

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

COMMITMENT SUNDAY October 26, 2025 at 10:00 AM

On YouTube, Facebook and Boxcast
Rev. Phil Davis will be our guest preacher
Pledge cards will be distributed
by the deacons
Please return mail-in pledge cards
by October 26

COMMITMENT
SUNDAY

October
2025

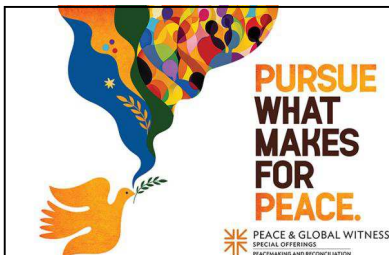
Volume 28,
Issue 10

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Peace & Global Witness Offering on October 5



In our broken world today, it is not always easy or ethical to "go along" in order to "get along." However, our Christian church is rooted in Christ's call for harmonious living. The apostle Paul tells us that we are to pursue what makes for peace, to build each other up, and to not cast judgment on those who are different- they may not look like us, dress like us, eat like us or even have the same values as we do. But all people are God's children, equal in His eyes. Paul encourages us to break down our barriers and experience the fullness of diversity- in race, religion, customs and values. We can then see our neighbors, friends, US and global citizens as "us" and not "other." The Peace and Global Witness Offering helps to pursue peace in a variety of ways. • 25 % of our Peace offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community. • 25% of our Peace Offering goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support Peacemaking work in our region. • 50% of our Peace Offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe. Let us be called the Children of God, speaking boldly with moral conviction to the nation and to the world, building with God's grace, a new moral order in the world community; and acting now for world peace, an enterprise of justice, and an outcome of love.

Special points of interest:

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

Bethany Mission Statement

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

Deadline for the
November
Newsletter is on
October 17, 2025

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

There's a bumper sticker that reads "You are a child of God. Please phone home." How many children of God do we know who have wandered away from their church home? Sociologists tell us our country is full of them, and their numbers are growing all the time.

If it's any comfort, this matter of wandering away from the Christian community is nothing new. It's as old as the Bible, as old as the Letter of James. "My brother and sisters," James writes, "if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a person from wandering will save their soul."

Perhaps the most important thing Christians need to do – in order to be truly hospitable to those who may be ready to come back to church – is to listen. Listening, as Henri Nouwen says, is at the heart of hospitality.

Nouwen writes "Listening is much more than allowing another to talk while waiting for a change to respond. Listening is paying full attention to others and welcoming them into our very beings. The beauty of listening is that those who are listened to start feeling accepted, start taking their own words more seriously and discovering their own true selves. Listening is a form of spiritual hospitality by which you invite strangers to become friends, to get to know their inner selves more fully, and even to dare to be silent with you."

So much of what churches do in the name of evangelism is centered around talking. Certain types of evangelism center around a kind of "witnessing" that has a lot of similarities to a sales pitch. A far more potent form of witness is to spend time listening rather than speaking. Only after we've truly listened, have we earned the right to reply.

We all crave someone to truly listen to us; to find such a person is a great gift. The "spiritual hospitality" – to use Nouwen's term – is far more likely than speaking to make an impact on another person. It's one of the best ways to bring the wanderer home.

See you in church,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Gil Langswager and family, at the passing of Betty Langswager.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the Dysart family, at the passing of Lloyd Dysart.



OPEN
Tuesday's - 12:30PM—3:00PM
Thursday's - 9:30AM—Noon

Fiscal Focus

2025	August	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$29,024.47	\$370,630.10	76.29%
Expense	\$33,656.03	\$301,337.07	62.03%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$4,631.56	\$69,293.03	

SAIL EXERCISE CLASS BY LIFESPAN:

20 minutes seated aerobics, 20 minutes strength training and 20 minutes balance work. Starts September 15th, Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00PM – 2:00PM in the large hall. Sign-ups available in the narthex.

FOLLOWING THE COMMUNITY SUPPER OCTOBER 15:

National Alliance on Mental Illness
 "In Our Own Voice" presentation
 A person living with a mental illness shares his own personal life story relating how this diagnosis has impacted his life.
 The goal is to lessen the stigma and increase understanding.

BETHANY ANTIRACISM POLICY WORKGROUP AND ANTIRACISM TRAINING:

Members of Bethany are invited to join a workgroup to create **Bethany's Antiracism Policy**. Our policy should state our intention, as Christian disciples, to stand against, speak against, and work against racism and racial injustice. Anyone wishing to know more or interested in joining this group should contact Jim Hetzler: jimshetzler@gmail.com / (585)317-1956).

PLEASE HELP: We're in need of chunky-style soup, baking mixes, flavored noodle mixes, salad dressings, condiments, toothpaste, soap bars, shampoo, deodorant, and feminine hygiene products in regular sizes. Dog food, too. Donations may be dropped off on Mondays from 9 to 11 AM, Tuesdays from 11 am to noon. Wednesdays from 5 to 6pm and Saturdays from 10 to 11 am. Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf, 500 Maiden Lane. Thank you for helping our neighbors!

