



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 56, No. 1 • January 2023

Working for Peace in a Divided Society

By Melody Panek – member of Bethany Peace Fellowship

In today's world there are so many people with opinions and ideas that are very different from our own. Some days it seems as if our whole society is becoming more and more divided. It's easy to fall into the pit of ugly disagreement. We may even find our own lives rife with conflict, anger, divisions, and strife. It's hard to find a common ground where we can come together and see eye to eye. Maybe it would be helpful if we took time to think more about how God wants us to manage these kinds of situations. We can delve into the Bible, pray, and meditate on God's will in order to learn more about what God expects from us: humility, forgiveness, and love. It might seem difficult, but please remember, we're never alone in this journey. The Holy Spirit is there to help us move in the right direction.

Sunday, January 15, 2023 will be Peace Sunday at Bethany. We will have a special guest that day, Pastor Libby Howe. She is the Support Coordinator for Peace and Justice Ministries for the Wisconsin Council of Churches. She will be here to discuss working for peace in a divided society. Pastor Howe will speak at our 10:00 am service as well as lead a forum at 9:00 am about using dialog to heal differences.



Human Relations Day



Human Relations Day is on January 15. This Sunday, before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth. Special Sunday contributions can be made online at www.bethanymadison.org/giving-financially/.



PASTOR'S COLUMN



January 8 during worship we will celebrate Epiphany Sunday. As part of our worship service, we will celebrate star words. The use of star words, also called "star gifts," is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year that has been growing in popularity in churches for nearly a decade now. The idea is that a list of intention words, or guiding words, are distributed during the Epiphany worship service. Just as the wiseman followed a star leading them to Jesus, these words are meant to guide us in our relationship with Christ. Words are drawn at random and used as a guiding word throughout the year.

I have greatly enjoyed this practice for several years now and have heard wonderful comments from others who have chosen a star word. Even if at first, they were skeptical of their word. My star word during the pandemic was creative. While I don't consider myself to be a particularly creative person, I sure lived into that word in 2020! My word for 2022 was amazement. At first, I wasn't sure how to feel about that word. I have primarily focused on the ways God amazes me. And 2022 certainly has been a year of amazement. I had no idea when I choose that word where I would be at the end of 2022!



The idea of a star word is to let the word pick you and resist the temptation to dig around for a 'better' word or to swap with someone else. You may find that the word fits you perfectly. If so, celebrate that, and see how you can be more intentional about sharing your gift with the world. You may find it is a word that offers you the encouragement or challenge you need. If so, receive that gift and let it shape you in the days and months ahead. You may find yourself resisting the word or even wanting to reject the word. If so, explore the source of your resistance, and be open to what this word may have to teach you. Live with your word, reflect upon it, journal about it, talk about it with others, and pray about it. Discover how this star gift may shine its light on you and your path throughout the coming year. You are encouraged to place your star word somewhere you will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word.

If you are not in worship on January 8 we can get you a star word. I hope you will enjoy the practice as much as I have. I pray that your star word might be a blessing to you in 2023.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Julie



Simple Gifts for January — “The Beacon”

As we kick off a new year, Simple Gift offerings made in January are going to support The Beacon. This comprehensive day resource center is a public–private partnership that works to provide community solutions to help men, women, and children experiencing homelessness in Dane County.

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

Through the numerous services offered at The Beacon by staff and partner agencies, individuals have an opportunity for a better life. It is committed to offering services in an environment where people feel supported and are treated with dignity and respect.

The Beacon provides a safe shelter for people who are experiencing homelessness seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The facility also offers a range of free basic needs and wellness services, including:

- ✓ Light breakfast, coffee, daily lunch
- ✓ Private showers and restrooms
- ✓ Laundry (drop off – same day service)
- ✓ Mail center, phones, and copier
- ✓ Day storage
- ✓ Preventative healthcare
- ✓ Private family areas
- ✓ Referrals for mental health counseling
- ✓ Referrals to case managers
- ✓ Transportation between night shelters



In addition, The Beacon provides a range of housing and job assistance services, including classes and access to a quiet computer lab with internet access, where staff can help with resumes and more.

