



THE BELL TOWER



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

Vol. 62 No. 9

East Rockaway, N.Y.

October 2022



HurriCON returns to Bethany Church on: Saturday, November 19, 2022 from 10 AM to 5 PM!

This year there will be over 30 tables featuring comics book artists and writers, local artists, comic books, toys, food, fellowship, and much, much more.

Admission is a \$5 donation to the church and children 12 and under in costume get in free!

Volunteers are always needed, please get in touch with David Donovan at hurricon@yahoo.com and any high school students who need to do community service should also get in touch because we need your help too!

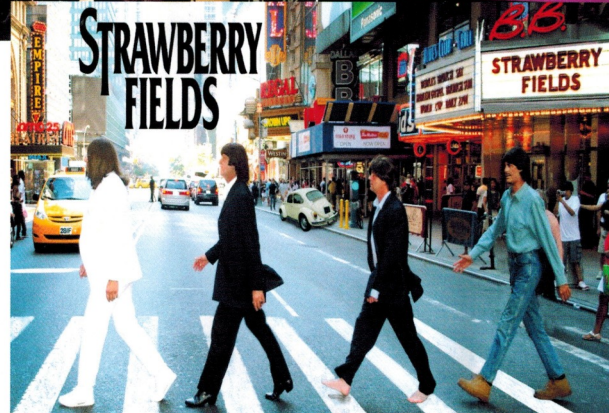
Dates to Remember:

- October 22...Strawberry Fields Concert
- October 30...Potluck Brunch
- October 31...Halloween
- November 6...End Daylight Savings
- November 6...Dedication of Hymnals
- November 8...ELECTION DAY
- November 11...Veterans' Day
- November 19...HURRICON
- November 24...Thanksgiving Day
- December 3...Christmas Fair
- December 18...Begin Chanukah
- December 21...First Day of Winter

Strawberry Fields of Beatlemania on Broadway Presents a Concert To Benefit



**The Susan Satriano Memorial
Scholarship Foundation**



Saturday, October 22nd ~ 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$25 each • 50/50 and Raffles • Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.

Bellmore-Merrick Central Administration Building Auditorium
1260 Meadowbrook Road, Merrick, NY 11566

To purchase Tickets: Call Joe Satriano..516-603-5520 or visit: www.susansatrianofoundation.com; Facebook: Susan Satriano Scholarship Foundation: Or Eventbrite-Strawberry Fields Concert for Susan Satriano Foundation

We Miss You!

This is my last Fall here at Bethany. It will be my last Thanksgiving feast at the church, last confirmation class, last Christmas, etc., etc. After the first Sunday in June of next summer, we will be moving out west. Kate and I have been keeping up a somewhat frenetic schedule as we run around doing all the things and visiting all the places we love here on Long Island, “just one more time.” As we do that, we are reminded constantly why we fell in love with this place. It is rare for a pastor to spend more than a few years in any one pulpit, let alone his entire ministry, but we realized pretty early on that this is where God wanted us all to be and where we wanted to be as well. Though back then Bethany seemed to be just one more little church doomed to extinction, it was obvious that the Spirit was hard at work in this congregation as it ministered for several years without a pastor, you all are doing what you could to keep her alive and to nurture her back into resurrection. Over the years, this stalwart group of disciples continued to determine to be an authentic worshiping community and you succeeded; praying and prophesying new life into the bones of what once seemed to be nothing but another open grave, and we grew and ministered to this community like no one else. Holy hospitality made us

Open and Affirming, welcoming all of God’s children into God’s house. Through disaster like Sandy, this church was the principal place of aide and refuge for miles around, a FEMA station and distribution center, and though the pandemic closed our doors temporarily, it did not close our ministry being the light to this community in the way that our Savior taught us.

Now, as my family and I prepare for this personal transition, our Search Committee is working hard on finding new pastoral leadership for Bethany. Hopefully, whether you decide to go with an interim pastor, (the usual after a long pastorate) or a settled pastor, this vibrant community will be able to build on the best parts of our years together, expand our Christian witness and service and maybe even see our walk of faith take some new directions for the days ahead. The possibilities are infinite and though I am saddened by our impending departure, I too am looking forward to this next chapter of life both for Bethany and for the Lukens family.

