



THE BELL TOWER



"PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS TO THE WORLD
JESUS LIVES OUR GOD REIGNS"

Vol. 61 No. 10

East Rockaway, N.Y.

November 2021

Christmas Fair Saturday, December 4th 10AM-3PM



Raffle prizes, wreathes, jewelry, housewares, clothing, Christmas decorations (all new!) and much more!

If you would like to make a donation to help cover the cost of the raffle baskets, please make your check out to the Women's League and send it to 100 Main St. East Rockaway, NY 11518, and enter 'Christmas Fair' in the Memo. Any questions, please contact Cathy Clarke.

Masks are required for all volunteers and anyone entering the fair. We are reaching out to the congregation this year for volunteers. We can do this with your help. You do not need to volunteer for the entire day-an hour or two would be very helpful. Please let me know if you can be of assistance, it will be greatly appreciated. Hope to see you there!

Dates to Remember:

November 21...Gifting Sunday
November 25...Thanksgiving
November 28...Chanukah begins
December 4....Christmas Fair
December 5...Toy Collection Sunday
December 19...UCC Collection
December 21...First Day of Winter
December 25....Christmas Day
January 1...New Year's Day
January 17...MLK, Jr. Day

Bethany will be serving their annual Thanksgiving Dinner (courtesy of Barbara and Doug Hermann.) However, it will be pre-packaged dinners for either pick-up at Bethany between 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM or delivery to your home by our wonderful volunteers. You must call Bethany in advance to reserve your free dinners. 516-599-5768

Happy Thanksgiving

The Thrift Shop is OPEN!! Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Long Goodbyes

As many of you already know, I am getting ready to retire. I am preparing my formal notification for submission within the next week or so as per the requirements of our denomination so that it will be “official” and the search for a new pastor can begin. I am intending to be with Bethany through May of 2023, so we still have a year and half together before Kate and I will be departing for the Nevada desert. By the time I leave, we will have been together for 25 years. That is either a testament to the faith and love of this congregation or to its high tolerance for oddballs, (probably both), but either way, it is extremely difficult for me to put in words what a wonderful and glorious journey these years have been for my family and for me, as we have been honored to be a part of this community of faith. When we first moved in, as I was helping one of the movers, my wife looked me in the eye and said, “I’m not doing this again. Make it work.” Somehow you all decided something similar, I guess, because here we are, bearing witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our little corner of the world, extending holy hospitality to the least, the last and the lost, and working together toward the coming of the kingdom for lo, these many years.

Now though, the hard work begins. Now this congregation needs to look forward to the next five and ten and twenty years as we seek to discern God’s will for us in the choosing of a new pastor for this congregation, one who can walk with this communion into the challenging days ahead. Our search committee is already formed, and they are in touch with Rev. Dr Watson, the Executive Administrator of our Metropolitan Association for support and guidance as we work together to determine whence Christ calls us in this important search. I am grateful and proud, (with apologies to John Cal-

vin), of our time together and of this church, which has proven itself a viable and vital witness for the gospel; a church that has stepped up to welcome, to serve, to give of yourselves for the love of God and neighbor and to live the love of God, together. Our task now is to take our time and do the things that we need to do to give birth to the next stage of this community’s life, one that may look very different from what has gone before, but one in which we continue to be the authentic and grace-filled witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we have always tried to be. That doesn’t happen automatically, it’s a very intentional and prayerful process, one in which we are encouraged like the disciples on Pentecost to open ourselves up to the Spirit and seeking a path that builds on the best of what has come before, is courageous in discerning what must be let go or even repented of, and reaching for that which our faith has shown us can be. For the next 18 months or so, we need to be looking toward the future of this communion of faith and doing the things we need to do to continue to be bearers of the light that the darkness cannot overcome for the generations to come.

We need to do a “church profile,” for instance. Who are we? What are our hopes our dreams, our cherished traditions, our pet peeves? What are the problems we are wrestling with, the hopes unmet, the things we need to do better? What does it mean to be a church of Jesus Christ in this rapidly changing world? Where do we look to find the courage to plot a course into the future that holds fast to the traditions of our faith without losing sight of the new things that God is doing every day. In other words, just as we have challenged each other and supported each other in living Christ’s law of love as his church over the years, our search

committee and our members and friends will be doing the same as we try to articulate the core values of our faith and to ensure that they are part of this process, so much a part of our faith in a living, dynamic and relational God.

