



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 54, No. 11 • November 2021

Meeting Dollar, Puzzle, and Annie!

On a beautiful Saturday morning in October, Becky Mather introduced five Bethany families to her horses: Dollar, Puzzle, and Annie. We learned how to brush and pet the horses, clean their hooves, and comb their manes. Each child took a turn leading Dollar on a walk in a big circle. And then everyone had a chance to ride! Both bareback and saddles were an option, and some kids tried each. Many, many thanks to Becky for sharing her knowledge and love of horses with us!





PASTOR'S COLUMN



Giving Thanks in Seemingly Barren Times

We are currently blessed with the brilliant colors of fall. But sadly it won't last long. Each November we watch as the colorful leaves fall to the ground and turn brown. The days get shorter and the skies turn gray. The world of nature moves into a seeming lifelessness as we head into the long winter months. As the trees are left bare, I think often our spirits feel barren as well.



Yet in the same month that this happens, we celebrate one of our most joyous holidays, Thanksgiving. We are grateful for the harvest. We are grateful for God's gift of the earth that provides so abundantly for us. We are grateful for the opportunities to gather with family and friends, who are also wonderful blessings from God.

And, I suppose in a way, we are also even grateful that the world is turning brown outside. Despite its appearance, it really isn't lifeless this time of year. The disintegrating leaves are fertilizing the soil. The autumn rains and the winter snows are providing the life-giving moisture for the blossoms and greenery of next spring.

God does that in our lives as well. We may have moments when we feel terribly low. Things may look dark and threatening when we ponder how to deal with the latest challenges at work, or the current crises in the world, or perhaps a current crisis in our personal lives. But we trust that God will use those experiences to prepare us for future growth.

We give thanks this month because God is with us in all circumstances, providing the support and care and strength we need. That's what providence means. As we sing in that familiar Thanksgiving hymn, "We Gather Together,"

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!

I hope that this month will be filled with opportunities for you to express your gratitude to God!

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Greg

Special November Offerings

Special Thanksgiving Offering

Global Ministries and UMCOR have long-standing partners in Afghanistan, with projects and programs dating back to the mid-1960s.



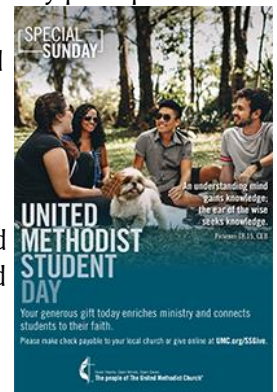
The work has been, and continues to be, in partnership with

local Afghan communities, as well as with other humanitarian agencies concerned with health, community development and human rights. UMCOR is working with these partners to determine what assistance is most helpful at this time.

Learn more at: <https://umcmmission.org/august-2021/umcor-supports-afghans-in-need/>

United Methodist Student Day

Over the course of each year, Bethany participates in several special offering Sundays sponsored by the broader United Methodist Church. And Nov. 28 is United Methodist Student Day, which furnishes scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities.



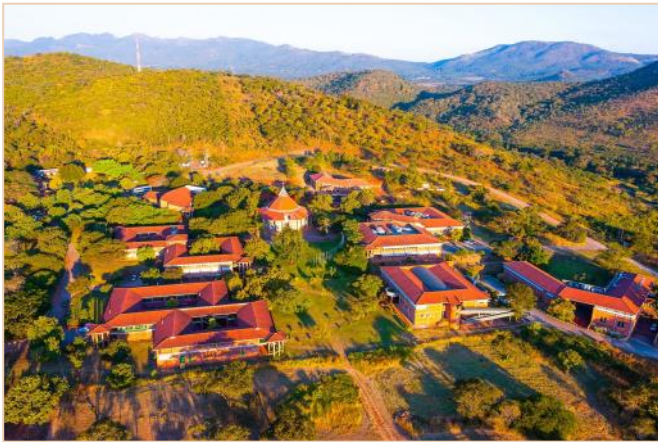
Simple Gifts for November — “Africa University”

Simple Gifts collected during November are going to support Africa University, which aspires to become a world-class university for leadership and development in Africa.

