

Bethany  
Presbyterian  
Church

Sharing, Caring,  
Believing, Doing

# The Church Mouse



**Bethany Presbyterian Church**

**September  
2025**

Volume 28,  
Issue 9

**Inside this issue:**

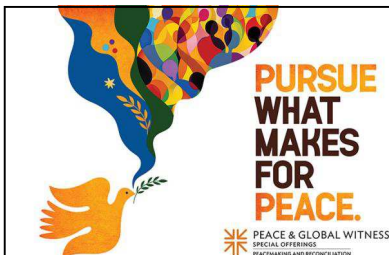
Pastor's Page

2

Mark your calendars for Worship in the Park on September 7, 2025! 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. More info to follow. We'll see you at the park! There will be a collection of diapers at the picnic for Jennifer's Closet.



## 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.

### **Bethany Mission Statement**

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

## Special points of interest:

- Stephen Ministry
- Church Calendar
- The Present Word
- Shipmates
- Jennifer's Closet
- Confirmation Group
- Camp Firelight
- Bethany Women

**Deadline for the  
October  
Newsletter is on  
September 19, 2025**

# Pastor's Page:

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Dear Friends,

Most of us have hosted a party. Perhaps it was for a child's birthday, or an anniversary. A fall festival. A wedding! But whatever the party, it's about lavishing your guests with food, music, drink, games and fun!

For most any party, especially if it's a large party, you want to make sure you have enough food, enough gifts, enough space for those you will host. So, you send out invitations! And you expect an RSVP.

And the best seats at the table or the first dibs on the food are for the ones who RSVP first and show up first.

But what happens if your best friend forgets to RSVP. He/she calls at the last minute, and you fit them in, don't you? Somehow, you find an extra place.

But then your nosy, nagging neighbor, whom you don't like very much, calls. She has heard about the party. What if she asks if she can come? Or what if she assumes, she is invited. Are you tempted to say, you don't have any room? All have already RSVP-ed, and she was definitely not invited. Your friends say, you didn't invite her, did you?! They don't like her. She doesn't run with the same crowd. She doesn't fit in with the other guests. What will you do?

That's a bit like the situation Jesus had when he visited the Syrophoenician woman that day. His disciples definitely didn't want the woman calling to Jesus to be part of their "party." She wasn't good enough. She was an outsider. They didn't like her. She was kind of from the "wrong side of the tracks."

But Jesus ends up "inviting her in." In God's abundance, there's plenty for all! Even if you show up late! Even if you don't wear a halo, or are not part of the "in" crowd. We share abundance, not scarcity. There is plenty to share. There is always more room at the table.

Jesus wants you at his table. And Jesus wants everyone at his table too! It doesn't matter if you're one of the "chosen" ones or one of the "outcast" ones.

Jesus is only interested in the state of your heart! Is your heart warming to love and to life? Is your heart warming to Jesus?

If so, come to the table. And be blessed.

Dr. Bob Spratt

## With Our People

### Welcome New Members to Bethany

Amber Webb



Claudia Randolph



**OPEN**

**Tuesday's - 12:30PM—3:00PM**

**Thursday's - 9:30AM—Noon**

## Fiscal Focus

2025	June	Year to Date	% Budget
<b>Income</b>	\$28,388.60	\$190,668.11	64.29%
<b>Expense</b>	\$26,085.84	\$225,864.49	46.49%

### SAIL EXERCISE CLASS BY LIFESPAN:

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

**COMMUNITY SUPPER:** Homesteads for Hope is a 501c3 nonprofit care farm that works with and serves adults with disabilities. They provide programming which teaches life skills, people skills, job-readiness skills, and homesteading knowledge. Homesteads for Hope offers two CSA's, community classes, volunteer opportunities, and DEI trainings, as well as other events throughout the year. They also have weekly summer concerts on Thursday nights from 5-8pm. Please join us on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6PM to learn more about this wonderful organization that

**LUNCH & LEARN:** Do you know? ...the difference between PRE-habilitation and RE-habilitation?? Join Tommy Driscoll PT from MVPT Physical Therapy to learn about the importance of BOTH!! Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM. Menu: Cream of Broccoli soup, Pastrami on rye with swiss cheese and thousand island dressing, and coleslaw. \$8.00 lunch fee is payable in cash

### UNDIE SUNDAYS FOR

**JENNIFER'S CLOSET:** Community and Global Mission will be collecting on behalf of Jennifer's closet, new underwear and bras for kids and adults. All sizes welcome. Collection is at the back of the narthex along the long tables. We will be collecting through the end of September.



### 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. A new session will be starting September 14, 2025 and all are welcome. Please join us!



## Stephen Ministry

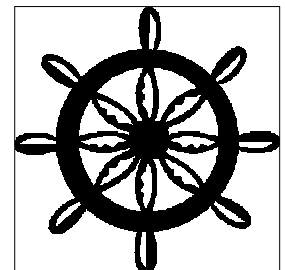
Well now! We have had quite the warm summer and I imagine we squeezed as much as we could into it. That's how we roll! Personally, I had two major reunions this summer and each one was magical. Many friends I hadn't seen in years and then a family one which is always eventful. We did some traveling for both, but it was all worth it. At one point, I thought I might have to choose one or the other and that made me very sad, but it did work out in the end and I got to enjoy both. I guess I just needed to have that little nudge and assuredness that I could do both. You will be surprised when I tell you one of the reasons I decided I could.

