

REV. ELIZABETH MOSES
PASTOR

May 2026

PASTOR'S PONDERING...

One of the things that I have been thinking about is the change in the structure of the RCA denomination. As you have heard, it has been decided by the denomination to consolidate the two middle-governing bodies, the Classis and Synod, into one level of governance. Starting in January of 2027, there will be only one level. This means that in terms of polity/governance structure, there will be congregation (Consistory), middle governing body, and the General Assembly.

In preparation for this change, Ministers and Elders of the Albany Synod have been discussing and visioning how the middle governing body could be structured. At this point, two task forces, The Northeastern Middle Assembly and The Abiding Assembly, have been formed. The Consistory of each of the congregations of the six classes that are a part of the Albany Synod are being asked to choose which middle-governing body it wants to align with. The Albany Classis has asked all congregations to make known which middle governing body it wants to align with by July 1, 2026.

Bethany RCA's Consistory has decided to call a **Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 17, right after worship.** In preparation for this meeting, you are asked to look over the material that is on the RCA Albany Synod website, which describes the two different middle-governing bodies. At the Congregational Meeting, you will be able to ask questions and share concerns. The Consistory will take into consideration the input of the congregation as it decides whether NEMA or Abiding is the best fit for Bethany RCA.

Here is the website link: <https://www.albanysynod.org/restructure>

I look forward to our conversation.

Peace and grace,
Pastor Elizabeth

*"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."
– Proverbs 19:21*



SUMMARY OF CONSISTORY MEETING – April 21, 2026

- * Wendy Delehanty, Jessica Fuglein, Phyllis McClarty, Nancy Murray, and Pastor Elizabeth Moses were present.
- * The meeting was opened with a prayer and a devotion given by Wendy Delehanty.
- * The minutes from the March 17 meeting, and the February 2026 and March 2026 Financial Statement were reviewed and approved.
- * Pastor Elizabeth shared her report which included Pastoral Care visits, that she attended a Synod Meeting about restructuring, took a vacation April 13-19, that she will be attending the Synod Meeting on Sunday and Monday, May 3 and 4, and that she will also be attending Boundary Training on Friday, May 15.
- * Discussed the details of the Attic Treasures Sale being held on Saturday, April 25.
- * A new Bible Study will be starting on Wednesday, April 29: *"What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus"*.
- * Approved the Boy Scouts stopping at Bethany on Saturday, May 9, as part of their Faith Walk. Pastor Elizabeth, along with Wendy Delehanty and Nancy Murray will be available to talk to the Scouts.
- * Approved having Dave Moak go forward with getting the ramp in place in the Fellowship Hall ASAP.
- * Pastor Elizabeth shared a thank you letter from Unity House.
- * Decided to call a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, May 17 after worship, to discuss the Synod restructuring.
- * The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19 at 6 PM, or Wednesday, May 20 at 5:30 PM.
- * The meeting was closed with a prayer led by Pastor Elizabeth.

Summarized by Rev. Elizabeth Moses



The Consistory has called a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 17 after worship, to discuss the future middle-governing body options.



MAY WORSHIP LECTIONARY

May 3 – Fifth Sunday of Easter
"The Way, The Truth, The Life"
John 14:1-14 & Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

May 10 – Sixth Sunday of Easter
"I am with you"
John 14:15-21 & Psalm 66:8-20

May 17 – Seventh Sunday of Easter
"Back at it"
Acts 1:6-14 & 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

May 24 – Pentecost Sunday (Wear your **red!**)
"Come, Spirit, Come"
Acts 2:1-21 & Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

May 31 – Trinity Sunday
"Creation Stories"
Genesis 1:1-2:4a



WORSHIP WITH US IN MAY

Was I fickle when I intended to do this? Or do I make my plans in a worldly manner so that in the same breath I say both "Yes, yes" and "No, no"? But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No." For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes." For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

(2 Corinthians 1:17-20 NIV)

About thirty years ago, I was hired to be the entire provider relations department for a small, independent physician-owned network. It was my job to recruit physicians and providers, and be their intermediary when issues arose with the contracted payers. The Executive Director gave me a piece of advice that always stuck with me. He told me that

the first, second, or even third person I would encounter when trying to recruit a physician or group was the "gatekeeper." It was their job to prevent me from getting through, even if what I was offering was a good thing! And they always initially said "No." As my Director explained, that was the only power they held – the power to say "No," so they loved to wield it. It required patience and perseverance to get past them and finally get to the actual decision maker. This was the person with the ultimate power. The person who denies has limited power, but the one who says "Yes, let's do this" has the greatest power. When I recently read the above passage from Corinthians, my mind immediately went back to my work experience, and it brought that passage to life for me. We can trust God's promises, because Christ indeed has the true power to say "Yes, let it be so." Amen!

- May 3: We celebrate Holy Communion.
- May 10: Sixth Sunday of Easter.
- May 17: Seventh Sunday of Easter.
- May 24: We celebrate Pentecost. Wear your **red**!
- May 31: We celebrate Trinity Sunday.

See you in church!
Janny Mironchuk
Worship Committee

The Albany CROP Walk will take place on Sunday, May 3, 2026.

"We're part of a movement, taking steps and raising funds together to provide meals for those in our own community who need them - and supporting programs that create greater food security in communities all around the world. The 45th Anniversary CROP Hunger Walk will begin and end at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 21 Hackett Boulevard, Albany, NY, 12208."

Scan the QR code below to learn more, and/or to donate!





"What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus" by Merryl Blair. This takes place on Wednesdays at 1 PM, in the Pastor's Office and via Zoom. Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary — Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What might the young Jesus have felt as he heard about his family? What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place? Please see Pastor Elizabeth if you are interested in participating.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83512239240?pwd=ckFCSGJ6TUF1QkMzcG5IcUdrYTJ5QT09#success>



It's time for our Annual Plant and Flower Sale!