The thing is, we need to step up if we want to make this transition a positive one for our community of faith. That means we need to remember who and whose we are and what that requires. Our congregational

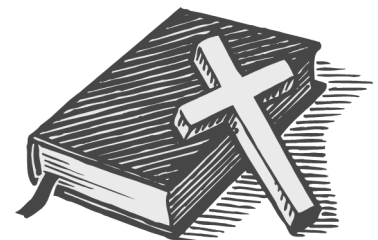
polity means that we do the heavy lifting, not some denominational body. We need all of us to show up and take part, so that we can be the dynamic community of faith that we have always been and frankly, so we can show prospective candidates who we can be when we're at our best. We need you to show up and be part of the process of shepherding our community through this most difficult of transitions and so that we can get our ministries back to full capacity and frankly we need you to demonstrate a commitment to this community. Because without that, our tradition of independent self-governance cannot function and because the dozen or two folks holding up the ceiling since the beginning of the pandemic began are getting tired and they need our help.

Most importantly, we need each other to be the disciples we want to be. That's why God put us all here. Human beings don't do well without a community of

support and grace and humans don't do well when we let go of that relationship with God that is so much a factor in all of our other relationships. There is not one person in this congregation who is unimportant, or who has nothing to give, and we need all of your gifts. We've got big things coming up: Our yard sale, HurriCon, Thanksgiving, and the Advent/Christmas season to name a few. Our kids and our grandkids are watching us to learn what matters most in our lives and our church is slipping away while we sleep in. So, in my best south shore LI, straight outta Middle Village, East Rockaway way, I'm saying, we miss you! So, wax up the pipes, get up off your duff and come and join us! You'll be glad you did and so will we. See you in church!

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

October Greetings to all,

On October 9th, Bethany once again celebrated the Blessing of the Animals. While I can't bring my cats out to this, (we would all need blessings if I tried that!), I always enjoy observing the the animals and caregivers that do attend. It's easy to see the deep and loving relationship between these people and their pets. Very special.

No pets in your household? You may want to think about that. Science has shown that pet owners receive many benefits from these relationships. According to the CDC "there are many health benefits of owning a pet. They can increase opportunities to exercise, get outside, and socialize. Regular walking or playing with pets can decrease blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and triglyceride levels. Pets can help manage loneliness and depression by giving us companionship." And that's just for adults! Look at this infographic from [verywell family.com](http://verywellfamily.com) as to what pets can do for kids.



Animal caregivers will also tell you of that special unconditional love that pets will bestow upon you. Doesn't matter to them how many times you've screwed up, what you look like, whatever your story may be, they love you and are there for you.

Doesn't this sound like what Pastor Mark is always telling us? We are the children of a God who loves us, regardless of our successes or failures. Perhaps God gave us pets so we can understand that more deeply, and to practice loving and being loved.

Board of Trustees:

We've had a fairly productive summer and we are looking forward to getting this year underway. We have some really interesting things coming up on the horizon. I did talk about my desire to put siding on the side of the church, as we have lots of projects that I'd like to complete but I will do them only if the funds are available. I would just like to remind everyone that the church needs you now! We are reopened. We need everybody to come in on Sundays and worship. Mark needs you! He needs to see your shining faces on a Sunday morning and we need to get us back into the normal swing of things. It is important now, especially, because we are trying to find a new pastor. It will show the strength of our congregation. You can come in on Sundays. Please do start talking to your neighbors and to your friends to see if anybody is in need of some serious Bethany worship.

Peace and love to all. Yours, Richard Eaves, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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

FROM THE EDITOR:

Last month we said that *Michael (Mike) Fioramonti* was a good friend to Bethany Church. But, he was so much more than that. He was a longtime member of 35+ years, plus a longtime Trustee. He was always at the ready when Bethany needed him. He will be dearly missed. **Donations may be made in Michael's name to: Wounded Warrior Project, 4899 Belfort Road, Suite 300, Jacksonville, Florida 32256.**

Happy Birthday: ...to Robert Dever on his 100th! The Devers were former Deacons at Bethany many years ago. (*Dorothy Dever will be 100 on December 6th!*)

Get Well Wishes to Dorothy Dever, Mati and Chris Padjus, and to Dot Cozine.

Editor's Note: If you would like us to make an announcement of any sort, please send it to me directly at cjdagostino@gmail.com or call or text: 516-721-8885

Another Baptism! Teddy Rodriguez on September 25th. Welcome to Bethany!