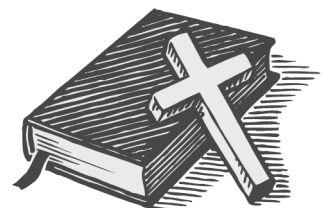
The search process is a long one, and it is demanding because relationships are tricky and difficult even when they are not about our faith and our family, and exponentially more so when they are. You may or may not decide to have an interim pastor, a professional trained to guide churches through this transition, but either way, it is vital that our whole family is as involved as they can be so that we can get this right. We'll need to echo Elisha's ask for an extra dose of God's wisdom for this process and we will all need patience, a sense of humor, determination, and love. Lucky for us, all those things have never been in short supply at Bethany. We have grown in grace together for almost 25 years through bringing in new congregations, sisters, and brothers whose worship, theology and language are different than ours and they have gifted us with their faith, their generosity, and their grace. We stuck together through 9/11 and Sandy, and the Pandemic (to date), through all the changes in this world, for better and for

worse, and you have always put your love, your faith, your hope, and your willingness to dig deep, to learn and to grow in faith and love before everything else. My family and I have been honored, sustained, and uplifted daily by your grace. I will miss you more than I can ever express when it is time for me to go, but new life is coming and I can't wait to see what's next for this most authentically Christian community, this place of grace. This transition may seem like some kind of ending, but it is really the beginning of a new chapter in the life of this congregation and a new reason, as the scripture says, to "sing praises to the Lord," with joyful anticipation of what can and what will, be.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mark



Bethany Bell Tower ...is a monthly publication of

BETHANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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***Statements made in editorials, signed articles or letters, do not represent an official position in this church.
Persons with differing opinions are invited to express their views in letters to the editor.***

Are you less than perfect? Welcome! We are a community of imperfect people (including but not restricted to): squirming children and their harried parents, happy and sad people, people with challenges, seniors, young people, middle aged folks, people of every race, poor people, rich people, in between people, LGBT and straight people, true believers, seekers, agnostics, odd and ordinary people, extraordinary people, un-churched and unsure people, people with disabilities, hypocrites, saints, sinners and everybody else. Because no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here just as you are!



Greetings from your Bethany Moderator

In peace, Janet Moser, Bethany Moderator

Have a November full of blessings and a Thanksgiving full of gratitude!

Thanksgiving is the traditional time to think about our blessings. After all, that is what it is supposed to be all about, right? **Thanks – giving?** But do we really want to limit our gratitude to one day filled with food? No way! Here is the thing. Gratitude, like so many important practices, is a purposeful mindset. We need to really think about our world, our lives, and see the many blessings we have. It needs to become a habit – like brushing your teeth! It needs to be practiced. It needs to be taught, especially to our children. Here is a great little thirty day activity, courtesy of <https://parents-together.org/30-day-family-gratitude-challenge/>, to get us all in the gratitude habit. While most are self-explanatory, the gratitude game can be similar to a scavenger hunt. Look around your home and write down or take pictures of everything you are grateful for. Then get everyone back together and see what you’ve got. If you go to the site you will see full explanations. Not really necessary though. I think it would be fun to take these little prompts and create your own gratitude tie-in!

30 DAY Family Gratitude Challenge

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | | | 1 GRATITUDE GAME | 2 THANK YOU NOTES | 3 GET INTO NATURE | 4 DONATE FOOD  |
| 5 THANKFUL TREE | 6 DRAW LOVED ONES | 7 ADD UP COSTS | 8 DONATE CLOTHES OR TOYS  | 9 GRATITUDE YOGA  | 10 HOMEMADE CARDS | 11 FARM TO TABLE |
| 12 "HOW IT'S MADE" | 13 COMEDIC THANKS | 14 THANK YOU SIGNS | 15 CAREER DAY | 16 THANK YOUR BODY | 17 FAMILY HISTORY | 18 SEND POSTCARDS |
| 19 LAUNCH INTO SPACE  | 20 GRATITUDE POEM | 21 TRANSLATE "THANK YOU" | 22 HISTORICAL HEROES | 23 FIVE SENSES CHART | 24 MOVIE NIGHT  | 25 IMAGINE A DAY WITHOUT |
| 26 MAKE A FOOD GIFT | 27 GUIDED MEDITATION | 28 THANKFULNESS COLLAGE | 29 READ ALOUD  | 30 GIVE A GREAT TIP | | |

TROOP 121

Troop 121 has had a very busy late summer and early fall. Our troop started off our year by preparing for our Court of Honor to present the awards to those scouts who have worked through the summer to complete merit badges and advance to the next rank. This was a very special ceremony because we said goodbye to our previous scoutmaster and committee chair who we learned so much from and have created so many memories with. As they stepped down we welcomed in our new scoutmaster and new committee chair who will help us to continue our success and journey in scouting.

