



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 54, No. 10 • October 2021

The Tuong Family — Refugees from Vietnam

Prior to escaping to the U.S. in 1975, Xuong and Cecile Tuong lived during turbulent times in Vietnam. The Vietnam War had begun in 1955, pitting Communist North Vietnam against South Vietnam and its principle ally, the U.S. In 1966 Xuong was drafted to join the army (where he reached the rank of lieutenant) and Cecile began working for the U.S. government.

In 1975, when it was evident that Saigon would soon be overcome by the Communist army, a mass evacuation began of tens of thousands of Vietnamese. Because their association with the U.S. endangered the lives of the Tuong family, Cecile was able to obtain permission for herself, Xuong, their children and members of her extended family to be evacuated. Although they had very little time to prepare, the family was able to board a C-141 aircraft on April 23rd — one week before Saigon fell to the communists! The plane made several stops before landing at Ft. Smith army camp in Arkansas where the family awaited a sponsor.



After waiting three months the Tuongs learned that Bethany Methodist Church in Madison Wisconsin was interested in sponsoring a refugee family. Xuong and Cecile were told that although the winter weather in Wisconsin is very cold and snowy, Madison had good schools. Because providing a good education for their sons was a priority, they decided to accept Bethany's offer and settle their family in Madison.

The family, including the couple, their young sons, Linh and Khanh, and Cecile's mother arrived in Madison on August 7th. Cecile, writing about their first day in Madison, stated that after months in the camp and their trip to Wisconsin, they felt so happy to be in their new home — an apartment with three bedrooms, plenty of food and clothes. She added that most important was the friendship and care that Bethany brought to the family!

Since then, Cecile and Xuong have endured many hardships, including having to adjust very quickly to winter weather because Xuong's first job was out-of-doors and Cecile had long bus trips to work.

However their achievements were also many. After only four years in Madison, the family moved into a new house that the couple had built, and after five years Cecile and Xuong passed requirements and became American citizens. Years later, after being laid off, Xuong earned a degree in electronics from MATC and began a permanent job with the State. Cecile passed a civil service exam and also became a permanent state employee.

Throughout the years Cecile has regularly attended worship at Bethany and is still active in United Methodist Women. At present the hard-working couple, now in their early 80's, are enjoying retirement and their three grandchildren. Cecile and Xuong recently commented that the scenes on television of the throngs of Afghanistan people desperately attempting to flee their country in order to save their lives, reminded them very much of their final days in Vietnam.



PASTOR'S COLUMN



We Welcome Deacon Kory Douglass

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Kory Douglass as a volunteer on Bethany's staff. Kory is an ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church. United Methodists have two orders of ordained ministry. "Elders" typically serve as pastors (Pastor Brad and I for instance are ordained elders.) "Deacons" typically have specialized servant roles such as Christian educators, church administrators, chaplains, counselors, and more.



Deacon Kory is excited to be joining the ministries of Bethany. His primary appointment approved by the bishop is to work on the staff of Common Threads Family Resource Center, where he serves as a marriage and family therapist, primarily with neurodiverse children. His secondary appointment by the bishop is to serve as a volunteer on Bethany's staff. Kory has interests in worship leadership, caring ministries, teaching classes, and more – you will see him involved in a variety of ways.

For his theological education, Deacon Kory studied at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, where he received a Master in Theological Studies with a specialization in Theology and Ethics.

He previously served Bashford UMC as their Coordinator of Adult Ministries and Congregational Care.

You already know some of Deacon Kory's family. His wife Claire Mather Douglass grew up in our congregation during her youth years – which of course means that his in-laws are Pastor Brad and Becky Mather! Claire has a new ministry also. She is now serving as the Pastor of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at Sun Prairie UMC. And for you pet lovers out there: the Douglass household also includes their two cats, Nyssa and Elkan, and their golden retriever, Hero.



We welcome Deacon Kory!

