



# The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

*Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 55, No. 11 • November 2022*

## Celebrating 20 Years as a Reconciling Congregation

As we kick off a month of celebration of our 20th anniversary of becoming a Reconciling Congregation we invite you to participate in the planned activities listed below. In addition, on Sunday mornings look over the newly acquired LGBTQIA+ books that will be on display in front of the library.



### NOVEMBER 6, 2022

We are planning a forum in Fellowship Hall with Curt & Bethaney Campbell sharing their own stories.

### NOVEMBER 13, 2022

During worship Janet Schewe and Carl White will talk about the history the Reconciling Ministries movement and of Bethany's becoming a Reconciling Congregation and relate their own stories.

### NOVEMBER 20, 2022

#### 10:00 am Worship Service

Twenty years ago, on this date, Bethany voted to become a Reconciling Congregation. To celebrate this milestone, our guest speaker at the 10:00 am worship service will be Rev. Amanda Stein, our District Superintendent, who was the second guest speaker we had twenty years ago.

### Transgender Day of Remembrance

The Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual observance honoring the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. We gather to remember, and we will continue to gather until we are all accepted for just being us, human beings. A table fair will begin at 6:00 pm with the interfaith service beginning at 7:00 pm at Temple Beth El (2702 Arbor Drive, Madison).



# PASTOR'S COLUMN



MCCI is a phrase you are going to be hearing a lot in the upcoming year. It's short for Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI).



MCCI is an intensive consultation and clergy coaching model designed to help local churches that are currently plateaued, in decline, or are on the way "up," but not sure what should come next. Two churches per District in Wisconsin (a total of ten churches) were invited by our Bishop and District Superintendent based on series of selection criteria. Our Bethany Board voted to accept the invitation and we have begun the MCCI process.

One of the unique things about MCCI is that it is tailored to each individual church. The team will look at Bethany's strengths and growing edges and make recommendations accordingly. There will be several opportunities for members to offer input. I'm excited about this opportunity for Bethany and the gift of this expert advice to help us plan for the future.

The first and most important step in the process is prayer. A team from Bethany attended a Breakthrough Prayer workshop and then met to write a prayer specifically for Bethany. The prayer asks God to guide us in this process. Rather than our own desires we are praying for God to show us what God desires for Bethany UMC. We will be praying for God to breakthrough in new ways. You'll hear more about the prayer in a few weeks. For now, please continue to pray for one another and for Bethany. I'm looking forward to what God reveals for us in the MCCI process. Thank you for joining on this journey. God is so good!

Peace and Joy, Pastor Julie

## Update on Bethany Youth Programs

Thank you to those who wrote cards and donated to a gift for Brigit Parlow our retiring Director of Youth Ministries. Our office staff had a lovely lunch together to celebrate her ministry. We are also busy planning for the future of our Youth Programs. We had a congregational planning and visioning session on Sept. 25. At this meeting we were able to share ideas for youth programs and what the desired outcomes of a successful youth program might look like. As in all of ministry, success is difficult to define but the overall sense was that we want our youth to have a place where they feel welcome and supported. It was deemed important that our youth be involved in service projects and in the life of the church.

While we don't plan to hire a new Director of Youth Ministries at this time our goal is to have at least one event monthly. Events will include activities such as our own scheduled Game Nights and All-Ages Service Projects such as Seed Collection at Pheasant Branch Conservancy. We are also exploring collaboration with area churches for events. Adults are needed to help plan and chaperone these events. Please contact Pastor Julie if you are interested in helping. If you are a parent or a youth please feel free to provide feedback to Pastor Julie or any of our Board members and most importantly please know that everyone matters and is an important part of our Bethany family. Thank you for loving and caring for one another.



## Simple Gifts for November — “Africa University”

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

Africa University 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. It opened in 1992 in Mutare, Zimbabwe, and is currently celebrating its 30th anniversary.

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](http://BethanyMadison.org) (click on We Serve and, from the drop-down menu, select Giving Financially).



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.

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 content 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.

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

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/>

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

### Special Sunday: Nov. 27 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. 27 is United Methodist Student Day, which furnishes scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities.





# 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 United Women of Faith will meet on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 1:00 pm in the Bethany library. Our program speaker is Linda Whitelock, past President of the Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women and former treasurer for both the Capital District UMW and the Conference. She will talk about where our mission money goes, and how our UWF activities are funded. Our hostess is Gloria Carter. All Bethany women are welcome and asked to bring a friend!

