

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

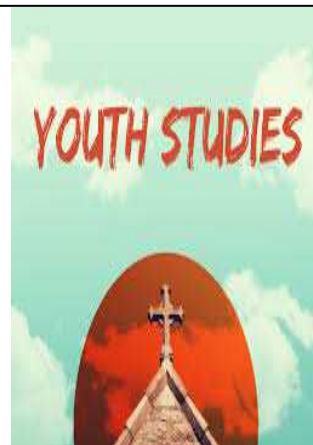
Mark your calendars for Worship in the Park on September 8, 2024! Once again, we'll kick off the school year with our Sunday worship service and a pot luck lunch at Greece Canal Park's Millennium Lodge on 241 Elmgrove Road. Because of the lodge hours, we'll be having the service at 11:00 (not 10:00). The Spiritual Growth committee will be providing the hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, condiments, drinks, and paper products; sign-up sheets for sides and desserts will be in the Narthex in August. Community and Global Mission will be collecting food for the Greece Food Pantry and Christian Education will be hosting an intergenerational Vacation Bible School following dessert. We'll see you at the park!



YOUTH STUDIES

Fall and Back to School is just around the corner! CEC wants to welcome everyone to Cap Firelight...(an intergenerational mini VBS) for just an hour after lunch at Worship in the Park September 8!

Starting September 15th we welcome children and youth to the start of Youth Studies! We are using new curriculum entitled "Be Bold!" Come and see and feel our excitement as we come together to learn about our Lord and "What Would Jesus Do?" Youth Studies will once again begin during the worship service. See you there!



Bethany Mission Statement

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

**September
2024**

Volume 27,
Issue 9

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Pastor's Page

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Special points of interest:

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

**Deadline for the
October
Newsletter is on
September 14, 2024**

Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

It is said that you never get a second chance to make a first impression. The role of congregation members in extending hospitality to visitors is extremely important.

This fall season will provide even more opportunities to welcome visitors to our church.

During the first moments of initial contact, visitors are deciding if Bethany will be a place where they are accepted. It is important then, that each person is greeted in a manner that makes them feel at home.

In the booklet, *Being a Welcoming Congregation*, the following list of suggestions is offered to those who wish to be effective in creating a friendly environment for visitors.

- Watch for visitors and take special care to greet them.

- Smile. Extend a friendly verbal greeting, looking people in the eye as you say, "I'm glad you're here."

- Introduce yourself and offer a warm, caring handshake. Make a special effort to remember their name.

- Eagerly make room for people to join you in your pew.

- Check to make sure they have appropriate worship materials, (bulletin, Bible, hymnal).

- Be sensitive to people and quickly assess if they might have any special needs – coat racks, nursery, rest room, etc.

- Pass appropriate information about the visitor to a Liturgical Deacon or Pastoral staff.

While congregation members need not be "pushy," it is important that each Bethany member go out of their way to model the presence of Christ. As each Bethany member commits to hospitality we will achieve the vision of becoming a "Welcoming Congregation." Remember to "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:1-2)

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Bob Spratt

With Our People

With sympathy

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Pat Anderson and family at the passing of Dave Anderson.



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 Small Hall from September through May. A new session will be starting September 15, 2024 and all are welcome. Please join us!

Fiscal Focus

2024	June	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$29,951.70	\$190,933.24	38.68%
Expense	\$28,909.95	\$240,280.45	48.68%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$108.46	-\$49,347.21	



JENNIFER'S CLOSET: Jennifer's Closet continues to serve the Greece community and the feedback from our shoppers is very positive and appreciative. We have noticed that our clientele is in search of casual clothing and the dressier items are not being taken home by those shopping. We're getting ready for Fall and, based on feedback from our shoppers, we are looking for the following items to be donated:

- *Baby, toddler, kids', and teen clothing
- *casual adult clothing
- *bras
- *casual shoes and boots (no heels, please)
- winter boots and winter coats
- *new or like new sheets, blankets, and towels
- *no pillows or thick comforters unless they are new
- *bags with carry handles

There are approximately a dozen people who volunteer and keep Jennifer's Closet in "business." Jennifer's Closet is open Tuesdays 1:00-3:00, Thursdays 9:30-noon, and the third Saturday of the month from 10:00-1:00. If you're interested in joining this group or have any questions, please call Cindy Hetzler (585) 317-1946.