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Greg

October is Church Staff Appreciation Month

We are truly blessed to have such wonderful staff at Bethany UMC! Each of them shares their special talents with us as they create, grow, and support our many ministries. Throughout the month of October we will be recognizing our staff. Here are some of the things we've got planned:

On Sunday, October 3, we will recognize the church staff during both of our worship services.

Then, during the month of October, we encourage everyone to take time to write personal notes of appreciation to staff. For those worshipping in person, we will have a basket of cards available so you can select a card and write your note while you're at church. For those who are participating in Zoom worship, we encourage you to write a note from home and then mail it or drop it off at church. We hope you'll want to send several cards!

Hey kids...pictures would also be great!

Let's all take time to thank our staff and let them know how much we appreciate all they do!

The Bethany Board



Simple Gifts for October — “Global Mission Partners at Mujila Falls”

Simple Gifts collected in October are going to support the Mujila Falls Agriculture Center, which is Bethany’s longtime Global Mission Partner in the African nation of Zambia.

At Mujila Falls, men and women of the Lunda tribe learn sustainable and appropriate methods for growing crops and managing livestock. People across a large area benefit from the eggs and plentiful food produced on the farm.

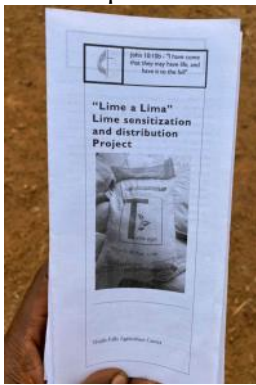
Mujila Falls has been in its current location since 2000, and was led for most of that time by Paul Webster before he returned to the United States in October 2018. Over the past three years, Mujila Falls has been led by Temba Nkomozepe, a missionary with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries.

Much like Webster, Nkomozepe takes part in a range of agriculture, education, and health projects, as well as church growth and development. Mujila Falls raises essential crops, such as corn, and engages in small animal husbandry, cattle and goat milking, and more.

Nkomozepe is from Zimbabwe, where he received a BS degree in agriculture from the United Methodist-related Africa University in Mutare. He holds both a master’s and PhD in agricultural civil engineering, with an emphasis on water resource management, from Kyungpook National University in Daegu, South Korea.



Nkomozepe wrote on Facebook in September 2021 how his team had recently held “a successful event where we trained farmers on the topic of liming, and later gave out just under 200 bags (50 kg each) of agricultural lime to 26 families.” He explained how the soil around where Mujila Falls is located is very acidic and requires lime.



Writes Nkomozepe: “As I reflected on the event two bits of scripture resonated with me. The first one is part of Luke 12:48, ‘... from whom much is given, much is required’ and part of Matthew 10:8 ‘... freely you have received; freely give.’ I am so grateful to those ... who continue to give to us, so much that we can also continue to give freely. ... Your generous support ... will go a long way in making us at Mujila and those around us produce maize in a more sustainable manner. God bless Mujila and, indeed, God bless you!”

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

Up next: Simple gifts in November will go to support Africa University

Special Sunday Offering

Also this month, there will be a Special Sunday Offering on Oct. 3 to support World Communion Sunday, which provides scholarships for U.S. racial and ethnic minority students, and international students, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Over the course of each year, Bethany participates in several special offering Sundays sponsored by the broader United Methodist Church.





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 next meeting of the Susanna Circle of the United Methodist Women is Wednesday, October 6th in the Bethany Church library. The program will be by Judy Loveless, *My Family Reunion in Hawaii*. Please let Judy know if you cannot attend at 608-848-8243 or email. All Bethany women are invited to attend.

LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting of Lydia Fellowship will be on Monday, October 11th at 1:00 PM at the home of Joyce Benjamin (5771 Chapel Valley Road #116). Please call Joyce at 608-271-6834 if you will be attending. Everyone is welcome!

AGAPE

The October Agape meeting will be held on Wednesday Oct. 13th at 6:30 via Zoom. This month our guest speaker will be Carol Shay Hornung. They are a local author who has spoken to our group before about their first 2 books. Carol will talk about their most recent book - *Slips of Yew A Dez Duchiene Mystery, Book 1*. It is a murder mystery set in Madison during the Act 10 protests featuring Dez Duchiene, his husband Stevie and Dez's friends. Carol has recently finished Book 2 of this series and will discuss that as well. Everyone is welcome.

