



Bethany  
Presbyterian  
Church

Sharing, Caring,  
Believing, Doing

# The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

**November  
2024**

Volume 27,  
Issue 11

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## INTRODUCING OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Hi everyone! My name is Benjamin Kjell and today I am starting as music director here at Bethany. I come from Sweden and moved to Rochester for my doctorate in Organ Performance at Eastman, which I am in my third year of. I am very excited to work with you all and share my music, and I look forward to meeting and getting to know everyone! I will be having rehearsals with the adult choir on Thursday's at 7:15PM. Thank you all for welcoming me into your community!



## Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Support the Pastor's Discretionary Fund – November 24th Please help support our congregation and those in need. Our Thanksgiving Offering will go to the Pastor's Discretionary Account for the coming year. Dr. Bob receives requests for assistance with rent, utilities, food, transportation, medical needs, children's expenses, and other emergency needs. Having this Fund in place helps with these needs allowing Bob to help us help others!

## NOVEMBER COMMUNITY SUPPER – BASIC FIRST AID CLASS

November 20, 2024. Please join us for a Community Supper at 6:00 followed by a presentation on basic First Aid given by Dean Smith, Vice President, of the Barnard Fire Department. Dean will discuss topics such as how to recognize the symptoms of a heart attack and stroke and what to do in those instances, how to control bleeding, treating a burn, falls, bee stings, and more. This is a community event, so please invite your friends!



## Special points of interest:

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

**Deadline for the  
December  
Newsletter is on  
November 14, 2024**

### **Bethany Mission Statement**

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

# Pastor's Page:

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Dear Friends,

We all understand and appreciate the importance of gratitude. In fact, one of the first things we were taught and that we teach our children is to express their gratitude. Someone gives them some candy and we say: "Now what do you say?" And the child learns from an early age the answer "Thank you." And we all know as adults that we appreciate being thanked. Yet, when it comes to giving thanks to God, we so often miss the mark.

And when it comes to giving our thanks to God, I don't suppose there is any story in the Bible that is so endearing to us, so timelessly appropriate, as the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers. We have all heard the story many times, but like so many Bible stories, we never tire of it.

The story begins: "And as he entered a certain village there met him ten lepers, and they stood at a far distance." Don't ever think for a moment that death is the worst thing that can happen to a person. It's not. And the scene this morning is a case in point. These ten men walked the earth. They breathed and ate. They had hopes and fears and aspirations and feelings just like you and me.

Leprosy was the most dreaded of all ancient diseases. It ate away at the body and left its victim maimed and disfigured. There was no known cure. Their situation was made worse because leprosy was believed to be highly contagious. Actually, we know today that it is not.

Jesus healed the ten lepers and only one came back to thank him.

Charles L. Brown suggests the following nine reasons why the nine did not return:

- One waited to see if the cure was real.
- One waited to see if it would last.
- One said he would see Jesus later.
- One decided that he had never had leprosy.
- One said he would have gotten well anyway.
- One gave the glory to the priests.
- One said, "O, well, Jesus didn't really do anything."
- One said, "Any rabbi could have done it."
- One said, "I was already much improved."

Which, I think, brings us to the point of the story, which is simply this, even in the midst of our problems, there is always something to be thankful for and thanksgiving needs to be expressed.

In gratitude,

Dr. Bob Spratt

## With Our People

### With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Sue Kretovic and family, at the passing of her daughter Theresa.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Roger Wang and family, at the passing of Vivian Wang.



### BETHANY ELEVATOR REPAIR

Over the summer months an underground cylinder leak was discovered in the church's elevator. Rick Clement, Property Chairperson brought the issue and explanation of the repair needed to Session. There was unanimous approval to maintain a working elevator at Bethany. The Property Committee was asked by Session to obtain three quotes to repair the hydraulic jack assembly. Quotes were provided by Kone, our current elevator maintenance company, \$84,990; Schindler, \$75,484; and Otis, \$64,172. On September 28th Session approved Otis Elevator as the contractor for the elevator repair at a cost of \$64,172. Additionally, it was agreed that Otis be hired to perform future routine maintenance of the elevator. The timeline calls for 12 weeks to receive the necessary parts and 2 weeks for labor. While the elevator is out of order handicap access to the church/sanctuary can be made via the ramp at the southeast corner of the church. If you have questions or would like additional information, speak to a member of the Property Committee or Session.

## Fiscal Focus

2024	September	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$267,075.17	\$508,302.17	102.98%
Expense	\$51,209.44	\$376,588.78	76.30%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$215,865.73	\$131,713.39	



**Jennifer's Closet** We're getting ready for the colder weather and, based on feedback from our shoppers and our current inventory, we are looking for the following items to be donated:

- \*Men's, baby toddler, kids', and teen clothing
- \*casual adult clothing
- \*bras
- \*costume jewelry
- \*casual shoes and boots (no heels, please)
- \*small household items
- \*new or like new sheets, blankets, and towels
- \*please, no pillows or thick comforters unless they are new
- \*bags with carry handles

There are approximately a dozen people who volunteer and keep Jennifer's Closet in "business." 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.

