

THE BELL TOWER



“PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS TO THE WORLD
JESUS LIVES OUR GOD REIGNS”

Vol. 61 No. 6

East Rockaway, N.Y.

June 2021



May 23rd, Bethany confirmed five new members into our fold.

Please join us in welcoming and congratulating these five young people as they mark this important step in their spiritual growth and Bethany commitment.

John-Paul Luciano D’Agostino....Krista McKenzie Fardella

James Matthew Lewald....Kaitlyn Sofie Lewald...William Thomas Lewald



Dates to Remember:

- July 4...Independence Day
- September 6...Labor Day
- September 7...Rosh Hashanah
- September 11... Patriot Day
(20 Years!)
- September 12...Grandparents Day
- September 16...Yom Kippur
- September 22...First Day of Autumn
- October 11...Columbus Day
- October 31...Halloween

Lay Readers and Ushers are needed for Sunday Worship. Please sign up on the sheet in the Hallway or speak with Maryanne (516-599-5768) in the office or Stephanie Maddolone (516-355-1970). Lay Readers will be required to assist with the service and read two (2) Bible passages for that Sunday. Please speak to Pastor Mark for further directions.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon (Closed Thursdays)

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

Scapegoats

“Then Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins, putting them in the head of the goat, and sending it away into the wilderness by means of someone designated for the task. The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a barren region; and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness.”
(Leviticus 16:21-22)

The word “scapegoat,” no doubt has its origins in the laws of Moses, but the concept goes much farther back. From the dawn of humanity, a “scapegoat,” was a single life offered in the hope of appeasing the divine as a ransom for the lives of the group. Many biblical scholars believe for instance, that the story of Abraham and Isaac’s near sacrifice in the Book of Genesis was a way of prohibiting human sacrifice among the Hebrew people and of reinforcing the sovereignty of God over matters of life and death. But the idea of an innocent taking on the sins of all, (so often associated with Jesus), is a familiar trope in almost every human community. No wonder the idea of Jesus as the divine scapegoat, the one who died as a ransom for our sins, became such a popular one among Christians. It was a familiar theme; an innocent one chosen, like the virgin in the volcano, to appease the anger of the deity inside.

Of course, God is not a volcano, nor is demanding blood sacrifice consistent with the God whom we know as love. God is the author of life, not its nemesis and Jesus said, “I came that they might have life and have it abundantly.” Not by offering his life’s blood as a ransom, but by tearing down the barriers that stand between us and our Creator, by offering us relationship grounded in love, not by shedding more blood. The same God who stayed the hand of Abraham from sacrificing Isaac is a God of grace, of life and of second chances, not some monster that must be appeased to keep him from sending us

natural disasters, or plagues or whatever, no matter what some televangelists might want us to believe. We know God, because we know Jesus and because we know Jesus, we know that God’s agenda is always about love, about new ways of becoming for us as God’s people and about abundant life lived in communion with God and through God’s love, with each other as his creation. “...for I desire steadfast love, not sacrifice...,” God says through the prophet Hosea, not suffering, not retribution or even atonement in the usual sense, but love. Our God is love and love is what our God asks of us. Not just a warm feeling, but a life lived in the recognition that we are our sister and our brother’s keeper, that whatever it is that we do, we are called by our love to do with compassion and integrity, adding our part to the grace that holds up the world and seeks a life abundant in love and joy. We gather to worship that God, not because we must, but because we can; because it is in communion with God and God’s people that we drink from the font of living water, are bathed in the Holy Spirit, and empowered to go out and live and love some more, given eyes to see what is important, and a community of faith to walk with in this precarious journey of life.

Jesus did not come among us as one of us to pay a debt, or to give his life as a ransom. He came as one of us to show us the way of what he called “abiding.” That is, a love so complete, an intimacy so total, that we become one, each of us incarnate in the other. God became incarnate as Jesus the man of Nazareth because his love required it of him. He became one of us most fully in his incarnation, a union of the divine and the human, the ultimate manifestation of both, in his decision to share the blessings and the curses of mortal life, the inevitability of death and of course, the triumph of love and the promise that death will not have the final word. Jesus’ life was

not a ransom, it was a gift that we human beings tried to destroy. Perhaps because of our fear, our blindness and our investment in the way things are, or perhaps because his lifting up of the least, the last and the lost as the bearers of salvation was just too hard to take. But God's love is more powerful than our fear or our foolishness, and as he proved on the third day, love is immortal because it is the essence of God.

