

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Commitment SUNDAY



Sunday, October 25, 2026
10am

Our guest preacher will be
Rev. Luke Choi

We will have a catered brunch
at the church immediately following
the October 25th worship service.

Everyone is cordially invited.
We look forward to seeing you!



**October
2026**

Volume 29, Issue 10

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Pastor's Page

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**Special points of
interest:**

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

**Deadline for the
November
Newsletter is on
October 19, 2026**

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 Susan Brown and family at the passing of Roy Lomicka.



Thanks to our Member Donors to Property Committee Line 29 !

Donations from members had the Line 29 Fund at about \$4000.00 this summer for special projects. Carrie Buri talked to Rick Clement about updating the Parlor, and consulted throughout the project. Rick Clement consulted with about six of the Deacons, who gave their blessing to the plan. A new couch and 2 chairs were purchased. 3 new side tables were purchased, as well as a new clock and lampshade. The tablecloths were updated. The old nonfunctioning oven was removed and a new storage cupboard added to the kitchen. The card tables were updated, and the crowning item, a bistro table and four swivel chairs were added. The parlor was transformed the week of August 23 -30 by Rick and Pat Pierre our sexton. Several things were cleaned and dusted and we hope you are pleased with the results. Screens were removed from 3 of the stained glass window panels. The new arrangement particularly highlights the stained glass window.

Fiscal Focus

2026	August	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$22,051.10	\$224,200.11	65.50%
Expense	\$29,158.01	\$392,970.17	70.62%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$7,106.91	-\$168,770.06	



OPEN

Tuesday's - 12:30PM—3:00PM

Thursday's - 9:30AM—Noon

Saturday - 3rd of the month

Tales from Jennifer's Closet

1. Homeless: A homeless youth, maybe 19, came to us one day in winter and said he needed warm winter clothes to protect him from the freezing weather. He found snowpants, a jacket, boots, gloves and a hat and was very grateful. He asked if we had a can opener he could borrow, so we went to the kitchen and brought him a can opener, as well as several waters. He opened a can of peaches and guzzled them down. Then he left with his waters and warm gear.

2. The picture off our walls: A lady was shopping and found a picture on the wall she loved, part of our decoration. She asked if she could have it. Since I was the one who had brought it in, I took it off the wall and gave it to her.

3. Volunteers: We have 2 men who volunteer in the Closet and 16 women, all from the Congregation.

4. Someone special:

"J." is a very friendly, talkative Muslim woman, 29. She first came when she was pregnant with her sixth child, a girl, after having 5 boys. She came in regularly after that. Then a year later she came in and told us she was pregnant with twins. She promised to come with a treat and do a gender reveal after she found out what she was having. She showed up a month or two later with donuts and coffee for us, and told us she was having two boys.

She came in months later in tears with the news she lost one of the twins at birth. She shares her life with us and is a special customer.

COMMUNITY SUPPER: Please join us on 10/21/26 at 6:00PM in Bethany's Large Hall for October's Community Supper serving Chicken & Biscuits, \$10 cash at the door - followed by a presentation from Dr. Val Fowler about his time with the Inuits in Northern Alaska. Sign-up in the narthex or call the church office 663-3000.



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Minister Article October 2026

One of the nicest things about our part of the world is the change in seasons. It sets our “inner clock” to match the weather coming up and the holidays ahead of us. For some, it means packing up to head south or out west to avoid those cold temperatures. For others, it means changing closets, getting the boots out and checking the snow blower to make sure it starts ok. Seasons don’t just change with the weather. Sometimes “inner seasons” change due to situations in our life. Some are planned like a new child, and our lives become enchanted with the new member of our life. Some are not planned. Loss of a family member or close friend is a seasonal change in our heart. Doesn’t really matter if our loved one had been ill or not – the change still affects our current daily life and mixes with our life’s memories at the same time. This is when we turn once again to our Lord with prayer and questions. We find it hard to understand the reasoning for what happened, but try to be a faithful Christian and accept.

Bethany’s Stephen Ministers do not have all the answers for you, but we honor the opportunity to work with you as you struggle through this or any other seasonal change in your life. An unexpected move, a change in employment, or concerns about something from the past that never got settled in your heart. We are here to listen to you, pray with you, and guide you through whatever you need to lift the sadness in your spirit.

If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister, please contact Dr. Bob or Wendy Watt. That’s the first step. We’ll take it from there.....

Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers,
In Memory of Cindi Sywulski
(Cubby) written October 2019



**WORLD COMMUNION
OFFERING**

“What does the Lord require of you ... to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God ...”
Micah 6:8

World Communion Offering will be October 4th. This year marks the first time congregations across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are invited to receive the World Communion Offering broadening what was once Peace and Global Witness Offering. Through this new Offering, we join with other congregations in supporting the wider Church in the work for racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. In addition, a portion of the offering will go to Veterans Outreach as a local component of the offering.

In General, this offering makes sure there is a place for everyone at Christ’s communion table, at the tables in our homes, among our friends and families, and here in our life together as a church. Loving kindness is the work of making sure every person is seen, every person knows they are loved by God, and every person has what they need to flourish — because that is what God desires for all of us.

In a world that often feels divided, this Offering helps us remember that we belong to one another, even to people we may never meet.

We join siblings in Christ across the globe in God’s mission of welcome, justice and hope. We step beyond the boundaries of our neighborhood and into the life of the worldwide Church, learning to see God’s image more clearly in one another. We invite you to take part fully in this season and in this Offering, as together we celebrate what it means to belong to a global, connected Church shaped by God’s endless love. Please give generously.

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. To receive support from a Stephen Minister contact Kim Bolinger at (585) 227-2540 or Wendy Watt (585) 415-2351.



The Bethany Women Connection

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.



†**Devotion or Thought for the Month**— 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, Christmas Luncheon, Women's Tea, and fellowship opportunities.

🍷 **Upcoming Events**—**Nora Venezki, Development Director at Homesteads for Hope will present at our meeting on Tuesday, October 13th at 10:00 am in the Large Hall.** Homesteads for Hope is a 501c3 non-profit Community Farm and Future Housing Village nestled on 55 acres along the wide waters of Historic Erie Canal in Rochester, NY. Founded by a mother and daughter team with a mission to support other families; our organization has truly evolved into a nurturing community **where people of all abilities thrive**, finding purpose and belonging in nature's classroom. At Homesteads, we are committed to redefining the boundaries of inclusion, promoting a society where differences are celebrated and where each person is recognized for the valuable role they play at our Community Farm.

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 31, 2026.

2025-2026 Year: Please take a minute to see exciting programs and activities for women in the Parlor Display Case for the 2026-2027 year.

💖 Service & Mission

Bethany Presbyterian Women Mission Project

October 11, 2026- November 1, 2026

Bethany Women are sponsoring a collection of basic cleaning products.

These products will be donated to the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf.

Laundry Detergent (no larger than 45 ounces liquid or gel packs)

All-Purpose Cleaner (i.e., Fabuloso or Spic & Span), Dish Detergent (no larger than 24 ounces), Dishwasher Tabs, SMALL name brand bottles & packages from the Dollar Stores are great. (Small bottles are easiest for the clients, packers, and drivers to manage.) *Please leave your cleaning supplies in the red boxes in the Clark Entrance or donation at the table in the Narthex.

