



# The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 55, No. 8 • May 2022

## May Simple Gifts — The Playing Field

Simple Gift offerings made in May are going to support our partners at The Playing Field, which is dedicated to breaking the barriers faced by low-income families in accessing high-quality early care and education.

The Playing Field is an independent, nonprofit organization that partners with Early Head Start and has rented space inside Bethany United Methodist Church since its opening in August 2015.

It's no secret that quality early education programs are often out of reach for many families. Even with subsidized childcare, the rates at many centers are simply too high for struggling families. Unfortunately, this can mean that children most in need of quality early education are not able to access it.

The Playing Field is committed to making the highest level of early education available to children of varied backgrounds. To accomplish this goal, its enrollment spaces are reserved for children based on three specific funding sources: A third of TPF's enrollment spaces are reserved for families who might choose any high-quality program for their child — but choose The Playing Field because they value diversity and support the center's mission. For another third of the students, TPF attempts to raise scholarship funds to assist families who don't qualify for childcare subsidies, or who would incur very high co-payments. And for another third of its students, TPF reserves spaces for families funded by Early Head Start. Families experiencing homelessness are given priority for these funds and welcomed into the school family.

In addition to May Simple Gifts support, TPF also has a wish list of items that are needed to equip classrooms. If you would like to donate items, check out their Amazon Wish List and select any items that you would like to donate (items may be shipped to Bethany UMC at 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI 53705 or to your home). Or write a check out to Bethany and put "Wish List" in the memo field. Cash donations will be given to The Playing Field so they can order what is needed.

For more information, visit The Playing Field's website: <https://playingfieldmadison.org/>

Simple gifts are made by placing loose coins in the offering plates, or by putting cash or a check in mission envelopes. One can also give online by visiting [BethanyMadison.org](https://BethanyMadison.org) (click on We Serve and, from the drop-down menu, select Giving Financially).



# The Playing Field

*the start every child deserves*



# PASTOR'S COLUMN



## A Time to Look Back — And a Time to Move Forward

One of the most moving and meaningful passages in the entire Bible for me is found in the third chapter of Ecclesiastes: *“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...”*



This passage so beautifully expresses that life brings a wide variety of experiences. Some of those “times” are difficult to endure. But, other of those “times” are wonderful blessings. Perhaps most striking is that times of struggle and times of blessing are so often intertwined: growth often comes about in response to pain, the joy of resurrection comes about through the pain of crucifixion.

Our congregation is in the midst of “transition times” right now. I pray that this experience will be an opportunity for us to reflect more deeply on the gift of time:

- **A Time for Saying Goodbye** – We still have several weeks remaining for saying our goodbyes to each other. Our awareness of transition and loss is heightened right now. But I am confident that blessings can grow out of this time.
- **A Time for Saying Thank-you** – Kerry and I appreciate your many expressions of love and care in these recent weeks. You have already been saying thanks to us. We also want to express our thanks to you. We are grateful for the opportunity we have

had to serve among you, both in times of struggle and in times of celebration.

- **A Time for Welcoming** – In the midst of these times of saying goodbye, don’t miss out on the opportunity to extend a wonderful welcome to Pastor Julie Wilson. Pastor Julie is an outstanding leader, with wonderful gifts for ministry. Welcome her, and welcome her gifts. And if she has shortcomings (she undoubtedly will), also welcome that – as an opportunity for you to step in and serve where needed.
- **A Time for Moving On** – Some things fall apart in transition times, which can be both bad and good – “the way Pastor Greg did it” wasn’t always the best way. I hope you will see this as an opportunity to get a wonderful fresh start.

Transition times will stretch us and challenge us, and yes involve a sense of loss. But transitions can also lead to new blessings, and that is certainly my hope for this congregation. You are a wonderful people with a wonderful purpose – don’t forget to stay faithful to your mission, carrying forth with the good work of the church.

These coming weeks will be a time for all of us to look back, but hopefully also a time for us to look forward. Or better yet, move forward – with eager anticipation to where God is leading us next. *“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...”*

Blessings in Christ,  
Pastor Greg



Thank you to Kris Jacobson for getting our flower containers planted and ready for Easter Sunday. Over the years, Kris has planted and maintained the containers around the entryway and patio, providing a beautiful and colorful greeting to all to come to Bethany.





## 2022 SPECIAL SUNDAYS

Over the course of the year, Bethany will participate in several special offering Sundays sponsored by the broader United Methodist Church. In the sharing of our gifts on these Special Sundays, as Methodists we can come together and make a significant difference in a way that no individual is able to on his or her own.

The next offering of 2022 is May 1 – Native American Ministries Sunday. The offering helps to nurture mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians.



## SUNDAY MORNING HELP WANTED

We've moved back toward a more "normal" Sunday with in-person worship and have seen in-person attendance growing each week. With that comes a need for volunteers.

We need help with coffee-fellowship hour from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. And, we're looking for two to three people each week to help with greeting and ushering (we're combining these roles so at least one person greets people as they arrive and one person hands out bulletins at the Sanctuary entrance).