Jesus was sacrificed on the altar of the status quo by those who could not see beyond "the way it is." The priests and religious people demanded his death because he threatened their power, and their position, and because they, in their certainty of their own righteousness, chose what they understood, what they could control, what worked for them, over the new covenant, the new thing that God was doing in Jesus Christ. Jesus was executed by the authorities for the same reason. Because he raised the eyes of the people to a new way of seeing their relationship with God, and with each other. When Jesus raised up the lowly and offered a way of being in communion and community that did not require coercion, it was a threat to a world built on coercion and exploitation. When he promised a new world order, one in which "the one who would be ruler of all must become the

servant of all," he offered a new ethic, a new definition of what is good, and righteous, one that was based in love rather than force. It threatened the very foundations of the wisdom of the world then as it does now and the world fought back, executing him on the cross in the hope of killing the message with the messenger.

The thing is, love is the essence of God, as eternal as the Creator. As Jesus said in the Gospel of John, it cannot be confined in a tomb or destroyed on a cross. It is as urgent and forceful as life itself, pushing up through the dirt and ashes of sin and death to make something new, something better from what was, always seeking connection, resurrection, and new life. We, as heirs to the first disciples and members of his church are called to carry that love into the places where God has planted us, to be an example of what it means to live in connection and kin-dom and to promote the new ethic and the new covenant by living our lives with open hands, hearts and minds and to seek to abide in him and his will so that he may abide in us. It seems like a tall order, and it is, but love does not give up, and love always wins.

Have a wonderful summer!!

Pastor Mark



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BETHANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

100 Main Street, East Rockaway, New York 11518 (516) 599-5768
Maryanne Walling, Secretary, bethanyoffice@optimum.net, www.bethanycong.org

Reverend Mark Lukens, Pastor, revlu@aol.com
Mildred and Art Roemer, Editors Emeritus and Guiding Lights
Charles D'Agostino, Editor, Jennifer Valis, Assistant Editor
Reach us directly at: cjdagostino@gmail.com or 516-721-8885

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

Are you less than perfect? Welcome! We are a community or 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

Happy Summer!

I expect by the time you are reading this, summer will have officially begun.

Wait! By whose definition? If you are a meteorologist, summer began on June 1st and runs through August 31st. They are more into classifying the seasonal weather. I have to admit, that 80+ degree weather in early June sure felt like summer to me!

Now if you are more into the astronomical onset of summer, the date is June 20, 2021 at 11:32 pm. Not quite right! That's true if you live in New York. If you want to go by UTC time (Coordinated Universal Time), then the solstice is/was June 21, 2021 at 3:32 am. If you've never heard of UTC time, join the club. It turns out that it was the same as Greenwich Mean Time, at least until 1972. Hold on! If it's Coordinated Universal Time why isn't the abbreviation CUT? Well, it seems the English language translation works with CUT but the French translation would need TUC. Like two kids fighting over the same toy, Mom said now no one gets it. UTC it is.

Confused? Wait, I'm not done! You would think that warm summer weather would mean that our dear planet Earth must be at perihelion, closest to the sun. Nope. We are actually about two weeks from aphelion, Earth's farthest point from the sun. It's about the tilt. We in the North Hemisphere are leaning in.

Ready for more madness? The summer solstice is also known as Midsummer. Huh? This kind of makes sense. The spring equinox marks the beginning of longer days which end in fall with the vernal equinox. Smack dab in the middle of all that – you guessed it – the summer solstice!

I guess it is all a matter of perspective, as much of life is. Remember, while we are celebrating the summer solstice, our friends south of the equator are experiencing the winter solstice. Perspective indeed!

