

Bethany
Presbyterian
Church

Sharing, Caring,
Believing, Doing

The Church Mouse



Bethany Presbyterian Church

September
2026

Volume 29, Issue 9

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Special points of
interest:

- Stephen Ministry
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Deadline for the
October
Newsletter is on
September 18, 2026

Worship in the Park

Sunday, September 13, 2026

*Join us for a special
morning of worship, food, and fellowship!*



LOCATION:

Millennium Lodge
Greece Canal Park
241 Elmgrove Rd.



SCHEDULE:

11:00 AM Worship Service
12:00 PM Lunch



MENU: Hots and Hamburgs, Beverage

Place settings provided by Spiritual Growth Committee.



Please bring a dish to pass and plan to
stay for a wonderful time of fellowship.



Sign-up begins
Sunday, August 23, in the
Narthex.



Pastor's Page:

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to welcome Graham Sterling as our new Music Director at Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Graham enjoys a versatile career as a collaborative pianist and organist. He is a sought-after pianist, frequently working with vocalists and instrumentalists in a wide range of repertoire as well as performing in wind ensembles, orchestras, and accompanying choirs and operas. Graham has had the opportunity to work alongside prestigious musicians such as ASCAP Award Winner Greg Gilpin and Grammy Award Winner Dr. Jeffrey Allen Murdock. He has also been a collaborative pianist for the Miami Beach Classical Music Festival in Florida for Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Dvořák's *Rusalka*. Graham has also frequently been heard at the famed Nemaquin Resort, where he has been a featured pianist for a variety of special events.

As an organist, Graham has considerable experience. During his first master's degree, he was awarded a graduate assistantship to serve as organist at Suncrest United Methodist Church in Morgantown, WV, where he played for services, accompanied the choir, and assisted with a variety of musical events. He studied organ under West Virginia University Professor of Organ, Dr. William Haller (FAGO). This fall, he will be attending the prestigious Eastman School of Music for his second master's degree in Organ Performance studying under the instruction of David Higgs.

Graham is a graduate of West Virginia University from which he received a B.M in Piano Performance (2023) and an M.M in Collaborative Piano (2025) and where he studied under Grammy Nominated pianist Dr. Lucy Mauro.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the Music Director Search Committee who worked tirelessly. Sincere appreciation to Martha Alleman, Ellen Correll, Jim Hetzler, Geoff Malak, Karen McIver and Connie Slapar, and Beverly and Jim Walker.

Graham's first Sunday at Bethany will be September 6, 2026.

With you in Christ,

Dr. Bob Spratt

COME SING AND RING WITH US

As we welcome Graham Sterling as our new Director of Music Ministry, we have an exciting change coming.

Beginning September 2nd the Chancel Choir rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:25. Celebration Ringers will remain at their regular time of Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 beginning on September 16th. Conveniently you can come sing and ring on the same evening. Now's the time to "Jump Right In" and enjoy the camaraderie of Making Music to the Lord!



COMMUNITY SUPPER: Join us for Gene Benson's presentation on "Being a Professional Pilot and Error Reduction Specialist" After the Community Supper on Wednesday, September 16th 6PM in Bethany's Large Hall. Dinner Menu: Garlic Shrimp Scampi w/linguine and roasted tomatoes. \$10 dinner fee is payable in cash at the event. Sign-up in the narthex.



OPEN
Tuesday's - 12:30PM—3:00PM
Thursday's - 9:30AM—Noon
Saturday - 3rd of the month

Fiscal Focus

2026	July	Year to Date	% Budget
Income	\$19,099.31	\$202,149.01	59.06%
Expense	\$33,912.12	\$363,932.51	65.38%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-\$14,812.81	-\$161,783.50	

Fall is here and **Christian Education** and **BYF (Bethany Youth Fellowship)** have a busy calendar planned. For Christian Education we will be using the BE Bold curriculum that has worked extremely well for our youth over the past few seasons. This Fall we will address topics including faith to move mountains; service to God; and Did God make a mistake when He made me? The BE Bold curriculum asks deep questions about our Christian faith and gives our youth the opportunity to discuss issues in a safe and affirming space.

We have also sent out a call for teachers and teacher assistants to volunteer for a few occasions, a month of teaching or just once!

BYF has several exciting activities on the calendar from September through December. The youth of Bethany Presbyterian Church will be going on a fall hayride, ice skating, holding a lock-in at the church, and taking part in three service projects between now and the New Year. In addition, like last Spring, **BYF** will have at least one Wednesday night meeting each month as a time of fellowship, worship, and group building activities.

Please keep our youth in your prayers!

Peace, Andrew

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.