There are ways to sign up online (visit our website ([BethanyMadison.org](http://BethanyMadison.org)) and go to Volunteer Opportunities under "We Serve." Click on the link under "Sunday Morning Worship Help" and sign up for one or more of the available slots. There will also be sign up sheets on the Volunteer Shelf across from the Sanctuary entrance.

Thank you!!

## BETHANY SCHOLARSHIPS

High School seniors, second year college students, or seminary students may apply for Bethany scholarships on our website (go to [bethanymadison.org](http://bethanymadison.org) and click on We Connect, Bethany Forms and scroll to Bethany Scholarship Form). Please fill out the application and submit it no later than May 15th.

## FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Family Game night will return on Saturday, May 7 at 4:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Families of all ages and sizes are welcome to participate in a potluck style dinner followed by games and crafts. Bethany Youth will provide the main course for the dinner, and anyone is welcome to bring a side dish to pass if you want. Come and enjoy dinner and games.





# 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 “Upcoming Events” box in the lower right of the page. Links are listed by the day of the week on which they occur.

## SUSANNA CIRCLE

**DAFFODIL TEA:** The next meeting of the United Women in Faith Susanna Circle will be Wednesday, at 12 noon, May 4, 2022 at the home of Judy Loveless (815 Maple Rd, Verona). All Bethany women are welcome. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages and desserts will be provided. Any questions call Judy Loveless at 608-848-8243.

## LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting of Lydia Fellowship is scheduled for Monday, May 9, at 1:00 pm at Bethany. Everyone is invited to attend. Please let Eileen Rech know if you will be in attendance (email jim.eileen@yahoo.com or call 608-228-6256).

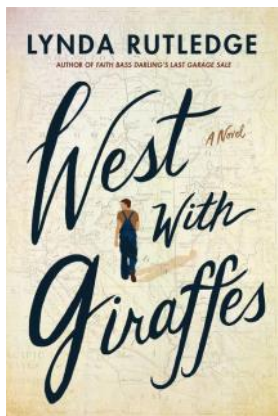
## AGAPE

The Agape meeting for May will be held on Wednesday, May 11th at 6:00 pm at Forest Hill Cemetery (1 Speedway Road — just west of the intersection of Regent and Highland streets). We will gather near the chapel located on the right as you enter the cemetery. Marge Lyford will tell us about the history of the cemetery, as we take a walking tour, stopping at grave sites of some of the interesting characters buried there. Wear walking shoes and bring water. Walking sticks might also be helpful. Everyone is welcome to attend. (Please take note of the earlier meeting time — it gives us more daylight for the tour).

## REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will meet Monday, May 23 at 1:00 pm via Zoom.

The book to read is *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. Copies are available in the South Central Library System.



It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo.

Part adventure, part historical saga, and part coming-of-age love story, *West with Giraffes* explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late.

This is a fun book — join us for a very lively discussion.

## YOUTH MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

The Bethany Youth are fundraising for this summer's mission trip with Appalachia Service Project (ASP) in West Virginia! We need to raise enough funds to cover our fees, transportation, food and lodging, and we need your help! There will be a table set up in the narthex throughout the month of May with information and ways that you can donate to this worthy cause.



Many students have found ASP mission trips to be life-changing and important in their development as community servants. Please consider giving a tax deductible gift to the Bethany Youth Mission Trip fund this year. We appreciate all forms of support whether it be monetary, prayer, love, and encouragement. Donations may be made by check (note “ASP” on the memo line) or you may contribute online under “We Serve” and “Giving Financially” (again, note “ASP”). Thank you!



## MEMBER CARE

### Our Prayers and Sympathies are with...

- ✠ The family of Bill (Willard) Thurlow who died April 2, 2022 at the age of 103.

### In Appreciation...

- Thank you to everyone for the love you have shown us since I fractured my hip. All the food, prayers and many cards were greatly appreciated.  
— Bev & Bill Payne
- Sue Coats is delighted to announce the birth of Matthew on March 13, 2022. Brad Darwin and Jenny Jones-Darwin are the proud parents. We now have a Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in our family.  
— Sue Coats



## CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE FOR CATHIE JOHNSON

The service will be held at Bethany on May 21st beginning at 9:30 am with a mingle and share time followed by a service at 11:00 am. A luncheon in Fellowship Hall will follow the service.

## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Finally, after over 2 years, Church Women United will be meeting in person on Friday, May 6 at 9:30 am for May Friendship Day. We will meet at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 326 S. Segoe Road, Madison.

It will be a box lunch instead of a catered one so a reservation is needed. Mail a check, made out to CWU for \$8.00, and mail to Marlene Lippert at 6329 Scandia Lane, McFarland, WI 53558.

The April speaker at the forum, John Nichols, spoke about: *Justice and Righteousness and the voting rights of Wisconsin*. It was an excellent talk with history and can be heard on our website ([churchwomenunited-madison.net](http://churchwomenunited-madison.net)). We will also be honoring our 102 years member, Hilda McCreight as the "Valiant Woman."