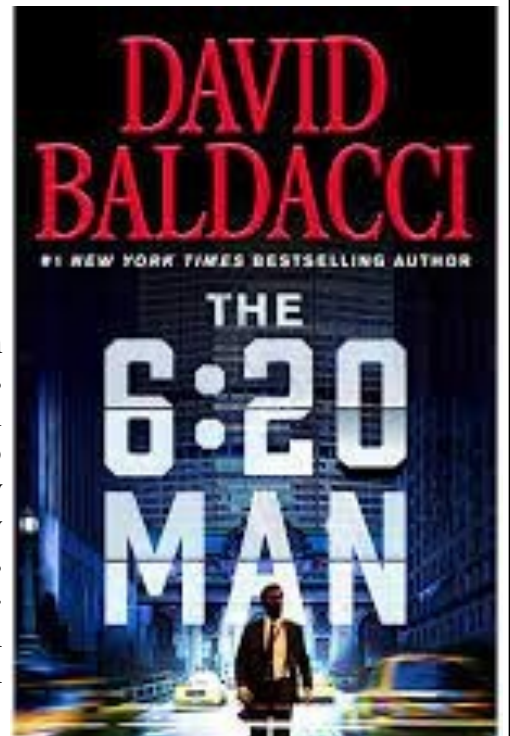
BOOK REVIEW:

Submitted by Lou Gaspari

The 6:20 Man

by David Baldacci

Baldacci's newest novel is both mysterious and obscure. It is an action-packed thriller written by one of the most prolific authors of our time. The story in my opinion is a convoluted mess of financial and political intrigue along with a few classic murders for our hero Travis Devine to solve. Devine is an ex-military officer and to my mind he is too good, too strong, and just too intelligent. If you enjoy books with characters who are beyond belief, then you will like this novel. I for one am tired reading about exploits which are beyond human credence, and this book falls directly into that category. Although I did not particularly like this book due to this, it will definitely be on the best seller list and become a movie.



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TROOP 121

The Troop went canoeing at Hempstead Lake on October 10, 2022. A great time was had by all on a most beautiful autumn day.



Troop 121 is recruiting! Any boys interested in joining are welcome to join them at any scheduled meeting. The meet in Bethany's Fellowship Hall (Gym) every Monday 7:30– 9:00 P.M.

Mr. Boyle will be stepping up as the new Scoutmaster.

(For more information, please visit the troop's website: <http://troop121ny.org>)

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

SAVE THE DATE! BETHANY'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022 10:00 AM-3:00 PM



Join us for raffles, new clothing, toys, housewares, baked good and much more! Stop at our café for lunch. If you cannot make it and would like to send a donation, please send it to Bethany Church, 100 Main Street, East Rockaway, NY 11518 and write 'Christmas Fair' in the memo.

Thank you. Hope to see you there!

Hurricanes 2022 Emergency Appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. While this year's hurricane season started slow, the last two weeks have made it clear just how dangerous and destructive these storms can be. With wind speeds topping out at 130 miles per hour and 155 miles per hour, respectively,

Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. More than a week and a half after Fiona's winds left all of Puerto Rico in the dark, hundreds of thousands of people remain without power. Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges. Millions have lost power and access to clean drinking water. The need for emergency food support, medical care, and temporary shelter is high.

Rev. Edward Rivera-Santiago, Pastor General of Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Puerto Rico shared that congregations across the island are reporting both church and community members whose homes are severely damaged, with some facing total loss. Solidarity grants from Global H.O.P.E. and Global Ministries have been sent to assist with immediate needs while basic infrastructure is repaired and more complete assessments can be made.

Meanwhile, Hurricane Ian has brought significant damage to Cuba, Florida, and the Carolinas. It is way too early to know the full extent of damage in Cuba and in Florida, yet early indications point to a recovery that will take many years — perhaps a decade. Emergency response personnel are active. Relief agencies are meeting immediate needs where they can gain access to communities hard hit by the storm. United Church of Christ partners through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster who focus on relief are implementing their plans. Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America Angel Luis Rivera is in touch with bilateral partners. Conference leaders and Conference Disaster Coordinators are making contact, assessing needs, and communicating with the Global H.O.P.E. team so that help can be channeled, now and for the long term.

Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.

Thank you for your support.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Rally Day:

A Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive to kick off Sunday school was held on September 11, 2022!

The Bethany Sunday School is hosting a



Potluck Brunch... October 30th... after service...11:30 A.M.

Bring a dish and a friend! Feel free to wear your Halloween costume!

Reach out to Jessie Kilgus or Tina Lewald with any questions.

