



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 54, No. 6 • June 2021

Porchlight — More Than A Homeless Shelter

Simple Gifts during the month of June are going to support Porchlight, which strives to reduce homelessness in Dane County. Porchlight collaborates with the community to provide shelter, affordable housing, and support services that eliminate barriers and empower the individuals and families it serves.

Porchlight staff, in conjunction with several other community agencies, as well as Public Health Madison & Dane County, have been working hard on both proactive measures and crisis response plans due to the COVID-19 virus. While the pandemic and subsequent best practices are evolving, Porchlight is continuing to provide essential services during this time, especially for those who are currently experiencing homelessness.

Since December 2020, Porchlight's Men's Emergency Shelter has been temporarily relocated to the Fleet Services building at 200 N First St. For the foreseeable future, the Men's Drop-In Shelter will continue conducting health assessments upon entry to the shelter. In addition, the City of Madison is providing direct transportation from The Beacon day shelter (615 E. Washington Ave.) to First Street Shelter at 4:45 pm each day, and from First Street Shelter back to The Beacon at 7:30 am each day.

But Porchlight offers many more services. Did you know ...

- 👉 It is the largest non-profit provider of affordable housing in Madison, with 350 units across 26 sites, ranging from single-room occupancy units to family units.
- 👉 It runs a Dwelling Intervention Grants & Sustenance program (DIGS) that provides housing-related emergency assistance to those facing eviction or needing assistance with a security deposit.
- 👉 It administers a Veterans Transitional Housing Program (VTHP), which is a grant and per diem collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Located on Spring Street, VTHP is a 24-bed, single-room occupancy, transitional program for single men who are military veterans and are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.
- 👉 It leads Safe Haven, a day shelter for adults with mental illness on Madison's east side. Shelter guests have access to two meals per day, showers, laundry, bus tickets, mail, and phone services. Safe Haven also provides housing-focused case management and crisis stabilization services funded through Medicaid. Staff specializes in building rapport with vulnerable individuals who may not otherwise engage in mainstream services.

To learn more about Porchlight, visit: <https://porchlightinc.org/>

During more typical times, simple gifts are made by placing loose coins in the offering plates, or by putting cash or a check in mission envelopes. During this time, your offerings are very important so Bethany's 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).





PASTOR'S COLUMN



Worship in the Church Building on June 13

Okay, the time is finally here! It's been fifteen months since we closed the church building and moved our worship gatherings to being totally online experiences. But on June 13, we will start offering in-person worship gatherings in the building again. It will be wonderful to see each other in person, to pray together, to hear the grand music of the church together! (And for those who still need time before returning, we will be simulcasting all of this on Zoom.)



Now admittedly, worship in the building initially will be different in some ways. In the opening weeks, we will need to restrict how many can attend, and so you will need to sign up in advance. Up to 60 people will be allowed in the sanctuary, and 36 more in Fellowship Hall. Congregational singing won't be allowed at first. And, masks and six-foot distancing will be required at first. (Though health authorities are quickly relaxing restrictions, in places like churches they still "strongly recommend" masks indoors.)

After-worship fellowship will be outdoors on the lawn. Perhaps the biggest challenge to this: no coffee or snacks at first. Talk about redefining the nature of Christianity! Keep in mind that Methodism founder John Wesley believed that fasting was a wonderful spiritual discipline – here's your chance to try it out, at least for a little while.

More seriously, I know that many of you have considerable anxiety about gathering with other people. That's okay. We have been through a traumatic experience in which our lives were threatened. We have watched as loved ones became desperately ill and even died. So even though scientifically it is now safe for vaccinated individuals to resume their "normal" lives, psychologically all of us still have fears. So it is okay to continue experiencing worship on Zoom for a while if that helps. It is okay to keep your distance – you won't be the only one who isn't ready to hug or shake hands. It is okay to get up and leave the sanctuary if you feel overwhelmed.

It will take some time, but eventually we will all ease back into life close to other people. And what a joyful day that will be!

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Greg

P.S. – Our "COVID-19 Safety Plan" for reopening 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!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.

MEMBER CARE

Appreciation...

Thank you to the Bethany family for the generous gift and kind words you shared with me on my retirement as Bethany's Membership Secretary. The years I spent in this position were interesting and fulfilling. I will miss the time spent in the office with staff, and the duties the job entailed. I know Kathy Doran will do a wonderful job going forward.

Your gift card to local restaurants will be put to good use, and a trip to the Netherlands is booked for April 2022, so I really appreciate the monetary gift.

Thank you, again, for your kindness and friendship.

— Betsy Dunne

REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Discussion will be taking the summer off from meeting. Continue reading for pleasure and keep a list of titles for when we resume in September.

SUSANNA CIRCLE

There will be no meetings for the United Methodist Women Susanna Circle until September 6, 2021. Please keep in touch with our members and help spread hope and love to all.



BETHANY SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

June 30th is the deadline for applications for Bethany scholarships for post secondary education. Applications are available on our website here (click on the "Scholarship Application Form" link). Submit your application no later than June 30th. Eligible applicants must currently be or have been, within the past two years, active in the Bethany Youth Program. Scholarships run for one year and can be renewed for one additional year. Letters of recommendation are not required. Need more information? Contact the church office at 238-6381.