In October we worked with the Cub Scouts at the Arrow of Light Invitational at Schiff Reservation introducing and preparing the Webelos to the Scouts BSA program. We also planned for the troop's open house by displaying and demonstrating our skills such as: cooking, first aid, and fire building to the new youth coming up.

One of our older scouts, Max D, is presently working on his Eagle Scout project. Good luck to Max. With November rolling in we are preparing for our annual Turkey Trip. On this trip we make a whole Thanksgiving Feast for our families and enjoy our time together. We will finish out the month talking about cold weather camping and what we need to do to prepare for the training coming up next month for that camping.

CALLING ALL WEBELOS! SPEND A DAY WITH TROOP 121

Turkey in a Trashcan? Delicious!!!



When?

Saturday, November 20th from 10am - 6pm

Where?

West Hills County Park in Huntington, L.I. This is an outdoor family event.

RSVP Required: Contact Paul Gish

scoutmaster@troop121ny.org

Text or leave a message: 212-923-6254

We use the Buddy System, so bring a Buddy, or Five!

Troop 121 of East Rockaway

www.troop121ny.org/come-visit.html



FROM THE TRUSTEES:

We had another Eagle Scout Project done at Behtany on Sunday, October 14, 2021 by Kathleen O., a scout from Troop 313 in North Bellmore. Kathleen O. did a wonderful job. She started on Friday by power washing all of the loose paint off of the church. Her family has a construction firm and came and put up scaffolding. They put in a flower bed underneath the sign with all new flowers, and potting a new plant the Charlie Wright Memorial flower planter. The pillars and everything else out front is now painted. She replaced the wood for the windows and also painted and scraped the windows. Also, they painted the door leading into the sanctuary from the side. She went over and above her Eagle Scout project. If she is an example of the Scouts of the future, I see nothing but good! As the scouts say: **BULLY!!**

This is her go fund me page: <https://gofund.me/f1db683b>



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Hello Bethany, this is Nick Sincinito and for the past eight and a half years I have been the Scoutmaster of Troop 121. I had to make the hard decision to step down, but I am still active with the troop as an Assistant Scoutmaster. I just wanted to thank all of the Bethany family for their support to the young men, leaders and families of Troop 121.

We may not know each other personally, but your support goes a long way as we try to deliver a program for these young men. You may have come down to our Pancake Breakfasts or the Huckleberry Frolic and bought some hot dogs from the troop. Reverend Lukens has always been there for our Eagle Court of Honors and Rich Eves has been there for the Troop as well as helping the boys for their Eagle Scout projects. I am proud to be part of the Troop 121 family and am honored to work with the young men on their journey to Eagle and beyond.

My journey in the Scouting program started back in 1999 as Cubmaster of Pack 84 at St. Raymond's and is still going in many other areas of Scouting. Again, I thank you and know that your support of the troop will always be there.

Yours in Scouting,

Nick Sincinito

BOY SCOUT TROOP 121
TODAY'S YOUTH... TOMORROW'S LEADERS

The Thrift Shop is OPEN!! Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 AM-2:00 PM



Sunday School Raffle

\$\$\$\$\$ Last Ticket Pulled Wins \$\$\$\$\$\$

\$1000.00!!!



Drawing: December 19,2021 (after service)

How it works: ONLY 100 tickets will be sold. \$25 donation each ticket

Winners: 1st ticket drawn wins \$50.00; 25th ticket drawn wins \$50.00; 50th ticket drawn wins \$50.00;

75th ticket drawn wins \$50.00; 99th ticket drawn wins \$50.00; 100th ticket drawn (last ticket) wins **\$1000.00**

To support please see Jesse Kilgus or Tina Lewald

Call, text or email Tina @917-270-6509 or Tina2000_10465@yahoo.com

BOOK CLUB

Join the Bethany Book Club!

Looking for a good read and maybe some good fellowship to go with it? Join us for Bethany Book Group, Tuesday evening at 7pm on Zoom! We are currently reading the wonderful autobiography, **Searching for Sunday** by Rachel Held Evans, the story of one woman's journey out of the church and back again. All are welcome, just call us at 516 599-5768 or e mail us at BethanyOffice@optonline.net for the zoom codes!



