



# The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 56, No. 4 • April 2023

## Men's Spring Study Retreat

The annual Men's Retreat is returning the weekend of April 21—23 at Pine Lake United Methodist Camp. All men, and their sons, are invited — whether a Bethany member or not. The theme for the weekend will be *Change*. Through talks and discussions we reflect on how we respond to change, the sources of how we get our information, changes at Bethany and what is the “pre-post-pandemic” or, the new normal.

In addition to the talks there will, as always, be lots of time for games and exploring the variety of activities that Pine Lake offers.

After the success of last year, we will prepare our own meals in the Oakwood Center (across from the Rader Center lodging). As happened last year, this option will provide more opportunities for a flexible schedule. Meals will include lunch on Saturday and Sunday, dinner Saturday evening and breakfast Sunday morning.

Lodging will be at the Rader Center (think motel-like accommodations). The cost for a shared room will be \$40 per person per night. A private room will be \$80 per person per night. You are welcome to come up Friday evening to enjoy an evening of games and Saturday morning exploration. Or, come up Saturday morning in time for the first session at 10:30 am.

The retreat will formally end after Sunday's lunch. Costs for meals are still being worked out but should not exceed \$40 per person for the four meals.

Reservations should be made to the Church Office no later than Friday, April 14th. Reservations may be made by emailing calling (608.238.6381) or emailing ([BethanyOffice@BethanyMadison.org](mailto:BethanyOffice@BethanyMadison.org)) the church office or filling out the registration form on our website (under We Connect / Bethany Forms / Men's Retreat Registration).





# PASTOR'S COLUMN



Yesterday we celebrated Bethany's 75th Anniversary with a beautiful worship service, luncheon, and program. It was heart-warming to see how many former clergy returned to be part of the celebration. Several people mentioned that Bethany is a special place. Indeed, Bethany is special to many of us. But, I admit that there are other church families that are also special to me and my family. I share this because I know there are those in our midst who grieve church families that were special to them. Many of you have shared with me the sadness that a church close to your heart has, in recent months, voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. Whether it was a church you attended recently or years ago the hurt, grief and disappointment is fresh. I believe that God knows and shares in our pain and sorrow.



I remember my parents' greatest desire was for their children to get along with one another. How much greater is God's desire for God's children to get along. A few weeks ago in my message I shared a broken heart image. The image was from the scripture story that day and it was an indication of how God felt when God's children were divided. It was also a vivid reminder of the hurt and sorrow we can feel. In his message

during worship yesterday Bishop Jung talked about what Jesus taught as the most important commandments, love God and love our neighbor. Even though we may be divided we continue to love one another. May we continue to be kind and compassionate. May we continue to embody the love that Jesus taught. During our Soup and Study a few weeks ago we sang "They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love." The song points out that even while we work for justice we pray for unity. We can't stop working for justice and full inclusion, and we can't stop praying for and loving our neighbor. I'll be praying for each of you.



Blessings and love,  
Pastor Julie

For more information about the future of The United Methodist Church visit BeUMC at the [Wisconsin UMC website](#).

## Youth Room Space

Experts agree that we are facing a mental health crisis in our nation and the statistics are highest among teenagers. In a March 2022 study, the Centers for Disease Control found that more than 4 out of 10 teenagers feel "persistently sad or hopeless," and 1 in 5 teens has contemplated suicide. These statistics and the need for relationship building are important as we vision for the future of the youth programs at Bethany.

During our youth visioning and planning session a few months ago the need for relationships was emphasized. Incorporating children and youth into the life of the church was identified as a priority. Over the past few years many of our children's ministries and other programs have relocated to different areas in the building. The result is that our youth programs have become isolated in the basement. When our current youth room was designed it was a wonderful space designed to meet the trends for youth spaces of that day and it served our needs for many years. We are so grateful for those who donated time and money to create that space. Now it's time to reimagine youth ministry in a new space.

In envisioning a new space for our youth we want a space where relationships can be formed. We want them to be visible and feel that their presence is important to our church family. Thus, in the next few months Room 228 is being transformed into a multi-purpose space with a coffee house feel for youth and other church activities. We envision comfortable seating and space arrangement that encourages conversation. Room 228 will continue to be available for other church activities. In addition, we have several other classrooms and the chapel available for groups currently using Room 228.

While monetary donations would be greatly appreciated, your prayers for our youth are essential. God is doing amazing things at Bethany. Our Breakthrough Prayer reminds us that with God anything is possible. For youth that are feeling hopeless or disconnected we have the opportunity to offer hope and love. We have the opportunity to offer a safe place that lets them know they are valued and loved.