Stephen Ministry

Sometimes, on Sundays, the congregation gets a little smaller in the summer. The hymns are still there, the summer choir sings beautifully, and Dr. Bob's messages are still close to our hearts as we share each other's joys and concerns. We may even get to know each other a little better. But come September when our committees, groups and all the music involvement returns, we do seem more refreshed and ready for the new year with new ideas and presentations.

Not everyone is able to adjust to changes going on in their life. You may notice some feelings that are holding you back from the socialization that is normally a part of your life. Distraction of a sudden life change, just too worn out to socialize, dealing with personal pain or illness, or just plain tired of having to pretend to be okay when you are really doing all you can to survive.

Maybe one of these thoughts are part of feelings you are dealing with. Maybe more, but you just keep on moving through daily life as best as you can. I have quite an option for you. The Stephen Ministers here at Bethany are ready with our hearts and prayers to help you start to change these mountains to smaller elevations that can be dealt with. Your visits with a Stephen Minister are strictly private, and the number of visits is completely decided between you.

If you would like to visit with a Stephen Minister, please contact Dr. Bob or Wendy Watt.

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

LUNCH & LEARN: "Medicare 101" Get all the facts, understand your options, ask questions, and make confident choices. By: Rachelle Trudel from *Maust and Leone*. Thursday, September 24th at 12:30PM. Lunch Menu: Tomato soup, Broccoli salad, and Pesto Chicken Salad on wheat bread. \$8 lunch fee payable in cash at the event. Sign-up in the narthex.



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.

Tales from Jennifer's Closet by Lisa Clement

A quote: "Please help me. I've been locked out of my house by my boyfriend. The kids and I have the clothes in our backs. They need stuff for school."

A few facts: We have 18 volunteers from the Congregation. Of them, we have a Coordinating Team of 5 women. In June, we sent home with customers over 1500 pounds of clothing, diapers, small household items, and linens.

We had 138 customers in June.

An Anecdote: A woman who was donating sheets, towels, and blankets was standing talking to a few of us about our needs at the Closet. Two customers walked out of the store after shopping, and asked the woman if they could have some of the things she still had in her arms. She had tears in her eyes as she said yes. That woman has been back over 10 times since to donate.

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 Presbyterian Women in the Congregation **9/2026 - 6/2027 Program Schedule**

September 8, 2026 - Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf & Clothing Closet

The Food Shelf's purpose is to acquire, warehouse, and distribute donated and purchased food to people in need living in Greece and Charlotte. Presenter: Polly McCubbin

October 13, 2026 - Homesteads for Hope

Homesteads for Hope is a 501c3 non-profit Community Farm and Future Housing Village. 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. Presenter: Nora Venezki

November 10, 2026 - Service Project:

Cleaning supplies for the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf and Clothing Closet

We will ask the congregation for cleaning supply donations in October and assemble the supplies at our November meeting. Coordinators: Marjorie McKnight

December 5, 2026 - Christmas Luncheon

Location: Bella Pasta (Noon-3:00 pm) Cost:\$29.00
Sign-up begins the first Sunday in November in the Narthex.

January 2027 - Pledge Letter to BPWC

Pledge Letter will be placed in envelopes at the 1/13/2026 meeting and mailed out to all Bethany women in the congregation.

January 12, 2027 - Topic: "21st Century Christianity: Why Church feels so different."

Presenter: Reverend Dr. John Odum, Executive Presbyter of Genesee Valley Presbytery

February 7, 2027 – Blanket Sunday

CWS MISSION

Church World Service is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. The congregation will be asked to donate to Church Worldwide Service blankets on February 7th.

March 9, 2027 - Lasagna Love: Spreading Kindness with Food

Our mission is to feed families, spread kindness, and strengthen communities. Through our neighbor-to-neighbor movement, we connect volunteer lasagna chefs who want to help with individuals and families in need, providing home-cooked lasagnas made with love. Lasagna Love strives to provide relief, hope, and connection through the simple yet profound gesture of a warm meal. Presenter: Joanne Nania

April 13, 2027 - The History of the Greece Historical Society

Presenter: William Sauer

May 1, 2027—Women's Tea

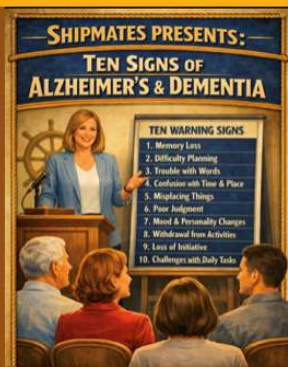
Red Bird Café Catering

During our *Teatime* women will share laughter, stories from their own lives, and a meaningful devotional experience. Psalm 23:5 says that when we are in God's presence, our cup overflows with blessings. Women will experience that when we are filled with God's love, we cannot help but overflow and share that love with others!

