



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 56, No. 5 • May 2023

40th Anniversary of the Carillons

The Carillons, Bethany's handbell choirs, are celebrating 40 years at Bethany on April 30! They will play special music, the children will ring chimes, and we will celebrate and give thanks for this special ministry of music.

A bit of history

It was Paul Dvorak who had the idea of sponsoring a bell choir in honor of his father and enlisting Bev Payne to direct it. She said yes, and the bells were ordered. In March of 1983, Bev gathered interested church members and began to teach the basics of bell ringing. In May that same year, the Schulmerich handbells were dedicated in memory of Frank Dvorak, Verona Bernard, Trudy Lybeck, Mr. and Mrs. Edward McCormick, Clara Meyer, Cathy Camp Goetz, William H. Mahaffey, James L. Palmer, Sr., Cheryl Smith, Phyllis Reese, Mae V. Calhoon, Hazel Heggen, and Erwin C. Wells. They were also presented in honor of Bethany's 35th anniversary.



Throughout the following years, the bell choir rehearsed on Thursday evenings, played for worship services intermittently, and regularly presented a concert in late spring. Bell choirs were also established for the children and for the youth. These bell choirs also performed during worship and for special events.

In 2004, after 21 years, Bev retired as director, and Paul Litterio was hired to carry on the handbell program at Bethany. In the fall of 2016, Paul moved, and Nick Bonaccio was hired to take his place.





PASTOR'S COLUMN



Bethany and MCCI

By now I hope that you are familiar with the phrase MCCI (short for Missional Church Consultation Initiative).



MCCI is an intensive UMC-designed training, coaching, and resourcing model, tailored to individual churches. MCCI honors the past, celebrates the present, and equips churches to partner with God for the future. Bethany has been involved in this process since September. Each month I meet with Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey (founder of MCCI) and Rev. Scott Carlson (WI Conference Director of Congregational Development) along with 7 other clergy from around the state whose churches have been selected by the Bishop and District Superintendents to be part of this process. Some months we have additional outside experts come for our training.

Following those meetings, I meet with our MCCI Implementation Team to share the resources. With their help we have been bringing these resources to our teams and the congregation. The most visible and important piece is our Breakthrough Prayer. This prayer is the foundation of the MCCI. We are praying for God's vision for our church, not our own personal wants and needs. In addition to the prayer, we have been talking about and recognizing God Sightings. Looking for ways God is already breaking through in our congregation is an exciting part of the process.

We have also introduced the Primary Leadership Component (PLC). If you haven't already taken the assessment to identify your PLC, [click here for a digital copy](#) or pick one up from the lobby. All three PLCs have a role to play in the life of the church. No component is better or more necessary than the others. In fact, they are all integral and serve together to build the synergy of forward momentum. Knowing your role will help you to work with others to build our church.

Another team of Bethany members is working on a detailed report of our ministries, staffing, history, demographics, membership information, and finances so that the consulting team assigned to Bethany will get an in depth understanding of Bethany. At our Express Day this fall that team will come meet with leaders and members to get input on our hopes and dreams for Bethany. Using this information, they will make recommendations specific to Bethany that our congregation will have the chance to review and vote on before moving forward.

On May 22 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm we are having our first MCCI event called Resource Refocus. Here we will learn how we might reimagine the ministries and resources we already have so that we can reach God's vision for Bethany. It is important that everyone who is interested in the life and future of Bethany attend.

Please continue to pray for Bethany and our sister churches in this process. Watch the bulletin and e-banner for information and don't hesitate to ask questions of myself or any of our leaders. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Blessings and love,
Pastor Julie



Missional Church
Consultation Initiative
a new lifecycle of fruitfulness

Simple Gifts for May — “The Playing Field”



The Playing Field

a place to begin

Simple Gift offerings made in May are going to support our partners at The Playing Field, a child care and early education program that uses a unique model that educates children from low-income families alongside children from more advantaged backgrounds.

The Playing Field has rented space inside Bethany United Methodist Church since its launch in 2015. It is an independent, nonprofit organization that partners with Early Head Start.

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

Please give generously, as your support of The Playing Field will make a difference in real and relevant ways.

Quality early education programs are often out of reach for many families. Even with subsidized childcare, the rates at many centers are simply too high for struggling families. Unfortunately, this can mean that children most in need of quality early education are not able to access it.

