



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 56, No. 2 • February 2023



Ash Wednesday Service, February 22

Our Lenten Season begins with a worship service at 7:00 pm. The seeking question for Ash Wednesday - Is this the fast that I choose? As we begin our series, we examine if our actions match what we profess. As we practice seeking this Lent, what kind of fast will you choose? How will you live your faith? How will you live the questions of your faith? The

service will include music, scripture, prayer and imposition of ashes.

Soup and Study, Wednesdays During Lent

March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 6 to 7 pm. Soup and Sandwich meal will be served, followed by a time of study and discussion of our Lenten theme - Seeking: Honest questions for a deeper faith. The meal will be provided, but donations of dessert are welcome. Conversation and activities will encompass all generations.

Sunday Worship During Lent

Each Sunday we will reflect on a different seeking question as we engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. Some of the questions include – Who will you listen to? How do we begin again? The questions won't necessarily lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity and a new perspective. Ultimately, we pray they lead to a new beginning, a restoration, a wider grace.

Palm Sunday, April 2

Come and join the palm parade as we reflect on Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and ponder the question: Where are you headed?

Maundy Thursday, April 6

At 7:00 pm we will gather for a remembrance of Jesus' last meal with his disciples. We will explore the question, "Will you wash my feet?" We will reflect on how Jesus shows the fullness of his love by removing his robe, kneeling, and washing the disciples' feet.

Good Friday, April 7

Our Good Friday worship service begins at 7pm. At this somber remembrance of Jesus' final hours we will explore the question, "Why have you forsaken me?" In order to truly celebrate the resurrection, it is necessary to reflect on the scriptures that tell the story of the crucifixion.

Easter Sunday, April 9 – Worship at 8:30 am and 10:00 am

We will offer two worship services on Easter morning. These will be joyous celebrations of the resurrection. Our Easter morning question is, "Who are you looking for?" Plans for special music and other special events are being finalized.



PASTOR'S COLUMN



In a few weeks we begin the season of lent. Lent is a time of prayer and fasting in preparation for Easter. The season lasts 40 days beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter Morning. Sundays are not counted in the 40 days as they are considered "little Easters." I have a deep appreciation for Lent and the opportunity to look inward and spend a bit more intentional time with God.



Sometimes people will give something up during Lent. It's meant to be a reminder of Christ's suffering and bring us closer to God. I prefer to add something to my prayer life during lent. Reading a new devotional, a time of fasting, or daily gratitude notes are some of the activities that have been meaningful to me.

As United Methodists we don't have a required practice during Lent, but I want to encourage you to be mindful during this season. Pray about what might be right for you. You'll see new opportunities for worship and study. We will be offering a daily devotional book which I strongly encourage everyone to read. I hope you will try and experience God's presence in a new way this lent. I pray that this will be a time of renewal and growth as we prepare for the joy of Easter morning.

Blessings,
Pastor Julie



seeking:
*Is this the fast
that I choose?*

Simple Gifts for February — “Allied Food Pantry and Allied Wellness Center”



Over the course of February, Simple Gift offerings are going to support the Allied Food Pantry and the Allied Wellness Center.

Both are made possible in part via support from 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.

The Allied Food Pantry is an emergency pantry located in the Boys and Girls Club building at 4619 Jenewein Road in Madison. The primary purpose of the pantry is to provide nutritious food to those who are in need and can’t totally support themselves.

The Pantry is open on Wednesdays from 10 am to noon, and 6 to 7:30 pm. For each household, a generous three-day supply of food is given.

The pantry is run by volunteers who generously donate their time to help distribute food equitably. Their efforts include stocking the pantry, setting up and taking down the waiting area, checking in clients, grocery shopping and transporting donated items. The Allied Food Pantry website notes that there is always a need for volunteers — especially those who can work a shift on a monthly basis.

Bethany also delivers food and grocery items to the food pantry. Donations should be put in the bins by the elevator.

The Wellness Center, which also receives support via grants from the City of Madison and other organizations, is a nonprofit effort that provides direct people-to-people support. This center is a resource that’s designed to promote health and wellness of the mind, body, and spirit of people living in the Allied, Belmar and Dunn’s Marsh neighborhoods. It is a place where community members can learn about ways to stay healthy, and it also connects people with important health resources and programs.

