



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 54, No. 9 • September 2021



Fall Festival



Sunday, September 12, 11:00 am — 1:00 pm

Don't miss the fun for kids of all ages!

Pulled Pork Sandwiches
Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Cookies
Lemonade & Iced Tea
Community Sing
Petting Farm
Balloon Artist



Invite Your Friends and Neighbors



Petting Farm

Don't miss the Petting Farm including, lambs, goats, bunnies, chicks, duck, goose, llama, mini potbelly pig, mini donkey and calf. Under the oak trees on the front lawn!



PASTOR'S COLUMN



Four Youth Awarded Bethany Scholarships

Each year it is a special treat to announce our scholarship awards for Bethany youth. These scholarships are available to youth who have been active in the various ministries and mission outreaches of our congregation. We are grateful for all the ways in which these youth have been involved in the life of Bethany, and we are excited to hear their plans for education and eventual careers.



In recent years, we have been able to provide scholarships of \$500 for each of the first couple years of college. We have also

been able to provide scholarships for Bethany members attending seminary.

This year the Board reviewed applications from four youth. We are pleased to award scholarships to each of them. Here are their current plans:

🎓 Ali Kimball will be a sophomore at Hamline University, a United Methodist school in St. Paul, Minnesota. She has been highly involved there in projects helping people in the community. She plans to continue exploring her passions with digital media.

🎓 Earl Lewis will be a sophomore at Lakeland University in Plymouth, Wisconsin. He reports that he has been doing well with his classes, and he has enjoyed being a player on the school's basketball team. He plans to open his own business post college.

🎓 Abby Rahn will be a freshman at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. She is interested in studying to become a landscape architect.

🎓 Ian Santin will be a freshman at Davenport University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he plans to continue his studies in computer science.

Congratulations to all four, and blessings as they pursue their studies!

These scholarships are funded through earnings from the Bethany Scholarship Fund and the Bethany Endowment Fund, to which so many people have generously donated across the years. I'm grateful for your gifts to these endowments. All of our scholarship recipients have been grateful as well. Thanks!

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Greg

New Bethany Staff Emails

Effective this month, all Bethany staff will be using new Gmail accounts for office emails. This will help cut back on emails inadvertently going to spam and make access to email easier when not in the office. The current emails (@bethanymadison.org) will remain in effect until October 15th. Please make note of the following new emails for Bethany and begin using them now:

Bethany Office (Carl White)	Bethany.Madison.Office@gmail.com
Senior Pastor (Greg)	Bethany.Madison.PastorGreg@gmail.com
Pastor of Visitation (Brad)	Brad.Mather.66@gmail.com
Financial Secretary (Sandra Arrington)	Bethany.Madison.Finance@gmail.com
Membership Secretary (Kathy Doran)	Bethany.Madison.Membership@gmail.com
Treasurer (Steve Webster)	Bethany.Madison.Treasurer@gmail.com
Childrens Ministries (Lisa Weaver)	Bethany.Madison.Children@gmail.com
Youth Director (Brigit Parlow)	Bethany.Madison.Youth@gmail.com
Music Director (Shannon Gravelle)	Bethany.Madison.Music@gmail.com
Bell Choir (Nick Bonaccio)	Bethany.Madison.Bells@gmail.com

Simple Gifts for September — “Harvest of Hope”

Simple gift offerings made during September are going to help our partners at Harvest of Hope, a state-wide program that supports Wisconsin farm families in distress.



Simple gifts can be made by placing loose coins in the offering plates, or by putting cash or a check in mission envelopes. You can also give online at BethanyMadison.org (click on We Serve and, from the drop-down menu, select Giving Financially).

Farming has always been difficult and unpredictable. The Harvest of Hope Fund was created in January 1986 to respond to the farm crisis of the 1980s. Initially, this program was intended to be a short-term effort to help some Wisconsin farm families get through a difficult time. But the farm crisis never really ended.

Starting in 2015, several factors converged to negatively affect the profit margins of most Wisconsin farm enterprises and these tight margins continued through 2019. Just as dairy prices were rebounding at the beginning of 2020 and the forecast looked hopeful — the COVID-19 pandemic hit and disrupted the demand for commodities both in the U.S. and abroad. Once again, some farmers were put in precarious financial positions.

Harvest of Hope provides financial support and hope to Wisconsin farm families to help address common financial problems: power cut-offs or impending power cut-offs; medical or veterinary bills; feed for cattle; machinery repair; weather events (floods, drought, frost, hail, building damage due to snow-load); and putting food on the table or fuel in the tank.

In the past, the fund has provided gifts of up to \$1,500 to help address these or similar situations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Harvest of Hope temporarily increased this to \$2,000 per family.

