



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 56, No. 3 • March 2023

Bethany 75th Anniversary Celebration

It was on Easter Sunday morning in March of 1948 that 57 men, women and children first gathered for worship in an old building on Larkin Street and a new church was born... 75 years ago!

Bethany United Methodist Church will soon begin a celebration of its rich heritage. During worship on the first three Sundays in March, a brief vignette will focus on historical highlights of our past. The month will conclude with the Anniversary Celebration on Sunday March 26th.

9:15: All are invited to gather in the narthex to greet friends and former Bethany pastors, enjoy coffee and treats, and view historic displays from Bethany's past.



10:00: During our worship service in the sanctuary we will celebrate and give thanks for 75 years of faithful service by past members and clergy as well as looking forward with hope to the future. And it will be our honor to welcome Rev. Hee-Soo Jung, Bishop of the Wisconsin Conference, as our special guest preacher.

11:15: After worship, everyone is invited to enjoy fellowship and a traditional ham dinner prepared by Bethany Chef, Steve Nelson. There will be no charge for the meal. It will be a gift from the congregation on its "75th birthday."

Later this year, a special publication featuring Bethany's history in words and photos will be available for all members to enjoy

All Are Invited to Join In Bethany's Celebration





PASTOR'S COLUMN



As I write this we are in the midst of another winter storm. I know many of us are tired of the contentious weather we have had this month and are looking forward to spring. In the



church year we are in the season of Lent which is also a time of waiting and looking forward to Easter Sunday. Waiting isn't something most people enjoy, yet Lent is a different kind of waiting. It is a time of active waiting. A time when we are engaged in seeking a deeper relationship with Christ as we reflect on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This Lent we as a congregation are asking

questions as we seek a deeper faith.

One of the things I love about teaching, especially youth, is

the questions they ask. Sometimes questions are asked to challenge, but often they are bold and honest reflections of doubts and fears. I believe questions are important and the only way to experience deep faith. This Lent I hope that you will be bold enough to ask deep questions. I hope that you will be bold enough to accept that not every question has an answer. I hope that you will experience God's presence and love in new and amazing ways.

Please join in reading our Lenten devotional and attending our Wednesday night Soup and Study gatherings, our Sunday morning worship services and special Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship experiences.

Have a blessed Lent,
Pastor Julie

The Lenten Season at Bethany

Lent Devotional

A Lent Devotional book is available in print or digital format. Pick up a copy at church or contact the office to request a digital copy.

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 7pm 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.

Simple Gifts for March — “Boliva Project”

During the month of March, Simple Gift collections are going to support a congregation in Bolivia that’s hoping to purchase pews.

Located on the Altiplano (which is Spanish for “high plain”) at more than 12,000 feet, the church sits in the village of Huanocollo. While the congregation has a few plastic-type chairs, its members dream of having real pews its families and individuals can use — instead of sitting on the cold, earthen floor at the high altitude.

In all, this need is rather modest: 12 pews at a cost of \$100 each. Imagine, for example, purchasing an entire pew where a Bolivian family and their kids can be seated every Sunday! Once we’ve met this goal, we will help this congregation with other priority needs.

Bethany is involved in this Wisconsin Conference priority that is celebrating our church’s relationship to Bolivia that spans a couple decades. This is one project of nine priorities of the Bolivian Conference and affirmed by the Wisconsin Conference.

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). If one gives at a different time for this initiative, just mark your gift: “Bolivian Advance, pew project” — and 100 percent of your gift will arrive at this congregation.

Please consider giving generously — and supporting this little Methodist Church in Bolivia with this dream for its members. Your contributions will make a difference in real and relevant ways.

Up next: Simple gifts for April will support Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice.



A sample of the kind of pew that will be made for the Bolivian congregation.



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.

AGAPE

The March Agape meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8th. We are encouraging Agape members to attend the Bethany Lenten Soup and Study from 6-7pm in Fellowship Hall. Afterwards we will have a quick Agape meeting to touch base and collect the Peace with Justice offering along with our usual offerings. Looking forward to seeing people in-person again!

LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting of Lydia Fellowship is scheduled for Monday, March 13, at 1:00 pm in fellowship hall at Bethany. Diane Johnson is the hostess. She will give a presentation on outstanding women in our country's history. Everyone is welcome. If you will be attending, please email Diane at dkjohn05@gmail.com or call her at 301-996-8990.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

The next luncheon for the Bethany "food and fellowship" group is March 15, 2023 at 11:30 AM at Pancake Cafe on Nesbit Rd. Host is Judy Loveless. Pls RSVP 608-848-8243

BOOK BROWSERS

The March meeting of Book Browsers will meet on Monday, March 20, at 1pm via Zoom. Nancy Gloe will report on a book yet to be announced. Please join us.

REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will meet on Monday, March 27 at 1:00 pm via Zoom. The book for March is *The Brilliant Life of Eudora Honeysett* by Annie Lyons.

Eudora Honeysett is done with this noisy, moronic world—all of it. She has witnessed the indignities and suffering of old age and has lived a full life. At eighty-five, she isn't going to leave things to chance. Her end will be on her terms. Then she meets ten-year-old Rose Trewidney, a whirling, pint-sized rainbow of sparkling cheer. While the unlikely BFFs grow closer and Eudora is reminded of her own childhood, Eudora realizes she must come to terms with what lies ahead. But now that her joy for life has been rekindled, how can she possibly say goodbye?

For a lively discussion, join for Reflections Book Study.

UWF SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023, 12:30pm

Get ready for delicious salads and mouth-watering desserts!

Flute concert follows the luncheon at 2:00 pm.

Tickets on sale beginning April 16 for \$10.00 each.

