



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 54, No. 1 • January 2021

The Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

A reminder of the writings of Dr. King and ways we can honor his birthday

WORK FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

“Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and that in some, not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty.”

— Martin Luther King Jr. Letter from Birmingham Jail

PROMOTE PEACE

“A nation that continues to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.”

— Martin Luther King Jr. Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community

WORK FOR JUSTICE

“...let us remember that there is a creative force in the universe working to pull down the gigantic mountain of evil, a power able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Let us remember that the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

— Martin Luther King Jr. Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community

PRACTICE RECONCILIATION -

“Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

SPEAK OUT AGAINST INJUSTICES -

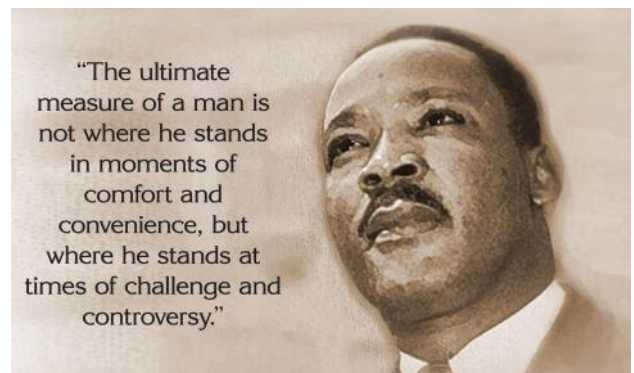
“Not only will we have to repent for the sins of bad people; but we also will have to repent for the appalling silence of good people.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

CONTINUE TO HOPE -

“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.





PASTOR'S COLUMN



Many Thanks for Faithful Church Leaders

I am deeply thankful for the insights and hard work of the leaders of our church. In all the uncertainty and turmoil of this last year, they helped us navigate constantly-evolving crises in the world around us. Their work has helped to hold us together as a community, in a time when people have been so isolated and when so many other organizations have been damaged or even folded. We are certainly hopeful that in 2021 we can relaunch in-person gatherings. That will be wonderful, but I think we will discover it will require a lot of work. So, many thanks for our leaders – past, present, and future.



I want to say a special word of appreciation for Board members who have completed three-year terms on the Board – Gloria Carter, Craig Jacobson, and Carolyn Voter. The Board meets about a dozen times a year for two-hour meetings. That alone is a lot of work. But these folks also provided leadership and support to many other ministry teams and projects of the church. They have each made a difference, and we are grateful for their work.

The following persons were elected at our recent Bethany Church Conference to serve on Bethany's Board in 2021:

- Karen Dischler, Chair, Lay Leader, Leadership Recruitment, Personnel Issues
- Jeff Erickson, Vice Chair and Trustees Leader
- Carla Russell, new role as Secretary (previously Liaison to Children & Youth)

- Jay Ford, Board Treasurer
- Mary Schroeder, Financial Stewardship Support, new Liaison to UMW, and new Liaison to Caring Ministries
- Sonia Upton, Personnel Support, Liaison to Worship Team
- Rod McKenzie, Trustees Building Management
- Jessica Crombie, Liaison to Adult Ministries Team
- Bethaney Campbell, new role as Liaison to Membership Team (was Liaison to Outreach)
- Aimee Wright (new to Board), Liaison to Children & Youth Ministries Team
- Carol Clingan (new to Board), Liaison to Outreach Team, and Lay Member of Annual Conference
- Paul Dvorak (new to Board), Liaison to Music Ministries (including helping us work through the music-staffing transition in 2021)

I'm grateful for everyone who has agreed to serve on the Board. And, I am grateful for the service of every person in the church – your ministries make a real difference!

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Greg

P.S. – Please read the article below about *Listening Sessions on Music Staffing*, which are scheduled in January. We want your ideas!

Listening Sessions about Music Staffing

One of the big challenges that the Board and all of us will face in 2021 is working through a big transition in our music staffing. Taras and Lori Nahirniak have blessed us with a legacy of two decades of outstanding music leadership! The Board is already thinking about how we can express our thanks to them when it comes time for them to leave quite a few months from now. If you have ideas, we would love to know.

