



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 54, No. 5 • May 2021

Twenty Years of Great Music at Bethany

By Marge Lyford, Church Historian

Taras Nahirniak was hired as our new director of music in June of 2001. For the following twenty years he has continued Bethany's long tradition of having an exceptional music program!

Since its very beginning in 1948, our church has been blessed to have dedicated and talented directors of music. For the first 10 years church members volunteered their time. Then Art Becknell was hired and for 35 years he taught and inspired the chancel choir, which grew in number and strength. Following Art's sudden death, Carol Brendel took over for three years and then Bill Busch for four years.

In September of 2000, nine months prior to Taras being hired, Bill Busch and Nancy Becknell created a praise choir to fit in with the contemporary worship service that had begun meeting at 9:00 on Sunday mornings. As a result, Taras needed to be responsible for directing two choirs, each requiring different types of music.

Throughout the years, Bethany has greatly benefited from Taras' creativity, especially the pieces he composed for the choirs and the wonderful children's Christmas pageants that he created with Emil Bertalot. During the Pandemic this past year, Taras has been creative in finding a way for choir members to sing separately and then combining the voices in a recording for our worship services.

We have also enjoyed the impressive and beautiful Christmas and Easter cantatas and other special music directed by Taras each year!

During these past 20 years, Bethany has also benefited from the contributions of Lori Nahirniak. In addition to conducting the choir when Taras plays the piano accompaniment, she has, for many years, enthusiastically and lovingly directed our children's choir!





PASTOR'S COLUMN



“COVID-19 Safety Plan” for Phased Reopening Adopted

For over a year now, the members of Bethany's Board have been carefully monitoring developments with the pandemic, and making decisions to help keep us safe. I am grateful for their hard work – these have not been easy decisions!



As part of this process, the Board has been examining how we can safely reopen, as vaccination levels increase and as infection rates decrease. Special attention has been focused on recommendations coming from medical experts at the Centers for Disease Control, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and Public Health Madison & Dane County. We have also received recommendations from the Wisconsin Council of Churches, which has been very helpful in compiling the information from medical experts and examining how these recommendations can best be implemented in church settings.

In line with the recommendations of medical experts, Bethany's Board has now approved a phased reopening of activities on the church grounds and in the building. This reopening will be done cautiously in several steps:

- ⇒ April 27 – Outside groups may schedule meetings on the church grounds.
- ⇒ May 6 – Inside small groups (up to 10 people) may schedule meetings to be held in well-ventilated rooms, including fellowship hall, the library, the chapel, the youth room, and the sanctuary.
- ⇒ June 1 – Inside medium-sized groups (11-25 people) may schedule meetings to be held in fellowship hall or the sanctuary only.
- ⇒ June 13 – Worship with attendance limits resumes in the sanctuary, with overflow in fellowship hall. Congregational singing will not be allowed at first. Worship will be simulcast on Zoom. Please note that the June 13 date is tentative – the opening date may be delayed if conditions warrant.
- ⇒ September or October? – Worship with loosened restrictions will finally be possible. We will continue to offer a simulcast on Zoom.

As part of all this, we will ask that you covenant to take numerous precautions to protect each other's health. Precautions include 6-foot distancing, wearing masks, no food-or-drink, special attention to sanitizing, and more. Numerous modifications have been made to the ventilation equipment in the building, with improved filtration of the air in the sanctuary, fellowship hall, library, lobby, offices, chapel, and youth room. (Note that the second floor classrooms will be unavailable at first, since these rooms lack a ventilation system. If the pandemic lingers into the fall, we may choose to spend about \$10,000 to install air purifiers in these rooms.)

The Board has developed and adopted a thorough, 12-page “COVID-19 Safety Plan.” It is available on our website at www.bethanymadison.org. I encourage you to review it, especially the covenant for caring for each other that appears on pages 4-5 of the document. I look forward to seeing you in person!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Greg

Simple Gifts for May — “The Playing Field”

Simple Gift offerings made during May are going to support our partners at The Playing Field, which is dedicated to breaking down the barriers faced by low-income families in accessing high-quality early childhood care and education.

