



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 55, No. 9 • September 2022

Simple Gifts for September — “Harvest of Hope”



During the month of September, simple gift offerings are backing our partners at Harvest of Hope, a statewide program that supports Wisconsin farm families in distress.

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 (click on We Serve and, from the drop-down menu, select Giving Financially).

What does a Wisconsin farm family do when it experiences a financial crisis? Perhaps it's due to flooding or other climate conditions. Maybe it's a medical emergency or because of low commodity prices, shifting global markets, or rising costs of fuel or fertilizer.

No matter the reason, or combination of factors, farm families have been turning to the Harvest of Hope Fund for support across parts of five decades.

The fund was created in January 1986 to help people of faith take a stand in support of Wisconsin's struggling family farmers. Harvest of Hope is administered by the Madison Christian Community, in partnership with other local, state, and regional groups, including the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church. All administrative costs are covered by a partnering organization, so 100 percent of donations given to Harvest of Hope go directly to help farm families in need.

The intent of the fund is to provide a simple process for Wisconsin farm families in crisis to receive financial help. Families submit a brief application and a financial planning form, which are reviewed by the Harvest of Hope Committee.

Support can help farm families address common financial problems, including: power cut-offs, medical or veterinary bills, house or barn fires, feed for cattle, machinery repair, and unexpected weather events (floods, drought, frost, hail, building damage due to snow-load), to name only a few.

Since its beginnings in 1986 and through 2020, the fund had distributed more than \$1.14 million to Wisconsin farm families through more than 1,700 grants — numbers that continue to grow.

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

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



PASTOR'S COLUMN



July and August have been a whirlwind of activity, but I am getting settled into my new home and getting settled here at church. Once again, thank you to everyone who have made Ted and I feel so welcome. We are so very blessed to be part of the Bethany family.



If you weren't able to attend a getting to know you gathering I'd love to schedule time to talk with you. Please email, call or text me (608) 438-7186. If there is enough interest we can also add one or two more gatherings. I know summer is a busy time for many people.

The gatherings have been so helpful in not only getting to know many of you, but also in getting to know the history, culture and future dreams for Bethany. Some of the themes I've heard are love of music of all kinds, the importance of being inclusive, social justice and outreach activities. I've also heard some grief over the things we've lost due to Covid and especially grief that we are missing being together in the ways we previously experienced. I appreciate the open and honest sharing we have had.

I've also heard excitement over new opportunities and wonder about what the future will bring. Mostly, I have experienced love and hope. What an amazing testament to God's work in our midst. My hope is that we continue to be the loving, welcoming church I have experienced and that we live out our mission statement and truly be a church where "Every person feels, knows and shares God's love."






Many blessings, Pastor Julie

Congratulations to our Five Youth Awarded Bethany Scholarships

What a pleasure it is to announce the 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 the future.

The scholarships are funded through earnings from the Bethany Scholarship Fund and the Bethany Endowment Fund, to which many people have generously donated over the years. What a wonderful gift to give these young people as they begin the next steps in their lives.

Pastor Greg and the Board reviewed applications and have awarded scholarships to five youth. Below are the scholarship recipients and a bit about their future plans. Congratulations to all of them and I pray for God's love to continue to grow in each of them.

-  Tom Barrett will be a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. He plans to earn a degree in both Marketing and Supply Chain Management.
-  Jesse Coleman will be a freshman at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville. Jesse plans on studying Construction Management.
-  Earl Lewis will be attending Whitewater this fall.
-  Abby Rahn will be a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point.
-  Ian Santin will be a sophomore at Davenport University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ian is continuing his studies in computer science.

Thank you Bethany for your continued love and support of our youth.



INTERFAITH PRIDE SERVICE





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

The Susanna Circle of the UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH will meet Wednesday, September 7th at 1:00 pm at the home of hostess, Joyce Benjamin, 5771 Chapel Valley Rd, Fitchberg. Let Joyce know if you have questions about directions, etc. Her number is 608-271-6834. Our speaker will be Pastor Julie Wilson, who will ask us questions about Bethany's UWF, and answer our questions about the future of the United Methodist Church. All Bethany women are invited.

LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

The first fall meeting of Lydia Fellowship will be on Monday, September 12th, at 1:00 pm at Bethany in Fellowship Hall. We are happy to announce that Bethany's own Sally Zwettler will give a presentation on the procedures involved in completing lined woolen mittens using purchased wool sweaters. Ideas and suggestions will be given regarding what materials are needed, where to obtain needed materials, the felting of the wool, cutting and sewing. Sally is a very talented quilter and crafter! Anyone is welcoming to attend. Please call (608-228-6256) or email (jim.eileen@yahoo.com) if you will be attending

BOOK BROWSERS

The first meeting of Book Browsers for the year will be held on Monday, September 19, at 1:00 pm (note the new time), via Zoom. We will discuss our plans for the year. Please join us if you are able. Questions, email eileen5491@gmail.com.