The Board is also already working on the process for hiring new music leadership. A key initial step is getting your feedback. What do you value most about our music program? What areas of growth do you see for the music program – for children, for youth, for adults? What insights or ideas do have to share? We hope that you can attend one of our "Music-Staffing Listening Sessions" to share your input:

- ✓ Thursday, January 21, 7:00 pm (via Zoom)
- ✓ Sunday, January 24, 11:15 am (via Zoom)

Simple Gifts for January — “The Beacon”

Simple Gift offerings made during January are going to support The Beacon, which is a comprehensive day resource center for men, women, and children who are experiencing homelessness in Dane County.

Although we are currently not meeting in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic, your offerings remain important so Bethany’s mission can continue. Please either mail in your offering or you can give online at [BethanyMadison.org](https://bethanymadison.org) (click on We Serve and, from the drop-down menu, select Giving Financially).



Through the services offered at The Beacon by staff and partner agencies, individuals have an opportunity for a better life. The organization is committed to offering services in an environment where people feel supported and are treated with dignity and respect.

Along with basic needs services, The Beacon is a one-stop resource center for individuals to connect with other area social service agencies who partner with The Beacon.

The Beacon is a public–private partnership. In 2016, Dane County purchased the building that previously housed the Madison Chamber of Commerce — with plans to renovate it and turn it into a day resource center for the homeless. Dane County chose Catholic Charities to operate the center and also partnered with the City of Madison and the United Way of Dane County.

Together, with support from local community agencies, The Beacon forms a unique collaboration between the business, faith, government, nonprofit, and neighborhood sectors.

The Beacon helps over 225 men, women, and children each day, 365 days a year.

Please give generously, as your support will make a difference in real and relevant ways. Your generosity allows The Beacon to sustain its programs and services to those experiencing homelessness in our community.

To learn more, visit: <https://thebeaconhelps.org/>.

2021 Special Sundays

Over the course of 2021, Bethany will participate in several special offering Sundays sponsored by the broader United Methodist Church.

In the sharing of our gifts on these Special Sundays, as Methodists we are able to come together and make a significant difference in a way that no individual can do on his or her own.

The first Special Sunday of 2021 is Human Relations Day on January 17. This Sunday, before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday, strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth. In addition to the mailed envelopes, Special Sunday contributions can also be made online at www.bethanymadison.org/giving-financially/.

The remainder of the 2021 Special Sunday schedule is:

March 14 — UMCOR Sunday: Previously known as One Great Hour of Sharing, this Sunday enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to reach out through worldwide ministries of food, shelter, health and peace.

April 18 — Native American Ministries Sunday: This collection nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians.

May 30 — Peace with Justice Sunday: This Sunday allows the United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs.

Oct. 3 — World Communion Sunday: This Special Sunday provides scholarships for U.S. racial- and ethnic-minority students and international students, on both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Nov. 28 — United Methodist Student Day: This collection furnishes scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



ZOOM LINKS

Zoom links for all classes and groups are listed on the Bethany website on the Upcoming Events page. From the home page, click on the “Groups and Classes” box at the bottom right of the page. Links are listed by the day of the week they occur on.

UMW SUSANNA CIRCLE

Susanna Circle UMW will meet on Zoom at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. Judy Loveless and Faith Bauman will provide the program. All women are welcome. Any questions, call Judy Loveless at 608-848-8243

LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

Lydia Fellowship will meet on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 1:00 pm on Zoom. We will have coffee and conversation with hostess Judy Cox leading the gathering. Please join our Lydia group by going to the Bethany website, clicking on Upcoming Events and finding Lydia Fellowship. We look forward to seeing you!

REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will meet Monday, January 25 at 1:00 pm via Zoom. The book for discussion is *Orphan No. 8* by Kim van Alkemade. In this historical novel inspired by true events, van Alkemade tells the story of a woman who must choose between revenge and mercy when she encounters the doctor who subjected her to dangerous medical experiments in a New York City Jewish orphanage years before. Later, when confronted with her past, she realizes that a person’s fate — to be one who inflicts harm or one who heals — is not always set in stone. Everyone is welcome to join in an interesting and lively discussion.