The Playing Field (TPF) is dedicated to changing this reality by making the highest level of early education available to children of varied backgrounds. To accomplish this goal, its enrollment spaces are reserved for children based on three specific funding sources. One-third of TPF's enrollment spaces are reserved for families who might choose any high-quality program for their child — but choose The Playing Field because they value diversity and support the center's mission. For another third of the students, TPF attempts to raise scholarship funds to assist families who don't qualify for childcare subsidies, or who would incur very high co-payments. And for another third of its students, TPF reserves spaces for families funded by Early Head Start. Families experiencing homelessness are given priority for these funds and welcomed into the school family.

In addition to May Simple Gifts support, TPF also has a wish list of items that are needed to equip classrooms. If you would like to donate items, check out their Amazon Wish List and select any items that you would like to donate (items may be shipped to Bethany UMC at 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI 53705 or to your home). Or write a check out to Bethany and put “Wish List” in the memo field. Cash donations will be given to The Playing Field so they can order what is needed.

For more information, visit The Playing Field's website: <https://playingfieldmadison.org/>

Up next: Simple Gifts for June will go to support Porchlight





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 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 lobby. Tickets will also be sold at the door on May 6. Child care will be provided from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

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 the Madison Flute Choir will perform in the sanctuary at 2:00 pm.

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

SUSANNA CIRCLE

The Susanna Circle of United Women in Faith will meet on Wednesday, May 3rd at Noon at the home of Judy Loveless, 815 Maple Rd, Verona for our annual Daffodil Tea. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages and dessert will be provided. All Bethany women are invited. Please let Judy know if you are coming at 608-848-8243 or email. Note: the start time is noon.

LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting of Lydia Fellowship will be on Monday, May 8th, at 1:00 pm at Bethany. This is the final meeting of our 2022-2023 year. The Lydia group has been blessed to receive many fabric donations this year. So we will be cutting out more dining vests for delivery to several facilities in the Dane County area. Please join us if you are interested in this sewing project. Call Eileen Rech at 608-271-6312 or email at jim.eileen@yahoo.com. We will be planning our 2023-2024 year on September 11, 2023.

AGAPE

May's Agape meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10th at 6 pm in room 228. Kathy Nelson will provide materials and instructions on how to make greeting cards for the Bethany card ministry. A great time to flex those creative muscles and chat with others. Hope to see you there!

BOOK BROWSERS

Book Browsers will meet on Monday, May 15 at 1:00 pm via Zoom. Vada Mayfield will review the book *Letters from Clara: One Intrepid Woman's Travels on the Eve of War, 1936-1939*, by Janet Newman. Please join us to learn about this interesting book.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to join us for the next Food and Fellowship on Wednesday, May 17 at 11:30 at North and South Seafood and Smoke House located at 6604 Mineral Point Road. Vada Mayfield is the May hostess. If you plan on attending please notify Vada by telephone at 608-231-2307 or email her at vmayfield@charter.net. Everyone is welcome.

REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will meet Monday, May 22 at 1:00 via Zoom. The book to read has not been chosen, so watch the eBanner for the selection. New people are always welcome whether you have read the book or not.

75TH ANNIVERSARY MERCHANDISE



Tote bags and mugs celebrating Bethany's 75th anniversary are available for sale. Mugs are \$7 and tote bags in either tan or green are \$10. Items will be for sale before and after the church service. What a perfect way to celebrate Bethany at 75.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

May Friendship Day will be held at First Congregational Church on May 5th at 9:30 am. The theme this year is *Living a Legacy of Love: Doing God's Work—Labor with Love—A Heart to Care*. Matthew 25:37-40. Box lunches will be available for \$7 for a small wrap or \$9 for a large wrap (please specify vegetarian or turkey). Please make checks payable to Madison Church Women United and mail to Marleen Lippert, MCWU, 6329 Scandia Lane, McFarland, WI 53558.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMBER CARE

Congratulations to....

🎉 Kristie Halverson, our Director of Music, on passing her doctoral defense Wednesday, April 19th. We can now call her Dr. Halverson!

75TH ANNIVERSARY REVIEW

During the coffee hour on Sunday morning, March 26th, Bethany was alive with church goers viewing historic displays and visiting with friends, former Bethany pastors and special guests.