Spring Walkabout at Pheasant Branch Conservancy

Bethany families delighted in a lovely walkabout at Pheasant Branch Conservancy on the morning of Saturday, May 8. Ms. Lisa brought along a set of anemometers for children (and adults) to monitor the wind speed.

At one stopping point, we held up empty picture frames to select beautiful scenes to share with others. Our destination point was the set of freshwater springs featured in a recent Children's Message. Fresh air, freedom of movement, and in-person conversation was enjoyed by all!





Library on the Lawn

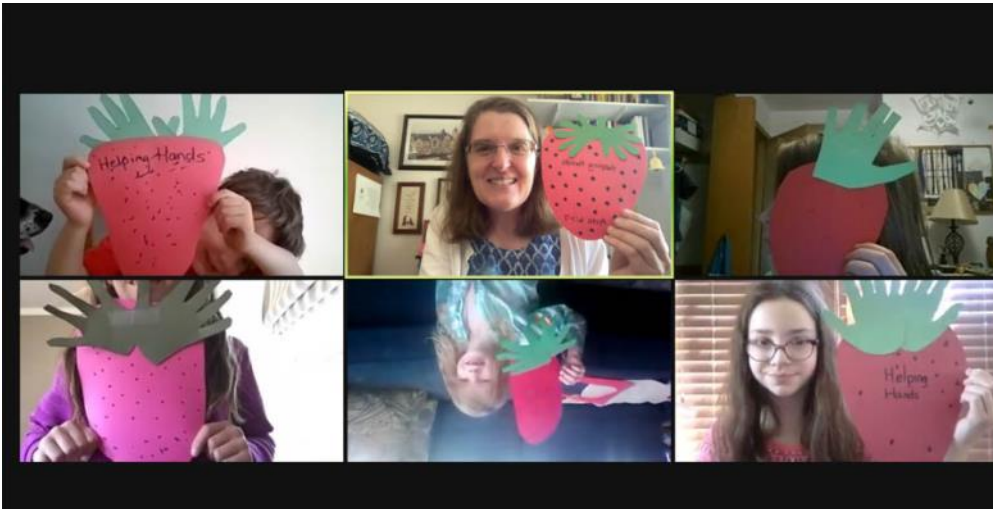
All Bethany children — 5th grade and younger, babies welcome! — are invited to join Ms. Lisa for *Library on the Lawn* on Monday, June 21. This will be an open-house event in the church yard, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Library books will be available for browsing and checkout (3 books per child). Lisa will set up a simple art project (supplies separated into individual bags) for anyone who is interested. Rain location is Fellowship Hall. All Bethany health and safety protocols will be followed. RSVPs welcome, for planning purposes.



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

Children's Zoom Sunday School

In recent weeks, we have been reading stories from the book of Acts that describe the early church community. In Acts 4:32-37 we read about how church members shared belongings with each other, and in Acts 6:1-7 we read about how seven leaders were chosen to organize care for widows and families. We talked about how we could offer care to other people in our family, neighborhood, or church community. One Sunday we gathered items to represent our ideas, such as a heart for giving hugs, or a cookie cutter and muffin cup for making and sharing baked treats. On another Sunday we traced our "helping hands" and used the cutouts as the green top of a strawberry.



Easing back in...

I spent time in the Children's Ministries office at Bethany on the morning of Thursday, May 13. It was both strange and familiar to be sitting at my desk again, and putting up items on the bulletin board in the lobby. Prayers for grace and compassion for everyone as we navigate a return to spaces from which we have been absent, and activities which have been on hold. May the peace of Christ be with us all in these coming weeks and months, as we negotiate the blending of new and previous patterns.

For Youth Ministry information, contact: Brigit Parlow, Director of Youth Ministries
 Phone: (608) 238-6381 / Email: youthdirector@bethanymadison.org

Congratulations to all graduating seniors!!

This year's seniors from Bethany who are graduating high school are:

-  Jackie Day
-  Gabby Day
-  Ian Santin
-  Abby Rahn
-  Genna Bertalot

Monthly Gatherings Resume

Bethany Youth Group will resume monthly in-person gatherings in June!

We will plan to meet the third Wednesday of the month, June 16th, to play Bocce Ball! Does anyone know how to play? I have no idea, but I'm going to find out. There will be outside activities, some fun fellowship, and a chance to finally meet in person after all these months! Time is 6:30 to 8 pm.



Youth Mission Trip

Bethany High School Youth are going on a mission trip this summer!

After last year's cancellation due to Covid-19, the youth are planning a trip with Appalachian Service Project to Kentucky this July 10-18th. We are fired up and looking forward to the trip!!

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the youth missions in the past, we are eager to get to work in the Appalachia areas making homes warmer, safer, and drier. More news to come in the months ahead!





“Looks like Mom has some flower planting to do! Does that mean not much snuggle time with me?”
 — Maddy

A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS			
Sunday, May 2	Sunday, May 9	Sunday, May 16	Sunday, May 23
Total 174	Total 140	Total 140	Total



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 July Issue: June 21st

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