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

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

To learn more about the Allied Wellness Center visit: <https://alliedwellnesscenter.org/>

To learn more about the Allied Food Pantry visit: <https://alliedfoodpantry.wixsite.com/allied-food-pantry>

Ash Wednesday (February 22)

In February, there will also be a special Ash Wednesday collection to support Reconciling Ministries Network, which is committed to intersectional justice across and beyond the United Methodist connection. The Reconciling Ministries Network is working for the full participation of all LGBTQ+ people throughout the life and leadership of the Church.

To learn more, visit: <https://rmnetwork.org/>



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 Bethany's United Women in Faith will meet on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 1 PM in the church library. Our speaker is Josie Gobels, chair of First UMC's Green Team. She will advise us on recycling plastics that are not currently accepted by our trash collection agencies, like empty tooth paste tubes, old pens, plastic bags, etc. Hostess is JoAn Brock. 608-798-4047. All Bethany women are invited.

AGAPE

February's Agape meeting will be our annual book review. It will be held at 6:30 on Wed. February 8th via zoom. Bring a favorite/recent book to tell the others about. The titles and authors of the books will be written down and the list shared with everyone after the meeting.

LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting of Lydia Fellowship is scheduled for Monday, February 13, at Bethany starting at 1:00 pm. Judy Loveless is the hostess. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you can join us, please email Judy at jcnmp@rit.edu or call her at 608-848-8243.

BOOK BROWSERS

Book Browsers February will meet Monday, February 20, at 1:00pm via Zoom. Linda Budziszewski will report on the book *The Maidens* by Alex Michaelides. 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 next luncheon will be on February 15 at 11:30 at Quivey's Grove Stable, 6261 Nesbitt Rd, Fitchburg. 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 February, please let me know by Monday, February 13 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 608-469-6927. Feel free to call with any questions. Hope you can join us!

NEW ATTENDER'S TEA

Pastor Juilie and Lisa Weaver are hosting a new attender's tea on Sunday, February 19 from 9:00 to 9:30. Enjoy light refreshments and relaxed conversation with one another and church staff. This is an informal time to ask questions about Bethany United Methodist Church and learn about upcoming events. Children are welcome to attend with their families, or the nursery will be open.

REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will meet Monday, February 27, 1:00 pm via Zoom. The book for February is *Apple (Skin to the Core)* by Eric Gansworth. Copies are available through the South Central Library System. The Zoom link is found on the Bethany website under Events.

The term "Apple" is a slur in Native communities across the country. It's for someone supposedly "red on the outside, white on the inside."

In *Apple (Skin to the Core)*, Eric Gansworth tells his story, the story of his family—of Onondaga among Tuscaroras—of Native folks everywhere. From the legacy of the government boarding schools, to a boy watching his siblings leave and return and leave again, to a young man fighting to be an artist who balances multiple worlds.

Join in this Zoom session for a lively discussion. All are welcome whether you have read the book or not.

TO THE WOMEN OF BETHANY

A fact you may not know...

If you were a member of a previous United Methodist Church and were involved with their United Methodist Women, when you transferred to Bethany you became a member here. It is now called United Women in Faith. There is a brochure about us in the wall display rack by the door to our parking lot.

MADISON FLUTE CLUB RECITAL

The Madison Flute Club invites you to their Chilifest Luncheon and Chamber Music Concert on Sunday, February 26 in Fellowship Hall following the worship service. Come for a warm lunch meal and stay for the Flute Ensemble performance. Tickets are available from MadisonFluteClub.org or at the door.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMORIAL GIFTS FOR DECEMBER

For Mary Schroeder: Tom and Kathy Doran, Virginia Martinson,
Alpha Delta Kappa, Mike and Sally Zwettler, Bill & Betsy Tishler, Mike and Wanda Bartz

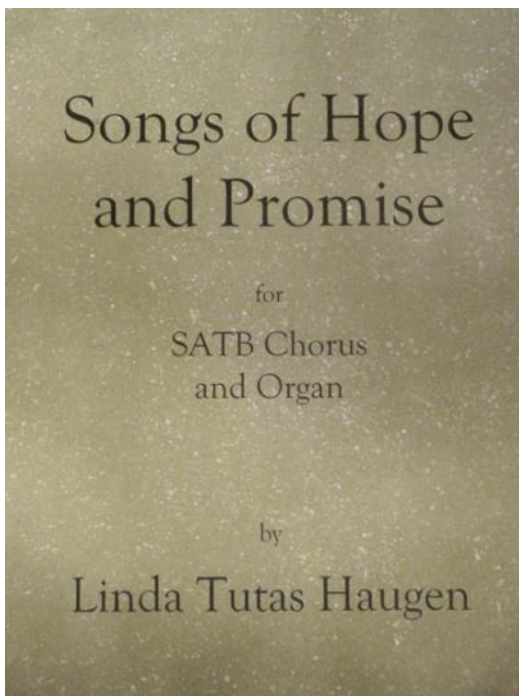
75TH ANNIVERSARY

In March, Bethany will be celebrating 75 years as a congregation. The first church service was held March 21, 1948 in the upper story of one of the two old buildings on the Bethany property.