UMW SUNDAY

The Bethany unit of United Methodist Women will observe UMW Sunday on October 17th, which is also the 70th anniversary of the founding of the UMW unit at Bethany. Marge Lyford has written a skit to commemorate the occasion. Join the UMW players for a visit with spirits of UMW past, present, and future. Learn about the history and dreams for the future of women in the church.

BOOK BROWSERS

Please join us for Book Browsers on Monday, October 18, at 2pm via Zoom. Thelma Wells will review the book *Remember: The Science of Memory and the Art of Forgetting* by Lisa Genova.

REFLECTIONS BOOK DISCUSSION

Reflections Book Discussion will meet Monday, October 25 at 1:00 pm. This will be a Zoom event. The book for discussion has not been chosen, so check the Friday e-Banner for more information.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Stewardship Sunday will be October 10th. Pledge packets will be mailed September 27th. If you do not receive a packet by October 4th and would like one, they will be available on the volunteer counter in the narthex after September 29th or you can contact the church office and one will be mailed to you. Please return your pledge card by October 24th. Having pledge information by then makes it easier for those setting the operating budget for 2022.

There are several ways in which you can inform the church of your 2022 pledge.

- Bring your card to church.
- Mail your card to the church.
- Go to the Bethany website, select We Serve, Giving Financially and Pledge Form. You can fill out and submit the form online. The church will receive an email with all your pledge information.
- If you have set up an account in Realm you can enter your pledge directly into Realm.

If you are currently making recurring automatic contributions, they will continue unchanged in 2022 unless you take one of the following actions.

- Fill out an authorization form indicating that you wish to change the amount of your contribution or stop the contribution. A new form is also needed if you change your banking information.
- If you have set up an account in Realm you can stop the current contribution and set up a new one with the updated information yourself.

Your use of numbered offering envelopes is most helpful to staff preparing the weekly deposits and entering contributions into the church database. It also helps improve our accuracy in recording contributions. If you do not receive these envelopes and would like them, or if you would like to change the envelopes, you do receive (weekly vs monthly) you can do so using one of the following methods.

- Contact the financial secretary to request a change.
- Use the online pledge form mentioned above to request numbered offering envelopes.

Please email me at Bethany.Madison.Financial@Gmail.com if you have questions. Or, call me at church on Wednesday mornings or at home, 608- 833-4567.

— Sandra Arrington, Financial Secretary.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMBER CARE

Appreciation...

Many thanks for your prayers and concern following my recent ankle fracture. I'm getting along well with a walking boot and walker.

— Jan Schewe

Thank you Becky Day...

The Chancel Choir and Spirit of Hope would like to thank Becky Day for sewing Singers' masks for each member of the performing groups. Becky has spent countless hours cutting fabric and constructing these masks needed by the singers during this time of Covid-19. The mask is three layers of fabric to control the spread of aerosols. There is extra space around the mouth so singers can draw in a breath without inhaling the mask. Along with distancing, the implementation of the singers' masks is allowing the choirs to sing together in a safe manner. Thank you again to Becky for your time and energy to keep Bethany singing!



MUSIC AT BETHANY

The Music Program at Bethany United Methodist Church had the Music Kick-Off Celebration on September 2. It was a wonderful evening filled with singing, ringing, fellowship, and food!

You can join us at any time.

Carillons meet from 6-7:15 most Thursdays (email Nick for more information: Bethany.Madison.Bells@gmail.com)



Spirit of Hope meets from 6:30-7:15 on Thursdays. Chancel Choir meets from 7:30-9:00 on Thursdays (email Shannon for more information: Bethany.Madison.Music@gmail.com).

