

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

**September
2021**

Volume 24,
Issue 9

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WORSHIP IN THE PARK is almost here! Sunday, September 12 at 11:00AM we will come together for food, fellowship and our worship service at Greece Canal Park in the Millennium Lodge. This year we will be asking that you bring your own picnic lunch and beverages. Spiritual Growth will provide individually wrapped frozen treats for dessert. There will be relay races and a mission project thanks to Community and Global Mission, along with Sunday school sign up, and a Town Hall meeting following the service. This service will not be available live through Zoom or Facebook but will be recorded in order to be viewed later. We hope to see you at this special annual event.

Roots & Wings

We are starting back up on Sunday, September 19th...

We will be following up to date Covid precautions.

Hope to see you then!!

Do you know what the children do when they leave the service during the sermon most Sundays? And why?

There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is deep spiritual roots, the other, wings to symbolically fly with God.

Our **Roots and Wings** program is not an alternative to Church School classes, but an additional multiage, hands-on, enrichment experience set up for all children, with the older youth encouraged to periodically help.

Parents are encouraged to ask and talk about the projects the children bring home. Occasionally projects are made for Roots & Wings participants to share with others, both within their Bethany families and beyond. Questions...talk to Pat Hemmenway

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
STARTS SEPTEMBER 26TH.....
WATCH FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**



Sunday **SCHOOL**
ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD
Growing in Faith Together

Bethany Mission Statement

We are a welcoming Christian family who worships God and nurtures spiritual growth through friendship, learning, music and serving others.

Special points of interest:

- Stephen Ministry
- Shipmates
- Crop Walk
- C&GM Update
- Activity Brochure
- Life Groups
- Presbyterian Women
- Contemporary Worship

**Deadline for the
October
Newsletter is on
September 7, 2021**

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

There is something a little bit depressing about Labor Day weekend. For Labor Day weekend signals the psychological end, at least, to summer with its periods of refreshment, and the start again, for many of us, of the more hectic rhythm of life and work at school, in college, at office or, in home.

According to Greek mythology, Sisyphus was once a cruel King of Corinth. And when he died, he was eternally condemned to push a giant boulder to the top of a steep hill. The closer he got to the top, the steeper the hill became, and the harder it was to push the boulder. Every time he had almost gotten the boulder to the top of the hill, he would lose control of it. It would roll over him and down to the bottom of the hill, where he would have to start all over again.

On this Labor Day weekend I hope that none of you are feeling like Sisyphus. I hope that you don't wake up every morning feeling like you have to push a giant boulder up a hill. Some people do.

This Labor Day weekend we need to remind ourselves that Jesus is still working. He will never take a vacation as long as there are people who need him. He is looking for people who are hurting, people who are lonely, people who feel overwhelmed by work of every kind. And he is telling them, "Come to me. I can help you. I can help you today."

With you in Christ,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the Blum family at the passing of Sue Blum.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the Rudd and Vanderburgh families, at the passing of Michael Vanderburgh.

Joys

We welcome Eliza Jane Oonk who was baptized on August 15, 2021. Parents of Eliza: Heather & Dan Oonk. Godparents: Debra & Rick Seltzer. Proud grandmother Louise and Aunt Carolyn.

We welcome Bridgette Ann Burns who was baptized on August 22, 2021. parents of Bridgette: Amber & Don Burns. Godparents: Brandy & Jeffrey McNulty. Proud grandmother Linda Taylor and Aunt Tracey and family.



Fiscal Focus

2021	July	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$21,593.84	\$203,928.40	50.94%
Expense	\$29,000.88	\$206,029.90	51.47%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$7407.04	-\$2104.50	

2021-22 ACTIVITY BROCHURE: With Eileen Sengillo's assistance, the Spiritual Growth Committee is gathering information for the 2021-22 Activity Brochure. We will base the brochure on last year's rendition but expect a number of changes as things are beginning to look more "normal" again and last year's brochure was modified for COVID. If you have any updates (date/time/meeting place/new material being studied/discussed) or additional activities to be included, please email Eileen at sengillo.bethany@gmail.com. Also, if your activity is no longer happening, please let Eileen know to delete it so it doesn't get included. If you have any questions, you can also call Carrie Buri at (716)390-8941. Thank you!