AGAPE

The first Agape meeting of the year will be Wednesday, September 14th at 6:30 pm via Zoom. It will be a planning meeting for the year ahead so bring your ideas for guest speakers/activities to add to our calendar. All women of Bethany are invited to be part of our group. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and always have a good time learning or doing something new.

REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will meet Monday, September 26 at 1 pm via Zoom.

The book for discussion is *The Book of Gutsy Women* by Chelsea Clinton and Hilary Clinton. The book features Favorite Stories of Courage and Resilience co-authored by Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former U.S. first lady, senator, and secretary of state, and her daughter Chelsea Clinton.

Join the group for an interesting discussion. All are welcome whether you have read the book or just want to chat with the group.

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH PASTOR BRAD

Beginning Tuesday, August 23, we will tackle a 12 week lecture series titled "Reconsidering JFK." The lectures will be presented by Michael Sheldon, a professor of English at Indian State University. The lecturer's approach is to try and take a fresh look at Kennedy's presidency through the eyes of who were there.

THE LAST MEETUP WITH PASTOR JULIE

The final meet and greet with Pastor Julie and her husband Ted will be Sunday, September 11 following the worship service. If the weather is nice we will meet outside on the front lawn. Childcare will be provided. Please register using SignUp.com (the link can be found on our website under "Volunteer Opportunities" or in the e-Banner. Contact the church office (238-6381) with any questions.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMBER CARE

In Appreciation...

- ◆ Dear Pastor Julie and the Board — Thank you very much for choosing me to receive a scholarship. I am attending UW Platteville and will be using the money for tuition.

— Jesse Coleman

WELCOME KRISTIE HALVERSON

We are pleased to announce that Kristie Halverson has accepted our invitation to be Bethany's new Director of Music and will start her work with us on September 6. Our interview team enjoyed meeting Kristie and she is really looking forward to working with our choirs and staff. Kristie has served as a director for several choirs, including about 15 years with church choirs. Most recently she served eight years at St. John's Lutheran Church in downtown Madison. She is currently completing her doctorate in Choral Conducting at UW-Madison and plans to graduate next year.



Kristie lives with her husband, three teenagers, chickens and dog on a small acreage outside of Oregon. She enjoys spending time in nature and with people who bring meaning to her life. She also adores attending concerts, the opera, and musicals. Other than a few formative years in Seattle, Kristie is a Midwesterner who grew up in Iowa. She is glad to be able to drive to visit her family members in the Kansas City and Minneapolis areas.

GIVING STATEMENTS

Look for your giving statement which will be sent out during the first week of September. Note that this is not a quarterly statement but an 8-month statement. Only contributions received through the end of August will be listed. Please contact me if you have any questions or notice errors. Sandra Arrington, Financial Secretary, Bethany.Madison.Finance@gmail.com.

BETHANY TAXI SERVICE

This is reminder that Bethany does offer taxi rides to those who might not otherwise be able to get to church on Sunday mornings. Pickups at home are at about 9:30 (depending on where you live) with a return from Bethany at 11:15 am, following worship. If you, or someone you know, is interested, contact the church office.

NEW BOOK IN THE LIBRARY

A Life in Stitches: Knitting My Way Through Love, Loss, and Laughter by Rachael Herron was donated in memory of Mary Blasdel by United Women in Faith.

DID YOU NOTICE?

The table below was custom made and donated to Bethany anonymously. It sits outside the entrance to the Sanctuary where you pick up Bulletins, Prayer Request Cards, and on Communion Sundays, Communion cups.



SAVE THE DATE

March 26, 2023! On that date we will be celebrating 75 years of Bethany United Methodist Church. Watch for announcements of pre-anniversary celebrations and make sure to attend worship and a special lunch on March 26.