And last, everyone is invited to join the All-Community Choir every 4th Sunday at 9 AM to learn music to sing in the service. Yes, families are invited to attend, too! Yes, even if you "can't sing," you can attend! There is no need to rehearse for this on Thursday nights, as you will have a chance to sing and learn on Sunday morning. Our first All-Community Choir will be on September 26. Join us at 9!

ALLIED FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The Allied Drive Food Pantry distributes pre-packaged bags of items on Wednesday morning and evening and offers other items to clients with special needs. Some items most needed by the pantry are listed on our website under "We Serve" and "Community Involvement." Copies of the list are also available at the food bins by the first floor elevator. Brand names or quantities are listed for some items. Please limit your item purchases for the Pantry to those suggested.

Cash contributions may also be given to the Bethany Office. If paid by check make the check payable to "Bethany UMC" with "Allied Drive Food Pantry" written on the check memo line. Our office will forward these contributions so the Food Pantry can purchase other food items, replace or repair equipment, and cover operating expenses. Thanks in advance for your generosity.



CHURCH RETREAT



CHURCH RETREAT





FALL FESTIVAL



FALL FESTIVAL



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



Meet Becky's horses!

All Bethany children (and family members) are invited to the Mather home on Saturday, October 16 at 10:30 am to meet Becky's horses! Becky will show us how to feed, brush and care for the horses. RSVPs are requested to Lisa, so that we can plan for the appropriate number of participants. This activity will take place outside and is dependent on good weather, so watch for communication if the weather looks iffy.

In-person Sunday School

We enjoyed a Bible story, project, and music at our first in-person Sunday School on Sept 12. This class is designed for children in preschool through 5th grade, and is led by Ms. Lisa. All participants in the Sunday School room (children and adults) are requested to wear masks.



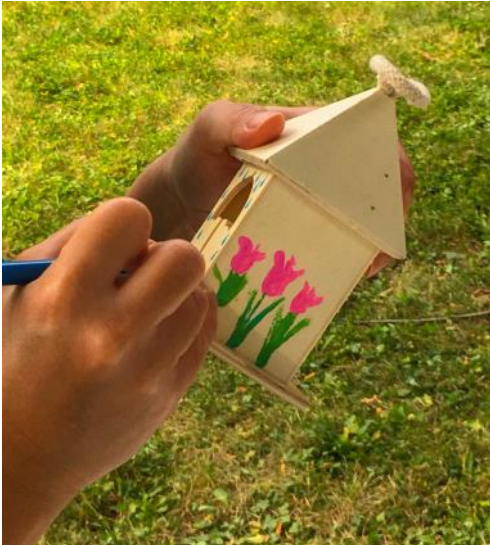
Childcare Available during Adult Choir Rehearsals

Childcare is available on Thursday evenings during adult music rehearsals at Bethany. Simply talk to Shannon, Nick, or Ms. Lisa if you are interested in this possibility. We would love to support your interest in joining a choir!



Birdhouses, Balloons, and the Parachute!

Children of all ages enjoyed painting or coloring birdhouses, choosing balloon art objects, and circling up around the parachute during the Fall Festival (see pages 8 and 9 for more photos). It was delightful to see the smiles and energy of the kids!



A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, Aug. 29
Total 115

Sunday, Sept. 5
Total..... 108

Sunday, Sept. 12
Total.....148

Sunday, Sept. 19
Total..... 152

Sunday, Sept. 26
Total..... 154

3910 Mineral Point Road
Madison, WI 53705-5911

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MADISON, WISCONSIN
PERMIT 803



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

Bulletin Deadline : Tuesdays at Noon
E-Banner Deadline: Tuesdays at Noon
Banner Deadline for the November Issue: October 18th

Staff

Lead Pastor..... Greg Jewison
 Pastor of Visitation Brad Mather
 Deacon Rev. Kory Douglass
 Director of Children’s Ministries & Music..... Lisa Weaver
 Director of Youth Ministries..... Brigit Parlow
 Global Mission Partner Temba Nkomozepe, Mujila Falls, Zambia
 Director of Music Dr. Shannon Gravelle
 Organist Sue Poullette
 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

Banner Assembly

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