Contemporary Worship



The Contemporary Worship services are held the last Sunday of every month, at 11:30. These services are more informal than our traditional services, but just as meaningful. The sermons are delivered in a more relaxed style. We are looking for feedback and suggestions about what a contemporary worship service looks like to you. Please reach out to: Cindy Hetzler, Ron Fisher, Karen Bollinger, Karen McIver, Wendy Watt, Tracey Taylor, Dr. Bob or Jacob Montgomery, with your ideas.





Stephen Ministry

September is a seasonal month. It starts the beginning of fall and all that is related to that such as school supplies, new outfits, classes for all ages, new studies available and the minor frenzy that goes along with that. It can be exciting!

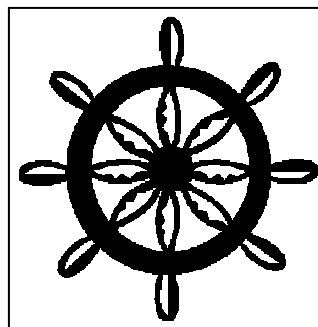
We are once again facing a different Covid situation while others are still making decisions on the original one that has affected everyone in some way. A challenge has been presented to us all. Situations have loosened up as far as spending more time together with family gatherings, weddings, celebrations and festivals, but leering in the background is news of another virus to be dealt with. Another confrontation with this virus will be met with educated facts and strong opposition from us. We are strong and smart.

Stress may make you feel that everything has to be corrected right now. Faith reassures us that everything will happen in God's timing.

The Stephen Ministers are still visiting with their care receivers. It may be a different form of communication such as a phone call, cards, text, or possibly a distance get together in a park. We are not going anywhere. We can see the storms in your eyes, the silence in your voice, and the heaviness in your heart. We are the ones who are here for you when you just need to vent, and/or find yourself tearing up. You may have some decisions that you have already made and just need a sounding board. Our calling is to serve our Lord by listening, helping, and praying with you.

If you would like to visit with a Stephen Minister, please contact Dr. Bob or Wendy Watt. We are here with a waiting heart, ears, and concern.

Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers,
Cindi Sywulski



SHIPMATES: We welcome the congregation to join us on Saturday, September 18 at 1 pm in the Large Hall. Save the date, please note the change of date from our regular Saturday meeting. Make your reservations with Beth Thomsen e-mail hawaii-innana@gmail.com or 865-7181. Check in with Martha and George Hubbard with your \$2.00 and get set for an interesting program about the architecture of James H. Johnson by Katie Eggers Comeau and Christopher M. Brandt. They spent 18 months exploring Johnson's drawings and slides, interviewing his colleagues and family members, and visiting his buildings. Some of his designs include the Liberty Pole, the "Mushroom House", Temple Sinai, and St. John the Evangelist Church in the town of Greece. Please join us after a short meeting for coffee and dessert.

SHIPMATES

Save the date: October 10, Shipmates will attend the New York Museum of Transportation and take the museum's Fall Foliage Trolley Ride. Note that this is a **Sunday** -- the museum and Trolley Rides are open only on Sundays. Guests are welcome. Reservations required. More info next month!

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 will resume meeting in person every Sunday at 9:00 am beginning September 19th. 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.

Peace and Global Mission Collection October 3, 2021

On October 3, Bethany will be collecting the annual Peace and Global Mission offering. General Assembly will receive 50% of the donation, Genesee Valley Presbytery will receive 25%, and the Bethany Community and Global Mission Committee has designated the final 25% to be donated to Willow Domestic Violence Center.

We will welcome someone from the Center to speak to us about the programs Willow provides to those in need within our community. Willow Domestic Violence Center was formally known as Alternatives for Battered Women.

Its mission is "to prevent domestic violence and ensure every survivor has access to the services and supports needed along the journey to a safe and empowered life."

Its vision is "a community free from domestic violence, where healthy relationships thrive."
The Bethany CGM believes this is an organization worthy of our support.