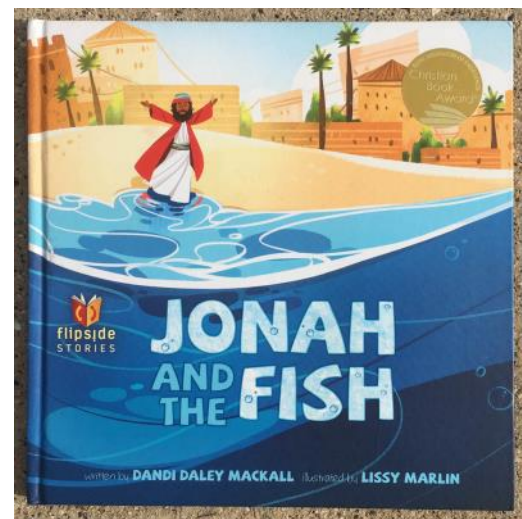
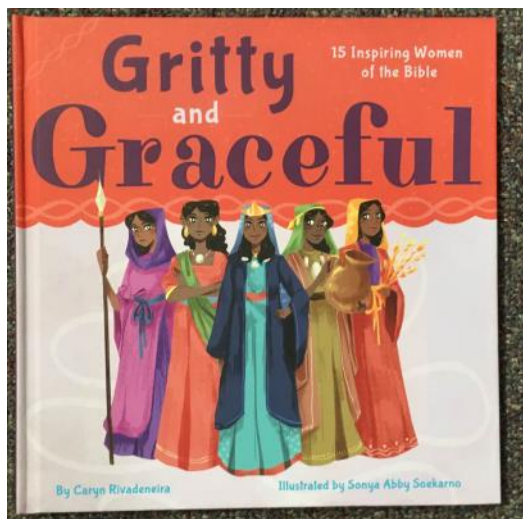
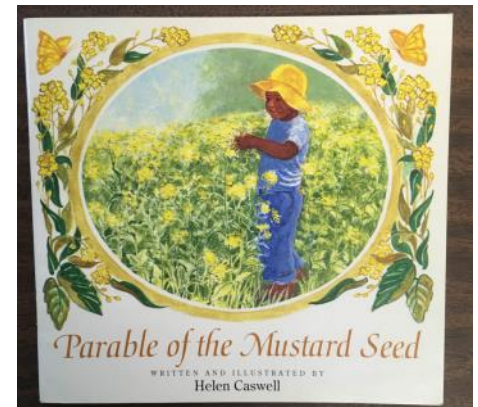
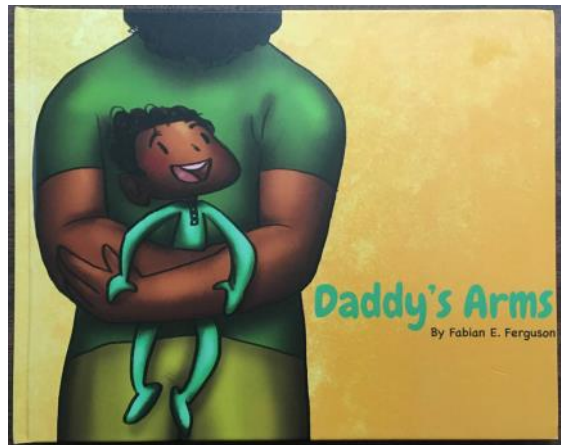
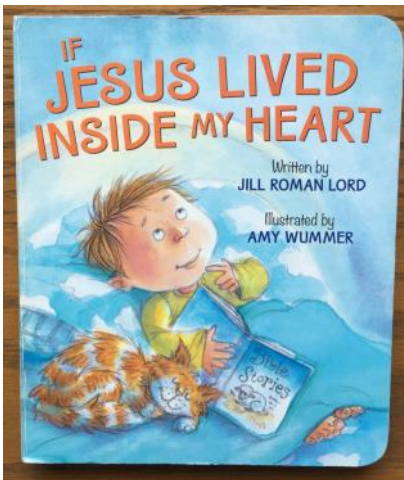


For Children's Ministry information, contact Lisa Weaver, Director of Children's Ministries
Phone: (608) 238-6381 / Email: Bethany.Madison.Children@Gmail.com

Bethany Library Books

Reading books together at home is one way to nurture the faith development of children and grandchildren. You are invited to consider checking out one of these books that Ms. Lisa has recently shared during summer Children's Messages:

- 📖 If Jesus Lived Inside My Heart (by Jill Roman Lord)
- 📖 In Daddy's Arms (by Fabian Ferguson)
- 📖 Parable of the Mustard Seed (by Helen Caswell)
- 📖 Gritty and Graceful: 15 Inspiring Women of the Bible (by Caryn Rivadeneira)
- 📖 Jonah and the Fish (by Dandi Daley Mackall)



Children's News

For Children's Ministry information, contact Brigitt Parlow, Director of Youth Ministries
 Phone: (608) 238-6381 / Email: Bethany.Madison.Youth@Gmail.com

Nursery Care available during Worship

Simply a friendly reminder that Bethany childcare staff are in Room 223 on Sunday mornings, ready to provide nursery care for children ages 5 and younger. The nursery is open 9:00 – 11:15 am. The early start time supports adults who would like to participate in choir warmups, coffee fellowship, or Faithlink class.



Beautiful Flowers

Take a moment to admire the flowers on your next time in or out of the church building. The round pots were planted by our VBS kids in June; the rectangle planters were built by the youth group and filled by Kris Jacobson. Thank you, Creator God, for the wonders of the earth!



A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, July 31
 Total 117

Sunday, Aug. 7
 Total 118

Sunday, Aug. 14
 Total 117

Sunday, Aug. 21
 Total 124



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

Website: bethanymadison.org

Sunday Morning Schedule

Early Bird Coffee Chat (Zoom)	8:30 am
Faithlink Adult Discussion Class	8:45 am
Coffee Fellowship	9:00 am
Worship (in person and on Zoom)	10:00 am
After-Worship Fellowship (Zoom)	11:00 am

Staff

Senior Pastor.....	Rev. Julie Wilson
Pastor of Visitation	Rev. 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.....	Kristie Halverson
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

E-Banner Deadline: Tuesdays at Noon

Banner Deadline for the October Issue: September 19th