Thank you for your prayers and support. If you have any questions please reach out to Pastor Julie, or Children and Youth Team members Jessica Crombie or Aimee Wright.

## Simple Gifts for April — “Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice”

Simple Gift offerings in April are going to support Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, an interfaith education and advocacy organization dedicated to connecting and empowering faith communities and individuals to work for the common good and a life of dignity for everyone.

The organization advocates for change so that all individuals and families can thrive socially, prosper economically, and participate fully in civil society.

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice intentionally builds bridges across faith communities and draws on the collective wisdom, courage, and strength of our various faith traditions.

Some of the justice initiatives the organization is involved with include: Dane Sanctuary Coalition, Dignity at Work, Creating Beloved Community, Faithful Action for a Healthy Wisconsin, Interfaith Community Building, and the Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign, to name a few.



The organization first launched as Concerned Religious Leaders of Wisconsin in 2011. The organization officially became Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice in 2012, and received its own status as a nonprofit organization in 2017.

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

Donations to Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice will help provide resources, programs and advocacy to more communities, congregations and people of faith. Together this support will help the organization work toward a Wisconsin that cares for the least among us and upholds our values of equality, compassion, and justice.

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

To learn much more about the range of ways Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice is making a difference, visit the organization’s website: <https://www.wisconsinfaithvoicesforjustice.org/>.

Up next: Simple Gifts for May go to support The Playing Field

## Holy Week at Bethany

**Palm Sunday Worship**, April 2, 10:00 am: 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. At 9:30 there will be an Easter Egg hunt for children of all ages.





# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 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.

### LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting of Lydia Fellowship is scheduled for Monday, April 10, at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Kathy Doran is our hostess. We will work on a special project that has been designed by Lisa Weaver, Director of Children's Ministries at Bethany. Everyone is welcome. Please let Kathy know if you will be attending (email ginger2kd@gmail.com or call 608-271-0560).

### AGAPE

April's Agape meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12th at 6:00 pm in room 228. (We are back to meeting at 6 because choir practice is at 7.) Lynn and Gail will provide dessert at 6 and there will be time for visiting before they present a slideshow on their trip to the Passion Play at Oberammergau, Germany. All women of the church are invited to attend.

### FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to join us for the next Food and Fellowship lunch on Wednesday, April 19 at 11:30 at Imperial Garden Chinese Restaurant on Allen Blvd in Middleton. Beverly Klumph will be the hostess. If you plan on attending please notify Beverly by telephone at 608-238-2057 or email her at beverlyklumph@gmail.com.

Everyone is welcome.

### REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will meet Monday, April 24 at 1:00 pm via Zoom. The book for April is *Once We Were Brothers* by Ronald Ballson. *Once We Were Brothers* is Ronald H. Ballson's compelling tale of two boys and a family who struggle to survive in war-torn Poland, and a young love that struggles to endure the unspeakable cruelty of the Holocaust. Two lives, two worlds, and sixty years converge in an explosive race to redemption that makes for a moving and powerful tale of love, survival, and ultimately the triumph of the human spirit.

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

### UWF SALAD LUNCHEON

May 6, 2023, 12:30 pm

United Women in Faith is hosting a Salad Luncheon on Saturday, May 6 at 12:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Tickets will be \$12.00 and are available April 23 and 30 in the narthex. Tickets will also be sold at the door on May 6. Child care will be provided from 12:30-3:00pm.

There will be delicious salads and dinner rolls and scrumptious desserts. You will also have the opportunity to donate to a couple of mission projects!

Following the luncheon we will attend the Madison Flute Choir concert in the sanctuary at 2:00 pm.

Please join us as we restart a tradition that we enjoyed pre-pandemic!

### 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

### WHAT'S ACCEPTED BY TERRACYCLE

Bethany UMC collects and recycles the following items:

- Empty writing instruments, pens, sharpies glue sticks, watercolor dispensers
- All brands of used/empty oral care products and packaging (used electric toothbrushes are accepted)

Simply drop off items in the box by the elevators during Sunday hours and we'll take it from there.

For questions, call Judy Loveless 608-848-8243



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## United Women in Faith Reading Program 2023

Check out the new books in the UWF Reading Program. They are on the shelf under the windows. Older books are on the book cart. Read at least one book from each of the five categories to receive a certificate and to get credit for Bethany's unit of UWF.

### Education for Mission

*Being Sheela: the Life Journey of an Immigration Lawyer* by Adithi Rao.

*The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek: A Novel* by Kim Michele Richardson.

*Pachinko: A Novel* by Min Jin Lee.

