BETHANY REFORMED CHURCH REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA



REV. ELIZABETH MOSES PASTOR

PASTOR'S PONDERING...

"Ascension" by Ann Weems

Blessing them
He ascended into heaven
Gone, but not gone.
Ascended, but still with us.
Alive among us
Among us
Us!
No longer sad at his leaving,

No longer sad at his leaving, We wait to do his bidding, To go out to all the world To tell the Good News

That God loves us so much He chose to live among us
The Crucified Risen Lord lives still among us.
Lo, He is with us always
even unto the end of the world...
Ascended Lord, ever Emmanuel!
(From "Search For Shalom", Copyright 1991)

When someone dies or moves away, there is a sense of loneliness; a sense that things will never be the same; a sense of not knowing what is to come. The disciples were feeling this. They wanted some direction/answers (Acts 1:6-11). As Jesus prepared to ascend, He told the disciples that they would never be alone/without direction. The Holy Spirit would be with them. They were told, with the power of the Holy Spirit, that they were to be witnesses to what they had experienced. They were to share the Good News story.

That is our calling as disciples living so many years later – to be witnesses to the Good News – the Resurrection. Live lives that are witnesses to God's love and grace, and especially God's amazing forgiveness.

In a weary world, that is what is needed. It is not easy to do, but we can, only if we trust and be true to our baptismal vows and calling.

Peace and grace, Pastor Elizabeth

\$2,000 LOAN CHALLENGE UPDATE

In March, the Consistory announced that they were challenging the congregation to contribute \$2,000 towards the loan by the end of 2025.

Thanks to your <u>very</u> generous donations, we OFFICIALLY SURPASSED OUR GOAL DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL! We received \$2,430 towards our \$2,000 goal! We appreciate each and every one of you!

MAY WORSHIP LECTIONARY

Theme: Being "Easter" People...

May 4 "Saul/Paul"

Psalm 30 & Acts 9:1-20

May 11
"Tabitha"

Psalm 23 & Acts 9:36-43

May 18 "Peter"

John 13:31-35 & Acts 11:1-18

May 25
"Lydia"
John 14:23-29 & Acts 16:9-15



WORSHIP WITH US IN MAY

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another." — Hebrews 10:19-25a

As we proceed towards Ascension Sunday and Pentecost, we are reminded of the importance of these things: continuing to meet, celebrating Communion with Jesus, and encouraging one another. Each Sunday during Easter-tide reminds us that our Sabbath Day is on Sunday because Christ was raised on the third day after his crucifixion. A new life awaits us, and Christ will lead the way. Won't you join us?

Sunday, May 4: Third Sunday of Easter. First Holy Communion after the Last Supper.

Sunday, May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter. Sit in a new seat this week!

Sunday, May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter. Sing along during the Choir Anthem!

Sunday, May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter. Pray for God's Creation.

See you in church!

Janny Mironchuk

Worship Committee

CLYNK FOR BETHANY!

Clynk. Tink. Tink. Clynk.

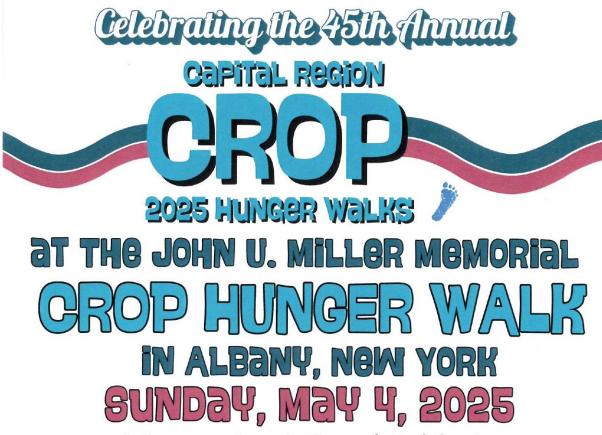
That's the sound of the cans falling in the Clynk bags, and the sound of the cash going to our checkbook. \$151.20 recently, to be exact (\$414.55 total since 2024)!



The Annual CROP Walk is right around the corner: Sunday, May 4!

Visit this link to learn more about the CROP Walk and support our team: https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/bethany-reformed-churchalbany-ny-2

Please see Pam Menton with questions.



In Person starting at St. Vincent de Paul Church 900 Madison Ave., Albany, NY 12208 or WALK Virtually wherever you want during the month of May

- Register online at www.crophungerwalk.org/albanyny
- Start a team for your congregation, family, or workplace.

Ask friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers to support you.

- Walk Day check-in starts at 1:30pm
- Opening ceremony at 2:15pm official start of the walk at 2:30pm.
- Funds raised support global hunger fighting programs and local food pantries.

















Mark your calendars for Mother's Day weekend, Friday, May 9, 8 AM-6 PM, and Saturday, May 10, 8 AM-3 PM, for our Annual Plant and Flower Sale! We will have all of your favorites – Patio Pots, Hanging Baskets, Veggies, Herbs, and many Annuals for sale to get your Spring Garden started!