Africa University located in Mutare, Zimbabwe, is the first and only fully accredited institution of higher learning established on the African continent by action of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The mission of Africa University is to provide quality education within a Pan-African context, through which students can acquire general and professional knowledge and skills, grow in spiritual maturity, and develop sound moral values, ethics, and leadership qualities.

The university was founded in response to a call by African Bishops for a university for the whole of Africa. The General Conference of United Methodist Church unanimously approved the founding of Africa University in 1988 and made a commitment to provide financial support. After breaking ground on the project in 1991, Africa University opened in January 1992 as the first recognized private university in Zimbabwe.



Claudine Migisha and advisor Wehnam Debale

The desire of the university’s founders was to nurture an institution that would be deeply rooted in Africa — drawing its agenda and priorities from the challenges of African communities and combining the social wisdom and indigenous know-how of African people with new knowledge to aid development and improve quality of life on the continent.

Africa University today is home to students from across Africa. These promising future leaders are being educated on how to transform their continent through dynamic programs that include: agriculture and natural resources, education, health sciences, humanities and social sciences, management and administration, and theology. The Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance offers postgraduate diplomas and master’s programs.

When you give, you are equipping Indigenous solution-finders who are tackling some of their continent’s most pressing challenges with wisdom, innovation and spiritual maturity. Because of your generosity, The United Methodist Church is making a difference in Africa.

To learn more about Africa University, visit: <http://www.africau.edu/>

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). Please consider giving generously as your contributions will make a difference in real and relevant ways.

Up next: Simple gifts for December support the Allied Eviction Prevention Fund.



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

Susanna Circle of The United Methodist Women will meet on Wednesday, November 3rd at 1:00 pm at Joyce Benjamin's home (5771 Chapel Valley Rd, Apt 116). Let Joyce know if you can attend. Our program will be by Caroline Brock. All Bethany women are welcome.

LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting of Lydia Fellowship will be on Monday, November 8, at Bethany at 1:00 pm in Room 228. We continue to cut out and sew dining vests for area senior facilities. We also sew fleece hats for kids, knit hats, scarves and mittens to be delivered to the Allied area as we near the holiday season. Anyone is welcome to attend. Judy Cox will be the hostess. Please call Judy at 608-286-1871 or email her at jacox62@charter.net to let her know if you will attend.

AGAPE

The next Agape meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 10th at 6:30 via Zoom. November's meeting will be our annual book review. Have a favorite/recent book to tell the others about. The titles and authors of the books will be written down and the list shared with everyone after the meeting. Hope to see you there!

BOOK BROWSERS

The November meeting of Book Browsers will be on Monday, November 15, at 2 pm via Zoom. Eileen Dunne will review the book *The Last Bookshop* in London by Madeline Martin. The story gives an insight into life in Lonon during the blitz. Please join us.

REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will meet Monday, November 22 at 1:00 pm via Zoom. The book for November is *Resistance Women* by Jennifer Chiaverini. Copies are available from the SouthCentral Library System.

All are welcome whether you have read the book or not.

After Wisconsin graduate student Mildred Fish marries Arvid Harnack, she accompanies him to his German homeland, where a promising future awaits. In the thriving intellectual culture of 1930s Berlin, the newlyweds create a rich new life filled with love, friendships, and rewarding work — but the rise of a malevolent new political faction inexorably changes their fate. As Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party wield violence and lies to seize power, Mildred, Arvid, and their friends resolve to resist. Mildred gathers intelligence for her American contacts, including Martha Dodd, the daughter of the U.S. ambassador. Her German friends risk their lives to collect information from journalists, military officers, and officials within the highest levels of the Nazi regime. For years, Mildred's network stealthily fights to bring down the Third Reich from within. But when Nazi radio operatives detect an errant Russian signal, the Harnack resistance cell is exposed, with fatal consequences.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMBER CARE

Appreciation

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, messages, and visits after my fall and surgery in August. It has been a long, slow recovery period but I am making progress and hope to be rid of the neck brace and ankle boot in the near future. I am looking forward to getting back to church and seeing my Bethany family! Thank you for all the support.

