

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

**September
2023**

Volume 26,
Issue 9

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*Worship
in the Park*

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

September 10, 2023

11AM

Millennium Lodge
Greece Canal Park
241 Elmgrove Road

Please sign-up and bring a main dish, salad or dessert. Spiritual Growth will provide: hots and hamburgs, buns, condiments, drinks, place settings. Worship 11AM, Lunch 12PM, Games and fun 12:45 – 1:30PM (kids)

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.

YOUTH STUDIES



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

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
- Worship in the Park
- Contemporary Worship Service
- Church Calendar
- Presbyterian Women

**Deadline for the
October
Newsletter is on
September 14, 2023**

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

It seems to be getting more and more difficult to trust anybody. It gets more and more discouraging to simply answer the telephone, for fear of being bombarded with scam telephone calls. It's just as discouraging to turn on a cable news program for fear of being bombarded with fake news. And when it seems humanity can't get any lower, we're even afraid to open our email.

The financial losses from all these scams are staggering. But the loss of trust is vastly more important. It's hard to recover from a violation of trust. Losing trust in somebody may be the most difficult loss of all.

It hurts when we put our hope in the wrong people. Trust is such a fragile thing. When we trust in something or someone and they deceive us, we are left with anger, disappointment and a sense of shame. Violations of trust leave us cynical, disillusioned, and less likely to trust anyone in the future.

It's especially painful when we question whether or not we can trust God. Many people, even in church, believe in God but they don't really trust God. And because they do not trust God, they miss out on the peace, joy and hope that's their rightful inheritance. Many people can't pinpoint why they are lacking the peace, joy and hope they are seeking. They only know that something is missing in their relationship with God.

Whether we admit it or not, many of us have a faith that is largely conditional. As long as things are going well in our lives, trust is easy. But let life turn against us, and, for many of us, our faith proves to be sadly fickle.

Dr. Ronald M. Brown, a former professor at the University of Minnesota, contends that we need to recognize two categories of trust, whether we are dealing with people or dealing with God. He breaks these categories down into "**Iffers**" and "**Untillers**." **Iffers** refer to the thought that "I will trust you **if** you live up to my expectations." Some examples would include "I will trust you if you are consistent, if you are honest, if you can control your emotions, if you don't exaggerate." "**Untillers**" refers to the idea that I will trust you **until** you violate some of my expectations. The "until" list might include, "I will trust you until you lie to me, until you talk about me behind my back, until you violate one of the criteria from my "ifs" list." Every person has their own list of "ifs" or "untills" when it comes to establishing or breaking trust, but they may not be aware of their criteria until they see it in black and white.

What are your "if" and "until" criteria for trusting God? Depending on our spiritual maturity, there are some things many of us will trust God for if God meets certain criteria. "God, I'll trust you if you will speak to me in a clear, booming voice from heaven, just like you do in the movies" might be one level. "God, I'll trust you if you get my kids off drugs," might be another. "God, I'll trust you until my bank account drops below a certain level. "God, I'll trust you until following you costs me the respect of my family or friends." "God, I'll trust you until something bad happens to a member of my family" might be a breaking point for many of us. I don't know what your "if" and "until" criteria are with God, but I would bet they revolve around the struggles and heartbreaks in your life.

We need to trust that God, who loves us so abundantly will, as Romans 8: 28 reminds us, "work all things for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Do you want a hope that never fails you and a love that never gives up on you? These things are found in trusting your life entirely to Jesus as your Lord and Savior and persevering through life's hardships by the power of the Holy Spirit. And according to the vision and the promise found in this verse, one day the glory of God that we once hoped for will become the reality in which we live eternally.

Blessings,
Dr. Bob

With Our People

Joy

Judy & David Ballerstein celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 23, 2023.

BETHANY'S CASUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Did you know that we have a contemporary style worship service, at Bethany? It is the first Sunday of every month, at 11:30. We call it the Casual Worship Service. You may be wondering how it differs from our traditional service. I will do my best to clarify that here.