Mother's Day Weekend: Friday, May 8 (8 AM-6 PM), and Saturday, May 9 (8 AM-3 PM)

We will have all of your favorites - Patio Pots, Hanging Baskets, Veggies, Herbs, and many Annuals for sale for all of your Spring planting needs. Please think about when you may be able to help us out during the sale. Many hands make light work!



A NOTE OF



Thank you so much to all who helped with the Attic Treasures Sale on Saturday, April 25!



April 9, 2026



Rev. Elizabeth Moses
Bethany Reformed Church
760 New Scotland Ave.
Albany, NY 12208

Dear Rev. Elizabeth and Friends at Bethany Reformed Church,

On behalf of those we serve here at Unity House, thank you for your donation of toiletries, feminine hygiene products, and canned goods to Unity House. These great items will help make a world of difference to the clients in our programs and those in the community who are in need of our services.

Since 1971, Unity House has been dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people living in poverty, adults with mental illness, victims of domestic and sexual violence, children with developmental delays and their families, people living with HIV/AIDS, and others whose needs can effectively be met by Unity House services and philosophy. Your commitment to Unity House's philanthropic efforts ensures that we continue to play a vital role in making life better for the Capital Region community.

Although the Internal Revenue Service does not permit Unity House to set a value on the goods you have provided, please know that your donation is extremely important to us. For your convenience at tax time, you may note the value of your donation below and save this letter for your tax records.

Thank you, Rev. Elizabeth and Friends for thinking of Unity House and the people we serve.

Sincerely,

David L. Bach
Chief Executive Officer



What we donated to Unity House.
Thank you!



BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

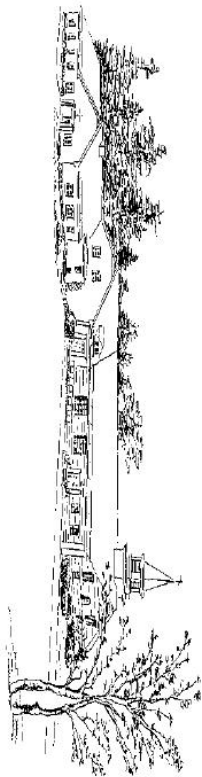
Nancy Murray	05/02
Donna Trama	05/08
Ben Hollner	05/13
Janet Richardson	05/26



ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY

David and Christine van Alstyne	05/25
Larry Dick and Cindy Stark	05/28

May



2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<p>1 10-2 PM Painters 7 PM Urdu Worship 7:30 PM Acceptance</p>	<p>2 10 AM We Are Not Alone 1 PM Good News Albany Church 1-6 PM Birthday Party 6-8 PM Chin Bible Study</p>
<p>3 10 AM Worship* 10 AM Good News Albany Church 11 AM CROP Walk 12 PM Chin SS & Worship 6 PM Clean Team</p>	<p>4 9 -2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 5 PM Preservation of AA</p>	<p>5 9 -2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program</p>	<p>6 9 -2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 10-2 PM Helping Hands 1 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>7 9 -2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 7 PM Troop 1011</p>	<p>8 8-6 PM Plant & Flower Sale 10-2 PM Painters 7 PM Urdu Worship 7:30 PM Acceptance</p>	<p>9 8-3 PM Plant & Flower Sale 10 AM We Are Not Alone 1 PM African Violet Society</p>
<p>10 Mother's Day 10 AM Worship 10 AM Good News Albany 12-4 PM Chin SS & Worship 6 PM Clean Team</p>	<p>11 9-2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 5 PM Preservation of AA</p>	<p>12 9-2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 7 PM Fort Orange Stamp Club</p>	<p>13 9-2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 1 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>14 9-2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 7 PM Troop 1011</p>	<p>15 9-2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 10-2 PM Painters 7 PM Urdu Worship 7:30 PM Acceptance</p>	<p>16 10 AM We Are Not Alone 1 PM Good News Albany Church 12-10 PM Kannu Mallick Event</p>
<p>17 10 AM Worship After Worship: Congregational Meeting 10 AM Good News Albany Church 12 PM Chin SS & Worship 6 PM Clean Team</p>	<p>18 9-2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 5 PM Preservation of AA</p>	<p>19 6 AM-9 PM Albany School District Budget Vote 9-2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program</p>	<p>20 9-2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 1 PM Bible Study 6-9 PM Good News Albany Church</p>	<p>21 9-2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 6-9 PM Good News Albany Church 7 PM Troop 1011</p>	<p>22 9-2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 10-2 PM Painters 6-9 PM Good News Albany Church 7 PM Urdu Worship 7:30 PM Acceptance</p>	<p>23 10 AM We Are Not Alone 10-4 PM Chin Bible Training 1-4 PM & 6-9 PM Good News Albany Church</p>
<p>24 Pentecost Sunday 10 AM Worship 10 AM Good News Albany Church 12 PM Chin SS & Worship 6:30-8:30 PM Good News Albany Church</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day 5 PM Preservation of AA 11-4 PM Chin Bible Training</p>	<p>26 9-2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 7 PM Fort Orange Stamp Club</p>	<p>27 9-2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 10-2 PM Helping Hands 1 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>28 9-2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 7 PM Troop 1011</p>	<p>29 9-2:30 PM Albany YMCA After School Program 10-2 PM Painters 7 PM Urdu Worship 7:30 PM Acceptance</p>	<p>30 10 AM We Are Not Alone 1-4 PM Good News Albany Church</p>
<p>31 Trinity Sunday 10 AM Worship 10 AM Good News Albany Church 12 PM Chin SS & Worship 6 PM Clean Team</p>			<p>Bold = Bethany Sponsored Activities * Communion</p>			