

Bethany  
Presbyterian  
Church

Sharing, Caring,  
Believing, Doing

# The Church Mouse



**Bethany Presbyterian Church**

**October  
2023**

Volume 26,  
Issue 10

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## BETHANY

GRATITUDE AND COMMITMENT SUNDAY

### COMMITMENT SUNDAY October 29, 2023 at 10:00 AM

On Zoom, Facebook and Boxcast  
Rev. Jim Renfrew, guest preacher  
Pledge cards will be distributed by the deacons  
Please return mail-in pledge cards by October 29  
Celebrity presenters will be at all  
designated Stewardship Moments

**Middle and High School Teens:** We're starting BYF in October 2023!! Join us for fun, fellowship, service and the opportunity to grow in your faith! Watch for texts next week for the October meeting! If you're a teen and want to be on the list text Andrew at 585 465 8517. Parents that want to receive BYF updates and news by email, please write to [aferreira.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:aferreira.bethany@gmail.com)



#### Special points of interest:

- Stephen Ministry
- Shipmates
- Session Update to the Congregation
- Church Calendar
- Presbyterian Women (insert)
- Jennifer's Closet
- Bethany Swinger's

#### **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  
November  
Newsletter is on  
October 18, 2023**

## Pastor's Page:

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Dear Friends,

Paul's letter to the Ephesians is one of the majestic passages in the New Testament. It pictures Christ now Lord of the universe, and we, the people of faith, are the inheritors of the gift that he has given to us. Paul uses the most extravagant language to describe this. In fact, it is the language that was reserved for royalty, for the Caesars, used at national festivals, and royal celebrations. Paul intentionally uses this royal language to talk about Christ, now King of kings and Lord of lords. Listen again to this language.

God, who has raised Christ from the dead and seated him on his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but in the age to come; and he has put all things under his feet and has made him Lord over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

That is not ordinary language. That is cosmic language. But the most amazing thing of all in this passage is that the inheritance that we receive from Christ is resurrection. The power of God that elevated him into the heavens will raise us into his kingdom. "In Christ," he wrote, "we have obtained this inheritance."

Paul tells the Ephesians, "You will see this inheritance with the eyes of your heart." That is such a lovely phrase, "the eyes of your heart." It is reminiscent of Pascal's, "The heart has reasons, the mind knows not of." Pascal, the great French mathematician in the 17th century, right at the start of the Enlightenment, realized that reason, which in those days people believed would be invincible, had a limited realm in which to rule. It was effective only with the senses. It can work with what the senses can give it, what can be seen. But it was helpless to probe the depth of the mystery that surrounds this life.

The mystery that surrounds us belongs to different modes of perception. That is why he said, "The heart has reasons, the mind knows not of." It is the heart that is able to see into that mystery. And it is why Paul said to the Ephesians, "I pray that God will enlighten the eyes of your heart, so you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and the power for us who believe." You will know that inheritance through faith, through the eyes of your heart.

The Christian doctrine of heaven does not diminish this life, it enriches it and makes it more significant. Perhaps the greatest evidence can be found in that age in history where the saints were the most popular. In fact, it was called the "Age of Saints," when people named their children after the saints, hoping that their children would be like them. It was the Middle Ages. Barbara Tuchman wrote about those ages probably more eloquently than anybody else. In one of her books, she talks about the building of the cathedrals in the 13th century. She said it was one of humankind's most astounding and audacious feats. In one century, 600 cathedrals, or major churches, were built in France alone. The cathedrals in England, the Cathedral at Salisbury, where the tallest spire was built in just thirty-eight years. And the spire on the church in Germany at Freiburg, constructed entirely of filigree, out of stone, as if some supernatural spider had spun that web. In Sainte Chappelle, the chapel in Paris, where there is no visible support for the fifteen windows that swallow up the walls.

She described it as a period of incredible innovation and audacity. Many reasons are given for this accomplishment. Each discipline has its own reason. The political scientists say it was because the monarchies in those days provided a stable political environment. The economists say it was because of the rise of capitalism and the accumulation of surplus wealth. The engineers say it was because of the invention of the flying buttress and the ribbed vault.

That is all true. But that does not explain why it happened. Why it happened, she said, was because of belief. Belief about God. Belief about Christ. Belief about who we are. Belief about what we are supposed to do with our lives. Belief about why we are here. And belief about what awaits us in the end.

It was belief.

And in Christ each one of us has received this inheritance. And with the eyes of our hearts we are able to see the hope to which he has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints.

Blessings,  
Dr. Bob Spratt

## With Our People

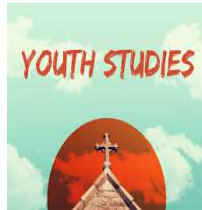
### Joy

Bethany welcomed Charlie Michael Milne on August 13, 2023. Proud parents: Nicole & Lucas Milne. Proud Great-Grandmother, Norma Rector.

### Sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Brain Tabor and family at the passing of his brother, Jeff Tabor. Jeff served as Staff Singer at Bethany for over twenty years. His Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 3 pm at Bethany, There will be visitation in the church parlor from 1 pm to 3 pm before the service.

**Attention youth:** our Sunday School will now be known as Christian Youth Studies. It will be an all ages class from 11:15 -12 downstairs. It may be located in different rooms depending on the studies for that day (either the K-5 red room or movie room most likely). Our first class will be Sept. 17 which is the week after Worship in the Park. Come join us for some music, fellowship and fun.



Every Sunday children leave for **"Roots and Wings"** activities in the library and return to their pews after the sermon.

## Fiscal Focus

2023	August	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$25,830.54	\$248,824.99	52.48%
Expense	\$34,135.06	\$291,409.62	61.46%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$8,304.52	-\$42,584.63	



**Jennifer's Closet—Now Open—located in the basement at Bethany. By appointment only: [Jennifersclosetny@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifersclosetny@gmail.com)**

Thank you letter after just 3 days!

Hi,

We came today to Jennifer's Closet. It was myself and my teen dtr. We are so grateful for your generosity! It's v special to be able to find clothing that not only fits her but is cool bc cool is so important when you're 13. We've had a lot of medical expenses in the last 2 yrs , so the clothes closet is such a blessing.

I did see the website. I'll try to keep it open on my phone so we can come again when it gets colder. I'm pretty sure most of last winter's clothes don't fit her now. I'm afraid I'll forget the name of it somehow. Is it possible to get a link to Jennifer's Closet website under your church website? Asking bc your church building is a prominent building in the neighborhood, and it's easier to remember the church than the new name although it's a great name.

Just wondered.

And ty v much again  
-neighbor

## "MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE"



There is a new and exciting opportunity for the youth and their friends at Bethany. All are welcome to join our NEW **"JOYFUL NOISE"** Singers. To begin the year we will meet from 11:45 to 12:15 as an extension of our education time which begins at 11:00 every Sunday. We will be preparing special music for Sunday services and a musical **"A NIGHT FOR DANCING"** for the Christmas season. Come help us make a Joyful Noise!!



## Stephen Ministry

My favorite month of the year is here. I just enjoy October so much! The change of colors, apple tasting, and festivals. However, it also means I have to start on the projects I said I would have done by now.....Oh-oh.

It's not that my life is overwhelmed with other happenings. I know I could have accomplished more than I did this summer season. I suppose that should bother me, but it doesn't! I just took the "lazy days of summer" literally. But, now I am ready to attack at least one major project.

Do you maybe have a special "heartache project" that you would like to explore? I think we all do at times. I know I have had moments that troubled me from the past, and memories that were not comfortable in my heart. But when I was ready to try and figure out how things got scrambled, I chose to take the time for my thoughts, and do some sorting in my mind and in my heart. God and I had quite a few conversations, so I didn't do this all by myself. I also needed to share my thoughts with a friend. I talked, they listened. They spoke and I absorbed their views and responses.

You may have some heart and spiritual unsettledness that you would like to release, help to close, or whatever will give your spirit less trouble. That, my friend, is an invitation to speak with one of the Stephen Ministers here at Bethany. We may have had some of the same sorrows or confusion in our own lives that you are experiencing now. It's time for calmness in your heart.

If you would like to visit with a Stephen Minister, please contact Dr. Bob or Wendy Watt. Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers,  
Cindi Sywulski

## Bethany Golf League

The Bethany Swingers Golf League is happy to say that we were able to complete this year's season.

I would like to thank to those of you who continue to play in the Buttonwood – Friday evening golf.

Dave Clark, Charlie Dennett, Ed Grizer, Craig Johnson, Gail Kuhner, Skip Sywulski and myself. Also in the league is Diane Lombardo and Ed Crockford.

We had a few laughs along the way. A few golf balls that are M.I.A. either due to the water or the woods.

There were a total of 102 pars, 6 birdies and 4 jingle berries for this year.

This league is open to all members of Bethany and anyone else who would like to

Join us. Non Bethany people are welcome to join.

Hope to see you next year at Buttonwood Golf Course.

Bev Murray – President

PS Don't let the name of this group stop you from joining us.



## October Donation of the Month

### Support Family Promise

In October C&GM will be collection sets of reusable plastic dishes (4-6 plates and bowls in a set), along with cooking utensils (a set consists of a spatula, spoon, and slotted spoon)

Leave these in the Narthex starting the first Sunday in October by the Soup pots

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## Session Update to the Congregation

### 2984 Dewey Avenue and 83 Clark Park

- Session terminated our association with Skeleton Key Property Maintenance who were to oversee maintenance and rent collection at the properties.
- Skeleton Key is in arrears to Bethany for rents from January 1– July 31, 2023, in the amount of \$12,000.
- Session is in the process of pursuing litigation against Skeleton Key to obtain the \$12K. Attorney John Bansbach has agreed to handle pro bono.
- Session has contracted with a new property management company, G & M Property Maintenance. They have hit the ground running and are already in contact with the tenants.
- Session also contracted with Highland Contractors to repair the falling soffit and replace both the garage and house roofs at 2984 Dewey Avenue. All the repairs have been completed.
- Session has approved the formation of the Rental Properties Task Force. The Task Force will be visiting the future of these two properties owned by Bethany.