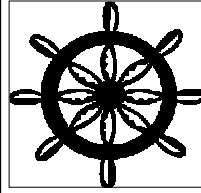
Our two services are very similar. The same prayers are said, communion is served, offering is collected, and the message in Dr. Bob's sermon is the same. As Dr. Bob presents his message, he uses slides with photos and graphics, to share the same sermon that he gives at the traditional service.

The most noticeable difference between the services is the style of music. At this service, Jacob uses an electric piano, we have a guitar player, and a small group of vocalists. This past year, they included Jeff Tabor, Kayla Stein, Craig Covert, and David Covert. In the fall, we may have different or additional musicians. Many of the songs that are sung can be heard on the radio, including on the station KLove.

Dr. Bob and Jacob put a lot of work into preparing these services. We hope to see you soon.

Fiscal Focus

2023	July	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$32,199.14	\$222,994.45	47.03%
Expense	\$39,625.58	\$257,274.56	54.26%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$7,426.44	-\$34,280.11	



SHIPMATES: Songs and Stories of an American Civil War Soldier, September 9, 2023 11:30AM. All are welcome to the Shipmates sponsored presentation by Don Dywer, raconteur and singer known in Western New York and Pennsylvania. Don will per-

form numerous songs and share information with us about the meaning behind the songs and the composers. Fee for this delightful and informative program and lunch will be \$10. Please register by signing up on Sunday mornings, or by sending your payment to the church. Please make checks out to Bethany Presbyterian Church with "Shipmates September 2023" in the Memo line. If mailing your reservation to Bethany Presbyterian Church, 3000 Dewey Ave Rochester 14616, please note "Shipmates" on the envelope. Thank you.

SHIPMATES: Saturday, October 14th at 11:30 AM in the Large Hall. Introducing Bill Sanders – "Reading, Writing, Reasoning" – who cares?"

Besides being an extremely modest and humble man, he happens to be Beth Thomsen's favorite teacher. (Beth was in his classes "writing memoirs" for 10 years. Bill graduated from Bloomburg State College and the U of R. After teaching for 32 years at East High School, he retired and then spent 9 years at U of R in the Upward house Program. Bill also taught at OASiS a senior learning community since 2002. His interests include reading, writing, history and being amused at the human race. Lunch will be provided for \$8 each. Reservations to Heather Kruspe: 366-7191.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS: SIX WEEK ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES.

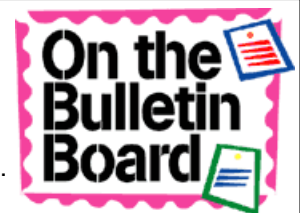
Starting on Sundays,
September 17, 2023 at
11:15AM in the library .

We will be using a book titled "*How to Make Choices You Won't Regret*" by Kay Arthur. Please contact Bob or the church office (663-3000) if you are going to attend so he can order you a book.



BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PRESENTS:

In the Display Case in the Parlor is information pertaining to this coming year's programs, activities, events, and service project. We invite you to take a look at how women of Bethany continue to pray together, learn together, and support each other.





Stephen Ministry

It has been a busy summer. We all really don't want to think about fall starting, but it is inevitable. On the other hand, fall is a beautiful time of year, so instead of thinking about what we are losing, think about the colors we are going to see, the crisp air and all of the other benefits that we have living in a part of the country with four seasons. (Sometimes one of those seasons extends beyond it's welcome, but I'm not mentioning which one....)

Schedules are about to change. Back to school, back to regular work hours, or moving to a new school with responsibilities that we are not used to. Can be scary, but this is what we have worked for. Maybe it is retirement. This is also what we have worked for. Opposite ends of the spectrum, but both with a transition period.

Sometimes changes in our life can seem more overwhelming than what we would like to deal with, but we just push our thoughts aside. After all, these things have been happening for generations and everyone else dealt with it. Did everyone deal with more than one of these transition periods at the same time? Maybe, but maybe not. It creates every emotion you can think of. Loss, change, hurt, fright, letting go and unsureness can wreak havoc with our spirit.

Maybe past generations dealt with all of this, but they did not have a Stephen Minister to talk with. That's the one up that you have. Transition is difficult sometimes, but you do not have to let it make your heart so heavy. That's what we are here for. Someone to listen to you and let you figure out what will make your heart smile again. Take advantage of the offer. It is always there.

