



# The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 55, No. 12 • December 2022

## Advent at Bethany

### Family Game Night

Saturday, December 3rd, 4:30—6:30 pm. A fun evening including a potluck supper, art table, puzzle table, and a choice of games. Childcare is available. Everyone is invited!

### Children's Christmas Pageant

Rehearsals on Saturday, December 10th and the performance on Sunday, December 11th at 10:00 am. All are welcome to a brunch that will be served in Fellowship Hall following the service.

### Christmas Caroling

Tuesday, Dec 13: 5:00 - 7:00 pm / Meet at the church at 5:00 pm to go caroling in the neighborhood! Enjoy Christmas cookies and hot drinks in Fellowship Hall afterwards.

### Choir Cantata

Sunday, December 18, the Chancel Choir and Carillons will share music of hope, love, peace, and joy during worship.

### Longest Night Worship Service

Wednesday, December 21st at 7:00 pm. On this longest night of the year we will pray for one another as we acknowledge that for many people, Christmas is a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation, and sadness. This service offers a way for people to claim those feelings and still feel surrounded by the compassionate love of God.

### Christmas Eve Worship

4:30 and 7:00 pm. Both services will be the same with scripture, hymns, prayers and a special time for children.

### Christmas Day (in-person only)

Festive Attire Day! Wear your new Christmas outfit, ugly Christmas sweater, Christmas Pajamas or your most sparkly outfit. We will enjoy Christmas carols and stories.





# PASTOR'S COLUMN



Busy or Beautiful? These are the words I've been pondering as I put away my fall decorations and get out the Christmas ones. As Thanksgiving ends and Black Friday and Cyber Monday shout for attention and as we light the first candle on the Advent wreath there is so much to do both inside and outside of the church. It's easy to get caught up in the business. To worry about what gifts to buy, what cookies to bake, getting the house decorated, extra worship services and Christmas activities, end of the year reports and so much more. However, along with the business there is so much beauty.



I love sitting quietly and enjoying the lights of our Christmas Tree. Driving around the neighborhood to see lights and decorations. The smells of pine and Christmas goodies baking. I love spending time with family, and our church family. I love singing Christmas carols and listening to Christmas music. I am remembering Christmas' past as I look forward to making new memories, in a new place, this year.

Yes, this is a busy time, but I hope you can find joy in the business. I hope you can find the beauty and love that this season is intended to bring. I hope that Advent is more than a stressful time leading up to Christmas. I pray that Advent is a joy filled, holy time of beauty and awe. May you be blessed this Advent and may you see the beauty in the midst of the busy.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Julie



## Sewing Machines for Bolivia

Recently, Bethany gathered funds to provide 10 sewing machines for village women in Bolivia. A machine will now be provided for Methodist women such as this church gathering. This shared machine will provide the opportunity for women to sew clothing for their families and to create items that can provide a small income for their families.



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

In December, Simple Gift offerings are going to support our partners with the Allied Eviction Prevention Fund.

This fund helps families remain in their homes when income is disrupted by sudden emergency such as sickness, unemployment, or death in the family. Requests for support are screened by the Joining Forces for Families social worker, in collaboration with Madison Area Urban Ministry staff.

This valuable program is consistently utilized each month to help people in need avoid eviction. So please consider giving generously, as your support will make a difference in real and relevant ways.

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

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.



**Allied  
Partners**  
Action in Faith



## Christmas Eve offering to support Global Mission Partner

Please also consider giving to our special Christmas Eve offering on Dec. 24 to support our longtime Global Mission Partners in the African nation of Zambia, the Mujila Falls Agriculture Center, which is led by Temba Nkomozepe.

At the Mujila Falls Agriculture Center, 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. However, Paul Webster returned to the United States in October 2018, and Mujila Falls is now led by Nkomozepe, a missionary with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries.

Nkomozepe takes part in a range of agricultural, 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, fruit culture, tree nurseries, fish culture, and research.