Back By Popular Demand

Festival of Miniature Christmas Trees and The Twelve Cookies of Christmas

The PRC Festival of Miniature Christmas Trees, Holiday Boutique and Christmas Cookie Walk was one of the events that many of our subscribers and friends missed last year. We are pleased to report that it is back on for this year with just a few changes. We will be accepting decorated miniature trees throughout the month of November. We will also have trees, wreaths and other gift items available for purchase at our boutique table. This year's cookie walk is entitled *The Twelve Cookies of Christmas*. It will feature twelve

different cookies baked by our staff and board members, and will be packaged by staff members to ensure safety. The Cookie Walk and final drawing for the miniature trees will take place on **December 4**

between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM

We hope to see you there!

Parrish Resource Center

919 Elmont Road, Valley Stream NY 11580-1049

(516) 285-0919, Fax (516) 285-2615 ,

E mail: Consultant@cpr4church.org , Website: cpr4church.org



Fun Facts about your Favorite Thanksgiving Foods

Thanksgiving Day is typically composed of three activities: spending time with family, watching football and eating an extravagant feast. After you've caught up on everyone's personal life—whether you're reuniting with loved ones in person or via Zoom this year—and chatted about what you're thankful for, you'll likely need something to keep the conversation going. Here are some Thanksgiving Day food facts you can share!

Thanksgiving Gave Birth to the TV Dinner

Swanson created their frozen dinner meals in 1953 because Swanson had 260 *tons* of extra turkey that year. Unsure what to do with it, a salesman suggested packaging it onto aluminum trays with other sides like sweet potatoes. (Airline meals are also said to have helped inspire the trays!) Regardless, we hope that Swanson employee got a big bonus that year.



Turkey Probably Won't Be the Cause of Your Sleepiness This Year

After your delicious Thanksgiving feast, so many of us can barely stay awake for the big football games. Often, we blame the amino acid L-tryptophan as the cause of the drowsiness. The truth is that the tryptophan doesn't really take effect because of all the other amino acids present in the meal. If you're tired, it's likely from all the preparation, socializing, cleaning, and bottomless glasses of wine and beer you had with your meal!

The Origins of the Turducken Go Back to the 18th Century

While the turducken may seem like a modern Thanksgiving monstrosity, its origins actually predate the current version of the holiday. The 1774 book The Art of Cookery contains the earliest known instructions for cooking a bird within a bird. But instead of a chicken and a duck inside a turkey, the recipe calls for a pigeon, partridge, fowl, and goose to all be stuffed inside a turkey.



Green Bean Casserole was Invented by a Campbell Soup Employee

Campbell's test kitchen supervisor Dorcas Reilly was responsible for developing recipes for the backs of soup cans in the 1950s. Her most successful dish—green bean casserole—featured condensed cream of mushroom soup as one of its six ingredients. Families are still enjoying her original recipe 60 years later.



Cranberry Sauce is Canned Upside Down

Ocean Spray knows you love the sight of a cylindrical, perfectly ridged mass of cranberry sauce sliding out of the can. To facilitate this process, the company packages the condiment so that the rounded end of the can is up top and the sharper, rimmed end is at the bottom—which is the opposite of what you see in most canned products. This design creates an air bubble vacuum at the top of the can. When you remove the bottom panel and loosen the contents with a knife, the air bubble gently pushes the cranberry sauce out of the can and onto your plate. So when serving jellied cranberry sauce at Thanksgiving, remember to open it upside-down for

the best results! Americans consume 80 million pounds of cranberries during Thanksgiving, including 5,062,500 gallons of jellied cranberry — enough to fill nearly eight Olympic-sized swimming pools.



There is a “Brussel Sprouts Gene”

If you’re the only person you know who can’t stand the taste of Brussels sprouts, blame your genes. Some people have a variant gene called TAS2R38 that allows them to taste certain bitter compounds, such as those found in Brussels sprouts. The presence or absence of the so-called “Brussels sprouts gene” may explain why some people hate Brussels sprouts and others can’t get enough of them.



If You Cooked the Meal, Some Calories Won’t Count

If you're in charge of cooking Thanksgiving dinner from top to bottom, we have some excellent news for you: It's estimated that if you ran around the kitchen all day, you've probably burned about 700 calories!