Whatever the title, this time of year has been celebrated throughout history in many ways, in many places. Alaska has a Midnight Sun baseball game. Ottawa hosts a First Nations Powwow festival. Iceland has a not-so-secret Secret Solstice Festival in Reykjavik. Austria has mountaintop bonfires. Croatia has an Astrofest. Russia goes all out with the White Night Festivals. If you travel to Stonehenge in England or the pyramids in Cairo, Egypt, you can witness the sun's rays beaming through the perfect alignment of the stones or between the two pyramids.



While whatever you choose to call it or how you might celebrate is up to you, this is indeed a special time of the year. Winter and the pandemic had us holed up for months on end with our focus drawn inward. The summer solstice calls us to wake up, get up, take a big stretch and move. We can face the world with new found energy and spiritual renewal. Go for it!

Bethany Congregational Church held its 207th Corporate Meeting on May 16, 2021

The budget was reviewed and accepted as was the slate of church officers and committee members. I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered for these important roles and all those who joined the meeting to enable this to happen. Involvement is the key to Bethany's existence and future. As Rich E. likes to say, it is why we are a "congregational" church. It is about our congregation! I'm sharing the list of positions below for two reasons: 1. You can thank these people for their time and efforts. 2. More importantly – you can help them! There isn't a person on the list below that couldn't use a little assistance now and then. Fresh ideas and helping hands are always welcome!

Bethany Congregational Church

2021-2022

Elected Church Officers

Moderator (3 year term)	(1) Janet Moser
Financial Secretary (3 year term)	(1) Sarah Parrott
Church Treasurer (3 year term)	(2) Andrea Eaves
Church School Superintendent (3 year term)	(2) Jessie Kilgus
Official Delegates (3 year term)	(2) Heidi Hofmann; (1) Ethel Gilloon
Editor of the Church Publication	(2) Charles D'Agostino
Clerk of the Corporation (1 year term)	(1) Maryanne Walling

Board of Trustees (three year terms)

(3) Doug Hermann; (2) Richard Eaves (chair); (2) William Lewald Jr.; (1) Charles D'Agostino; (3) David Donovan

Diaconate (3 year term)

(1) Stephanie Maddalone – Chair; (1) Joann Wright; (1) Bill Lewald; (2) Diana Harrison; (2) Barbara Valis; (2) Jane O'Hara (sub only); (1) Lora Fioramonti; (1) Corey Wilder; (2) Ethel Gilloon; (2) Jennifer Firth (sub only); (1) Tina Lewald; (3) _____ (You?)

Board of Christian Education (3 year term)

(1) Jaime Elliott (1) Tina Lewald (2) Jesse Kilgus

Executive Committee Members-at-Large (3 year term)

(2) Heidi Hofmann (2) Barbara Merna

Mission and Benevolence Committee (3 year term)

(2) Maryanne Walling (1) Ethel Gilloon (2) Barbara Merna (3) Joan Kline

Nominating Committee (3 year term)

(1) Jennifer Valis (1) Tina Lewald

Outreach Committee (3 year term)

(1) Stephanie Maddalone (1) Carol Henck

Altar Flowers – Jennifer Firth **Beautification** - Maryanne Walling

Memorial Fund – Jennifer Firth **Historian** – Stephanie Maddalone

Pulpit Search Committee: **Trustee:** David Donovan; **Deacon:** JoAnn Wright; **Members-At-Large:** Andrea Eaves, Heidi Hofmann, and Sarah Parrott

In gratitude, Janet Moser, Bethany Moderator

FROM THE TRUSTEES:

UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR CHURCHES (5-18-21)

DO's and DON'Ts

DO:

- Continue to follow COVID-safe practices until background levels of virus are very low (see below).
- Plan gathering and building re-opening carefully and thoughtfully.
- Adopt a “two out of three” approach: masks, social distancing, gathering outdoors
- Provide an example of good health practices, particularly for children who have not been vaccinated
- Gather in ways that do not exclude or put at risk unvaccinated members of the community, such as children or medically vulnerable individuals

DON'T:

