

East Bethany Presbyterian Church

5735 Ellicott Rd.
East Bethany, NY 14054

Pastor: Rev. Erin Schubmehl Jacobson
Clerk of Session: Cassandra Carsen
Office Staff: Susan Boyle

If you find yourself traveling south from Batavia on Rt. 63, you will pass a white brick church in East Bethany which had its beginnings in 1817 as a Congregational Society. The church later adopted the Presbyterian mode of government in 1824 only to rescind that 2 years later. In 1829 they again returned to the Presbyterian mode of government and have remained as such to this date.

In its lifetime this little congregation has been led by more than 50 pastors and now the pulpit is filled with a “gem” in the form of the Rev. Erin Schubmehl Jacobson. Erin is young, energetic, enthusiastic, and certainly has a great connection with the youth of the church. The day I visited she was found in the social hall with the youth building a mountain out of cardboard boxes and brown paper as part of a lesson on Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. As was pointed out by one boy during the children’s chat later, they had used every piece of tape in the building!

The church sees an average of 15-30 in Sunday worship, with a dozen different children periodically attending Church School. A visit to their Facebook page reveals a congregation that is very active in both worship and mission.

Annual mission projects include:

- Red Cross Blood drives
- Providing space for Senior Meals of Genesee County
- “Souper Bowl of Caring” food collection and continual collection throughout the year (a member delivers boxes of food to 6 to 10 families each week, donating the extra donations to the Pavilion and LeRoy food pantries)
- Collecting items for The Foster Closet in Batavia (an organization that supports foster families)
- The annual “Holiday Happenings” on the first Saturday in November, which features vendors, a bake sale, and auction—the proceeds then help with mission projects.

Each year the Chancel Choir hosts a Christmas Cantata during worship on the 3rd Sunday of Advent. The sanctuary is filled with readings and the music of an ecumenical choir from the surrounding area with attendance of over 100. You can find the 2019 cantata on the church’s Facebook page.

Concerns include planning for a new roof and prayers for the continued dedication and service of the devoted members and friends stepping in to many different roles to support the mission of the church.

—Kay VanNostrand, Relationship Team

