

# BETHANY REFORMED CHURCH

REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

REV. ELIZABETH MOSES  
PASTOR



April 2024

## PASTOR'S PONDERING...

### Hope

As faithful disciples of our risen Lord, we are people of hope. We are Easter people, with hope in the future and trust in our Triune God. This is what I have been pondering lately. Sometimes, it is hard to hope; things look so dark and there seems to be so much despair. Like the women who went to the tomb on Easter morning, we barely hold on to hope. In my role as Chaplain at the hospital, I deal with family members looking for signs of hope. It is emotional.

If only we look around us and see the signs of hope in God's creation. The encouragement in one another's eyes, the budding flowers, the new born, reconciliation between people, etc...

All are reminders of God's love, and that resurrection happened, and still happens, in amazing ways.

Here is a poem by Emily Dickinson - *Hope*

"Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul,  
And sings the tune—without the words,  
And never stops at all,  
And sweetest in the gale is heard;  
And sore must be the storm  
That could abash the little bird  
That kept so many warm.  
I've heard it in the chilliest land,  
And on the strangest sea;  
Yet, never, in extremity,  
It asked a crumb of me."

May your Easter Season be filled with signs of hope...

**Romans 15:13** ~ "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Peace and grace,  
*Pastor Elizabeth*

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### SUMMARY OF CONSISTORY MEETING – March 17, 2024

The meeting was opened with a devotional and prayer given by Nancy Murray.

- \* Jessica Fuglein, Phyllis McClarty, Pastor Elizabeth Moses, and Nancy Murray were present.
- \* The minutes from the February 25 meeting were approved.
- \* A draft of the February 2024 Financial Statement was reviewed. A final report will be approved at the April meeting.
- \* Pastor Elizabeth shared:
  1. Rev. Abby Norton-Levering will preach on Sunday, April 7, and Noreen Fargione will be preaching on Sunday, June 9.
  2. Pastoral visits/calls done since the last Consistory meeting.
  3. Reminded the Consistory that Secretary, Rachel Simmonds will be on vacation April 7-14.
- \* The Building Use Task Force will meet on March 19 at 7 PM, with Mary Giordano from Family Promise.
- \* The Outdoor Concert Task Force will meet on March 20 at 10:30 AM.
- \* Approved the African Violet Society's Plant Sale being moved from April 12-14, to May 31-June 2.
- \* Approved for Family Promise to hold a fundraising concert at Bethany: June 6 at 7 PM.
- \* Jessica Fuglein is working on scheduling people to help before and during the Attic Treasures Sale (April 26 & 27).
- \* The Elders met and approved Barbara Brazis and Pat Eberle being moved back to the Active Membership list.
- \* The next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 21.

Summarized by Rev. Elizabeth Moses

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## APRIL WORSHIP LECTIONARY

April 7 – Second Sunday of Easter (Rev. Abby Norton-Levering Preaching)  
"Here's my heart"  
John 21:1-19

April 14 – Third Sunday of Easter  
"See What Love"  
Acts 3:12-19 & 1 John 3:1-7

April 21 – Fourth Sunday of Easter  
"Being a Shepard"  
John 10:11-18 & 1 John 3:16-24

April 28 – Fifth Sunday of Easter  
"Meet the Ethiopian Eunuch"  
Acts 8:26-40 & 1 John 4:7-21

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## WORSHIP WITH US IN APRIL

Q: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A: That I am not my own, but belong-body and soul, in life and in death-to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

*-From the Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A 1*

So here we go! After the Resurrection, things started moving quickly for the disciples...so quickly that maybe their heads were spinning! On the one hand, they

often felt compelled to lay low for fear of those who had called for the death of Jesus. On the other hand, witnesses were reporting encounters with the risen Jesus, and then the disciples saw him for themselves. All that Jesus had been telling them was suddenly very, very real. So, what did they do? They followed a combination of day-to-day tasks like fishing (possibly to calm their nerves?) and preparation, just as he had instructed. They elected Matthias to take the place of Judas, and spoke about Jesus in the local synagogues, all while they waited for the Holy Spirit to come as promised. They were preparing to know, and live, the answer to Q1 of the *Heidelberg Catechism*. Please join us as we prepare to do the same, worshipping the risen Lord.

April 7 – Second Sunday of Easter. Rev. Abby Norton-Levering will join us, and we will celebrate Communion.

April 14 – Third Sunday of Easter

April 21 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 28 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Blessings,

*Janny Mironchuk*

Worship Committee

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Our Secretary, Rachel, will be away April 7-14. She will return to the office on Tuesday, April 16. Pastor Elizabeth will still be in the office during that time, and will be available via email and phone as usual.

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Charlotte Palmeri will be playing George, the new theater organ, in the GE Theater of Proctors on Saturday, April 20 at 12 PM (Noon). Greg Klingler, who typically has been playing the Christmas concerts, will also be performing. It's free, so if your schedule allows you to attend, please do, and make sure to say hi to Charlotte afterwards!

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### WANTED!

Your treasures, once loved, but no longer needed.



We welcome any good, clean, usable items you would like to donate for our Attic Treasures Sale. ***We are not accepting any large items/furniture.***

Folks will be available to accept items at the Education Wing door on:

Sunday, 4/14: 11 AM-1 PM  
Monday, 4/15 – Saturday, 4/20: 10 AM-1 PM  
Sunday, 4/21: 11 AM-1 PM  
Monday, 4/22: 2-4 PM  
Tuesday, 4/23: 10 AM-1 PM

Questions? See Jessica Fuglein (Deacon), or call the Church Office: (518) 482-7998.

