



# The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 54, No. 12 • December 2021

## Alternative Christmas Gift Giving

Are you struggling to come up with a meaningful Christmas gift idea for that special someone who has it all?


We've got a great way to both remove some holiday shopping stress and warm the heart. Simply check out Bethany's Alternative Giving Tree which makes it easy to give a donation to one of four worthy causes.


The tree is located just inside Bethany's main entryway, adjacent to the welcome desk and library entrance.


Forms where you can mark your giving selection will be placed near the tree and next to the church bulletins on Sundays. Donations, with checks payable to Bethany UMC, can then be placed in the offering plate or taken to the office. (Write the cause you have chosen in the memo line)


If you like, choose a card from the Alternative Giving Tree from the cause you chose to inform a recipient of your gift in their honor.

The 2021 Alternative Giving Tree options are:

 **Afghan Refugee Relief:** You may donate to the Wisconsin Conference of the UMC Immigration Assistance Fund #7795 or buy gift cards from Costco, Woodmans or Burlington Coat Factory for the local Afghan family we are assisting. You may also write a check to Bethany and indicate on the memo line that it is for the family.

 **Just Dane:** Just Dane's many programs inspire hope for individuals returning to the Dane County community after incarceration by breaking down barriers that prevent them from fully participating in our community and the lives of their families. Just Dane also supports the families of those incarcerated through reading programs, family visit programs, etc.

 **The Playing Field Emergency Fund:** Your gift provides a family in need with emergency shelter, food and transportation. It could go for basic kitchen items, needed prescriptions and medical supplies and more. Every cent of your gift is distributed by staff of the Playing Field to families who otherwise would lack the essentials that most of us take for granted

 **UMCOR:** Disaster Response and Recovery. UMCOR responds to disasters in the U.S. and the world by working with communities and local partners. "Early in and last out" is a guiding principle of UMCOR. 100% of your gift will go to disaster relief.





# PASTOR'S COLUMN



## Many Special Plans for Advent-Christmas Season



I am writing this on the day after our Thanksgiving Sunday celebration. How wonderful it was to have our full choirs back to an (almost) normal way of sharing their musical gifts! We have many special plans for music and worship in the Advent-Christmas season as well:

Pageant on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 10:00 a.m. – With elementary children now being vaccinated, we are planning for the children to offer a Christmas pageant in worship. Some of the narrators will be participating from home on Zoom, but there will be plenty of children in the sanctuary wearing costumes, acting out the Christmas story, and leading us in the carols of the season.

Cantata on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 10:00 a.m. – We will share in a morning of singing and ringing led by our Chancel Choir, Spirit of Hope Choir, A Capella Choir, and Bethany Carillons. The choirs have already been rehearsing for a few weeks to prepare for this special celebration.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services on Friday, Dec. 24, at 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. – We will offer two nearly identical Christmas Eve services, which will include our favorite carols, anthems by our choirs, and conclude with all of us lighting candles as we sing Silent

Night and Joy to the World. (Glowsticks will be available for younger children.)

Festival of Carols on Sunday, Dec. 26, at 10:00 a.m. – This will be our tenth annual “Festival of Carols.” We will hear the stories behind our favorite carols. And there will be plenty of ways for all ages to engage in the celebration, from ringing sleighbells to wearing halos and crowns.

I hope you can be a part of all of these Advent-Christmas celebrations!

Blessings in Christ,  
Pastor Greg

### Annual Church Conference

Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. All church members are encouraged to attend and vote on church leadership for the coming year among other regular business.

## A Ribbon of Tangible Hope

This picture shows 6 panels from various church Women United units in Wisconsin. They are being stored by Madison's unit for future inspiration and a history of our past.

On August 4, 1985 women brought 10 miles of panels from all over the United States to be tied together in Washington, DC. It was labeled *A Ribbon of Tangible Hope*. They encircled the Pentagon, the Lincoln Memorial, the Capitol, and other important buildings.

Church Women United has common goals that include working for a just, peaceful and caring society.

To learn more, check [ChurchWomenUnited-Madison.net](http://ChurchWomenUnited-Madison.net) and find out about this organization that started in Madison in 1924.