The Harvest of Hope Fund uses five guiding principles when making grant decisions to farm families:

- Keep Wisconsin family farms in the hands of family farmers
- Respond to farm families in difficult situations that could lead to disaster
- Respond as quickly as possible, usually in two to five days
- Especially sensitive to needs of farm families with small children
- Link farm families with local resources for financial or management assistance

The Harvest of Hope Fund was created by and is still supported by the Madison Christian Community (MCC), an ecumenical Christian community on the west side of Madison. The MCC covers all the administrative costs associated with the program and the fund is administered by an all-volunteer committee, so every dollar contributed to the fund goes directly to Wisconsin farm families in need.

Please give generously, as your support will make a difference in real and relevant ways. You may also give online here.

To learn more visit: www.madisonchristiancommunity.org/harvest_of_hope.aspx

Up next: Simple gifts in October will support Temba Nkomozepe, our Global Mission Partner with Mujila Falls in Zambia.



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.

SUSANNA CIRCLE

The Susanna Circle of the United Methodist Women will meet on Wednesday, September 1st at 1:00 pm at Ann Sowaske's home, Middleton Glen (6720 Century Avenue, Middleton). Ann is hostess, and we will meet in the guest dining room for refreshments. After refreshments there will be a program describing the history of Trinity United Methodist Church, the oldest Methodist church building in Madison. Following the program there will be an opportunity to tour the garden. All Bethany women are invited to attend.

AGAPE

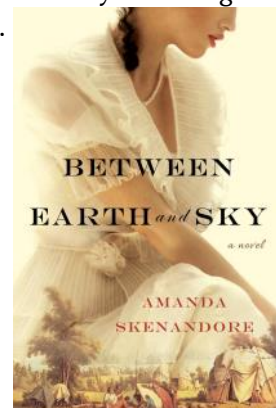
The next Agape meeting will be Wednesday September 8th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Bethany. This will be our annual planning meeting. Bring your ideas for guest speakers/projects for this year's meetings. All women of the church are invited. If you have any questions or won't be able to attend this meeting but have meeting ideas for the year, please contact Ann Hill at annie@darthray.com.

BOOK BROWSERS

The new year for Book Browsers will start on Monday, September 20 at 2:00 pm. Please note the new time. We will meet via Zoom all year. Book Browsers is a group where someone shares a book they have read with the others. Please join us to hear a great variety of topics. If you have questions, email Eileen Dunne @ eileen5491@gmail.com.

REFLECTIONS BOOK GROUP

Reflections Book Discussion group will begin the new year reading *Between Earth and Sky* by Amanda Skenandore. For those not familiar with the group, we all read the book (copies are available through the South Central library system), and meet for a lively discussion. All are welcome whether you have read the book or not. Meeting is Monday, September 27 at 1:00 pm in the church library. We hope to see you!



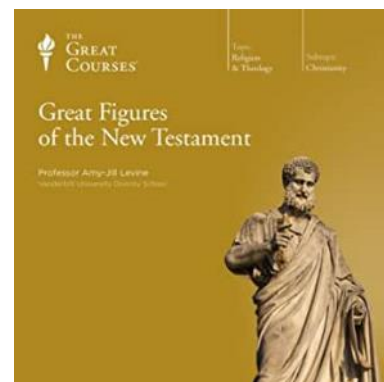
Alma and her family came to western Wisconsin where her father opened a school to teach Indian children how to live like a white man. Stripped of everything that was Indian, this was a chance for them to learn how to properly eat, speak, walk, dress and act as the white men and to properly integrate them into the changing country.

Between Earth and Sky is a fascinating book diving into the history of assimilation schools for Native Americans around the turn of the 20th century. Alternately entertaining and challenging, romantic and practical as it delves into the level of detail and immersion into the native culture. This is a definite reminder that no culture is entitled to "rescue" another culture, and that society's "progress" is not wholly positive.

PASTOR GREG'S BIBLE STUDY CLASS RESUMES ON SEPT. 2ND

Pastor Greg's Bible Study Class will resume weekly Thursday sessions on September 2nd, from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. Class sessions will initially be on Zoom. If COVID infection rates drop again, we will switch to "hybrid meetings," with some members on Zoom, and others in a church classroom visible on a "Meeting Owl" 360-degree camera.

This year the class is studying "Great Figures of the New Testament," with presentations by Professor Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Each week we will focus in depth on a different person in the biblical story. Each session is standalone, so feel free to try out the class any Thursday. We welcome you!





ANNOUNCEMENTS



UPDATED DIRECTORY COMING

A new Church Directory will be coming out in early September. In order to ensure we have the most up-to-date information, please let the church office know if you've moved, changed (or added) phone numbers, or changed/updated your email address.

If you have signed up for a Realm account then any changes to your record can be made by you (Realm is the new church database system). If you don't have a Realm account, and would like one, let the Church Office know and an invite will be sent to you.

The new Directory will be available at the church on Sunday, September 12th or a PDF version can be emailed.

MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED IN JULY

For Judy Franks: Janet Schewe, Walt and Linda Holthaus

For Sally Gaard: Walt and Linda Holthaus, Rod and Paula McKenzie, Eileen Dunne, Bill and Betsy Tishler, Beverly Schrag

STATEMENTS

Eight month statements will be sent out on September 1st. These statements will include giving through August 29th except for online gifts which will include giving through August 31st.