- Decide the pandemic is over
- Rush into re-opening, disregarding medical and commonsense advice
- Discard safe worship practices
- Ignore state or local health regulations
- Act in ways that require unvaccinated or vulnerable members to choose between being safe and participating in the community

THRESHOLDS OF RISK: NEW CASES IN THE COMMUNITY

Most epidemiologists are encouraging us to avoiding large public gatherings indoors until viral transmission in the community is very low. 75-80% of state vaccinated. As of May 18th NYS stands at 52% fully vaccinated. (two weeks past your last shot)

(Thanks to the Wisconsin Council of Churches for creating some of this guidance)

Yours in Christ, Richard Eaves

Puns 4 U... submitted by Don Gillies

I can't do a lot of math but I can do SUM of it.

Did you know alligators can grow up to 15 feet? But most have 4.

I recently started a business building yachts in my attic. Sails are going through the roof.

Why do cows lie down in the rain? To keep each udder dry.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down.

Don't spell **part** backwards. It's a trap.

A friend of mine tried to annoy me with bird puns, but I soon realized that toucan play at that game.

I bought my girlfriend some Slinky underwear, now she keeps falling down the stairs.

How did the chickens get in a fight? They egged each other on.

Clones are people two.

The past, present, and future walk into a bar. It was tense.

Yesterday a clown held the door open for me. It was such a nice jester

What is the best time on a clock? 6:30, hands down.

I got fired from the bank. A man asked me to check his balance, so I pushed him over.

Thanks for explaining the word many to me. It means a lot.

Knowing how to pick locks has opened a lot of doors for me.

I suffer from kleptomania. But I take something for it.

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

FROM THE EDITOR:

Prayers for Catie Clarke, Richard Meagher, Mark Gelb, Sue, Carolann and all those who need our support.



It was our pleasure to finally meet Don Gillies. He has been contributing puns and histories of Bethany over the last couple years. He is a former congregant who now resides out of state but his heart is still here.



Bethany's Sunday School Fundraiser

(50% of the pot is for the winner and 50% to Bethany)

Tickets are only \$5

You can purchase as many as you want! See if your ticket number is called on Sunday June 27th
Tina Lewald 917-270-6509 or Tina2000_10465@yahoo.com

TROOP 121:

This month brings the end of our scouting season until the fall, but the last few weeks have been very busy for the scouts in Troop 121. Within the month of May, we had beautiful weather when we competed in our annual competition between troops, securing a few ribbons for our flag with wins in three events. This year's theme was "Back To Basics" so our competitions were all about scout skills. The troop also participated in a Memorial Day ceremony in East Rockaway although the parade had been cancelled for this year.



Please visit the beautification efforts of one of our Eagle Scout Projects at the church playground where Eagle Nathan G. lead the troop in his project. The scouts worked hard under Nathan's leadership cleaning out the playground, filling in and leveling out soil and planting grass seed. They also put up a fence between the rear exit and the parking lot for the safety of the preschool children. Thank you for the wonderful Eagle project Nathan.

While Nathan's project was going on, Robert P began his Eagle project, as well, leading the scouts in building benches that were being placed around Old Bethpage Village Restoration living museum on the following weekend for people to sit and enjoy the various events held there. The second half of Robert's project included volunteers helping dig holes for the installation of the bench legs at Robert's direction. Many people will benefit from this labor intensive project. Thank you for work put forth on this project, Robert.

On Sunday, May 13, 2021, we celebrated Finn B's Eagle Court of Honor. Finn's project was completed in February. He led the scouts and other volunteers in repairing potholes in the church parking lot. Finn has been involved in scouting for many years beginning his career in Cub Scouts and has served as leadership in the troop as well as in the honor society of scouting, the Order of the Arrow, where he is presently serving as leadership. Good luck in your future, Finn, and continue the service you have learned so much about in your scouting career.