In 2016, Dane County purchased the building that previously housed the Madison Chamber of Commerce with plans to renovate it and turn it into a day resource center for the homeless. Dane County chose Catholic Charities to operate this multi-service day resource center and also partnered with the City of Madison and the United Way of Dane County. Together — and with support from people like you — this is a unique collaboration between the business, faith, government, nonprofit, and neighborhood sectors. In all, there are nearly 30 partner agencies under one roof working together in collaboration to change homelessness in our community.

Please consider giving generously, as your support will make a difference in real and relevant ways. In addition to financial support via gifts, The Beacon also welcomes volunteers who are passionate about helping change a person’s life.

To learn more, visit: thebeaconhelps.org/.

Up next: Simple gifts for February will go to support the Allied Drive Wellness Center and Food Pantry.



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 next meeting of the United Women in Faith's Susanna Circle will be Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 1:00 pm in the Bethany Library. Our speaker will be Deacon Kory Douglass, who will briefly describe his background and share with us his interest in "Environmental Justice Issues." The hostess will be Judy Loveless, 608-848-8243. All Bethany women are invited to attend.

AGAPE

The January Agape meeting will be held via zoom on Wednesday, January 11th at 6:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be Kristi from Madison Outreach LGBTQ Community Center and she will be presenting their "LGBTQ+ 101" program. The presentation covers the following:

- How LGBTQ+ individuals self-identify/the power of labels
- LGBTQ+ terminology and definitions
- LGBTQ+ 101 (how terminology/definitions intersect with identity)
- How to be an ally
- Creating a welcoming/affirming environment
- Microaggressions - what they are and how to address them

Everyone is invited to attend.

LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

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!

BOOK BROWSERS

Book Browsers will kick off the year with a meeting on January 16th, at 1:00pm via Zoom. Eileen Dunne will give a report on the book "Queen Victoria's Mysterious Daughter" by Lucinda Hawksley. Please join us.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Food and Fellowship is an informal group that meets for lunch at a local restaurant on the third Wednesday of each month. The first luncheon of 2023 will be on January 18 at Adlers on Watts Road. This is a good opportunity to get to know some of your fellow Bethany

members and to share in good food and lively conversation. If you plan on attending in January please let me know by Monday, January 16 so I can give the restaurant a count on how many to plan for. My email is donnawold@gmail.com, or you can call me at home at 608-274-3483 or my cell at 608-469-4927. Feel free to call with any questions. Hope to see you in January!

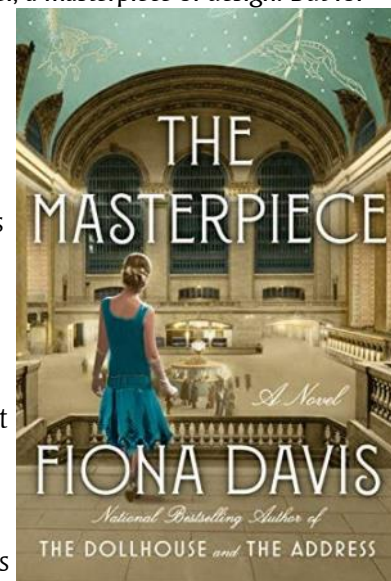
REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will meet Monday, January 23 at 1:00 pm via Zoom. The book to read is *The Masterpiece* by Fiona Davis.

For the nearly nine million people who live in New York City, Grand Central Terminal is a crown jewel, a masterpiece of design. But for Clara Darden and Virginia Clay, it represents something quite different.

For Clara, the terminal is the stepping stone to her future, which she is certain will shine as brightly as the constellations on the main concourse ceiling. It is 1928.

Nearly fifty years later, in 1974, the terminal has declined almost as sharply as Virginia Clay's life. Full of grime and danger, from the smoke-blackened ceiling to the pickpockets and drug dealers who roam the floor. For Virginia, it is simply her last resort. She embarks on a quest to find the artist of the unsigned masterpiece—an impassioned chase that draws Virginia not only into the battle to save Grand Central but deep into the mystery of Clara Darden, the famed 1920s illustrator who disappeared from history in 1931.



The book can be found through the South Central Library System. Join the group for a lively discussion. We always welcome new faces!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMORIAL GIFTS FOR NOVEMBER

For Mary Schroeder: Ray and Ann Hill, Dave and Marge Lyford, Jeff and Kathy Erickson, Jim and Eileen Rech, Walt and Linda Holthaus, Bill and Betsy Tishler, Beverly Klumph, Patricia McClure, Carolyn May, Linda Harvey, Beverly Schrag, Jo Hershberger, Steve and Nancy Gloe, Sara Roquemore, Sue Coats

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

As we sing this beloved carol during the holiday season, we wonder: “What can I give him?”