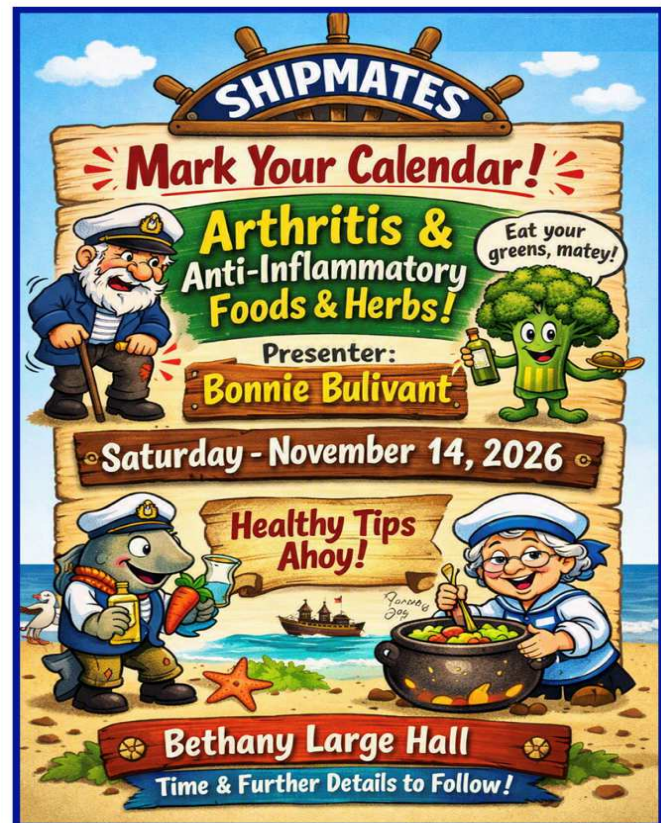


Afghans: Many, many afghans have been delivered to St. John's Place, Lipson Cancer Center, Grande Ville Senior Living Community, and Edna Tina Wilson Living Center. We are so grateful to Beth Thomsen for delivering the afghans, and Sharon Nichols, Joan Vogt, Cheri Livoti, Kim Covert, and Shirley Georgi for knitting the squares and putting the afghans together. These women's faithful service keeps our community feeling warm and loved.

📺 **Moments We Shared** At our September 8th meeting we gathered to hear Polly McCubbin present on the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf & Clothing Closet. We also adopted our budget for 2026-2027.

💞 **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 woman feel beautiful, and that is her love for others.

💰 **Treasurer's Corner** As of September 1, we have received \$3465 in pledges. All mission donations totaling \$2150 were mailed to recipients in July. Thank you for all the giving hearts at Bethany. Currently we are at or below expenditure.



Thanksgiving Day Offering – November 22nd (the Sunday before Thanksgiving)

This year's collection will go towards the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Need is always around us, although we may not know, and don't always need to know the circumstances! This Fund allows the Pastor to act on our behalf to assist those in need- quickly and privately. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, please consider contributing to this important cause.



Isaiah 58:10 "If you offer food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness, and your gloom be like the noonday."
Matthew 6:1-4 "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know that your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."



Handbell CONCERT

In Celebration of the Remarkable Career and Continuing Lifelong Dedication of
Jacqueline Anderson

Jackie directed the handbells at Bethany before Jean, our current director. She also directed at other area churches over the years and was active in the Handbell Musicians of America local area activities.

Four handbell choirs, including the RocCity Ringers, and all of which Jackie directed at one time or another, will participate in this tribute concert.

The Bethany Celebration Ringers will be there!
Please come celebrate with us!

November 1, 2026
at 3:00 PM

Webster Presbyterian Church

A cookie reception will follow.

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 9-Men's Breakfast @ Sawyer Park
<i>4</i> World Communion Sunday 9-Present Word 10-Worship 10:15-Youth Studies	<i>5</i> 1-SAIL class 7-Generosity Comm. 7-Stephen Ministry	<i>6</i> 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>7</i> 10-Staff meeting 1-SAIL class 5:15-Worship & Music 6-Bethany Choir	<i>8</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 2-Shipmate's
<i>11</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship 10:15-Youth Studies	<i>12</i> 2-Life Group	<i>13</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>14</i> 10-Staff meeting 6-Bethany Choir 6-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>15</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 6-C&GM	<i>16</i> 11-Budget & Finance	<i>17</i> 10-Jennifer's Closet
<i>18</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship 10:15-Youth Studies	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 9-Personnel Comm. 9:45-Belles & Beaux 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>21</i> 10-Staff meeting 6-Bethany Choir 6-Community Supper 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>22</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> Commitment Sunday 9-Present Word 10-Worship 10:15-Youth Studies 11-Celebration Brunch	<i>26</i> 2-Life Group	<i>27</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>28</i> 10-Staff meeting 6-Bethany Choir 6-Jennifer's Closet mtg 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 10-Women's brunch @ Bill's Diner

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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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

Graham Sterling - Music Director
Jean Coniber - Bell Choir Director

Bookkeeper

Tom Olney

Treasurer

Patric Donaghue

Administrative Assistant & Mouse Editor

Eileen Sengillo

Custodian

Patrick Pierre
Cornelius Yawn

Youth & Children's Ministry Leader

Andrew Ferreira

The Session

Kim Bolinger, Budget & Finance
Allison Murray, Christian Education
Cindy Hetzler, Community & Global Miss.
Michael DePew, Generosity
Mike Haskins, Nominating
Gary Gullo, Personnel
Rick Clement, Property
Heather Kruspe, Spiritual Growth
Karen McIver, Worship & Music
Dr. Bob Spratt, Moderator
Michael DePew, Clerk of Session