If you have been saving pennies for the Least Coin collection, give the total in a check to Beverly Klumph or in our United Methodist Women mailbox at Bethany (checks need to be made to CWU). This collection is done at the May Celebration.





# EASTER AT BETHANY





# EASTER AT BETHANY





# MEN'S RETREAT







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For Children's Ministry information, contact Lisa Weaver, Director of Children's Ministries  
Phone: (608) 238-6381 / Email: [bethany.madison.children@gmail.com](mailto:bethany.madison.children@gmail.com)

## Game Night

We had a small but pleasant gathering for our Family & Youth Game Night in April. We settled in the Bethany library to play several different games (Count Your Chickens, Go Fish, Headbands), do a puzzle, and create artwork to share during Easter morning worship. We enjoyed our shared meal of chicken wings, cheese sticks, onion rings and salad — courtesy of Brigit! We look forward to our next planned Game Night on Saturday, May 2, from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. RSVPs to Lisa are welcome for planning purposes.

## Children's Sunday School

The month of April included a lot of artwork in Sunday School:

- ◆ Grades 2-5 students painted an apple tree
- ◆ PreK – Grade 1 kids decorated a large butterfly
- ◆ We painted the green backdrop for the Easter morning congregational art project – and didn't even get too much paint on ourselves!



For Youth Ministry information, contact Brigit Parlow, Director of Youth Ministries  
 Phone: (608) 238-6381 / Email: [bethany.madison.youth@gmail.com](mailto:bethany.madison.youth@gmail.com)

## Family Game Night / Youth Wing Night

Family Game Night and Youth Wing Night are combined once again this May 7th, from 4:30-6:30 pm. Bethany Youth provide the meal, and children’s ministries will provide games and crafts. Youth are encouraged to come and play board games or other fun activities we have prepared! Hopefully, the weather gets warmer and we may be able to play some outdoor games. Hope to see you then!

## Bethany Scholarships

High School seniors, second year college students, or seminary students may apply for Bethany scholarships on our website – go to [bethanymadison.org](http://bethanymadison.org) and click on We Connect, Bethany Forms and scroll to Bethany Scholarship Form. Please fill out the application and submit it no later than May 15th.

## UMCOR Health/Hygiene Kits

Bethany Youth are sponsoring an UMCOR disaster relief health kit assembly on May 22nd, 2022 at 11 am in the fellowship hall. These disaster relief kits are to be boxed and brought to the Annual Conference in Green Bay this June. From there they will be brought to UMCOR warehouses to be distributed in areas experiencing natural disasters in North America and internationally. Please come and help us assemble the kits, and stay for lunch afterward! All ages and abilities are welcome! Questions? Ask Brigit - [Bethany.madison.youth@gmail.com](mailto:Bethany.madison.youth@gmail.com)

## Youth Mission Trip with Appalachian Service Project

We have received our assignment to Kanawha County in West Virginia at Cross Lanes July 16-24. We are very excited to plan and prepare our youth and adults to travel and work on this meaningful and life-changing mission trip! If you would like to sponsor a youth or adult who is participating, please let Brigit know! There are several fees involved, as well as funds needed for transportation and food while we are traveling. We work construction for the Appalachian residents area to make their homes warmer, safer, and drier. If you would like more information about Appalachian Service Project, please contact me (Brigit) or go to [asphome.org](http://asphome.org).

Thank you!

## Planter Boxes

Bethany youth will be building two wooden elevated box planters which adorn the entrance to the church off Larkin Street. Mission trip participants are asked to attend this event as part of their tool training for the mission trip. We would like to choose a date in early June – after school gets out and before summer camps and activities begin. The week of June 12-19 would be the preferred time, so if you have a preference, just let me know. Vacation bible school students will be planting the flowers etc. that will fill the boxes once they are constructed. If you wish to participate with this event, please contact Lisa Weaver [Bethany.madison.children@gmail.com](mailto:Bethany.madison.children@gmail.com)

### A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, April 3	Sunday, April 10	Thursday, April 15	Sunday, April 17	Sunday, April 24
Total ..... 148	Total..... 180	Total.....65	Total..... 232	Total ..... 128



We are a Reconciling Congregation,  
 welcoming all people to be a part of  
 our church family.

## Information

**Office Hours:** 8 am - 2:30 pm, Monday — Friday

**Church Office:** (608) 238-6381

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

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

## Sunday Morning Schedule

Early Bird Coffee Chat (Zoom)	8:30 am
Faithlink Adult Discussion Class	9:00 am
Coffee Fellowship	9:00 am
<b>Worship (in person and on Zoom)</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
After-Worship Fellowship (Zoom)	11:00 am

**Bulletin Deadline :** Tuesdays at Noon

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

**Banner Deadline for the June Issue:** May 16th

## Staff

Lead Pastor.....	Greg Jewison
Pastor of Visitation .....	Brad Mather
Deacon .....	Rev. Kory Douglass
Office Administrator.....	Carl White
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
Choral Program Collaborative Artist.....	Evan Lange
Membership Secretary.....	Kathy Doran
Financial Secretary .....	Sandra Arrington
Custodian .....	Ron Rebholz

## Banner Assembly

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