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**Attic Treasures Sale & Bake Sale**  
**Friday, April 26: 10 AM-3 PM**  
**Saturday, April 27: 9 AM-3 PM**

Bethany Reformed Church  
760 New Scotland Avenue  
Albany, NY 12208

Once loved, but no longer needed:



...and more!

**Indoor "yard sale."**  
**Come and find your treasure!**

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**ALBANY CLASSIS WORK DAY**

**When: Saturday, April 27, 8 AM-5 PM**  
**Where: 3<sup>rd</sup> Reformed Church Property**

The Classis is looking for handy men and women to come get the house at 16 Ten Eyck Avenue in Albany ready for the next phase of ministry. Can you come make a difference by helping with painting, cleaning and repairs? All levels of skill are helpful. Interested? Contact Nancy Landrigan ([classisofalbanyrca@yahoo.com](mailto:classisofalbanyrca@yahoo.com)) or Dirk Gieser ([dirk@encounterERC.com](mailto:dirk@encounterERC.com)).

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**BENEFIT CONCERT FOR  
WESTERLO REFORMED CHURCH**

**When: Saturday, April 27, 2 PM**  
**Where: Westerlo Reformed Church, 564 NY-143, Westerlo, NY 12193**

Free Will Offering  
Refreshments will be served following the concert.

**Performers:**  
**The Squeeze Play Accordion Band**  
**Michelle Cenci, Violinist/Violist**  
**Theresa Bey, Soloist**  
**Wally Jones, Pianist/Organist**

This will be an entertaining musical delight you are sure to enjoy with toe -tapping music.



Produced and directed by Walter Jones.

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April showers bring May flowers so they say...but May brings the annual CROP Walk!

The walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 5; walkers and donations are needed!  
The kickoff meeting is Sunday, April 7, when we will find out how we ranked in last year's walk.

As a reminder, the Albany CROP Walk ranks in the Top 100 in the entire nation, and Bethany typically has multiple walkers in the Top 10 in the local walk.

More info to come! See Wendy Delehanty or Pam Menton with questions.

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Spring is coming...and so is our Annual Plant and Flower Sale!

Mark your calendars for Mother's Day weekend, May 10 and 11, 2024. Once again, we will have all of your favorites – Patio Pots, Hanging Baskets, Veggies, Herbs, and many Annuals for sale to get your Spring Garden started!

Be on the lookout for more information, and think about when you may be able to help us out during the sale – many hands make light work!

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### BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

Greg Empie	04/04
Bob Eberle	04/07
Rena Mironchuk	04/09
Polly Eberle	04/10
Jordan Brazis-Eberle	04/17
Dan Delehanty	04/20



# April



# 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <b>April Fools' Day</b>	2 6 AM-9 PM Presidential Primary Election	3 <b>1 PM Bible Study</b> 10-2 PM Helping Hands <b>5 PM Zoom Sing &amp; Pray</b> 7:30 PM New Start Step	4	5 10-2 PM Painters 7 PM Urdu Worship 7:30 PM Acceptance	6* 9:30 AM Food Bank 10 AM We Are Not Alone
7* <b>10 AM Worship</b> 12 PM Chin SS & Worship 6 PM Clean Team	8	9 7 PM Fort Orange Stamp Club	10 <b>5 PM Zoom Sing &amp; Pray</b> 7:30 PM New Start Step	11 7 PM Troop 1011	12 10-2 PM Painters 7 PM Urdu Worship 7:30 PM Acceptance	13 10 AM We Are Not Alone
14 <b>10 AM Worship</b> 11-1 <b>PM Attic</b> Treasures Drop Off 12 PM Chin SS & Worship 6 PM Clean Team	15 10-1 <b>PM Attic</b> Treasures Drop Off	16 10-1 <b>PM Attic</b> Treasures Drop Off	17 10-1 <b>PM Attic</b> Treasures Drop Off <b>5 PM Zoom Sing &amp; Pray</b> 7:30 PM New Start Step	18 10-1 <b>PM Attic</b> Treasures Drop Off 7 PM Troop 1011	19 10-1 <b>PM Attic</b> Treasures Drop Off 10-2 PM Painters 7 PM Urdu Worship 7:30 PM Acceptance	20 10-1 <b>PM Attic</b> Treasures Drop Off 10 AM We Are Not Alone
21 <b>10 AM Worship</b> 11-1 <b>PM Attic</b> Treasures Drop Off 12 PM Chin SS & Worship 6 PM Clean Team	22 2-4 <b>PM Attic</b> Treasures Drop Off	23 10-1 <b>PM Attic</b> Treasures Drop Off	24 10-2 PM Helping Hands <b>5 PM Zoom Sing &amp; Pray</b> 7:30 PM New Start Step	25 7 PM Troop 1011	26 10 <b>AM-3 PM Attic</b> Treasures 10-2 PM Painters 7 PM Urdu Worship 7:30 PM Acceptance	27 9 <b>AM-3 PM Attic</b> Treasures 10 AM We Are Not Alone
28 <b>10 AM Worship</b> 12 PM Chin SS & Worship 6 PM Clean Team	29	30	<b>Bold = Bethany</b> Sponsored Activities *Communion and Food Donation			