The Playing Field is an independent, nonprofit organization that has rented space inside Bethany United Methodist Church since its opening in August 2015.

For a family who can afford it, Madison offers a wide choice of high quality early childhood programs. The Playing Field is committed to making the highest level of quality available to children from varied backgrounds while seeking to care for children in the context of our diverse community. This is a beginning step towards minimizing the disparity between our youngest citizens.

As part of The Playing Field’s (TPF) commitment, enrollment spaces are reserved for children based on three specific funding sources: A third of TPF’s enrollment spaces are reserved for families who might choose any high-quality program for their child, but choose The Playing Field because they value diversity and support the center’s mission. For another third of the students, TPF attempts to raise scholarship funds to assist families who don’t qualify for childcare subsidies, or who would incur very high co-payments. And for another third of its students, TPF reserves spaces for families funded by Early Head Start. Families experiencing homelessness are given priority for these funds and welcomed into the school family.

Although Bethany is currently not meeting in person due to COVID-19 safety measures, your offerings remain important so our mission can continue. Please either mail in your offering or you can give online at BethanyMadison.org (click on We Serve and, from the drop-down menu, select Giving Financially).

Please give generously, as your support will make a difference in real and relevant ways.

The Playing Field also has a wish list of items that are needed to equip classrooms. If you would like to donate items, check out their Amazon Wish List and select any items that you would like to donate (items may be shipped to Bethany UMC at 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI 53705 or to your home). Or write a check out to Bethany and put “Wish List” in the memo field. Cash donations will be given to The Playing Field so they can order what is needed.

Learn much more about The Playing Field online at: playingfieldmadison.org

Up next: Simple Gifts for June will go to support Porchlight.

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 next offering of 2021 is May 30 – Peace With Justice Sunday, which enables the United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs.

Special Sunday contributions can also be made online at www.bethanymadison.org/giving-financially/



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.

AGAPE

There is exciting news about our May Agape meeting. We will be meeting in person, outside at Bethany. The program will be an Historic Tour of the church grounds led by church historian, Marge Lyford.

We will gather at the church entrance on Wednesday, May 12 at 6:30pm. Please wear a mask and keep a social distance from each other. The church will not be open. It promises to be a very interesting and informative tour. If it is raining, or there is a threat of rain, please watch for an email about alternate plans.

Questions: email Eileen at eileen5491@gmail.com.

FAREWELL CELEBRATION FOR TARAS & LORI

Plan to join us in recognizing Taras and Lori Nahirniak for their 20 years leading our music ministry at Bethany. A Farewell Celebration in their honor will be held Sunday, May 23, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm on the church lawn. It will be an open house format with a program and presentations at 3:30.

This will be our first time gathering as a church family in more than a year. We will make sure that all COVID guidelines are met so that everyone can gather safely. Masks must be worn and no food will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!

BOOK BROWSERS

The May meeting of Book Browsers will meet on Monday, May 17 at 2:00 pm via Zoom. We will discuss books for summer reading and generate a reading list. Please join us.

REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will meet Monday, May 24 at 1:00 pm via Zoom. The book for May is *Walking With Abel — Journeys with the Nomads of the African Savannah* by Anna Badkhen.

In *Walking with Abel*, the author embeds herself with a family of Fulani cowboys — nomadic herders in Mali’s Sahel grasslands — as they embark on their annual migration across the savanna. The Fulani, though, are no strangers to uncertainty. Brilliantly resourceful and resilient, they’ve contended with famines, droughts, and wars for centuries.

Badkhen narrates the Fulani’s journeys and her own with compassion and keen observation. As they cross the Sahel, the savanna belt that stretches from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic, they accompany themselves with Fulani music, which they download to their cell phones and tales of herders and hustlers, griots and holy men, infused with the myths the Fulani tell themselves to ground their past.



This is sure to be an interesting topic and lively discussion. Join us whether you have read the book or would just like to listen.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMBER CARE

Our Prayers and Sympathies are with...