UMW—YEAR END DONATIONS

The Bethany United Methodist Women gave \$300 each to the following 11 organizations: Harvest of Hope, Northcott Neighborhood House, Madison Area Urban Ministry, Troy Gardens, The Beacon, Miracle Gardens, UM Children's Services, Playing Field, UMCOR, Second Harvest Foodbank, and DAIS.

END OF YEAR STATEMENTS

I expect end of year statements will go out around January 20th. If you made a contribution to Bethany in 2020 and have not received a statement by the 26th please contact me and I will see that you receive one. If you have questions or concerns about your statement you can email me at FinancialSecretary@BethanyMadison.org or call me at 608-833-7567.

— Sandra Arrington.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMBER CARE

Words of Thanks...

- I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the beautiful and meaningful Children’s Christmas Pageant yesterday. They did an awesome job and all of them and their leaders deserve a thank-you and pat on the back. Please let them know.
— Kind regards, Dora Cortada
- I want to thank my entire family at BUMC and those working within the financial department for the generous scholarship I’ve been given. I’ll be pursuing social work just down the road at UW-Madison, and am humbled and grateful to receive it. Thank you again and miss you all.
— Kyle Neuser

MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED THROUGH NOVEMBER

for Clarence Olson: Raymond and Mary Jo Davis, Parker and Debra Brady, Judith Johnson, David and Marjory Lyford, Walt and Linda Holthaus, Larry and Donna Wold, Robert and Linda Ryden, Linda Harvey, Robert Forbess and Eunice Reep, Pamela Semlow, Bill and Betsy Tishler, Beverly Schrag, Jim and Carol Holmquist, Jeff and Susan Meinholz, Craig and Heather Johnson and Family, Bob and Bunny Anderson, Dave and Janet Daniel, Beverly Klumph, Janet Schewe, Terrill and Carol Stewart, Margelyn Gay and Debra Williams, Bruce and Debbie Williams, Joyce Bringe, William and Mary Alice Battista, Judy Loveless, Sally Gaard, Karen and Damian Dischler, Judy and Ralph Franks, Mary Schroeder, Lou and Sandra Arrington, Bill and Bev Payne, Dennis and Lynn Christensen, George and Bernice Mowat

for Doris Wallsch: Walt and Linda Holthaus, Larry and Donna Wold, Mary Schroeder, Sally Gaard

for Gale VandeBerg: Lou and Sandra Arrington, Sally Gaard, Mary Schroeder, Walt and Linda Holthaus



Maddy, the trained therapy dog, has a message for everyone in 2021.

“Be kinder than necessary
Everyone you meet is fighting some kind of hurdle.”



ADVENT



Lighting the Advent Candles



Hope Candle — Patrick



Peace Candle — Teddy & Erik



Joy Candle — Eva



Love Candle — Simon, Alice, Charlie & Steve



Christ Candle—Ethan & Elizabeth



Pastor Greg & Kerry



"How we celebrate Christmas at home"

Thank you to all the Bethany members who shared a family tradition during worship this Advent season. We enjoyed hearing about home-made eggnog, learning about the St. Lucia wreath, and viewing nativity scenes. What is your favorite at-home tradition?



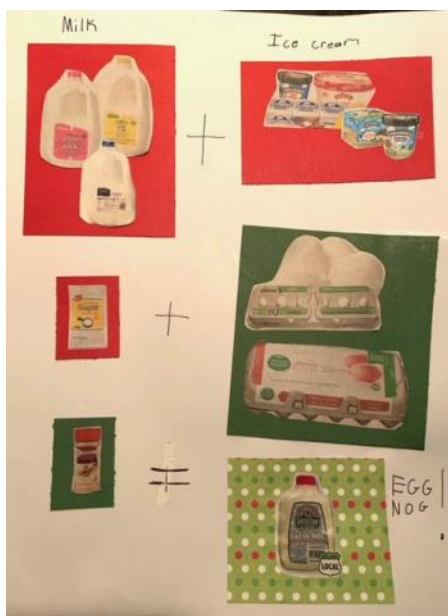
Karen Sadler: craft sticks nativity



Wooden baby Jesus (Lisa)