Jessie (516)860-4998 or Tina (917)270-6509

NATIONAL SPREAD JOY DAY

A little good will can go a long way to distract us from some of the realities we face in the world today, from natural disasters to violence and divisive politics. Overwhelmed by the pessimism in newsfeeds, Laura Jennings, C.E.O. of the firm, Knack, wanted to demonstrate that there is joy all around us — we simply don't talk about it enough! As a result, she and her team established **National Spread Joy Day**, hoping to alter things by sparking a new social media trend that emphasizes love, generosity, and appreciation. This day of awareness, founded in 2018 and observed on **October 11**, encourages Americans to carry out acts of kindness and engage in more cheerful conversations.

Great Idea, but let's SPREAD THE JOY EVERY Day!

Wonderful Ways to SPREAD JOY in your Everyday Life:

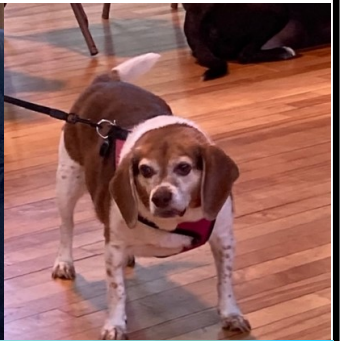
1. **Be kind to yourself** ~ Take care of your own physical and mental health, allow yourself some “down” time, give yourself a treat now and then!
2. **Smile at others** ~ Sharing a smile with friends or strangers might help brighten their day.
3. **Read cheerful and encouraging news** – Every day there are pleasant and wonderful things happening around the world. Search for and share uplifting news and events!
4. **Perform random acts of kindness** – Allow an automobile to cut in front of you, greet a stranger in an elevator, and tell a co-worker how well they're doing. Surprise someone with a small gift, treat someone to a cup of coffee, send a cheerful greeting by mail or text. All it takes is one modest purposeful action for joy to triumph over unpleasant circumstances and spread like wildfire.
5. **Participate in discussion** ~ Take a step back from the hustle of the day, and chat and engage sincerely with others around you.
6. **Intentional listening** ~ Giving someone your undivided attention is one of the simplest ways to establish a meaningful connection and help them feel valued.
7. **Appreciate the good things** in your life, express gratitude and encourage others to do so.



Wishing you a Wealth of Health
Carol Henck

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

Blessing of the Animals October 9, 2022



Thanks to all our wonderful animals and their caregivers for taking part in this celebration!

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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

cjdagostino@gmail.com or

Call or text: 516-721-8885 for all of the details.

Write for The Bell Tower

- **Movie or TV Review?**
- **Recipe?**
- **Restaurant Review?**
- **Play Review?**
- **Book Review?**
- **Local History or reminiscences?**
- **Concert Review?**
- **Announcement?**
- **No political positioning.**



You can email submissions to Charles D'Agostino at cjdagostino@gmail.com or drop them off to the Church office. Or mail to him directly: 70 Sunrise Drive, Lynbrook, NY 11563. *Thank you!*

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!



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

You can drop food off at the church from 9 a.m. to Noon on Tuesdays and Fridays during July and August. If you would like to make a monetary donation, make checks payable to "The Long Island Council of Churches" with "food pantry" in the memo.

Any questions, please call the office and leave a message at 516-599-5768.

Now that school has started in person, we will also be collecting school supplies.

A big "Thank you" to all who have been faithfully donating food each week.

East Rockaway Fire Department, Inc



Gregory Hall - Available For Rental
5 Main Street East Rockaway, NY 11518
Phone (516) 599-9771 • Fax (516) 596-4712

HELP ME HELP BETHANY!

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Selling? Renting? Relocating?**



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As a member of Bethany Church, I will gladly *donate* to the Church **25% of my earned income** (in your name) coming from a referral from any member of Bethany or reader of ***The Bell Tower***, whether it is for yourself, friend, or relative! This includes any rental or the sale of any residential, condo, co-op, commercial or investment property.

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Bethany Congregational Church

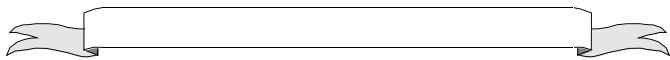
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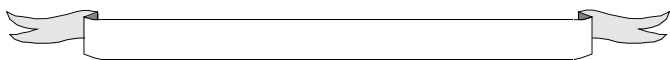
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Bell Tower Boosters
If you enjoy *The Bell Tower* and you would like to see your name here, please send a small donation to Bethany Church. It helps to offset costs. Thank you.



Mural in the Fellowship Hall

Courtesy of Diana Harrison and Anthony Claverie (dec.)