- ✝ Jim and Jill Krogstad and family on the death of Jim's brother Ron on March 22
- ✝ Pat Meloy on the death of her sister Susan on March 16 in Michigan
- ✝ Sandra and Lou Arrington and family on the death of Sandra's sister
- ✝ Jeff and Linda Huttenberg and family on the death of Jeff's brother.

Congratulations to...

- 📖 Professor Amaud Johnson on receiving the Chancellor's Inclusive Excellence Award, one of the Distinguished Teaching Awards that were recently announced at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Appreciation

- 👉 Thank you to Bethany and the many members who supported me through the death of my sister and my long stay in rehab after my fall. You are truly my "Church Family."
— Pat Meloy

MEMORIAL GIFTS FOR FEBRUARY

- For Judy Franks: Mary Schroeder, JoAn and Buz Brock, Larry and Donna Wold, Audrey Cushman, John and Karen Saddler, Karen and Damian Dischler
- For Clarence Olson: Jeffrey and Kathy Erickson
- For Gale VandeBerg: Jeffrey and Kathy Erickson
- For John Schrag: Beverly Schrag

SPRING WALKABOUT FOR FAMILIES: PHEASANT BRANCH CONSERVANCY

Bethany children, youth and their families are invited to join Lisa Weaver for a Spring Walkabout at Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton on Saturday, May 8 at 10:00 am. We will meet at the Dane County parking lot on Pheasant Branch Road. (This is the parking lot that looks directly towards Frederick's Hill.) We will walk on the prairie path to the bubbling springs, looking for signs of spring and enjoying the fresh air and freedom of movement! Wear a mask, and plan to keep 6 feet from other walk participants. RSVPS requested, so that Lisa knows the size of group to expect, and can send an email to participants in case of weather cancellation.



NEW CALL FOR FABRIC MASK DONATIONS!

As Bethany Church members start to think about regathering plans, Lisa Weaver is once again collecting fabric mask donations. Lisa would like to stock a table with masks in children, youth and adult sizes, available for in-person activities at Bethany in the coming months.



Individuals who forget to bring a mask, or anyone who needs a fresh mask part-way through an event, would be able to self-select from the available supply.

You are invited to contribute to this effort by sewing and donating masks. Beginning May 1, there will be a labeled basket at the front entrance of the church for fabric mask donations. Per usual during the pandemic, contact Carl to arrange for a dropoff time when he can open the door for you. You are welcome to use any pattern that you like, and sew any size of mask that you wish. Lisa has some child-friendly fabric (from our earlier Bethany mask project) that she is happy to share with sewers. Contact Lisa with questions or additional suggestions.



TARAS & LORI



Lori & Taras when hired at Bethany



Lori teaching Sunday School and Andryi



Taras at Nan Becknell's retirement



Taras at Nan Becknell's retirement



A Christmas Cantata directed by Taras



TARAS & LORI



Lori introduces a Christmas Pageant



Taras directing kids at the Christmas Pageant



Taras directing kids at the Christmas Pageant



Lori conducting the Chancel Choir



Taras accompanying Praise Song on the piano

Each year, United Methodists prepare for faithful living and action by participating in Mission u, a transformative education program of United Methodist Women that offers study on biblically grounded curricula. This year Mission u is going online with sessions being held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in May, June, July and August. Four studies are being offered, each class meeting for 4 sessions over two weeks. The studies will be:

Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School

Monique W. Morris' Pushout shows how even with obstacles, stigmas, stereotypes and despair, black girls still find ways to breathe remarkable dignity into their lives in classrooms, juvenile facilities and beyond, and challenge the rest of us to do the same. Study Leaders: Rev. Jonah Overton, is church planter and Pastor of Zao MKE Church in Milwaukee. Rev. Afi Dobbins-Mays, is Pastor of Solomon Community Temple UMC in Milwaukee.