On March 26, 2023 we will celebrate the rich history and accomplishments of this remarkable church family.

Former pastors have been invited to participate in the 10:00 am service. Following worship there will be a dinner for all in the Bob and Jeanne Adams Fellowship Hall.

Please mark your calendars for this important milestone celebration in the life of Bethany UMC.



ANNIVERSARY MUSIC

This year, Bethany will have had our pipe organ for 60 years, our carillons for 40 years, and our congregation for 75 years! To celebrate, the choir will be singing *Songs of Hope and Promise* by Linda Tutas Haugen in worship throughout February and March. We will not sing them consecutively in one service, but rather, we are distributing them throughout the Sundays to demonstrate the continued journey we share as we walk with each other in faith. The final song from the series that we will sing will occur on our congregation's celebratory Sunday, March 26. What a blessing to be able to share in music together!



LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP



Leadership Workshop Gathering



LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP



Adult Ministries: Bethaney Campbell, Jenny Weiland, Beverly Klumph, Shirley Kramer, Diane Johnson



Caring Team: Sally Zwettler, Peggy Wright



Children & Youth Ministries Team: Aimee Wright, Lisa Weaver, Katie Haack, Melissa Jacobson



LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP



Welcoming Team: Ted Wilson, Kris Jacobson, Barb Peterson, Jo Herschberger, Pastor Julie, Diane Barrett, Craig Jacobson



Outreach Team: Janet Daniel, Carol Clingan, Phil Cox, Dave Harsh, Linda Huttenburg, Bob Clingan



VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON



Volunteers gathered on Sunday, Jan 22 to fellowship and reflect on connecting with the children and youth of Bethany. Volunteers support the Bethany Sunday School program by teaching and helping in Sunday morning children's classes. Other volunteer opportunities include the week of Vacation Bible Camp (June 12-15), and upcoming events such as Game Night (Feb 5) and the Soup & Study gatherings during the month of March (Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:00 pm). Volunteers at the luncheon received a butter spreader to remind them of the joy of "spreading God's love"! Lisa would love to connect with other Bethany members who would like to spend time helping out with children and youth programs.



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

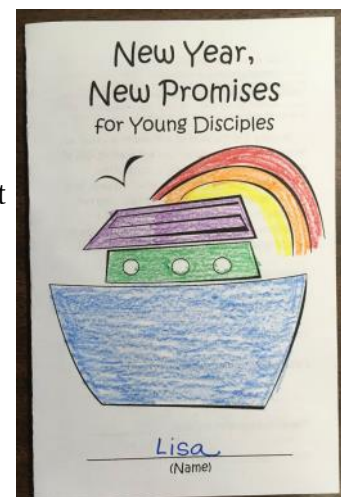
Children's Sunday School

The Bible stories at the beginning of 2023 are focusing on the life of Jesus. We wondered together about the Magi who visited Jesus. And do you see the handprint doves which we made to help us remember the story of when a dove appeared at the baptism of Jesus?



Journal

What is something that you learned last year? What is a big idea you have for the new year? What are the ways you might pray this year? Children and adult family members are invited to work through this journal together, using words or pictures to answer questions or complete sentence starters. Journals will be available at the Children's Check-in Station through the month of February.



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

Organ Anniversary

The organ is turning 60 years old in 2023!



Star Words

On Jan 8, Pastor Julie explained Star Words to our Bethany congregation. A Star Word is a special word to think about throughout the year, looking for ways that the word connects you to God and others. Let Ms. Lisa or Pastor Julie know if you or the child(ren) in your home would like a Star Word!



A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, Jan. 1
 Total 92

Sunday, Jan. 8
 Total 127

Sunday, Jan. 15
 Total 125

Sunday, Jan. 22
 Total 118



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
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
Global Mission Partner	Temba Nkomozepe, Mujila Falls, Zambia
Custodian.....	Ron Rebolz

E-Banner Deadline: Tuesdays at Noon

Banner Deadline for the March Issue: February 20