If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister, please contact Wendy Watt or Dr. Bob. Small step for you, big step for your heart.

Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers,
Cindi Sywulski

thank you

THANK YOU NOTE: Bethany Congregation, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you for the wonderful service on August 20th celebrating my 20th year anniversary serving as your Administrative Assistant at Bethany. I was overwhelmed with cards, gifts, and congratulatory wishes. I was filled with joy at seeing you all. Thank you so very much. May the grace of the Lord be with you all. ~ Eileen Sengillo

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.

"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!!



BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN in the CONGREGATION

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.

2023-2024 Program Schedule:



DATE	PROGRAM
9/19/2023	Speaker- Reverend Philip Benier <i>Topic: Women of the church</i>
10/10/2023	Speaker- Reverend Caroline Grohman <i>Topic: Jesus' breaking down various walls with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4)</i>
11/14/2023	<u>Home Start Hope</u> Speaker- Kristen Mathis <i>Topic: Home Start Hope</i> helps support women and children in transitions from helplessness and independent living.
12/2/2022 (Saturday)	<u>Christmas Luncheon</u> Saturday, December 2, 2023 @ 12:00- 3:00 (Large Room) Bella Pasta Restaurant- Chicken Buffet (baked chicken, pulled pork, salt potatoes, rolls/ butter and dessert) Cost: \$23.00 make checks out to Karen Bolinger or pay by cash. *Registration will begin the first Sunday in November after the church service.
1/9/2024	Speaker- Reverend Dr. Bob Spratt <i>Topic: Stop Dating the Church and Commit!</i>
2/2024	<u>Blanket Sunday</u> Donations for Church Worldwide Services
2/13/2024	<u>Fellowship and Fun after the meeting!</u>
3/12/2024	<u>Service Project:</u> Led by Polly McCubbin and Karen Dobbins Create Birthday Boxes for <i>Mothers in Need of Others</i>
4/13/2024 (Saturday)	<u>Women's Tea</u> - Sponsored by Bethany Presbyterian Women and Spiritual Growth Committee Theme- <u>Steeped in Him</u> Speaker- Reverend Stephanie Sauve <u>Tea Party Teaching- The Tea Cup Story</u> All About The Tea Cup The Tea Cup's Handle The Saucer's Purpose When The Tea Spills What's In Your Cup?
5/14/2024	<u>Genesee Valley Physical Therapy</u> Speaker- Dr. Tommy Driscoll- Clinic Director of Physical Therapy Topic: Tips for Pain, Safety, and Balance
6/11/2024 Lunch Meeting	Speaker- Reverend Dr. Rebecca Letterman <i>Topic: TBD</i>



September Meeting:

Our speaker will be Reverend Philip Benier. The topic is *Women in the Church*.

In September we will meet on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 10:00 not the second Tuesday of September. We will resume our normal meeting day on the second Tuesday of the following months: October- June except for December and April.

Sawyer Park Gathering:

We will be gathering at Sawyer Park in September and October on the last Saturday of the month and resuming in April thru June. Please bring a chair and share in fellowship.

Afghan:

Beth Thomsen delivered four afghans to the Lipson Cancer Center & four were donated to Edna Tina Wilson Living Center. More than 100 afghan squares were made by Joan Vogt. Beth Thomsen delivered them to Sharon Nichols and 48 squares were crocheted by Cheri Livoti and delivered to Joyce Adaskin. Joyce gave Beth two more completed afghans and she plans to donate them to the Grandville Senior Living Community. On behalf of Bethany Women in the Congregation, thank you so much for your continued faithful devotion to warming a person's heart & body.

Display Case:

Check out the Display Case in the Parlor for Bethany Women's up-coming activities, programs, and events.

Building Caring Relationships:

Any woman currently active or inactive with BPWC and would like to be added to the *Bethany Presbyterian Women in the Congregation Communication Distribution List* please contact Karen Bolinger- 585-227-2540 or kbolinger@rochester.rr.com.

September 2023

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

Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church
3000 Dewey Avenue
Rochester, NY 14616

Phone: 585-663-3000
www.bethanyrochester.org

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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

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
Jennifer Smith

Nursery Child Care Worker

Jennifer Watt

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