This year there’s a void that many of us could fill during the coming year. The team that prepares the Sunday deposit after worship each week has lost some of its members and needs three more helpers. It’s not a hard job—just record the funds received—something that should take no more than an hour once a month. A small gift but SO important!

Please consider this opportunity to serve and contact Sandra Arrington, 608-833-4567. The Bethany family appreciates the gift of your time!

END OF YEAR STATEMENTS

End of year statements for 2022 will probably be generated on January 11, 2023. Look for yours via email or snail mail and notify me if you find any errors or omissions or if you have any questions.

Email me at Finance@BethanyMadison.org or call me at home, 608-833-4567. Sandra Arrington.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH DIRECTORY

The UWF Directory will be available for pickup on the information desk in the narthex beginning in January. A digital version can also be requested from the Church Office. Thanks to Betsy Dunne for putting the Directory together.

MITTEN TREE

Thank you so much to the knitters and shoppers who contributed to the Mitten Tree! The donations will be taken to the Allied Drive neighborhood for kids and adults in need of warm clothing.

UWF READING PROGRAM 2023

The books for the new year have arrived and are on the window shelf in the library. Next to them is a notebook listing all of the books, with the ones owned by Bethany UWF highlighted in yellow.

In Memory of Mary Schroeder

United Women in Faith (UWF) has donated a book in memory of Mary: *Being Sheela: The Live Journey of an Immigration Lawyer* by Adithi Rao. Sheela Murthy has spent her career helping immigrants overcome injustice and legal tangles so that they can live a life of dignity in an increasingly challenging world.





ADVENT AT BETHANY



1st Sunday: Jacobson Family



2nd Sunday: Brian, Jack, Ethan and Vada



3rd Sunday: Iverson Family



Enjoying the Sunday Anthem



4th Sunday: Kurth Family, Shirley Kramer



On December 4th we bid farewell to Sonia Upton



ADVENT AT BETHANY



Left: On December 18th we enjoyed the Chancel Choir singing our Christmas Cantata, *Rejoicing in Love*.

Our *Longest Night Service* provided an opportunity for people to pray for one another as they acknowledged that for many people, Christmas is a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation, and sadness. The service offered a way for people to claim those feelings and still feel surrounded by the compassionate love of God.



On Christmas Eve, we gathered to rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. We heard the Chancel Choir and Carillons and closed the service with candlelight.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT





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Children's Christmas Pageant

On Dec 11 the children of Bethany shared the Christmas story with the congregation via a pageant in worship. It was delightful to hear the Narrators read scripture and witness the story unfold in front of us as the children took on different roles: Mary, Joseph, a donkey, sheep, shepherds, angels, and the magi who journeyed up and down the center aisle of the sanctuary. Many thanks to the youth and adults who supported the pageant through musical accompaniment, microphones and technology, slideshow preparation, costume distribution, the passing out of props, song charts, and general shepherding. It took a whole village! Photos are on Pages 8 and 9 and on our website (BethanyMadison.org/Photo-Galleries-Children/).

Music practice

Thank you to Addie who shared "I am a Promise" for special music during worship. Thanks to Kristie for her support of musicians of all ages!



Nick showing Benjamin how the sound board and tech stuff works on Sunday mornings. Benjamin and Nick work together to bring Zoom and the PowerPoint slides to worship each week.

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

Christmas Carols

Rain kept the Christmas carolers inside on the evening of Dec 13, but a cozy, enjoyable evening was had by all. Singing "Jingle Bells" for The Playing Field kids, singing additional carols in Fellowship Hall, hot drinks and snacks, art projects and a jigsaw puzzle filled the evening.



A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sun., Dec. 4	Sun., Dec. 11	Sun., Dec. 18	Wed., Dec. 21	Christmas Eve	Sun., Dec. 25
Total 140	Total..... 155	Total.....134	Total 21	Total.....222	Total..... 16



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 Poullette
Director of Bell Choirs	Nick Bonaccio
Choral Program Collaborative Artist	Evan Lange
Membership Secretary	Kathy Doran
Financial Secretary	Sandra Arrington

E-Banner Deadline: Tuesdays at Noon

Banner Deadline for the February Issue: January 23