### AGAPE

The November Agape meeting will be on Wednesday, November 9th at 6:30 in room 228 at Bethany. The program will be Therapy Dogs with guest speaker Terry Schultz talking all about the OccuPaws program & hopefully bringing a dog she's currently working with. If there is time, Sue Coats will discuss the type of therapy dog and the program she's been involved with and working with too. All women of the church are invited to attend. Looking forward to meeting in person again!

### LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting of Lydia Fellowship is scheduled for Monday, November 14th. We will meet at Benvenuto's Restaurant at 12:00 noon. Joyce Benjamin is the hostess. Please email Eileen Rech at jim.eileen@yahoo.com if you plan to attend.

### BOOK BROWSERS

November 21 at 1:00 pm. Linda Budziszewski will report on the book *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver.

Hope to see you then. Email Eileen at eileen5491@gmail.com with any questions.

### REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will meet Monday, November 28 at 1:00 pm via Zoom.

The book for discussion is *Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters* by Madison author Jennifer Chiaverini.

"In May 1875, Elizabeth Todd Edwards reels from news that her younger sister Mary, former First Lady and widow of President Abraham Lincoln, has attempted suicide.

"Mary's shocking act followed legal proceedings arranged by her eldest and only surviving son that declared her legally insane.

"Maternal Elizabeth, peacemaker Frances, envious Ann, and much adored Emilie had always turned to one another in times of joy and heartache, first as children, and later as young wives and mothers.

"Now, though discord and tragedy have strained their bonds, Elizabeth knows they must come together as sisters to help Mary in her most desperate hour."



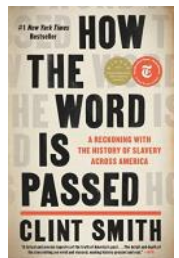
Books are available through the Southcentral Library System. Join in a lively discussion of the mental health of Mary Todd Lincoln. Was she insane, or reacting to the prospect of living in an asylum?

### NEW BOOK IN LIBRARY

*How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery across America*, by Clint Smith.

This is the book selected by the University of Wisconsin for this year's "Go Big Read" program. The author will discuss his book November 1st at Memorial Union's Shannon Hall.

It is the story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history and memory.



### CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Celebrate "World Community Day" on November 4 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church (2019 Fisher St., Madison). The program will begin at 9:30 with guest speaker Rachel Kincaid, recipient of the Community Service Award. Ms Kincaid has been the president of MOSES (Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality and Solidarity) since 2013.

MOSES is an interfaith organization that works to promote social justice with a focus on ending mass incarceration. They focus on identifying and improving conditions in the Dane County jail and in Wisconsin prisons, while proposing alternatives to incarceration.



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



## Report for the Dane Sanctuary Coalition (10/6/2022)

Recent Work of a Refugee and Immigrant Ministry Team

Submitted by First Baptist Church in Collaboration with Bethany UMC and Orchard Ridge UCC

Congregations and resettlement agencies, among other organizations across Wisconsin, are actively doing the important work of helping hundreds of Afghan refugees establish new homes and supportive relationships with their communities. Bethany United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, and Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ have teamed to minister to five Afghan households of related family members. Among the adult males there are three brothers, a cousin, and an uncle. One of the households just moved to Madison in July. The households have ten parents and 24 children from infant to 20 years old, with a birth expected in November. This ministry complements support provided by Jewish Social Services, Open Doors for Refugees, Catholic Multicultural Center, Joining Forces for Families, among others. The team meets twice monthly with one or more team members communicating with the families on a regular basis to identify and meet their needs, answer questions, and provide suggestions and encouragement. The churches provide volunteer and financial support.



With Bethany's leadership, the multi-faceted ministry began in September 2020 to meet the varied needs of the families. This summer and fall, we coordinated with Open Doors for Refugees to provide a donated queen bed and microwave and delivered a donated sewing machine provided by The Sewing Machine Project along with a JoAnn Fabrics gift card. We repaired a bicycle, paid for repairs and transferred ownership of a mini-van that had been donated to Orchard Ridge UCC. We helped school age children from four households get enrolled in school and, with extensive assistance from Joining Forces for Families, submitted applications for four 3–4-year-old children to attend the Head Start program at Reach Dane. We aided with transportation and entrance to a multi-family event at Devil's Lake, answered a range of questions about social service options and governmental procedures, delivered books for the young children, provided rent and food assistance, encouraged the families to reach out to Jewish Social Services and other agencies for support. We got permission to contact the medical team of one of the children who has spina bifida and provided a gift card for school supplies not already provided by an existing school supplies donation program.