# 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.

## UWF INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND POTLUCK

All members of United Women in Faith are invited to attend the Installation of Officers and Potluck on Sunday, December 4th at 11:15 am. A brief installation service will follow the potluck. Please let Judy Loveless know if you would like to attend the potluck, if she doesn't already have your name. Email jcenmp@rit.edu or phone 608-848-8243.

## SUSANNA CIRCLE

The United Women in Faith's Susanna Circle will meet Wednesday, December 7 at 1:00 pm in the Bethany Library. This is our ANNUAL COOKIE EXCHANGE. Please bring 2 dozen Christmas cookies to Fellowship Hall to mix and share with other members after the meeting. Our December hostess is Cecile Tuong 608-273-2765.

## ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our annual Church Conference will be held Wednesday, December 7th beginning at 6:30 pm. This is the time when the church votes on leadership for the coming year as well as staff budget.

## AGAPE

The December Agape meeting will be a Christmas party. It will be held in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 14th. The party will be an appetizer potluck so please bring an appetizer to share. Our hostesses will be Sue Coats and Carol Clingan. They will provide the beverages. All women of the church are invited to join us for an evening of fellowship and carol singing to celebrate the holiday season.

## LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

Lydia Fellowship will not meet in December. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2023 at 1:00 pm in Room 228 at Bethany. Amy Ford will give a presentation on her year's experience with the AmeriCorps Farm to School project. Please email Eileen Rech at jim.eileen@yahoo.com or call 608-228-6256 to let us know that you will be attending. All are welcome to join us!

## REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will not meet in December. Take time to read something fun in the Holiday spirit. Watch the Banner and e-Banner for the January book selection.

## FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

After a nearly three year suspension of Food and Fellowship due to Covid restrictions, the group plans to resume having luncheons starting January 18, 2023.

Food and Fellowship is an informal group that meets for lunch on the third Wednesday of each month at a local restaurant. The coordinator for the month selects the place and makes the reservation. The average attendance each month is 10 to 15, both men and women. This is a good opportunity to get to know some of your fellow Bethany members better and share in good food and lively conversations.

Details of the January luncheon will be in the January issue of the Banner. For more information about the group please contact Donna Wold at 608-274-3483.

## 11-MONTH STATEMENTS

Statements covering the first 11 months of 2022 will be generated around December 1, 2022. They will include all giving from January 1 through November 30, 2022. Please check your statement carefully, looking for any errors or omissions. If you find any problems with your statement please let me know so that they can be corrected before year end statements are produced.. You can email Bethany.Madison.Finance@gmail.com, call me at the church office on Wednesday morning or at home (608-833-4567) any other time.

— Sandra Arrington, Financial Secretary

## UWF MONEY FOR MISSIONS

Bethany United Women of Faith has been able to send \$3600.00 as end of year donations to six worthy organizations, \$600.00 to each: Harvest of Hope, UM Children's Services, DAIS, Northcott House, UMCOR, and Allied Drive. Bethany UWF was also able to send in double the money we had pledged to the SW District UWF, knowing how difficult the last years have been financially. Thank you to the women of UWF for your generous and faithful giving!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## NEW DIRECTORY COMING

In early January we will have a new Church Directory available. That means that if you have not updated your address, phone or email in a while you should double (or triple) check to be sure the information we have is current. Please let the church office know of any updates no later than January 6th.

## OFFICE HELP WANTED

We have been fortunate to have a small team of volunteers who have helped out in the office when our Office Administrator is on vacation. Sadly, that team has been reduced with the death of Mary Schroeder. If you find you have some free time during the mornings (9 am to noon) and have some computer skills we'd love to have you help out. If interested, please let the Church Office know (238-6381). And, thank you!

## October 29 Work Day at Bethany





## 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 for the cause you chose to inform a recipient of your gift in their honor.

The 2022 Alternative Giving Tree options are:

- ❄️ WI Conference Camps: Donations will support our two WI camps; Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne. The camps provide a great camping experience for all ages and abilities
- ❄️ 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.



## Mitten Tree

### 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 18.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



Photos above and left —

Clergymen and an orthodox priest led a litany of thanksgiving at an ecumenical thanksgiving service in Madison's Queen of Peace sanctuary that was packed full in a progressive, post-Christian city. The scripture was read in English and Spanish by female and male pastors of an international apostolic congregation and the psalm response was sung in both languages.