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

We want all to feel welcome to join us throughout this summer, 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, September 24 @ 3:00 pm - Large Hall

Please phone Bev Bennett 585-225-0206

A peace that preeminents all understanding by Jesus way.

-Philippines 4:7 ~ Our Bible

September Birthday

9/16

Ginny Nichols

72 Bayberry Lane

Rochester, NY 14616-3719



Community and Global Mission Update



First, Deb Petersen had led the Community and Global Mission committee for the last 5+ years and did an outstanding job. We thank her for all her hard work and dedication!

RAIHN has been renamed as Family Promise of Greater Rochester. They continue to support families just using a different model. Currently they do not need volunteers, due to COVID, but continue to need our financial support

We wanted to report out on some of our collections that occurred throughout the year:

- One Great Hour of Sharing - \$934.72
- Easter – Family Promise of Greater Rochester - \$775

If you have any ideas of organizations that need our support, please reach out to Cheryl Fisher, Judy Price, Pat Connor, Mary Ellen Campbell or Craig Foreman



This year's Greece CROP Hunger Walk will begin at Aldersgate Church. Walkers will confirm their registration and start walking anytime between 1:30 and 2:30 pm. Choose either the 0.5 or 2.5-mile route.

25% of funds raised will be donated to the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf and 75% will go to CWS for fighting hunger worldwide. Join Bethany's team or sponsor our team online here:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/bethany-presbyterian-church>

To make a cash donation, contact Deb Petersen or one of our walkers directly.

Using Bethany's Large Hall and Kitchen

Now that we are back fully functioning again, a reminder about using the Large Hall and kitchen...

PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS THAT ARE IN THE A FRAME BOX IN THE KITCHEN!

Do not adjust any controls. If there are concerns/problems please contact the office, Jim, the Sexton, or Pat Hemmenway, 225-1652.

Do not leave any unmarked foods in the refrigerator or freezer.

Please check each time about trash can maintenance, which may be different on different days.

When finished, please fill out the form to let us know how things went or if there were any problems.

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN in the CONGREGATION

All women are invited to attend our meeting on Tuesday, September 14th at 10:00 a.m.



The speaker for September will be Rebecca S. Letterman Ph.D.

Professor of Spiritual Formation at Northeastern Seminary

Dr. Letterman's presentation will focus on the following scripture:

"Rahab and Ruth: How Marginalized Women brought God's Goodness to God's People".

Sometimes "diversity" feels "threatening" or uncomfortable. This study will explore ways in which women "from the margins" offered God's salvation to God's people, who in turn offered God's salvation to them. It is a prime example of the way diversity actually enriches a faith community.

BPWC Budget Update:

In July Bethany Presbyterian Women's budget shows one expense to 7849 – Memorials. The money was used to purchase items for the Wendy Discher Memorial reception hosted by our women at church. Also in July, all our mission donations were sent out with a personal note prepared by our treasurer, Linda Lamb. We donated \$3,175. to both local and worldwide missions. Thank you to all for your kindness and generosity which allowed us help others in need.

Building Caring Relationships:

Our faithful "Callers"- Heather Kruspe, Karen McIver, Linda Lamb, Beth Thomsen, Cindy Hetzler, Cheryl Fisher and Karen Bolinger continue making phone calls every month to check in with women who have asked to have a phone call. Any woman currently inactive with BPWC and would like to have a friendly call or be added to the Communication Distribution List please contact Karen Bolinger- 585-227-2540 or kbolinger@rochester.rr.com.

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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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

Carrie Buri, Spiritual Growth

Bev Bennett, Welcoming Committee

Connie Slapar, Worship & Music

Dr. Bob Spratt, Moderator

Treasurer

Carl DeGraff

ISAIAH 61:1a, 2b-3
The Spirit of the LORD God is UPON ME,
because the LORD has anointed Me
to COMFORT all who mourn, Zion
to console those who mourn in Zion
to give THEM beauty for ashes,
the OIL OF JOY for mourning,
THE garment of praise
for the SPIRIT of heaviness, that
THEY MAY BE CALLED
trees of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that HE
may BE glorified.
alittleperspective.com