

Pastor:
Rev. Elizabeth Moses

Bethany's Music Director:
Catherine Schane-Lydon

2024 Consistory Members

Phyllis McClarty, VP (Elder)
Nancy Murray (Elder)

Wendy Delehanty (Deacon)
Jessica Fuglein, Clerk (Deacon)

*Bethany Reformed Church seeks to be a caring and inclusive community
called by Christ to glorify God –
empowered by the Holy Spirit to express God's love,
serve our neighbors and community, and invite others
to follow Christ in a life changing way.*

Bethany Reformed Church

760 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, New York 12208
Telephone: 518-482-7998

Email us: Bethanyrca.info@gmail.com

Visit us: bethanyrc.org

Order of Worship
April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Means rise in body or spirit

Bold print for congregational response.

There are **hearing assistance devices** in a box by the entrance to the Sanctuary for those who need them. Please ask a greeter for assistance.

Offerings may be placed in the basket by the Sanctuary door.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

VOTUM & CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship with joy, trusting God's holy word will inspire us.

We lean into God for understanding, anticipating the Spirit's blessing.

May God hear our praise! May we be counted among the great congregation.

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to God.

*OPENING HYMN #464 (Red Hymnal) "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. (Personal prayers continued in silence)...in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we offer this prayer. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* *GLORIA PATRI* #579 (Red Hymnal)

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

The Word of God

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 8:26-40 (pg. 127)

1 John 4:7-21 (pg. 241)

Liturgist: Nancy Murray

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Down to the River to Pray"

1. As I went down to the river to pray,
studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown,
good Lord, show me the way.
O brother, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
O brother, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.
2. As I went down to the river to pray,
studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown,
good Lord, show me the way.
O sister, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
O sister, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.
3. As I went down to the river to pray,
studyin' about that good ole way
and who shall wear the starry crown,
good Lord, show me the way.

O children, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
O children, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.

SERMON

“Meet the Ethiopian Eunich”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted From: *Belonging to God: A First Catechism*)

We are the church: the people who believe the good news about Jesus, who are baptized, and who share in the Lord’s Supper. Through these means of grace, the Spirit renews us so that we may serve God in love. We believe the good news that gives us comfort that we belong to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for our sake, so that nothing will ever separate us from God’s love. We know this good news through reading the Bible and hearing it taught and preached. The Holy Spirit inspired those who wrote the Bible and helps us rely on its promises today.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Welcoming God”

ASSURANCE 9.10.9.9 with Refrain ("Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!")

Text By: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Children are welcome, Christ said one day,
When the disciples just urged them away.
Children are welcome at Jesus' knee:
God's own examples for ministry.
Welcoming God, you open the Way;
Even the smallest worship and pray,
Singing with faith and serving you well,
Your life to know and good news to tell.

Women are welcome, as are the men;
Through God's own Spirit, we're partners again.
Partners as prophets, ministers, too:
No more divided — made one in you.
Welcoming God, you open the way;
Those once divided join now to pray,

Serving at Table, preaching your Word,
So that your love for all will be heard.

Outcasts are welcome; sinners are, too,
Eating with Jesus and being made new:
Some like Zacchaeus turned right around;
Wounded and poor ones felt peace profound.
God of great love, you stand at the door,
Welcoming people outcast and poor.
So you forgive and call us to be
Filled with the joy of your jubilee.

So may we welcome into our pew
All who in Jesus are being made new —
All those who seek him, wanting to know,
Wanting to love him, wanting to grow.
Welcoming God, you stand at our door,
As someone different, outcast or poor.
With longing eyes, Lord Jesus, you search.
May we all welcome you in your church.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION

*DOXOLOGY #592 (Red) "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (written announcements are at the end of bulletin)

*HYMN OF PARTING #339 (Red Hymnal) "Be Thou My Vision"

*BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: #539 (Red Hymnal) (Verse 1)

“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”
**Savior, again to thy dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise.
Once more we bless thee ere our worship cease,
then, lowly bending, wait thy word of peace.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-The Handbell Choir is meeting today, April 28, after worship.

-Zoom Sing & Pray will meet on Wednesday, May 1, at 5 PM. Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83512239240?pwd=ckFCSGJ6TUF1QkMzcG5IcUdrYTJ5QT09#success>

-The Annual CROP Walk is right around the corner: Sunday, May 5. Bethany was the recipient of the Silver Sneaker Award, raising more than \$10,000 in last year’s walk. Please consider donating to this year’s walkers: John and Wendy Delehanty, Bill Murray, and David Nichols. Cash/checks, as well as online donations are always appreciated! Link to donate online: [2024 CROP Hunger Walk - Bethany Reformed Church Albany NY](#). See Wendy Delehanty or Pam Menton with questions.

-We are looking for volunteers to help during Bethany RC’s Plant and Flower Sale on May 10 and 11--many hands make light work! Signup sheets are located on the Narthex bulletin board. More information about this sale is at the end of the Bulletin.

-On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, we will be having fellowship time from 9:45-10:15 AM, in the Parlor. Worship will begin at 10:15 AM. There will be refreshments available. Please join us, and don’t forget to wear your red!

Internet Offerings:

- 10 AM Sunday Worship & 5 PM Wednesday Internet Sing & Pray

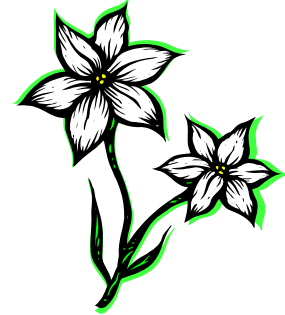
April 21, 2024 donations to the General Fund: \$918.

Total donations as of April 21, 2024 to the Fellowship Hall renovation:
\$18,283.21. Thank you so much!

Plant & Flower Sale

Rain or Shine!

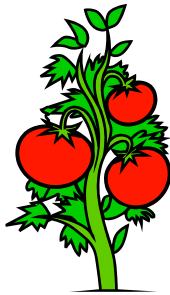
Friday May 10th
8 AM to 6 PM



Saturday May 11th
8 AM to 3 PM

ANNUALS

Perennials



Patio Pots

Hanging Baskets

Geraniums

Vegetables

Herbs

Patio Garden Raffle

Bethany Reformed Church

760 New Scotland Avenue

Albany, NY 12208 (518) 482-7998

bethanyrc.org

Thursday, June 6th at 7p.m.



BETHANY REFORMED CHURCH

760 New Scotland Ave., Albany

**A concert of Spirituals,
Folk Hymns & Gospels**

**Admission is free, donations accepted to benefit
Family Promise of the Capital Region**