### Leadership Development

*All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis* by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson. (A Bonus Book, counts as two)

*A Knock at Midnight: A Story of Hope, Justice, and Freedom* by Brittany Barnett.

*Pioneer Black Clergywomen: Stories of Black Clergywomen of the United Methodist Church* by Josephine Whitely-Fields. (Includes Bishop Linda Lee).

### Nurturing for Community

*Firekeeper's Daughter, a Novel* by Angeline Boulley. (Young Adult)

*Nevertheless: American Methodists and Women's Rights* by Ashley Boggan Dreff.

### Social Action

*Cousins: Connected through Slavery* by Betty Kilby Baldwin.

*The Four Winds, a Novel* by Kristin Hannah.

### Spiritual Growth

*Daughter of Cana, a Novel* by Angela Hunt.

*I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Brown.

## APRIL FORUMS

Forums take place following worship in Room 228.

### April 2: Wisconsin VIM (Volunteers in Mission Opportunities) - Past, Present and Future

Please join Carol and Bob Clingan as they share VIM history, reminisce about 18 years of over 35 trips, and discuss future work camp opportunities.

### April 16: Understanding Today's Young Families and How this is Important to the Church

Every generation's families have their own unique experiences, challenges and place in history. Today's parents have been immersed in the ever expanding influence of technology and been impacted by a world-wide pandemic. They strive to instill in their children a strong sense of their personal, social and environmental responsibility and the need for change. Join Becky Mather, Prevention Education Specialist for the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board as we explore the topic of families.

## BETHANY SCHOLARSHIPS

High School seniors, second year college students, or seminary students may apply for Bethany scholarships on our website (go to [bethanymadison.org](http://bethanymadison.org) and click on We Connect, Bethany Forms and scroll to Bethany Scholarship Form). Please fill out the application and submit it no later than May 15th.

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RECOGNITION

On Sunday, April 23, worship will include a recognition of Bethany-connected youth and young adults who are graduating from high school, college, or a graduate program. Please let the Bethany office know if you or a family member should be included in this celebration!

## EASTER SUNDAY

Remember!! There will be two services on Easter Sunday: 8:30 am and 10:00 am.





# 75TH ANNIVERSARY





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# BETHANY NEWS



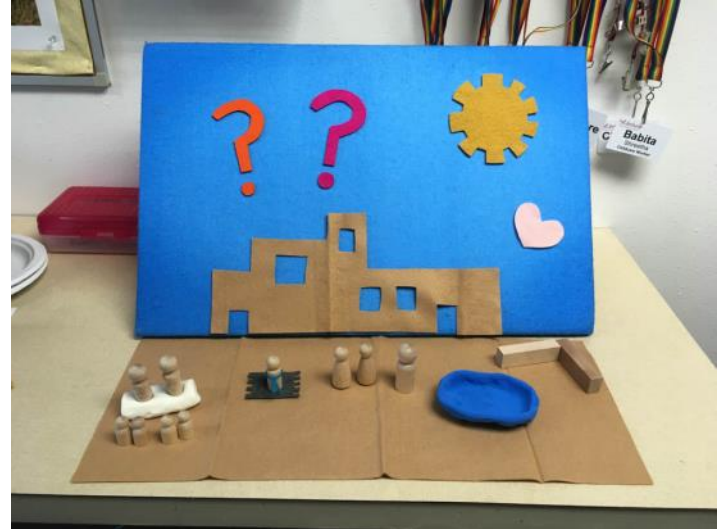




For Children's Ministry information, contact Lisa Weaver, Director of Children's Ministries  
Phone: (608) 238-6381 / Email: [Bethany.Madison.Children@Gmail.com](mailto:Bethany.Madison.Children@Gmail.com)

## Scripture storytelling

This year, Lent worship has included visual storytelling. While Ms. Lisa reads aloud the Bible story, children use felt backdrops, wooden figures, and small objects to illustrate the passage. Benjamin Mayeshiba runs the camera from the balcony which projects the storytelling table onto the screen so that it can be easily seen by those in the sanctuary and on Zoom.



**Thank you, Bob!**

A happy shout-out to Bob Clingan, who put together Lisa's new office chair.

# 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)

## Soup & Study

Members and guests of all ages gathered for whole-group scripture study and activity choices on Wednesday evenings in March. Steve Nelson provided delicious homemade soup and sandwiches each week. Participants explored artwork and poetry, and enjoyed small group discussions and projects.



## A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, March 5  
 Total ..... 140

Sunday, March 12  
 Total ..... 120

Sunday, March 19  
 Total ..... 136

Sunday, March 26  
 Total ..... 163



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
<b>Worship (in person and on Zoom)</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
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 May Issue:** April 17th