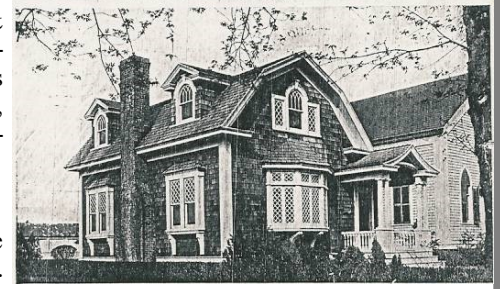
Our meetings will come to a conclusion in a few weeks but many will continue by going to summer camp and work on their merit badges throughout the summer to come closer to their next ranks for the fall. In celebration of another successful year, we will be having our annual end of the year barbecue for the scouts as we say goodbye until the fall.

Troop 121 would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Fourth of July.

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

History of the East Rockaway Public Library (continued from last issue)

The building was furnished to a large extent by voluntary contributions. Frederick Loeser & Co. donated a large American flag. President Theodore Roosevelt gave an excellent, autographed photograph of himself. Mr. Phipp had the title searched, Mr. Beeson had the grounds graded and landscaped, Mrs. Sage added book racks, many books and a privet hedge. Andirons, fender and grate were the gift of Mrs. Blottner, and others gave pictures, shelf labels and holders and ornaments.



Miss Amelia Davison as librarian still had her corps of public spirited women to help in the work. Among these volunteers were Mrs. Robert, Davison, Miss FlorenceCuttler, Mrs. O.M. Denton, Miss Mary Baisley, Miss Melba Mott, Miss Sarah Schiffmacher, Mrs. John Davison, Miss Evelyn Rhame, Mrs. Mary Smith, Mrs. Roman Dobler, Miss Caroline Rhame, Miss Dorothy Emerson, Miss Florence Simonson, Mrs. Florence Simonson, Mrs. Lena Phipps, Mrs. Mudge, Mrs. Leo Guichard, Mrs. David Roche, Mrs. Ruth Emerson Ryan and Mrs. Gray.

In August, 1926, Miss Davison resigned from active work in the Libraryitself, and as several of the women who assisted her also wanted to be relieved, the Trustees decided to obtain the services of a paid Librarian. Mrs. Leo Guichard was appointed and the building was opened to the public on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 3:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon and Tuesdays and Saturdays from 7:00 to 9:00 in the evening. Miss Davison still continued to buy the books, accession,catalog, label them and get them ready for the shelves. She and her former assistants also continued to mend and rebind worn books.

In 1926 the Village Board made its first appropriation toward the financial support of the Library and has continued this support each year. In 1927 the furnace refused to heat the building and Miss Irene Davison had a pipeless furnace put in. In 1929 the attic of the Library building was enclosed, partially shelved and equipped as a Children's Room. All the Children's books were put up there. A table and chairs were given by Miss Amelia Davison and, although the Trustees realized the conditions were not perfect, this gift did relieve to a considerable extent the overcrowded conditions in the Library.

In 1930 Mrs. Guichard resigned as Librarian and Mrs. Harriet B. Dobson was appointed in her place on May 15. In 1937 the Library received a gift of \$2,000 as a bequest in the will of the late Miss Amelia Davison. With this money the Trustees bought the land adjoining the Library site. Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Rhame made a very generous gift to the library in accepting that price for their land. In 1940 Miss Irene C. Davison offered to help the trustees build a new building by buying the present site and building, which she then gave to Bethany Congregational Church and by a further gift of money. The trustees gladly accepted Miss Davison's generous offer and engaged Mr. Paul F. Jagow, an Architect and a resident of East Rockaway, to draw plans for a new building. The trustees of the Village of East Rockaway were consulted, and gave their approval to the proposed plans. The trustees then engaged the Harvey Construction Co. to erect the building.

The Trustees hired a full-time librarian in March 1942, and the new building, approximately 2460 sq. feet in floor area, was dedicated on May 2, 1942, as the East Rockaway Free Library. In 1946, the library's total budget was nearly \$5,000 a year, of which 4,250 was the Village's appropriation. The Trustees spent approximately \$1,000 for books and \$2,226 for salaries. The Library had a book stock of 11,374, with a circulation of 28,092 volumes and 1,706 registered borrowers. Between 1950 and 1955 the circulation increased from approximately 43,000 to 75,000, while the population had increased from 7,970 to around 8,200.