Many good things are happening. All of the families are in their own apartment. The men have jobs and driving privileges. School-aged children of the original four households are attending school. We are coordinating with the Madison school district to resolve enrollment challenges involving the newest household that has just recently moved into their own apartment.

Their ministry needs are continuing. Affordable housing for these large families remains an on-going concern. Continuing legal assistance is needed to address immigration status issues. Language, cultural differences, and education background continue to be challenges to effective ministry to them, and to their progressing to sustainable and independent living. Due to the need to resolve national immigration public policy issues, our churches have also encouraged our congregations to contact legislators, President Biden, and executive branch leadership.



Baxter Richardson (Orchard Ridge UCC) and Brigit Parlow (Bethany UMC) presented a donated mini-van to Abdul this summer. All three churches helped with the cost of repairs.



This summer about nine related Afghan families in the Madison area got together for their first outing to Devil's Lake. Our ministry team assisted with transportation and entrance into the park.



# WAYS TO GIVE AT BETHANY



We greatly appreciate your faithful giving, and we provide several ways for you to make your contributions. Please look below to get more detail on any of these options:

- Currency, checks, or coins placed in the offering plate
- Checks mailed to the church office
- Online contributions using the QR Code or Text
- Realm (either directly or through contributions entered by the Financial Secretary)

## Checks, Currency, and Coins

- Loose currency placed in the offering plate usually goes to the operating budget.
- Loose coins placed in the offering plate usually go to the Simple Gift of the month.
- Loose checks with no entry on the memo line will go to the operating budget.
- If there is no other fund designated on a contribution envelope or the check memo line:
  - \* Checks or cash placed in a white pew envelope will go to the operating budget
  - \* Checks or cash placed in a mission envelope will go to the simple gift of the month.
  - \* Checks or cash in a numbered contribution envelope will go to the operating budget.
- If you do not have numbered contribution envelopes and would like them, email the Finance Secretary at [Bethany.Madison.Finance@gmail.com](mailto:Bethany.Madison.Finance@gmail.com) and request that either weekly or monthly envelopes be mailed to you.

## Online

- Select “Giving Financially” and “Give Online” on the Bethany website, [BethanyMadison.org](http://BethanyMadison.org).
  - \* You do not need to sign in.
  - \* You can select the amount, fund, contribution date, and account on the online form (You can give by credit card or directly from your checking account).
  - \* You can give once or set up a recurring gift.

Note: Selecting a contribution date of the 5th or 20th of the month increases processing efficiency and saves the church a transaction fee.
- Scan the QR Code in the bulletin or on the Zoom screen and enter your gift information.
- Text “BethanyUMC” to 73256 (Realm on a phone keypad) and enter your gift information (see images to the right).

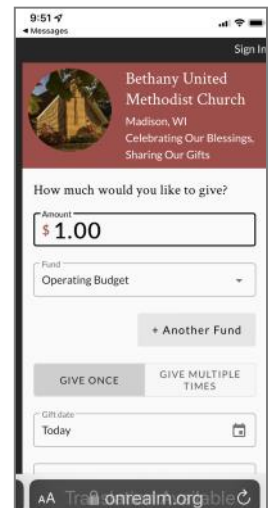
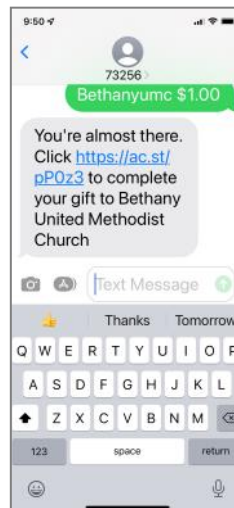
## Realm Church Software Account

Start by requesting an invitation to create a Realm login from the church office and set up a Realm account (you will receive a link via email)

- Sign into Realm, select “giving” and then the blue “+Give” button and enter your gift information.
- You can designate a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift through your checking account or credit cards. (Please note that there are extra fees for the church if you choose credit card payments, so an option is provided for paying that fee as well.)
- You can also Install the free Realm Connect app on your tablet or cell phone and give through the app.