Brigit with her Advent Calendar House



Egg Nog recipe from Brielle



Special Ornaments from the Iverson family



Andy & Carolyn sharing their "Post Office"

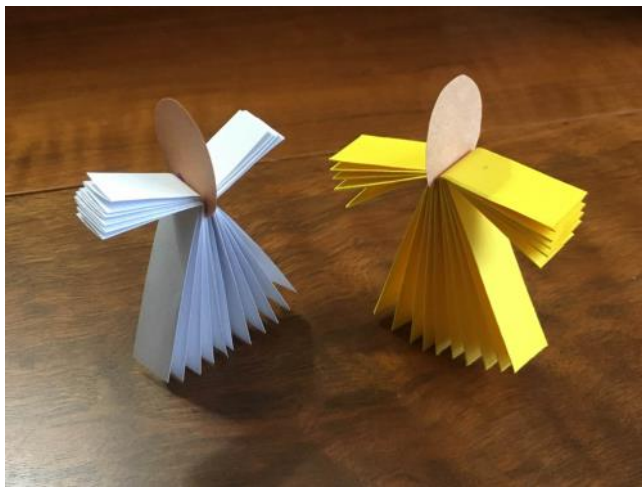


SUNDAY SCHOOL PROJECTS



The month of December featured several simple Advent projects. Children made paper chains, thinking first about what brings them JOY and writing or drawing that item on the slip of paper before making it into a loop.

JOY items included family members, pets, Zoom Sunday School, God, Christmas trees, the Pageant, Pastor Greg, swinging at the park, and nature. Folded-paper angels and table-top or tree ornaments were also created.



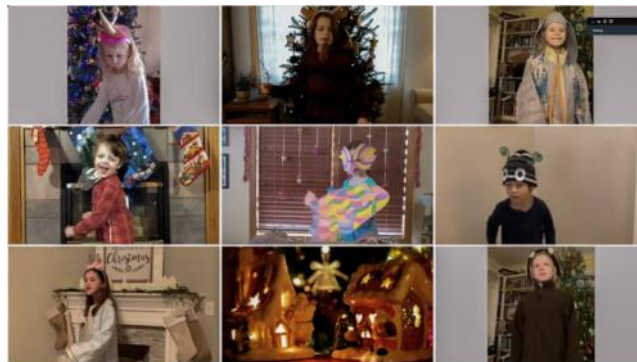


PAGEANT



A NESTS FOR THE SAVIOR

We couldn't NOT have a Children's Christmas Pageant so Lori, Taras and Lisa created an online Zoom version. The kids practiced individually and as a group on December 5th and 12th. The performance was on December 20th.



For Children's Ministry information, contact Lisa Weaver, Director of Children's Ministries
Phone: (608) 238-6381 / Email: childrensministries@bethanymadison.org

Pageant Rehearsals

Ms. Lori led the Pageant Rehearsals via Zoom this year. Children joined in from home, practicing during the first part of Sunday School each Sunday morning, as well as with Ms. Lori's You Tube videos during the week. We are delighted with the flexibility and creativity of all involved! (Photos on Page 9)

Advent Candles

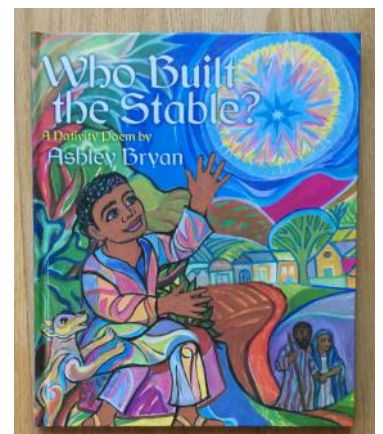
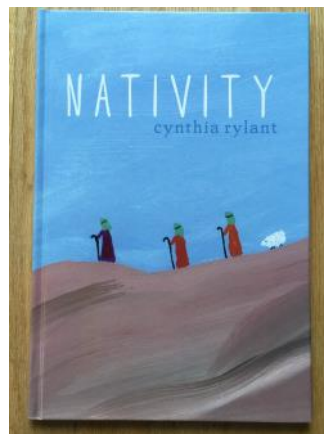
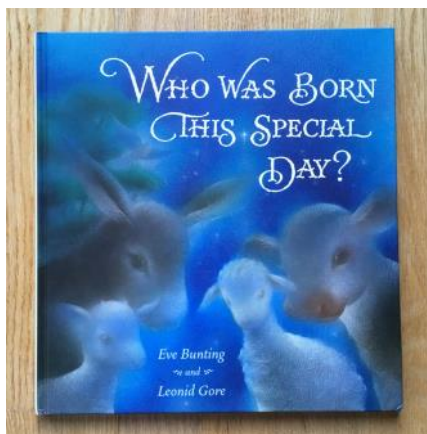
This Advent season we have been blessed with the lighting of Advent candles at the beginning of each worship service. We enjoyed seeing how children and youth set up the fleece squares and tea lights. May we shine the light of Christ into the world! (Photos on Page 6)