## Simple Gifts for December — “Allied Eviction Prevention Fund”

Simple Gift offering throughout December are going to support our partners with the Allied Eviction Prevention Fund.

The Eviction Prevention Fund assists families in keeping their homes when income is disrupted by sudden emergencies such as sickness, unemployment, or a death in the family. Requests for assistance are screened by the Joining Forces for Families social worker, in collaboration with JustDane staff.

This valuable program is again in need of funds — with overall donations for Eviction Prevention being down, as it was announced earlier this fall at a monthly Allied Partners meeting. In addition, there is an increased number of calls from people seeking assistance.

The Allied Eviction Prevention Fund is made possible by Allied Partners, an interfaith coalition of congregations — including Bethany United Methodist Church — working together with residents in the Allied-Dunn’s Marsh neighborhood, which straddles Madison and Fitchburg.

Allied Partners works with members of the neighborhood as well as with service providers already involved in the community to support the neighborhood’s physical and economic health, sustainability and the common good.

So please consider giving generously, as your support will make a difference in real and relevant ways.

## Christmas Eve Offering to Support Global Mission Partner

Please also consider giving to our special Christmas Eve offering on December 24 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. Webster shared on Facebook in November 2021 that he is now officially retired.

Over the past three years, Mujila Falls has been led by Temba Nkomozepe, a missionary with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. 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.

Note: Bethany United Methodist Church has also long supported Global Mission Partners Ardell and Gordon Graners’ important work in the Dominican Republic. However, the Graners are now both retired.

## Attention Knitters and Shoppers!

With the beginning of Advent, the Mitten Tree will appear in front of the office window in the narthex, ready to be filled with mittens, scarves, gloves and hats. The warm items will be given to children and youth who are in need of them. Please hang them on the tree by Sunday, December 19.

## Christmas Cookie Sale

Bethany Youth will be having a Christmas Cookie Sale this year! After the 2 year hiatus, we will be back selling cookies on Sunday, December 12th. We need cookie donations from you to make this a successful sale — lots of quantity and selection of cookies to buy and have for the holidays, exchange with friends, or just plain pig out on cookies!

So, while you're doing your holiday baking, please bake an extra dozen or two (or three!) cookies and bring them to church to donate either the morning of Saturday December 11th or Sunday morning, December 12th.

Youth will be gathering on Saturday, December 11th in the kitchen at Bethany to make some freshly baked cookies for the sale! If you'd like to come and join us, please do! It's lots of fun and fellowship.

We really look forward to re-starting this Bethany tradition and continuing our Advent preparations for the Christmas season.

Please email or call Brigit if you have any questions about cookie sale ([bethany.madison.youth@gmail.com](mailto:bethany.madison.youth@gmail.com)).



# 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.

## LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

Lydia Fellowship will not meet in December. The next meeting will be at 1:00 pm on Monday, January 10, 2022 at Bethany. Kathy Doran will be the hostess.

## AGAPE

We are putting together some Christmas games, holiday fun and reminiscences to get everyone in the spirit of the season. Be prepared to share a favorite present or toy you received as a child. Show and tell if you still have the gift. Grab a favorite beverage, some munchies and Zoom in for Agape's Christmas Celebration. Wednesday, December 8 at 6:30 pm.

## REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will meet via Zoom on Monday, December 27 at 1:00 pm. The book for December is *The Shepherd, the Angel, and Walter the Christmas Dog* by Dave Barry.

The year is 1960, and the Christmas pageant at St. John's Episcopal Church is a very big deal. Doug Barnes is a shepherd this year, which is better than being a Three King, because you get to carry a stick, however there are problems. But Christmas is a time of miracles. And for Doug and his family, this will be the most miraculous Christmas of all.

Join in a discussion of this wonderful Christmas story. Dave Barry is hilarious, and this should be a great time. It doesn't matter whether you have read the book, Zoom in.