Want to help out? There is a sign-up sheet posted on the Narthex bulletin board for your convenience. Many hands make light work!

BETHANY MEMBERS NEW ADDRESSES

Janet Richardson and David and Christine van Alstyne have moved! Their new addresses are below.

Janet Richardson

Peregrine Senior Living at Delmar Place
467 Delaware Avenue
Apt. 106
Delmar, NY 12054

Janet's new phone number: (518) 641-0806

David and Christine van Alstyne

Maravilla at The Domain 11001 Austin Lane Room 10107 Austin, Texas 78758

"Take Me Out to the Ball Game..."

Join us for a Baseball Watch Party, Mets vs. Yankees, being held on Saturday, May 17, in the Errgong Room! The game will begin at 1:05 PM. Lunch will be provided (pizza, wings, and beverages).





SPRING

17 MAY 2025 AT 11 AM - 5 PM

Featuring Local artisans, vendors and fun for the whole family!

INTERESTED IN VENDING? CONTACT JORDAN LEMLEY AT WOKENESSCONSUMERGOODS@GMAIL.COM

CLARKSVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

1997 DELAWARE TPKE, CLARKSVILLE NY 12041

Treasurer's Report - March 2025

General Fund Summary	<u>3/1 - 3/31/25</u>	<u>1/1 - 3/31/25</u>
Total Receipts	11,373.85	46,927.79
Total Disbursements	20,848.77	62,352.58
Total Transfers from other funds	4,000.00	16,000.00
Net Cash	-5,474.92	575.21

March was a pretty average month. We needed to take some money from our investments, but less than is common.

The great news – as of March 31, we have received \$1,425 towards the \$2,000 Challenge to pay our loan off in 2025. Rumor has it that we exceeded the \$2,000 goal in April (\$2,430 total). That doesn't mean we will stop accepting donations. How early in 2025 can we get it paid off?



Dear Friends at Bethany Reformed Church,

Thank you for responding to God's call to engage in Mission! Your financial and prayerful commitment make it possible for millions of people to learn about and receive Christ's love globally. It is an honor to do this work with you!

Sincerely,

Scott Engelsman, Associate Director of RCA Global Mission



BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

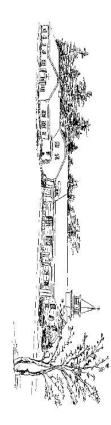
Nancy Murray	05/02
Donna Trama	05/08
Ben Hollner	05/13
Claire Hanley	05/15
Janet Richardson	05/26



ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY

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

May



2025

25 10 AM Worship 2 12 PM Chin SS & Worship 5	18 9-4 PM African 19 Violet Society Flower 5 Show or 10 AM Worship 12 PM Chin SS & Worship 6 PM Clean Team	11 Mother's Day 10 AM Worship 12 PM Chin SS & of / Worship 6 PM Clean Team	4* 10 AM Worship 5 After Worship: 5 Congregational of Meeting 12 PM Chin SS & Worship 6 PM Clean Team		SUNDAY
Memorial Day 5 PM Preservation	19 5 PM Preservation of AA	12 5 PM Preservation of AA	5 5 PM Preservation of AA		MONDAY
27 7 PM Fort Orange Stamp Club	20 6 AM-9 PM Albany School District Budget Vote	13 7 PM Fort Orange Stamp Club	6 7 PM Fort Orange Stamp Club		TUESDAY
28 10-2 PM Helping Hands 7:30 PM New Start Step	21 6 PM Family Promise 7:30 PM New Start Step	14 7:30 PM New Start Step	7 10-2 PM Helping Hands 7:30 PM New Start Step		WEDNESDAY
29 7 PM Troop 1011	22 7 PM Troop 1011	15 7 PM Troop 1011	8 7 PM Troop 1011	1 7 PM Troop 1011	THURSDAY
30 10-2 PM Painters 7 PM Urdu Worship 7:30 PM Acceptance	23 10-2 PM Painters 7 PM Urdu Worship 7:30 PM Acceptance	16 10-2 PM Painters 1-6 PM African Violet Society Flower Show 7 PM Urdu Worship 7:30 PM Acceptance	9 8-6 PM Plant & Flower Sale 10-2 PM Painters 7 PM Urdu Worship 7:30 PM Acceptance	2 10-2 PM Painters 7 PM Urdu Worship 7:30 PM Acceptance	FRIDAY
31 10 AM We Are Not Alone	24 10 AM We Are Not Alone 1-7 PM Cultural Event	17 9-4 PM African Violet Society Flower Show 10 AM We Are Not Alone 1 PM Baseball Watch Party	10 8-3 PM Plant & Flower Sale 10 AM We Are Not Alone	3 10 AM We Are Not Alone	SATURDAY

Bold = Bethany Sponsored Activities

*Communion