SHIPMATES: Come join us for the Sam Patch Canal Cruise cider & doughnut party on September 14th. Cost is \$23 for Seniors & \$25 Adults 22-64. Any questions, call Irene Crawford (585-227-2696).

SHIPMATES PROGRAM, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, @2:30pm

Come join us, one and all, for a show at the Rochester Planetarium. 663 East Ave The program is THE SUN , OUR LIVING STAR. If that should change, watch for update in church bulletin. Tickets are \$10/seniors at the door. Lunch is optional - one suggestion is the Winfield Grill, 647 Winton Road N, approximately 8 blocks away. We will carpool & leave from the church parking lot. Sign up in narthex, to attend. Look for Gail Kuhner.



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Minister Articles from the Archives

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 its 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 Kim Bolinger or Pastor Bob. Small step for you, big step for your heart.

Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers,
Cindi Sywulski

In Memory of Cindi Sywulski (Cubby) written September 2015

Aggressive Deadly Behavior
(ADB—formerly known as Active
Shooter) Planning Team



In May, Officer Jonathan Payne came to Bethany and discussed tips for what to do in an incident of aggressive deadly behavior—run, hide, fight. Officer Payne offered to return to Bethany to form a more building specific plan and suggestions. If you're interested in being part of this team, please contact Carrie Buri (716)390-8941 or Kim Bolinger (585)227-2540.

MEET NEW MEMBER CAROL COLLINS: Bethany came into my life 2 years ago on Christmas eve thanks to Google and my desire to attend a candle-light Christmas eve service that my church no longer provided. Even though I was on the east side attending a Christmas eve feast, I made it to Bethany on time and am so glad that I did.

I am a working nurse, mother of three children and my sweet dog and companion, Roxie. I have five grandchildren and am a widow after 50 years of marriage.

Bethany has become special to me, and I hope to be an active member contributor to the life and mission of this wonderful church community.

THANK YOU:

To My Wonderful Bethany Family,
My heart is filled with gratitude for the outpouring of love I have felt before, during, and after my surgery. Your continuous PRAYERS, flowers, meals, and support have been greatly appreciated. I am so blessed to be part of Bethany's family.
My heartfelt thanks,
Karen Bolinger

2 Wireless Microphones

I have purchased 2 cordless microphones and a speaker for use at meetings or church events. To borrow the system, just call Lisa (363-0446 or Rick (451-6613) Clement and we'll make arrangements to get you the microphones. I'm hoping this will help us at events such as Worship in the Park and at Presbyterian Women's meetings in the Large Hall. I want to keep the microphones solely for use at church events, and am eager to see how this works for us. We shouldn't have to worry about tripping over cords from our microphone system in the Large Hall.

Hope this works.
Lisa Clement

BETHANY WOMEN



*We have this hope,
as an anchor for the soul,
firm and secure...
Hebrews 6:19*

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.

June Meeting: At our June 11th meeting, we elected the following women to serve as *Coordinating Team Officers* for the following positions: Moderator- Karen Bolinger, Vice Moderator- Karen Dobbins, Treasurer- Linda Lamb, Secretary/Historian- Lisa Clement, and Member at Large- Mary Leader.

Reverend Dr. Rebecca Letterman presented "*When God Plays 'Hide and Seek': Dynamics of Intimacy with God.*" After our speaker, Reverend Dr. Letterman's presentation, we enjoyed a buffet lunch and fellowship.

Tuesday, September 10, 2024, Meeting/Speaker:

Topic- Cameron Ministries and Speaker- Olivia Kassoum-Amadou

Empowering Our Community, Overcoming Challenges

Cameron, an urban Outreach Community Center in the Lyell-Otis neighborhood of Rochester, NY., delivers basic needs and emergency services to help individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency.



Budget:

All world and local mission donations for 2024 were mailed in July. Some organizations received dollar amounts less than budgeted. This was discussed and approved at our June meeting and will be shared again at our September meeting.

Total expenses YTD \$2,274.35 Total income YTD \$4,450.00

Mid-July we received an unexpected anonymous donation in the amount of \$800. We had two expenses in July. One for yarn for one of our afghan knitters and the other for supplies needed for the Anderson memorial.

Display Case:

Please take a minute to see programs and activities for women in the Parlor Display Case.

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 April which meet on Saturday. We have speakers who share a variety of topics (see chart below). We also coordinate service projects, Women's Tea, and fellowship opportunities.