Sign-up will begin on Sunday, April 4, 2027, in the Narthex and continue each Sunday through April 25, 2027

June 8, 2027 - Lunch Meeting The Bird House Topic: Tips for Attracting Birds in Back Yard"

Speaker: Liz Magnanti, The Bird House Owner and General Manager
Receive Nominations Officers
Elect of Officers



**Saturday
Sept 12, 2026**

**11:30 am
Bethany
Large Hall**

Andrea Foote, from the local branch of the Alzheimer's Association will present "Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's & Dementia". This topic is sure to alleviate any concerns you may have about a loved one or yourself as we learn what IS NOT concerning behavior, as well as what might be.

Cost for Lunch is \$10 per person
Lunch includes, salad, chicken wrap, chips, cookies & water. (Lovingly prepared by Gail Kuhner)

Please register by Sept 6 in the Narthex or call Virginia Britton at 663-0469 to register or send your check to register to her at 74 West Pkwy, Rochester, NY 14616. Please make payable to Bethany Presbyterian Church, with Shipmates designated on the memo line.

Shipmates

**Saturday
Oct 10, 2026.
2:00 pm**

**25th Anniversary
Production by
Artist Unlimited
at
Greece
Performing Arts
Center at Athena
Tkts \$10 each**

Ticket & payment
deadline is
October 4 !

SignUp in Narthex
beginning
Sept 9, 2026

Please make checks out to
Cindy Stanek.
*Please Note that this is a
deviation from our normal
routine for checks.*

Any questions please contact Margie McKnight at (585) 865-9212

TICKETS CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE BOX OFFICE ON DATE OF THE PLAY !

Bethany Presbyterian Church
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS
FALL 2026

Christian Education is
looking for YOU!

We need TEACHERS and
TEACHING ASSISTANTS for
classes starting on
September 20th.

Sign up for one more
Sundays from October 2026
thru February 2027.

THIS FALL WE'RE USING THE BE BOLD
QUARTER 6 MATERIALS TO TACKLE TOPICS AS...

IS IT BAD TO BE RICH?
WHEN GOD MADE ME, DID HE MAKE A MISTAKE?
WHAT'S HEAVEN LIKE?
WHY ARE SO MANY RULES?
WHY DOESN'T GOD GIVE MORE FRIENDS?
DOES GOD CAUSE NATURAL DISASTERS?

To reach Andrew call 585 465 8517 or email at
AFERREIRA.BETHANY@GMAIL.COM

SUNDAY SCHOOL
teachers
MAKE A
difference

WELCOME TO BE BOLD. WERE TEENS
HAVE A SAFE PLACE TO ADDRESS
THEIR DOUBTS AND WIND THEIR
WINGS!!

AND... WE NEED YOU TO DIVE
INTO FAITH QUESTIONS WITH OUR
TEENS!

**SIGN UP TO TEACH OR ASSIST
IN THE NARTHEX!!**

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>2</i> 2-Memorial Committee 5:15-Worship & Music 6-Bethany Choir	<i>3</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 9-Men's Breakfast
<i>6</i> Communion 10-Worship	<i>7</i> Labor Day Church building closed	<i>8</i> 10-Presbyterian Women 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>9</i> 6-Spiritual Growth 6-Bethany Choir	<i>10</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 6-C&GM	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 11:30-Shipmate's
<i>13</i> 11-Worship in the Park	<i>14</i> 10-Staff meeting 2-Life Group 7-Generosity Comm.	<i>15</i> 9-Personnel Comm. 9:45-Belles & Beaux 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>16</i> 6-Bethany Choir 6-Community Supper 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>17</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>18</i> 1-Budget & Finance	<i>19</i> 10-Jennifer's Closet
<i>20</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship 10:15-Youth Studies	<i>21</i> 10-Staff meeting 7-Generosity Comm.	<i>22</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>23</i> 6-Bethany Choir 7:30-Celebration Ringers	<i>24</i> 9:30-Jennifer's closet 12:30-Lunch & Learn	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> 9-Adopt-a-Highway 10-Women's brunch
<i>27</i> 9-Present Word 10-Worship 10:15-Youth Studies 12-Session	<i>28</i> 10-Staff meeting 2-Life Group 12:45-SAIL class	<i>29</i> 9:45-Belles & Beaux 12:30-Jennifer's closet	<i>30</i> 12:45-SAIL class 6-Bethany Choir 6-Jennifer's Closet mtg 7:30-Celebration Ringers			

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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www.bethanyrochester.org

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**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

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

