the year can be overwhelming with a combination of plans, family, friends, and the holidays upon us. Add this to an issue you were dealing with and you could be ready to shut down. Not yet. Not while we are here to help. And we are always here to help you and to listen. It's what we do. Our hearts are here at Bethany and that means our hearts are here with you. It may take only a couple of visits, or it may need extended attention. You and the Stephen Minister will decide that. There is no set amount of visits. We work with your schedule and as always, it is totally confidential. Sounds like a plan, right?

Enjoy your upcoming holiday and the gathering you may have scheduled with family and friends. It is a loving and thankful season and it should be a peaceful one for your spirit. If you would like some help getting there, please contact Wendy Watt or Dr. Bob.

Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers,
Cindi Sywulski



SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER SHIPMATES EVENT

- Have you ever wondered how Jean Coniber manages to play all those bells when she performs a bell solo in church?
- Have you ever wondered how the musical art form of bell ringing came to be?
- Have you ever wondered how the Bethany bell choir members manage to keep everything straight when playing?

Please join Shipmates on Saturday, November 13, at 11:00 am at Bethany's large hall for a talk/performance by Bethany's own Jean Coniber. All are welcome. Look for possible lunch details (Covid dependent) in the next Mouse.



Dear Congregation of Bethany Presbyterian Church,

I want to thank you for all the cards prayers during my stay in the hospital and rehabilitation, Peace to all, Helen West

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.

PRESENT WORD: The Present Word has resumed meeting in person every Sunday at 9:00 am. What is The Present Word? The Present Word Bible Study is based on a uniform Series, a plan for reading and studying the Bible. The objectives of the series are to help persons increasingly:

1. to know the content of the Bible,
2. to understand the message of the Bible in light of their experiences and relationships, and
3. To be aware of God's self-disclosure, especially God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ, that they may respond in faith and love-to the end that they may know who they are and what human situation means, grow as the children of God rooted in the Christian community, live in the spirit of God in every relationship, fulfill their common discipleship in the world, and abide in the Christian hope.

All are invited to participate in The Present Word on Sundays at 9:00 am in the Small Hall.



Thanksgiving Habitat Pies: There will be no Thanksgiving pie sales this year, Kelly's Farmers market is having staffing problems. We're hoping to re-

start selling Habitat Pies next year with Kellys. If you would still like a Kelly's pie for thanksgiving contact Kelly's directly (585) 392-8102 to pre order pies and please thank them for their many years of Habitat for Humanity support.



Wishing Elisabeth Benschop a very happy belated birthday on October 5th

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, 2020. We have decided on a new name for our group: "BIBLE FELLOWSHIP".

We want all to feel welcome to join us 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, November 19, @ 3:00 pm - Large Hall
All welcome!

Friday, December 17, @ 3:00 pm - Large Hall
All welcome!

Please phone Bev Bennett 585-225-0206

A peace that preeminents all understanding by Jesus way.
-Philippines 4:7 ~ Our Bible

**November Birthday
November 14,**

**Peggy Troutman
Wolk Manor Rm 6205
4000 Summit Circle Drive
Rochester, NY 14618-3965**



November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 7-Stephen Ministers	<i>2</i> 10-Belles & Beaux	<i>3</i> 10:30-Staff Meeting 6:30 Worship & Music 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>4</i> 7:15 Bethany Choir	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 9-Men's Club Breakfast
<i>7</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, with communion Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Sunday School 12-Session	<i>8</i> 2-Pastoral Deacons 10-Belles & Beaux 7-Life Group #2	<i>9</i> 10-Presbyterian Women 10-Belles & Beaux 7:30-Congregational Life	<i>10</i> 10:30-Staff Meeting 6:30-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>11</i> 7:15 Bethany Choir	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 11-Shipmates
<i>14</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11-Town hall mtg 11:15-Sunday School 1-Football Sunday	<i>15</i> 7-Stephen Ministers	<i>16</i> 10-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Comm. 7-Contemporary Worship Task force mtg	<i>17</i> 10:30-Staff Meeting 6:30-C&GM 7-Budget & Finance 7-Christian Ed 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>18</i> 7:15 Bethany Choir	<i>19</i> 3-Bible Fellowship	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> Thanksgiving Sunday 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Sunday School	<i>22</i> 7-Life Group #2	<i>23</i> 10-Belles & Beaux	<i>24</i> 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>25</i> Thanksgiving Day	<i>26</i> Church Building closed	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Sunday School 11:30-Contemporary Worship	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 10-Belles & Beaux				



BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN in the CONGREGATION

This past spring there were two significant mass shootings widely reported in the media about one month apart. One was at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis where nine people were killed, including the shooter who committed suicide, and seven injured. The other happened at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority in San Jose, California. In that incident nine people plus the shooter died.

What these two shootings have in common are the heroic actions by followers of the Sikh (pronounced "sick") faith that saved the lives of many people, while sacrificing their own. It is a key tenant of their faith to lay down one's life for others.

Come join our group on Tuesday, November 9th at 10 AM in the Large Hall when Harbhajan Purewal of the Gurdwara of Rochester, a Sikh temple, will tell us about the Sikh religion and way of life.



Sikhi (symbol for the faith shown left) teaches a message based on principles of love and oneness. It calls on all followers to be spiritual warriors. Meditation, service and justice are core aspects of the Sikh way of life. The three daily principles of Sikhi are truthful living, service to humanity and devotion to God.

Sikhi is a distinct religion that maintains its own features, including founders, scripture, worship, ceremonies and traditions. You have probably seen or met Sikh men, who wear turbans and long beards. Many people confuse Sikhs with Muslims, but the Sikh faith comes from India. It is a monotheistic religion and shares many of the essential tenants of Christianity. With 25 million followers, it is the fifth largest religion in the world, yet many people in the United States are unaware of it. You may be surprised at how much we as Christians have in common with Sikhs and how we differ.



By Joel Friesen - originally posted to Flickr as Sikhs on the move!, CC BY 2.0
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4655560>

Budget Update: We have supported the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf & Clothing Closet's Thanksgiving Basket program with a \$300 cash donation. They will again distribute Aldi's gift cards to families to allow them to purchase their holiday dinner, rather than having sponsors donate food.

Christmas Luncheon: Our December meeting will be lunch at Bella Pasta at noon on Tuesday, December 14th. We will also have a collection at that time for Heifer International. All women in the congregation are welcome to attend. Jessie Smith will again be coordinating this event.

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
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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
Judy Price, Community & Global Miss.
Jennifer McGarrity, Congregational Life
Bev Murray, Nominating
Jim Hetzler, Personnel
Steve Watt, Property
Carrie Buri, Spiritual Growth
Bev Bennett, Welcoming Committee
Connie Slapar, Worship & Music
Dr. Bob Spratt, Moderator

Treasurer

Carl DeGraff

Let the beauty of
the harvest season
fill your heart with
warmth and love.

Happy
Thanksgiving!