Tues, May 18 & Thurs, May 20; Tues, May 25 & Thurs, May 27

6:30pm - 9:00pm

Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence -2021 Youth Mission Study

The goal of our study will be to have deep conversations about how we define violence, what the root causes are, and then discuss how God is calling us to respond and to become peacemakers as an expression of our faith. Those in grades 6-12 should expect to have fun, get to know each other and be prepared to have their lives changed forever! This class is for youth only. Study Leader: Deb Pattee is a retired Associate Professor at UW-Eau Claire.

Tues, June 15 & Thurs, June 17; Tues, June 22 & Thurs, June 24

6:45pm –9:00pm

Finding Peace in an Anxious World

The study uses the Book of Proverbs along with the Serenity Prayer to explore ways to discover peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines that are rooted in our understanding of God and energizing us to live fully as disciples of Christ. Study Leader: Rev. Barbara Certawerner, Superintendent of the North West District in the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

Tues, July 6 & Thurs, July 8; Tues, July 13 & Thurs, July 15

6:30 pm –9:00pm

Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship

In Jesus' own words, he came to bring good news to the poor, release the captives, restore sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free. What is the responsibility of the church to follow Christ's example in word and deed? While these times might feel particularly turbulent, society has always confronted the church with challenging issues where she has had to discern how God was calling her. The purpose of this study is to help the church and its members discern our call and bear witness to the will of God for a more just world. Study Leader: Rev. Rob Odum is Pastor of Memorial United Methodist Church, and of Blessed Hope UMC in West Allis.

Tues., July 27 & Thurs., July 29; Tues., Aug. 3 & Thur., Aug. 5

6:30 pm –9:00pm

For more information and registration information, visit the WI UMW Mission u website: <http://www.wisconsinumw.org/mission-u.html>. Or contact Gloria Carter: carter53597@tds.net





ZOOM FAMILY GAME NIGHT



Little Houses

Several Bethany families joined up on Zoom to work on "little houses" with Lisa for April's Family Game Night. Beginning with a paper template, participants designed windows, doors, roof tiles, and added other features like chimneys or flower boxes. Several individuals chose to make a specific type of building such as a library or barn. When decorations were complete, the paper was folded and taped to form the 3-D structure. Each little building fit over a tea light, such as the ones included in Advent Bags delivered to families in December. As the evening light dimmed, it was delightful to see our "little houses" glowing from inside!