### Father Willis Organ

- Session and the Organ Task Force made all parties involved in the organ purchase aware the death of a congregation member and her contact with an anonymous donor has prevented Bethany from procuring the funding for the Father Willis Organ. The session dismissed the Organ Project Task Force with deep appreciation for all their hard and dedicated work.

### Visitors

- In May the Personnel & Operations Committee took on the task of contacting any new visitors to the church. P&O has contacted 19 new visitors. Contact is made to welcome them, find out a little about them and what brought them to Bethany, and determine if Bethany has programs, they'd be interested in. We provide them with the visitor's packet, most recent Mouse, and a copy of the BPWC program schedule along with a treat of sweets.

### Prayer List

- The Pastoral Care Deacons are now occasionally sending notes to those listed on the prayer list.

### Project Regeneration

- Session entered this no cost program through the Presbyterian Foundation in February 2023 with Dr. Rose Niles as our moderator.
- Session has met four times over the next six months. We learned about program, what our options were in the context of the program, read The Sailboat Church, had 40 days of prayer and discernment, and went over a financial review of Bethany by the Presbyterian Foundation.
- The program provides 7 options or paths Bethany can pursue. We quickly eliminated two: Congregational Death and Re-start and Dissolution of the Church. Good news Bethany is not going away.
- We are now working with Dr. Niles to establish a Leadership Retreat for Session to look at our Mission Statement and determine any changes we'd like to propose.
- As elders moved off Session in June, they were asked to continue with Project Regeneration, and everyone agreed.

### Treasurer

- Session and Nominating continue to search for a new Treasurer. Carl DeGraff has generously given of his time for 26+ years as treasurer. If you have the skills, please give some prayerful thought to offering your talents to the church. If we do not have any volunteers, Bethany will be forced to look outside for a paid, part-time treasurer.

### Elders

- We need Elders. Currently the following committees do not have an elder sitting on Session. Budget & Finance, Congregational Life, and Property. Occasionally they send a committee member, but lack of continuity is a real issue. Please consider supporting the church in one of these positions.

Minutes from Session meetings are always available in the church library.



# Shipmates Christmas Luncheon



**Friday- Dec. 08, 2023 - 11:00 AM**  
**Red Fedele's Brook House**  
**920 Elmridge Center Drive**

**Cost: Only \$30.00 per Person**

A Buffett luncheon will be served from 12:00 to 1:15 pm, with the main entree being sliced Top Sirloin and Roast Chicken. ( Gluten free spaghetti will be available upon request. )

**All Bethany Congregants, friends & guests are Welcome !**

For RESERVATIONS contact Sue Kretovic at 663-1537 and make your check out to "Bethany Presbyterian Church, and annotate the Memo Line: "Line 37-Shipmates Dec Luncheon"

**Reservation Deadline is Dec 01, 2023**

**Mail to:**  
**Sue Kretovic, 119 Marwood Road,**  
**Rochester, NY 14616**

**CELEBRATE WITH US !**



# October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> 10-Worship, with communion Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux	<i>4</i> 6:30-Worship & Music 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>5</i> 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 9-Men's Club Breakfast
<i>8</i> 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies 11:15-Adult Bible Class	<i>9</i> 7-Life Group	<i>10</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women	<i>11</i> 6-Spiritual Growth 6-Christian Ed 6:15-C&GM 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>12</i> 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 3-Memorial for Jeff Tabor
<i>15</i> 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies 11:15-Adult Bible Class	<i>16</i> 7-Stephen Ministry	<i>17</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Comm.	<i>18</i> 11-Staff Meeting 7-Budget & Finance 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>19</i> 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i> 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies 11:15-Adult Bible Class 12-Session	<i>23</i> 7-Life Group	<i>24</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux	<i>25</i> 11-Staff Meeting 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>26</i> 12:30-Lunch & Learn 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 10-Presbyterian Women at Sawyer Park
<i>29</i> <b>Commitment Sunday</b> 10-Worship, Childcare, Roots & Wings 11:15-Youth Studies	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 9:30-Belles & Beaux				

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## 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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**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

### Bookkeeper

Tom Olney

### 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

Wendy Watt, Christian Education  
Judy Price, Community & Global Miss.  
Bev Murray, Nominating  
Jim Hetzler, Personnel  
Heather Kruspe, Spiritual Growth  
Liz Whittingham, Worship & Music  
Dr. Bob Spratt, Moderator  
Linda Lamb, Clerk of Session

### Treasurer

Carl DeGraff