“Stuffed” Is an Understatement

If you feel full and bloated after your Thanksgiving feast, take solace in knowing you are not alone. Americans consume between 2500 and 4500 calories at the Thanksgiving table. That’s the equivalent of eating between four and eight Big Macs in a single sitting! Despite all those extra calories, you probably won’t gain much weight from Thanksgiving feasting. In spite of common thinking that people gain an average of five pounds over Thanksgiving, the truth is that weight gain is usually minute! People do gain weight during the Thanksgiving holiday, but only about eight-tenths of a pound, according to a 2015 study in the New England Journal of Medicine.

(Sources: <https://www.mentalfloss.com> 11/5/2019; <https://www.eatthis.com/> 11/8/2016; insider.com 11/12/2019)

Wishing You and Your Family a Blessed Thanksgiving!

(and also a Wealth of Health!) ...Carol Henck

MISSIONS:

Bethany will be sponsoring a new charity in December: Adopt-A-Family. Look for details in next Bell Tower.

White Gift Sunday is November 21. It is now called “Gifting Sunday” and will still be a collection of warm winter clothes for Native Americans.

Toy Collection Sunday is December 5th...the day after the Christmas Fair!

There will be a Christmas Collection for the UCC on December 19th.

(Thank you in generous support of all of our charities.)

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS:

- Space is now available for advertising. (No full or half pages)
- Reasonably priced.
- 1/8 page....\$200.00/year; \$25.00/month
- 1/4 page ...\$300.00/year; \$45.00/month
- 200+ circulation.
- Published monthly. (Except only one issue for July/August)
- Not just local...we mail all over.
- Send us camera-ready artwork or we will create your ad for you.
- Business expense deduction (Perhaps a charitable deduction?)

Contact our editor: Charles D'Agostino



About Us: Looking for a place where your child can learn and grow at their own pace? A place filled with adventure and where crafts fuel creativity? Do you seek an environment where your little one is safe to explore and discover? Look no further.

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Session B-11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

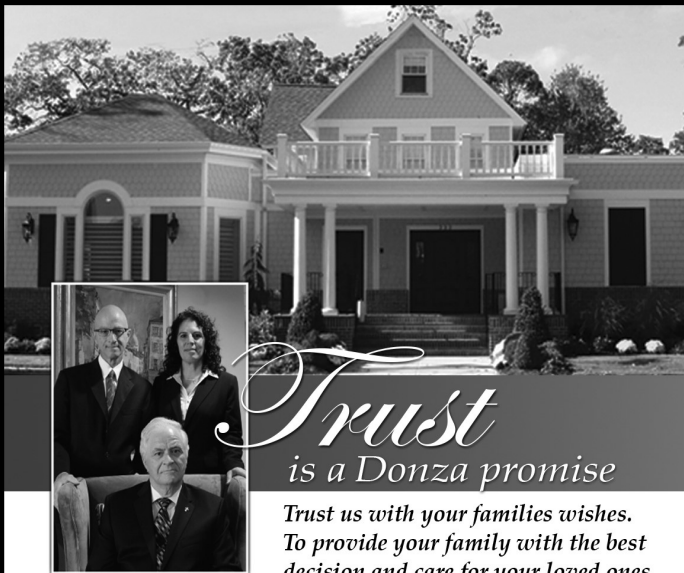
Session C- 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM

www.thelittlevillagedaycare.com

For more information, contact us at

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THRIFTique

We are pleased to announce that the Thrift Shop at Bethany Congregational Church located at 100 Main Street, East Rockaway, NY, is open for business once again. Our hours are Friday and Saturday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Entry of people will be limited to few at a time, temperatures will be taken, hand sanitizer and masks must be used and social distancing will be put into practice to help keep both customers and staff healthy and safe.

We carry many items in our shop and there's something for everyone!

Looking forward to seeing friends
- old and new - real soon!



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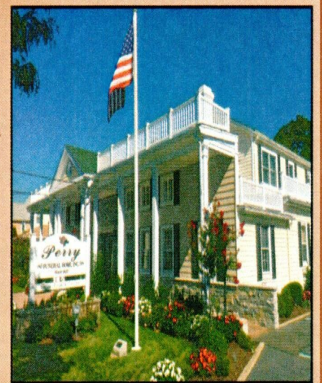
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Bell Tower Boosters

If you enjoy *The Bell Tower* and you would like to see your name here, please send a small donation to Bethany Church. It helps to offset costs. Thank you.



Mural in the Fellowship Hall

Courtesy of Diana Harrison and Anthony Claverie