### HAT AND GLOVES COLLECTION

During November, please clip warm hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves to the Community & Global Mission Tree in the narthex. We will deliver them to Jennifer's Closet and the Veteran's Outreach Center. There are many people who need help staying warm this winter.



Thank you in advance for your generosity.



## 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

In Memory of Cindi Sywulski (Cubby)  
written November 2015

**THANK YOU:** A huge thank you to Skip Sywulski who graciously donated yarn to be shared with Bethany Women in the Congregation who tirelessly crochet/knit squares to make an afghan or lap robe. When completed, they are distributed to local charities to warm the heart & body of someone who is ill.

**THANK YOU:** My sincere thanks to the Director of Music Ministry Search Committee: Geoff Malak, Allison Bungo, Ellen Correll, Martha Alleman, Karen Dobbins, Jim Walker and Bev Walker. Working together, we reviewed eight resumes, auditioned and interviewed four of the candidates. With the help of the choir who participated in each audition, we successfully have filled the position. The choir and the committee alike are excited to welcome Benjamin Kjell as our new leader. Karen McIver, Search Committee Chairperson.

Bethany Congregation, Thank you to everyone who donated to Camp Good Days & Special Times in memory of Theresa Kretovic.  
~ Sue Kretovic

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### 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.

## **BETHANY WOMEN**



*We have this hope,  
as an anchor for the soul,  
firm and secure...  
Hebrews 6:19*

*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.*

### **Tuesday, October 8, 2024, Meeting:**

Tommy Driscoll, PT, DPT, MVPT- Greece Clinic Director presented on the topic of Pain, Safety, and Balance. He shared information about MVPT Physical Therapy in Greece. His team focuses on providing personalized physical therapy services to help each patient achieve their health, rehab, and range of motion goals. Their physical therapists are dedicated to serving the Rochester, NY area, they work together to help patients reach your optimal health.



### **Budget:**

As of September 30th, the budget stands at YTD income of \$4,450 received and YTD expenses incurred \$2,434.35. All mission donations for 2024 have been made.

### **New Active Members:**

We are excited to welcome Heide Jorgensen-Murray, Mary Lou Reardon, and Laura Teyssier to *Bethany Presbyterian Women in the Congregation*.

### **Afghans:**

Beth Thomsen delivered two afghans and one lap robe to the Lipson Cancer Center. To all the women who knit the squares and put the squares together, we thank you for sharing your time and talent. Many people have felt the love that went into making these wonderful afghans and lap robes.

Continued on following page

### **Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting and Service Project:**

At our meeting on November 12 at 10:00 AM, the women of the church will be assembling *Cleaning Kits for Mothers in Need of Others and Foodlink*. Thank you for all your donations to these products and the financial contributions that will be used to purchase more! Many hands make for light work, so all are invited to help on the assembly line, filling the bags. Strong volunteers with spacious trunks are also encouraged to help with delivery. We will report to the congregation how many *Cleaning Kits* were assembled and delivered after the November 12 meeting.

### **Christmas Luncheon:**



All women are invited to participate in a Christmas Luncheon at Bella Pasta Restaurant on Saturday, December 7, 2024, from Noon – 3:00pm. We will gather for fellowship, Christmas cheer, and delicious food. The menu will be a Buffet which includes Baked Chicken, BBQ Pulled Pork, Salt Potatoes, Penne and Red Sauce, Salad w/Italian & Ranch Dressing, Rolls and Butter. The cost is \$25.00 per person and registration will begin after the worship service on Sunday, November 3 and continue the following Sundays, November 10, 17, and 24 at the table in the Narthex. (You may pay either by cash or checks made out to Karen Bolinger.)

### **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 share 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. We will be gathering at Bill's on Saturday, November 30th.

### **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).

# November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 9-Men's breakfast
<i>3</i> Communion 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 11:15—Adult Bible Study	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>6</i> 6:30-Worship & Music 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>7</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 11:30-Shipmates
<i>10</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 11:15—Adult Bible Study	<i>11</i> 7-Life Group	<i>12</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>13</i> 6-Christian Ed 6:30-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>14</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>15</i> 11-Budget & Finance	<i>16</i> 10-Jennifer's Closet
<i>17</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies	<i>18</i> 7-Stephen Ministers	<i>19</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Committee 11:30-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>20</i> 6-Community Supper 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>21</i> 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 11:15—Adult Bible Study 12:00-Session	<i>25</i> 7-Life Group	<i>26</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Staff meeting 1-Jennifer's Closet	<i>27</i> 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>28</i> Happy Thanksgiving!  GIVE THANKS	<i>29</i> Church Building Closed	<i>30</i> 10-Women's brunch

## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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Rochester, NY 14616

Phone: 585-663-3000

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

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**Mailed October 31, 2024**

**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

Jennifer Smith

### 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