## Automatic Contributions Set up by the Financial Secretary

- Fill out an Automatic Contribution Authorization form (available on the [BethanyMadison.org](http://BethanyMadison.org) website) and return it with a voided check to the Bethany Office. The Financial Secretary will enter your recurring gift into Realm.
- NOTE: If you have set up an automatic contribution and do not have a Realm account you can make changes to the contribution by filling out an Automatic Contribution Authorization form, available on the website and returning it to the Financial Secretary. You can authorize a new contribution, stop a contribution, change the amount, the date, or your financial institution account. A voided check is necessary only if you are authorizing a new contribution or changing your financial institution account. Please allow plenty of lead time as changes must be made 3 business days before the scheduled withdrawal date and these changes will only be made on Wednesday.





# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## THANKSGIVING ECUMENICAL SERVICES

There will be two opportunities to join in a Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service with neighborhood churches:



## LOOKING TOWARDS ADVENT 2022!

Sunday, Nov 20 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Please join the Bethany community for an open-house event that includes lunch (Soup, Salad & Sandwiches). Also participate in:

- ❄ Christmas carols (Kristie)
- ❄ Art Table (Lisa)
- ❄ Decorate a tree...“Hanging of the greens!” (Sonia)
- ❄ Pick up your Advent Bag
- ❄ Sip hot cider and nibble on snacks

Enjoy conversation and fellowship (Everyone!)



Christmas Mug by Brielle, age 8

## POINSETTIAS



It's that time of year! Time to order Poinsettia plants to decorate the Sanctuary for the upcoming holidays. This year, the choices of plants will be either Red or White—each in a 6-1/2” foil-wrapped pot. Plants are \$17.00 each. To order plants, email or call the church office or look for the order blank on the table outside the Sanctuary beginning Sunday, November 6th. The deadline for ordering is noon on Monday, November 21st. Names will be listed beginning December 4th and plants may be taken home following worship on Christmas Day.

## THANK YOU

To my Bethany family and friends,

I have been overwhelmed with gratitude for the kind cards, gifts, and love you have bestowed on me as I ease into retirement. I miss you all very much - seeing your faces on Sunday morning and sharing with you has always been a highlight of my life and work at Bethany, and I think about you often. I loved my job at Bethany, and I loved the people I worked with. I want you to know that I appreciate everyone's support for the youth, children, and outreach programs on which we worked together to share love for our neighbors and strive for peace in our communities.

Thank you for all these blessings!  
Peace and courage,  
Brigit



# SEED COLLECTION







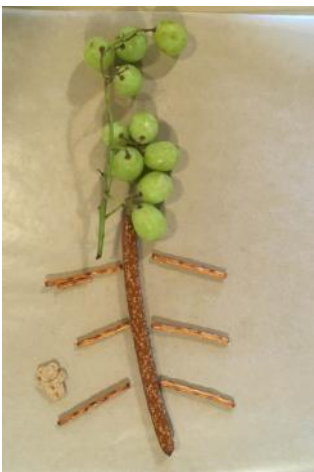
# SEED COLLECTION



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)

## Edible art

The scripture passage in worship on September 25 was the story of Zacchaeus (as found in Luke 19:1-10). Congregation members of all ages were invited to create edible art during the Fellowship Hour prior to worship. Trees were designed using grapes and pretzels of various sizes; cream cheese helped the creation stick to the wax paper. Teddy Grahams "climbed" up the trees to see who was coming down the road! And of course, the most delicious part was eating the artwork after it was complete. You are invited to create your own edible tree at home, and send a photo to Ms. Lisa.



# Children's News

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

## Game Night

One of the best reasons to come to Game Night is to taste some of Tanya Iverson's soup! Here were the two delicious choices that Tanya brought to Game Night on Saturday, Oct 1: Pumpkin bisque and potato/bacon. The next Game Night at Bethany will be Saturday, DECEMBER 3, from 4:30 – 6:30 pm.



## World Communion Sunday



## A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, Sept. 25	Sunday, Oct. 2	Sunday, Oct. 9	Sunday, Oct. 16	Sunday, Oct. 23
Total ..... 121	Total..... 117	Total.....111	Total..... 140	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](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	8:45 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

## 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
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 December:** November 21