In January 1959, several Trustees attended a meeting in the Mineola Library where the Nassau Library System was discussed. They felt the plan as presented was so different from the earlier plans that they voted in favor of joining the County System. The Library Board of Trustees determined that the East Rockaway Free Library should become a public institution. The Village Board was contacted and an application made to the New YorkState Department of Education. In February of 1965, the East Rockaway Free Library had its application approved and became a Public Library. All of the Board members from the East Rockaway Free Library were reappointed to the Board of the Public Library.

By 1970 it had experienced outstanding growth both in circulation and book stock. However, with book stock nearing 30,000 volumes, the increasingly cramped conditions forced the curtailment of services contributing to the fall in circulation from a high of 106,664 in 1963 to the 67,736 recorded in 1969. The Library Board, no longer was able to rely on the generosity of public spirited citizens like Miss Baisley, Mrs. Sage or of the Davison family sought public support for the construction of facilities that would permit the East Rockaway Public Library to continue to grow and thereby better serve the people of our Village.



In 1973 the old PIC building at 477 Atlantic Avenue was completed and the library was moved to the 11,000 square foot facility. From 1996-1997 the library was expanded and renovated . In June of 1997 the completed 12,500 square foot building was re-dedicated. The newly renovated library has computers, an online catalog, and databases as well as good books for your reading pleasure, reference help, children's programs and much more. *(submitted by Stephanie Maddolone)*

Break Out that Barbecue Grill~~

Tips to Keep Food Safe This Summer

Summer promises sunshine, heat, and carefree gatherings with families and friends. It also coincides with an increase in food poisoning as warmer temperatures cause foodborne germs to thrive. **Follow these steps for a safe and enjoyable grilling season!**

Separate

When shopping, pick up meat, poultry, and seafood last, right before checkout. Separate them from other food in your shopping cart and grocery bags. When shopping for groceries or eating outside, make sure to refrigerate perishable food within 1 hour if it's 90°F or warmer.

Chill

Keep meat, poultry, and seafood refrigerated until ready to grill. When transporting, keep below 40°F in an insulated cooler.

Clean

Wash your hands with soap before and after handling raw meat, poultry, and seafood. Wash work surfaces, utensils and the grill before and after cooking.

Check Your Grill and Tools

Use a moist cloth or paper towel to clean the grill surface before cooking. If you use a wire bristle brush, thoroughly inspect the grill's surface before cooking. Wire bristles from grill cleaning brushes may dislodge and stick into food on the grill.

Don't Cross-contaminate

Throw out marinades and sauces that have touched raw meat juices, which can spread germs to cooked foods. Use clean utensils and a clean plate to remove cooked meat from the grill.

Cook thoroughly to ensure meat is cooked hot enough to kill harmful germs.

When smoking, keep temperatures inside the smoker at 225°F to 300°F to keep meat a safe temperature while it cooks.

When Grilling

145°F—whole cuts of beef, pork, lamb, and veal (stand-time of 3 minutes at this temperature)

145°F—fish

160°F—hamburgers and other ground beef

165°F—all poultry and pre-cooked meats, like hot dogs

After Grilling

140°F or warmer—until it's served

Refrigerate

Divide leftovers into small portions and place in covered, shallow containers. Put in refrigerator or freezer within 2 hours of cooking (1 hour if above 90°F outside).

Thaw frozen food safely in the refrigerator, in cold water, or in the microwave. Never thaw foods on the counter, because bacteria multiply quickly in the parts of the food that reach room temperature.

Source: cdc.gov/foodsafety

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Submitted by Carol Henck

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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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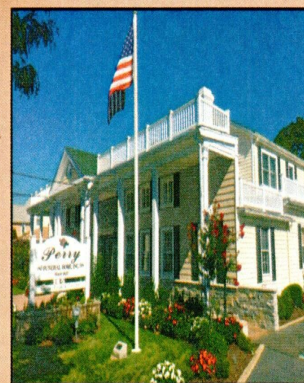
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