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Everyone is invited to join us for the 2021 Children's Christmas Pageant, held during the 10:00 am worship service on Sunday, Dec 12. Children will be sharing the Christmas story in three different scenes, as told by narrators and accompanied by carols such as Little Drummer Boy, Away in a Manger, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, and Silent Night. We have been practicing during Zoom and in-person Sunday School, and have delighted in both story and songs. A friendly reminder from Ms. Lisa to families: There is only one Saturday rehearsal to put all the parts together! Your best effort to attend the rehearsal on Saturday, December 11, from 10:00 – 11:00 am in the sanctuary is much appreciated. Check in with Ms. Lisa if you have questions.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS FOR OCTOBER

For Sally Gaard: Don and Barb Dukerschein

For Marge Peters: Sue Poullette

## ELEVEN-MONTH STATEMENTS

Eleven month statements will be created and sent out on December 1st. Please look yours over carefully for any errors or omissions. If these can be corrected now your end of year statement is more likely to be correct. The statement can also help you evaluate your yearly and end of year giving. If you have questions about any of your statements please contact Sandra Arrington at the Church Office on Wednesday morning or by email at [Bethany.Madison.Finance@gmail.com](mailto:Bethany.Madison.Finance@gmail.com), or at home, 608-833-4567.



# SUNDAY SCHOOL



## Moses stories

This fall, Ms. Lisa and the Bethany Sunday School children read eight different stories from the life of Moses, as recorded in the book of Exodus. The final story was when the Hebrew people made a tabernacle (a tent for worship) and filled the Ark of the Covenant with three special items: the staff of Aaron, a container of manna, and the stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments were written. In class (both in-person, and on Zoom) the children filled boxes with items representing those special objects. The interest of the children in all of the Moses stories was delightful to behold!





# PREPPING FOR ADVENT





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

## Family Advent Bags

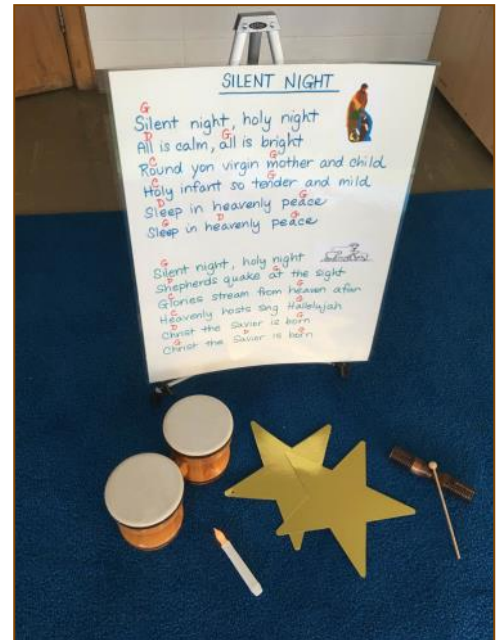
Brigit and Lisa have assembled Advent Bags for all Bethany families with children or youth. Contents include an ornament, materials to make an Advent-paper-chain of scripture verses, stickers, an apple treat, and other small items. If you have not yet received your Advent Bag, check in with Brigit or Lisa to arrange pickup or delivery.



## Children's Message

Recent picture books shared by Ms. Lisa during the Children's Message are:

- 📖 *I Wanted to Know All About God* (Virginia Kroll)
- 📖 *A Brave Big Sister* (Rachel Weaver & Anna Haggard)
- 📖 *Favorite Parables from the Bible* (Nick Butterworth & Mick Inkpen)
- 📖 *My First Prayers* (Jenny Wren)
- 📖 *The Goodbye Book* (Todd Parr)





# UMW SUNDAY



## A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, Oct. 31

Total ..... 149

Sunday, Nov. 7

Total ..... 148

Sunday, Nov. 14

Total ..... 155

Sunday, Nov. 21

Total ..... 159



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](mailto:Bethany.Madison.Office@Gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.bethanymadison.org](http://www.bethanymadison.org)

## Sunday Morning Schedule

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

**Bulletin Deadline :** Tuesdays at Noon

**E-Banner Deadline:** Tuesdays at Noon

**Banner Deadline for the January Issue:** December 20th

## 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 .....	<a href="mailto:bethanyoffice@bethanymadison.org">bethanyoffice@bethanymadison.org</a>
Website .....	<a href="http://www.bethanymadison.org">www.bethanymadison.org</a>

## Banner Assembly

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