(This is the major UWF fundraiser for missions in 2023)



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED IN FEBRUARY

For Mary Schroeder: Phyllis Lorenz, Donald and Judith Taylor, Helen Falch, Jeffery and Pamela Hewitt, Larry and Donna Wold, Dennis and Lynn Christensen, Rod and Paula McKenzie, Sue Poullette, Thelma Wells, Nancy and David Stillwell

For Walt Thieszen: Beverly Schrag, Bill and Bev Payne, Mike and Sally Zwettler, Walt and Linda Holthaus, Jeff and Kathy Erickson

TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to order Easter flowers for display on the chancel area now is the time. Plant options include Daffodils, Tulips (red, yellow or pink), and Easter Lilies. The cost per plant is \$16. Order forms will be on the desk outside the Sanctuary beginning March 5th. Or, you can email the church office with your order (please indicate "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" or "To the Glory of God" and write "Easter Flowers" in the memo line of your check. Flowers will be on display Easter Sunday and may be taken home following the 10:00 am worship service.



BETHANY RECYCLING PROJECT

Every 45 seconds a garbage truck's worth of plastic waste is spewed into our oceans, killing millions of marine animals every year.

The Bethany-Madison unit of United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) is an advocate for Bethany UM Church's recycling project. We advocate/encourage everyone to cooperate with First United Methodist Church, who will submit collections to Terracycle, Inc., and recycle some items that are not collected by our local recycling companies. Together we can make a difference by keeping these items out of the landfills and help us be better stewards of our beautiful Earth.



We are starting small. Categories of items we are collecting in the box by the Allied Drive food shelves include the following:

- ✓ Markers and pens that no longer work, Crayons, glue sticks.
- ✓ Old toothbrushes and toothbrush packaging, empty toothpaste tubes, dental floss containers, heads of electric toothbrushes, empty deodorant containers.
- ✓ Plastic straws and plastic ice cream tubs.
- ✓ Used up plastic gift cards and expired credit cards (Cut up any cards with personal info on them)
- ✓ Clean plastic caps for glass jars. Regular recycling (Pelliteri) will accept the following if caps are kept on: soda bottles, laundry detergent bottles, condiment (e.g. ketchup) bottles, berry and deli containers.

Most plastic trash items are not profitable to recycle so we must commit to keep them out of landfills and from incineration.

Contact Judy Loveless for more information.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

On Friday, March 3rd Church Women United will be celebrating *World Day of Prayer* at 9:30 am at the First Church of Christ Scientist at 601 South Segoe Road in Madison. This is an event celebrated in many different countries. The Theme is *I have heard about your Faith*, written by the women of Taiwan and based on Paul's letter to the Ephesians 1:15-19. Everyone is invited to this event and enjoy the hospitality of the ladies of First Church.



75 YEARS AND COUNTING



1952—1957 Upper Room to Sanctuary (now Fellowship Hall)





75 YEARS AND COUNTING



1957 New Sanctuary





GAME NIGHT

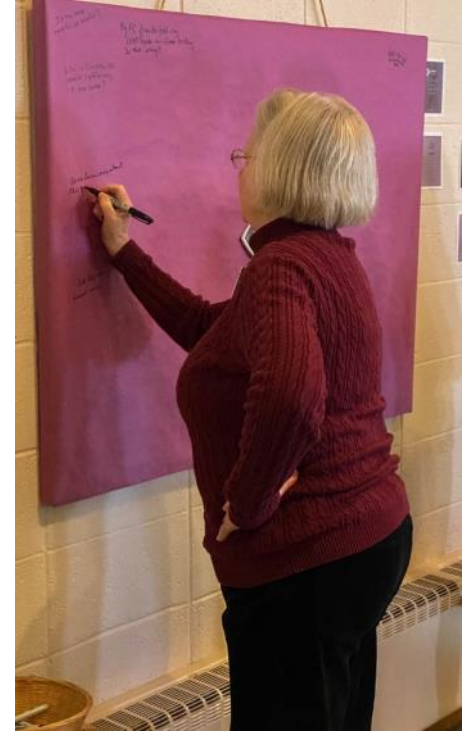


Bethany members and friends of all ages gathered in Fellowship Hall for puzzles, card games, coloring, and a Nacho Bar on Saturday, February 4. Thanks to Steve Nelson for providing the delicious food, and thanks to all participants for providing delightful fellowship! All are welcome at our next Game Night: Saturday, March 4, 4:30 - 6:30 pm. This time Steve will be putting together a Taco Bar with shredded chicken, refried beans, flour tortillas, rice, and lettuce. Childcare Staff members are present to tend to our youngest friends. Extended family members and neighbors are welcome! RSVPs to Lisa are helpful for planning purposes.





1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



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

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 (March 4th) 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.

Children's Sunday School

Thank you to our regular Sunday School teachers, Tom Doran and Melissa Jacobson, who give of their time and talents to the children of Bethany. Every week children in preschool through 5th grade enjoy Bible stories, conversations, projects, and music.



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

Children's Chimes

Bethany children delighted the congregation with beautiful chords during a reading of "All Things Bright and Beautiful" in worship. "Chimers" included kids from preschool through 5th grade. Thank you to Nick for leading the Chime Choir! We hope to include more Children's Chimes in the future, so look for upcoming invitations from Lisa and Nick.



A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, Jan. 29	Sunday, Feb. 5	Sunday, Feb. 12	Sunday, Feb. 19	Sunday, Feb. 26
Total 96	Total..... 128	Total.....	Total..... 132	Total 149



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	9:15 am
Worship (in person and on Zoom)	10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship	Following Worship

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 April Issue: March 20th