Amelia's House



Maddy's House



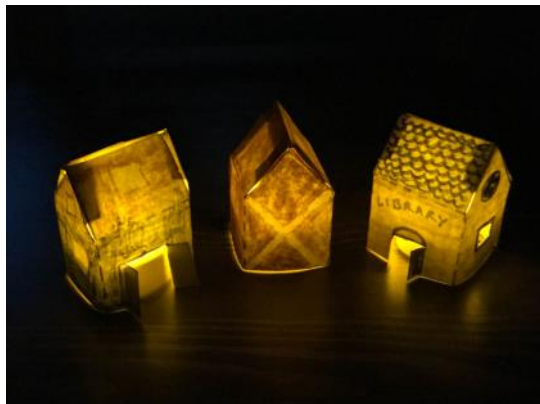
Katie's House



Jai's House



Haack Houses



Mayeshiba Houses — Dark

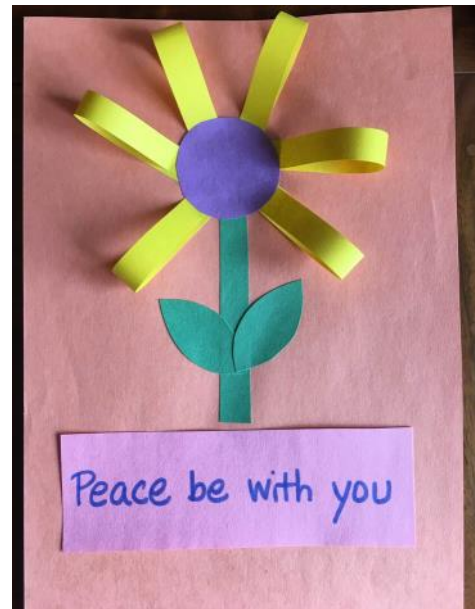


Mayeshiba Houses — Light

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

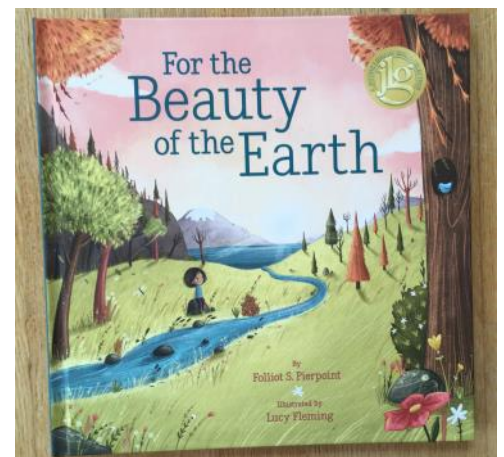
Sunday School projects

In the month of April, the Zoom Sunday School kids celebrated the Easter story and the arrival of spring by making butterflies and flowers. The patterns on the butterflies were made by coloring with markers on coffee filters or paper-towel circles, and then spritzing them with water. Flowers were made with construction papers, and "Good News" messages were added for friends, family members or neighbors.



For the Beauty of the Earth

Though often thought of as a Thanksgiving hymn, "For the Beauty of the Earth" also makes a delightful Easter song or spring prayer. In this picture book (Sparkhouse Family, 2017), the hymn text by Folliot S. Pierpoint is illustrated by Lucy Fleming. The book is available for checkout by Bethany families from the church library.



SUMMER SERVICE PROJECT

The Children and Youth Ministry programs invite you to participate in a summer ministry project at Bethany UMC. In the months of June and July, we will be collecting children’s books to stock “Little Free Libraries” in Perry County, Alabama. These small wooden structures have been built and installed by Volunteers in Mission (VIM) workers over the past several years, and there is currently a need to fill them with colorful, engaging children’s books. Bethany members Bob and Carol Clingan have been involved in this project and share this description:

Volunteers in Mission, while organized and administered under the United Methodist Church, is an ecumenical group whose mission is to be God’s hands and feet on the ground to help communities in need around the country. In existence in Wisconsin since the late 1980’s, our initial role was to help individuals rebuild homes devastated by natural disasters. While we still do that, we have evolved to assist homeowners in poverty stricken areas with home remodeling needs that are either beyond their financial means and/or help improve the safety of their homes, and enable them to remain in their homes. This has been particularly true for the elderly. Typically, there might be 6-8 such one-week mission trips each year. We stay in a local church, take our own cook, and always come back feeling more enriched for the relationships we have made and, hopefully, the mission we have provided.

For the past three years and, we hope, far into the future we have traveled to Marion, Alabama and partnered with a grassroots organization in Perry County called “Sowing Seeds of Hope.” Their mission in one of the poorest counties in Alabama is to help reduce the gap in health care, housing, education, and nutrition that their residents have struggled to overcome. For the past three years we have put new roofs on homes, built accessibility ramps, repaired plumbing and electrical safety issues, repainted homes and businesses, repaired or rebuilt porches and decks, and installed Little Free Libraries in various locations.

For you to consider:

Do you have a favorite children’s book that you would like to donate to a Little Free Library? What book might bring laughter or inspiration to a child? What book might open a child’s eyes to a new topic or idea? What book might encourage a love of reading and learning?

Both picture books and easy chapter books are welcome. A labeled collection bin will be placed in the front of the church for contactless drop-off. As per usual during this pandemic, please check in with Carl prior to stopping by the church, so that he can ensure the door is open for you.

Email Lisa Weaver if you have questions about book donations, or contact Bob and Carol Clingan for more information about Volunteers in Mission.



A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, April 1	Sunday, April 4	Sunday, April 11	Sunday, April 18	Sunday, April 25
Total 58	Total.....229	Total.....154	Total..... 153	Total 158



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 June Issue: May 17th

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