Women's Brunch:

We will be sharing "Brunch and Fellowship" at *Bill's Long Pond Diner* on the last Saturday of the months of September through June at 10:00 am.

Women in the Bible Study:

Every day in the months of July and August we learned about women in the bible via e-mail. This was a wonderful opportunity to stay connected and focus on 62 women who had a significant role in the bible.

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.

Bethany Women Program Schedule (9/2024- 6/2025):

DATE	PROGRAM	PRESENTER
9/10/2024 (Tuesday @ 10:00 am)	Cameron Ministries	Olivia Kassoum Amadou- Executive Director
10/8/2024 (Tuesday @ 10:00 am)	Pain, Safety, and Balance	Thomas Driscoll- PT, DPT-
11/12/2024 (Tuesday @ 10:00 am)	Service Project- Cleaning Supply Kits for Mothers in Need of Others *We will be asking the congregation to help with cleaning supply donations in October.	<u>Cleaning needed:</u> All-purpose cleaner, bleach, cleaning sponges, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, paper towels. These supplies may be purchased

12/7/2024 (Saturday @ Noon-3:00)	Christmas Luncheon at Bella Pasta	Registration will begin Sunday, November 10, 2024, and end Sun-
1/2025	Pledge Letter will be mailed to Bethany Women in the Congrega-	
1/14/2025 (Tuesday @ 10:00 am)	<i>Topic-</i> "The Fourth Quarter of Your Life." by Allen Hunt and Matthew Kelly's book, "The fourth quarter of life can be an amazing time. But it will simply not happen. It requires intentionality and vigilance. Knowing what matters most will allow you to make this season of your life a rich and rewarding experience for yourself and for those you love."	Reverend Dr. Bob Spratt
2/11/2025 (Tuesday @ 10:00 am)	Prepare Valentine Cards for Rochester Presbyterian Home	
3/11/2025 (Tuesday @ 10:00 am)	Saints Place	Michelle Quinn- Chairperson
4/5/2025 (Saturday @ 11:30 am in the Large Hall)	Women's Tea- "Fill Your Cup"	Foral Arrangement Presentation by Justice Florist
5/13/2025 (Tuesday @ 10:00 am)	Bread Time Stories	Chet Fery
6/10/2025 (Tuesday @ 10:00 am)	Election of Officers	Reverend Dr. Rebecca Letterman

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10-Worship, Communion, Childcare	2 Labor Day Church building closed	3 1-Jennifer's Closet	4 11-Staff Meeting 6:30-Worship & Music	5 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 6:30-C&GM 7:15-Bethany Choir	6	7 9-Men's breakfast
8 11- Worship at the Park	9 2-Pastoral Care Deacons 7-Generosity Comm. 7-Life Group	10 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women 1-Jennifer's Closet	11 11-Staff Meeting 6-Christian Ed 6:30-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	12 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	13	14 Shipmates Sam Patch Canal Cruise
15 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies	16 7-Stephen Ministers	17 9:30-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Committee 1-Jennifer's Closet	18 11-Staff Meeting 6-Community Supper 6:30-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	19 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	20 11-Budget & Finance	21 10-Jennifer's Closet
22 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies 12-Session	23 7-Investment Committee 7-Life Group	24 9:30-Belles & Beaux 1-Jennifer's Closet	25 10-Jennifer's Closet mtg 11-Staff Meeting 7:30-Celebration Ringers	26 9:30-Jennifer's Closet 12:30-Lunch & Learn 7:15-Bethany Choir	27	28 10-Women's brunch
29 9-Present Word 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies	30					

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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www.bethanyrochester.org

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Change Service Requested

Mailed August 30, 2024

**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

Treasurer

Patric Donaghue

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

Kim Bolinger, Budget & Finance

Wendy Watt, Christian Education

Judy Price, Community & Global Miss.

Michael DePew, Generosity

Bev Murray, Nominating

Jim Hetzler, Personnel

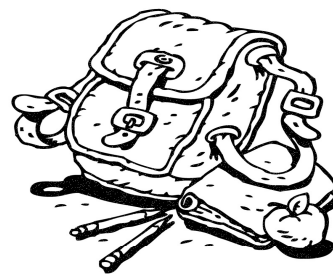
Rick Clement, Property

Heather Kruspe, Spiritual Growth

Karen McIver, Worship & Music

Dr. Bob Spratt, Moderator

Linda Lamb, Clerk of Session



Blessings
TO YOU
Today and
all year.
AMEN.