— Donna Wold

A heartfelt thank you to our Bethany friends who sent such thoughtful cards & emails for our Therapy dog, Maddy (Madison). A special thank you to Pastors Greg & Brad for including us in Sunday's prayers. She was an amazing dog, gifted with the personality traits & capabilities required for therapy animals. She did the healing work; I was simply her handler, at the other end of the leash!



— Sue Coats & Family

MEMORIAL GIFTS FOR SEPTEMBER

For Sally Gaard: Shannon and Ruth O'Rourke, Frank Gaylord, Denis and Lynn Christensen, Michael and Sally Zwettler, David and Nancy Stilwell, Karen Mayeshiba, Winnie Boyar, Bill and Bev Payne, Mary Schroeder, Joyce Benjamin, Lou and Sandra Arrington, Bev Klumph, Janet Schewe, Ric and Cathie Johnson, Larry and Donna Wold

BETHANY PLANTINGS

Hopefully you have noticed the colorful flowers that have enhanced the area near the church entrance this past summer and fall. The plantings have been especially attractive this year, thanks to Vaughan James and Kris Jacobson.

Every spring, for a great many years, Vaughan has designed the plantings in the drain garden (a small area to the right of door when entering church) in memory of his parents, Ann and Ralph James, and in addition donated and planted the flowers.

For several years now, Kris has provided plants for the large planters near the driveway drop-off site and the smaller ones on the patio, as well as tending and watering them all throughout the growing season.

Thank you Vaughan and Kris!



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

Children's Sunday School

Bethany Children (preschool through 5th grade) are participating in Sunday School on Zoom at 9:00 am and in-person during the 10:00 am worship service. Both classes are led by Ms. Lisa and include a Bible story, song, and project. In the month of October, the stories focused on Moses in the Old Testament book of Exodus.



Game Night

We had beautiful weather for an outdoor Game Night on Saturday, October 16. Children, youth and adults gathered for board games, coloring, and a potluck meal. Tanya Iverson provided three kinds of delicious, homemade soup, and others shared bread, chips, and desserts. Hooray for fall fellowship!



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

All Community Choir

The All Community Choir gathered for the first time on Sunday, September 26th. Participants met in the sanctuary at 9:00 am for practice, and then shared “Praise, praise, praise the Lord” in worship at 10:00 am. The song that Shannon taught the choir is from Cameroon (collected by Elaine Hanson in French), and is often sung there by women in a processional. Children and youth at Bethany added rhythm instruments to our version. All ages of singers are invited to join the All Community Choir on the 4th Sunday of every month.



Looking Towards Advent!

Sunday, November 21 ~ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Please join the Bethany community for an open-house event:

- ★ Sing carols (Shannon)
- ★ Make a Christmas ornament - (Lisa)
- ★ Decorate a tree in the church (Sonia & Kerry)
- ★ Pick up your Advent Devotional Book - (Bethaney)
- ★ Find your Advent Bag - for youth/children (Brigit)
- ★ Sip hot cider and nibble on pumpkin muffins (Steve)
- ★ Enjoy conversation and fellowship (Everyone!)

Outside “pickup” options available for Advent Bags, Devotional Books, and pumpkin muffins!

Check with one of the individuals listed above if you wish to volunteer in a particular area.



A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, Oct. 3
 Total 187

Sunday, Oct. 10
 Total 147

Sunday, Oct. 17
 Total 163

Sunday, Oct. 24
 Total 149



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 December Issue: November 15

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
Website	www.bethanymadison.org

Banner Assembly

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