We were on our way to lunch one day, and on the street was a mother pushing her little girl on her bicycle and it was obvious that the training wheels had just been taken off and this was her very first launch on her two wheeler. She was a little wiggly and shaky at first, but by George, she got it and off she went with a big smile on her face and her helmet just above her eyes! Just had to grin. We have all experienced something like that in our lives. Just needed that nudge and assurance that someone was there to pick us up if we needed them.

That, my friends, is why we have Stephen Ministers here at Bethany. You may sometimes feel that what you are facing or dealing with is just too much for you to face alone and you are not sure how to deal with it. Changes are happening now with children moving onto a new school or maybe they have completed and are relocating to their first position in the work force. We have had losses and changes in our current life and just need to talk with someone while we sort things out. We are here for you. We are ready to listen to you and pray with you. Maybe it's just a sorting out time and it is easier with an extra pair of ears.

If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister, please contact Wendy Watt or Pastor Bob. Maybe just a visit or two will help you. Just a gentle reminder that the Lord is with you too.

Peace to you from the Stephen Ministers,  
In Memory of Cindi Sywulski (Cubby) written September 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. Refreshments, lunch information to follow, along with cost.

**Saturday. - September 13, 2025 - 2:00 PM**



### " Growing-up in Sweden "

All are invited to enjoy assorted desserts, including cakes from Leo's Bakery, coffee and tea along with Ben Kjell (our organist and music director). Ben will share his stories of growing up in Sweden. Program will be held in the Large Hall

Sign up and Pay \$ 5.00 per person in the narthex. Make checks payable to Bethany Presbyterian Church, write Shipmates in memo line.

### **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.

### **Women's Meeting/Program September 9, 2025:**

On Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am we will kick off our year with a speaker from Cornell Co-operative Extension. Jurij Kushner is a Master Gardener and will share tips on gardening.

### **Budget:**

In June checks were sent to the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf and Foodlink and in July, checks were sent to Local and World Missions for a total of \$1,800. We also gave \$2,500 to the Worship and Music Committee for the purpose of repairing the organ.

### **Afghans:**

Beth Thomsen delivered two afghans to St John's Place, Fairport and two to the Lipton Center, Unity. Thank you to all the Bethany crocheters & knitters who contribute to this worthwhile project.

### **Coordinating Team Meeting:**

The Coordinating Team met on Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> to develop a Proposed Budget for discussion and vote at the September 9<sup>th</sup> Women's meeting. We also finalized the 2025-2026 Program Schedule which is in the Display Case in the Parlor.

### **Display Case:**

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

### **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, September 27th, at 10:00 am.

### **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](mailto: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.



# BIG GOD...

## Big Questions

Bethany Presbyterian Church  
CONFIRMATION GROUP - Presbyterian Membership  
Teens ages 12 and Up  
FRIDAY NIGHT - Sept 12<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Ice-Breaker activity, dinner and discussion  
SATURDAY MORNING - Sept 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00 to AM to 1:00 PM  
Early snacks, discussion and lunch  
SIGN UP TODAY  
[aferreira.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:aferreira.bethany@gmail.com)  
585 465 8517

Bethany Presbyterian Church

At Worship in the Park

# Camp Firelight

A SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURE WITH GOD *Psalm 56:3*

**It's not just for kids!!**

**Drive-By Multigenerational Bible School**  
Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun themed activity for ALL AGES!!  
Young Jesus Shares Wisdom  
Luke 2:41-52|

**SEPTEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Immediately after lunch!!

# September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> <i>Labor Day</i> <i>Church building</i> <i>closed</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 6-Worship & Music	<i>4</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 9-Men's breakfast
<i>7</i> 11-Worship in the Park	<i>8</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 7-Life Group	<i>9</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 10-Presbyterian Women 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>10</i> 1-Tai Chi 6-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>11</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 2-Shipmates
<i>14</i> 10-Worship, Childcare 9-Present Word 10:15-Youth Studies 11:30-BYF 12-Session	<i>15</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 11-The Chosen 1-Tai Chi 7-Stephen Ministers	<i>16</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 12:30-Jennifer's closet 6-Spiritual Growth	<i>17</i> 1-Tai Chi 6-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>18</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>19</i> 11-Budget & Finance	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 10-Worship, Childcare 9-Present Word 10:15-Youth Studies 11-Christian Education	<i>22</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 11-The Chosen 1-Tai Chi 7-Life Group	<i>23</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 10-Personnel Comm. 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>24</i> 1-Tai Chi 6-Spiritual Growth 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>25</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 7:15-Bethany Choir	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 10-Worship, Childcare 10:15-Youth Studies	<i>29</i> 9:30-Staff meeting 11-The Chosen 1-Tai Chi	<i>30</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 12:30-Jennifer's closet				

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## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bethany Presbyterian Church

3000 Dewey Avenue

Rochester, NY 14616

Phone: 585-663-3000

[www.bethanyrochester.org](http://www.bethanyrochester.org)

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**Mailed August 29, 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



***Blessings***  
**TO YOU**  
**Today and**  
***all year.***  
**AMEN.**