Puzzle Fun

Have you put together a jigsaw puzzle recently? Here are some of the puzzles enjoyed by Bethany members in recent months.



Books Used in Sunday School during Advent





CHRISTMAS EVE



It was a different Christmas Eve service this year—but still so very special to share the birth of Jesus with all.



A “normal” Candlelight Service



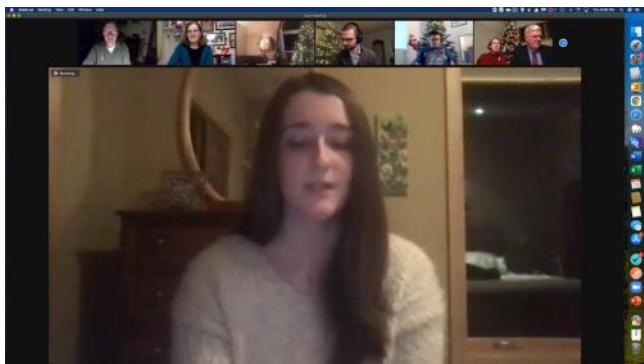
Scripture Reading — Benjamin



Scripture Reading — Amelia



Scripture Reading — Eli



Scripture Reading — Genna



A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, Nov. 29	Sunday, Dec. 6	Sunday, Dec. 13	Sunday, Dec. 20	Thurs., Dec. 24	Sunday, Dec. 27
Total 184	Total..... 196	Total.....174	Total 204	Total.....230	Total.....115



We are a Reconciling Congregation,
 welcoming all people to be a part of
 our church family.

Information

Office Hours: 8 am - 2:30 pm

Church Office: (608) 238-6381

Email: bethanyoffice@bethanymadison.org

Website: www.bethanymadison.org

Sunday Morning Schedule

Early Bird Coffee Chat (Zoom)	8:30 am
Faithlink Adult Discussion Class	9 am
Zoom Worship	10 am
After-Worship Fellowship (Zoom)	11 am

Bulletin Deadline : Tuesdays at Noon

E-Banner Deadline: Tuesdays at Noon

Banner Deadline for the February Issue: January 11th

Staff

Lead Pastor.....	Greg Jewison
Pastor of Visitation	Brad Mather
Director of Children’s Ministries	Lisa Weaver
Director of Youth Ministries	Brigit Parlow
Global Mission Partners.....	Ardell & Gordon Graner, Dominican Republic
.....	Temba Nkomozepe, Mujila Falls, Zambia
Director of Music.....	Taras Nahimiak
Organist	Sue Poullette
Director of Bell Choirs	Nick Bonaccio
Director of Children & Youth Choirs	Lori Nahimiak
Office Administrator	Carl White
Membership Secretary.....	Betsy Dunne
Financial Secretary	Sandra Arrington
Treasurer.....	Steven Webster
Custodians.....	Ron Rebholz
Church Phone	(608) 238-6381
Church Office Email	bethanyoffice@bethanymadison.org
Website.....	www.bethanymadison.org

Banner Assembly

Mary Blasdel . Gerry Cotter . Judy Cox . Betsy Dunne . Eileen Dunne
 Sally Gaard . Vada Mayfield . Kathy Nelson
 Gail Steinhorst . Donna Wold