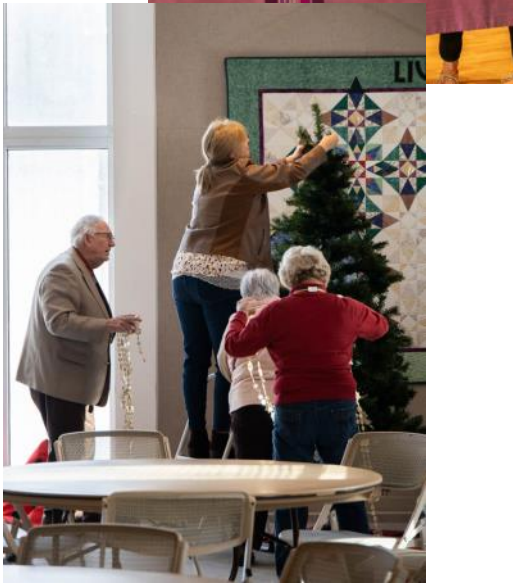
Left and below: the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service held at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Betsy Dunne played flute during the service.



A few of us attended this emotional and affirming service Sunday evening, November 20th.



# GETTING READY FOR ADVENT







# GETTING READY FOR ADVENT



# Children's News

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)

## Delicious!

Thank you to the United Women in Faith (UWF) for a delicious chicken dinner on October 23.



## Sunday School

Children and adults are enjoying Bible stories, projects, conversations, and music in Sunday School this fall. Special thanks to Tom Doran and Melissa Jacobson who plan and lead Sunday School lessons in addition to Ms. Lisa.

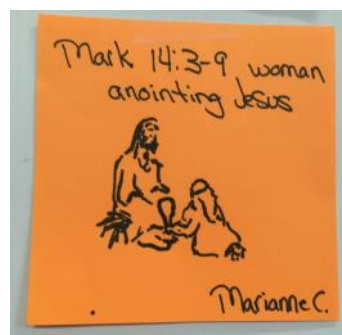
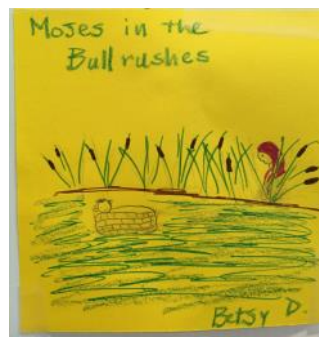
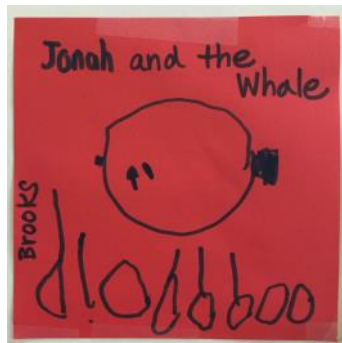


# Children's News

For Children's 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)

## Story Squares

October 30 featured an interactive, intergenerational worship service in which congregation members created Story Squares of their favorite Bible stories. Everyone was invited to think of a story and choose or draw an image to represent the story. The resulting mosaic of Story Squares revealed both the depth and breadth of scripture. Thank you to Evan for providing piano music during the project time, and to the volunteers who quickly assembled the mosaic boards in the space of one hymn: Carol Lee, Tanya, Addie, Kathy, Gail, and Betsy. Hooray for Pastor Julie and Ted who teamed up to accept story submissions from those on Zoom – Pastor Julie monitored the Chat, and Ted provided illustrations.



## A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, Oct. 30	Sunday, Nov. 6	Sunday, Nov. 13	Sunday, Nov. 20	Sunday, Nov. 27
Total ..... 125	Total..... 138	Total.....136	Total..... 145	Total..... 135



*United Methodist Church*

3910 Mineral Point Road

Madison, WI 53705-5911



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

Faithlink Adult Discussion Class 8:45 am

Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am

Worship (in person and on Zoom) 10:00 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 Poulette
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 January 2023 Issue:** December 18