THE PRESENT WORD

The Present Word is an adult Bible study curriculum that studies the Bible over a six-year period. Each quarter works its way through different books of the Bible and focuses on a different theme. Participants study a passage of scripture, discuss its deeper meaning, and reflect on how the passage is relevant in our world today. The Present Word meets Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM in Bethany's Library from September through May. Please join us!



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.

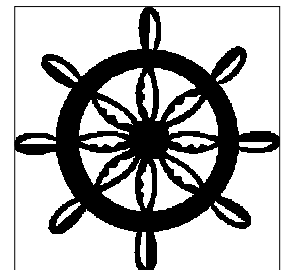
It's not that my life is overwhelmed with other happenings. I know I could have accomplished more than I did this summer season. I suppose that should bother me, but it doesn't! I just took the "lazy days of summer" literally. But, now I am ready to attack at least one major project.

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

In Memory of Cindi Sywulski (Cubby)
written October 2018



October Shipmates

Please join us Saturday, October 11th at 11AM for a very informational topic on the Amish & Mennonites. Our expert speaker is Bonnie Bullivant who has been teaching many topics for more than 40 years. She also paints, makes glass décor in the garden and is an avid of 4 acres, having 4000 perennials. She gives garden tours-free! Prior to retirement she was a family nurse practitioner and taught many health topics as well. Her interest in Amish & Mennonites stems from her interest and respect for those who believe and live differently from her. Everyone is welcome to hear Bonnie's most interesting powerpoint presentation. Fee is only \$3pp, cash or checks to: Bethany Presbyterian Church with Shipmates line 37 on memo. Or mail to Beth Thomsen, 258 Laverne Dr, 14616.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADDICTION INFORMATION

FAIR: October 18th 10AM – 12 Noon.
Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Presbyterian Women are sponsoring a collection of basic cleaning products to be donated to the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf,
October 12 through November 9, 2025



Laundry Detergent (no larger than 45 ounces)
All-Purpose Cleaner (no larger than 32 ounces)
Dish Soap (no larger than 24 ounces)
Paper towels

Please leave your donations in the red boxes in the Clark Entrance (parking lot).

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, Women's Tea, and fellowship opportunities.

Meeting/Program September 9, 2025:

On Tuesday, September 9th at 10:00 am we kicked off our year with a speaker from Cornell Cooperative Extension. Jurij Kushner is a Master Gardener and will share tips on gardening. We welcomed two new women. Also, we approved our proposed budget which was presented by the Coordinating Team.

Meeting/Program October 14, 2025:

At our meeting in October, we are going to play BINGO after the business portion of the meeting. Kim Bolinger will be calling out the numbers as well as adding a new twist to the game! Pizza will be served for lunch following this exciting activity.

Budget:

The budget for the 2025 - 2026 program year was passed by unanimous vote. During the month of September, we received one pledge in the amount of \$50. Expenses incurred were \$50 honorarium for the September speaker, donation of \$175 to Jennifer's Closet for diapers, and a donation was made to Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf in the amount of \$150 for Thanksgiving baskets.

Upcoming Activities: Save the Date!

Service Project- Cleaning Supplies Collection in October
Christmas Luncheon- December 6, 2025
Blanket Sunday, February 1, 2026
Women's Tea- May 2, 2026

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, October 25, at 10:00 am.

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.

Community Supper

Please join us for a meal!

This dinner is provided by the Catering and Hospitality Department
of Episcopal SeniorLife Communities.

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Wednesday, October 15th at 6pm

Dinner Menu:

Pierogies w/ Kielbasa and Asparagus

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\$10.00 dinner fee is payable in cash at the event.

To register, stop by the church office or call 585.663.3000.

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**Bethany Presbyterian Church
3000 Dewey Avenue
Rochester, NY 14616**



585.546.8400 • EpiscopalSeniorLife.org

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 6-Worship & Music	<i>2</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 9-Men's breakfast
<i>5</i> 10-Worship, Childcare 9-Present Word 10:15-Youth Studies 11:30-BYF 12-Session	<i>6</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 11-The Chosen 1-S.A.I.L. class 7-Generosity	<i>7</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>8</i> 1-S.A.I.L. class 6-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>9</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 11-Shipmates
<i>12</i> 10-Worship, Childcare 9-Present Word 10:15-Youth Studies 11:30-BYF	<i>13</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 11-The Chosen 1-S.A.I.L. class 7-Life Group	<i>14</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>15</i> 1-S.A.I.L. class 6-Community Supper 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>16</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>17</i> 11-Budget & Finance	<i>18</i> 10-Jennifer's Closet 10-Drug and Alcohol Addiction Information Fair
<i>19</i> 10-Worship, Childcare 9-Present Word 10:15-Youth Studies 11-Christian Education 12-Session	<i>20</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 11-The Chosen 1-S.A.I.L. class 7-Stephen Ministers	<i>21</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Comm. 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>22</i> 1-S.A.I.L. class 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>23</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 10-Women's brunch (Bill's Long Pond Diner) BYF-Power's Farm
<i>26</i> Stewardship Sunday 10-Worship, Childcare 9-Present Word 10:15-Youth Studies 11-Christian Education	<i>27</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 11-The Chosen 1-S.A.I.L. class 7-Life Group	<i>28</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>29</i> 1-S.A.I.L. class 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>30</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>31</i>	

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 October 1, 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

Custodian

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

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