Although you do not need a Realm account to give online, accepting an invitation to create a Realm account allows you to not only make online gifts but also to check on your giving status and generate your own statements, enter pledge information and update your contact and personal information.

NEEDED - ONE HOUR PER MONTH AFTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Since August 1st we have been depositing contributions weekly. Prior to the pandemic we had 9 people working once a month in teams of two to prepare the deposit following worship. Now only 5 of these people are available to help.

We would like four additional volunteers to help prepare the deposit after the last service on Sunday. No special skills are needed and you will be paired with an experienced volunteer when you are scheduled.

Schedules are done quarterly and take into account Sundays when you indicate you are not available. Please contact Sandra Arrington at Bethany.Madison.Finance@gmail.com or 608-833-4567 if you can help or if you have any questions. Thank You.

CYCLES FOR BOLIVIA

Bethany has had a commitment to the Methodist Church in Bolivia for the last couple decades. It is an exciting historic connection with many missionaries serving there coming to speak at Bethany. Ardell and Gordy Graner are two fine examples. Some of Bethany's youth and adults have served on volunteer teams to Bolivia.

Now we have another opportunity to provide a most needed motorcycle for pastors! The goal for the Wisconsin Conference is to provide four cycles. Don't confuse the cycles they are seeking with huge "hogs" that you see on Wisconsin highways! These are for basic transportation to enable pastors to serve members of five congregations. They are many miles apart often served by walking or by bicycle. And don't imagine some fine paved highways connecting the congregations! They are rough and dangerous. We have lost some of our missionaries on them. The cycle will enable far more effective ministry.



Bethany's Outreach Committee has endorsed this project and encourages your financial participation for this September goal.

On September 19th, Dave Harsh will speak at both of the services telling more of the excitement and need for these cycles. He has personally experienced the need during his eight trips to Bolivia.



YOUTH MISSION TRIP



Bethany Youth and adult chaperones completed a week-long mission trip this July in Breathitt County, Kentucky. The team of 6 youth and 4 adults worked hard to complete a custom set of stairs, dig a drainage ditch, fill it with 3 tons of gravel, dig the post holes for a 6'x10' deck, and build that deck to near completion. The crew that came before us built a handicap accessible ramp, and the crew that came after us finished the deck railings and stairs, and installed gutters. There was also a third set of stairs being built for another access door as well. Overall, we made the home much safer and drier for its residents, Kenneth and Wanda.

We had a great time hanging out together, eating ice cream, playing cards, and getting to know each other again after the long Covid quarantine.





YOUTH MISSION TRIP





WELCOME SHANNON & FAMILY





BETHANY LOST AN OAK TREE



During severe weather the evening of August 10th one of Bethany's oak trees was blown down. As evidenced by the inside of the trunk, the tree was in serious trouble and actually had been slated to be removed. Mother Nature took care of that.

Serious damage was done to the Infant Playground but, miraculously, the gazebo was unscathed.

On Wednesday, with the help of some TPF staff, Ben Henner removed a large portion of the remains and piled the rest for future pickup.



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

Ice Cream!

Cold, sweet ice cream was the perfect treat for a hot summer afternoon in early August. Bethany children, youth and families enjoyed a scoop of their favorite flavor while visiting with Ms. Lisa, Brigit and Pastor Greg and playing at nearby Wingra Park.



Library on the Lawn

The weather again cooperated for "Library on the Lawn" under the beautiful oak trees! Children enjoyed playing instruments (drums, shakers, triangle, xylophone) and coloring bird cards. Faith-based library books were selected by children to read with parents and grandparents. The Jacobson kids each enjoyed putting together a jigsaw puzzle that their family took home for the month.



A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, Aug. 1
Total 138

Sunday, Aug. 8
Total 105

Sunday, Aug. 15
Total 123

Sunday, Aug. 22
Total 147



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: Bethany.Madison.Office@Gmail.com

Website: www.bethanymadison.org

Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship Service	8:15 am
Early Bird Coffee Chat (Zoom)	8:30 am
Faithlink Adult Discussion Class	9 am
Zoom Worship	10 am
After-Worship Fellowship (Zoom)	11 am

Staff

Lead Pastor.....	Greg Jewison
Pastor of Visitation	Brad Mather
Director of Children’s Ministries & Music.....	Lisa Weaver
Director of Youth Ministries	Brigit Parlow
Global Mission Partner	Temba Nkomozezi, Mujila Falls, Zambia
Director of Music.....	Dr. Shannon Gravelle
Organist	Sue Poulette
Director of Bell Choirs	Nick Bonaccio
Office Administrator.....	Carl White
Membership Secretary.....	Kathy Doran
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
 Vada Mayfield . Kathy Nelson . Gail Steinhorst . Donna Wold

Bulletin Deadline : Tuesdays at Noon
E-Banner Deadline: Tuesdays at Noon
Banner Deadline for the October Issue: September 20th