Former pastors who attended included Frank Gaylord, Lincoln Hartford, Blaine Rader, Jason Mahnke, Dave Harsh, Brad Mather, and Greg Jewison. Paola Bennechi joined us later at the luncheon. Special guests at the celebration included Im-Hyon, wife of Bishop Jung; Bishop Sharon Rader, wife of Rev. Blaine Rader; Rev. Chris Bethke, former District Superintendent; and Ginny Kruse, wife of Rev. John Kruse.

The anniversary worship service began with a procession of the pastors, special guests, former pastors, and choir members into the sanctuary. They were led by Bodhi O'Rourke who carried the cross to the altar. A highlight of the worship service was the heartwarming sermon delivered by Bishop Hee-Soo Jung entitled *Strangely Warmed Heart*.

Following the worship service, the congregation proceeded to the Bob & Jeanne Adams Fellowship Hall for a delicious luncheon prepared by Steve Nelson. More than 100 meals were served and Fellowship Hall was full of people enjoying the good food and conversation. After the meal, the former pastors were recognized and given a special anniversary cup made by Vaughan James.

Many people commented that they really enjoyed the celebration of Bethany's anniversary. Future plans for the church include observing the 40th anniversary of the handbell choir in May and the 60th anniversary of the organ in June. Then, on a Sunday morning in early fall, there will be a forum on Bethany's history and an opportunity to receive a newly published booklet about the history of the church.

FORUM MAY 7TH

Aging Gracefully, presented by Curt Campbell. All are welcome in Room 228 Sunday, May 7th following worship.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Like to be among the first to know? A refreshing new change is coming to Bethany—and you can be a part of it.

Starting in September, our weekly offering will be recorded and deposited on Mondays rather than after worship on Sundays.

Teams of two will enjoy flexible schedules, setting their own hour to count any time between 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. each Monday. Some members might want to team up with a Bethany buddy and build their time around an hour of counting before or after breakfast or lunch at a favorite coffee shop or diner.

In order to make the job go smoothly for all, training will be offered during the summer. See if a friend would like to join you for this much-needed service to the church. For more information, call Sandra Arrington at 608-833-4567 or email Finance@BethanyMadison.org



Missional Church
Consultation Initiative
a new lifecycle of fruitfulness

These steps to a deepening faith are part of the MCCI process that Bethany is participating in.

What Is a God Moment?

Learning how to become more aware of God in our lives

What is Your Spiritual Style?

Are you a spiritual shepherd?

A systems/task organizer?

A vision crier?

Knowing who we are helps us

relate to each other better.

Pick up a quick quiz at the table in the lobby.

An Invitation to All Members & Friends

How do we serve God with the resources we've been given, as individuals and as a church?

Resource Refocus

Monday, May 22

6:30 pm — 8:00 pm

The entire congregation is invited to attend this event.

Childcare will be available.



Bolivia Sewing Machines

Several months ago Bethany did a fundraiser to acquire sewing machines for a congregation in Bolivia. In these photos we see one of the machines purchased with the funds we helped to raise.



Interfaith Intersections

Please join us on May 18 from 7:00 to 8:30 at Temple Beth El (2702 Arbor Drive, Madison) and on Zoom for this new program sponsored by Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice.

The topic is *Faith As A Moral Compass*. An important aspect of this program is that our panelists are lay people, not clergy or academics. Therefore, panelists will address this topic speaking from their own understanding of their faith but not speaking for their faith. Panelists come from Catholic, Nature/Spiritual, and Baha'i communities.

Please join us for this new program. Because this is a pilot, you will be asked at the end to fill out an evaluation form, give us your feedback, help us shape the program moving forward, and suggest new topics for future sessions.

Goals

- To deepen relationships among people of different faiths
- Hold rich conversations on different topics
- Learn about faiths other than your own.

Format

- A panel of 3-4 lay people who will address a topic they have been given in advance
- Breakout groups to give participants the opportunity to process what they have heard and share their own perspectives
- Report outs from the small groups

Registration information can be found on our website on the Upcoming Events page and in the e-Banner.



BETHANY CARILLONS





BETHANY MEN'S RETREAT





BETHANY RETREAT



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

Easter Egg Hunt

The weather was beautiful, and the voices and laughter of children was delightful! Treasures on the Easter Egg Hunt included chocolate eggs, butterfly magnets, stickers, Goldfish crackers, and Bunny Fruit Snacks. Each child also colored in a letter of a poster which read "Christ is Risen". When everything on the list had been found, each family received a copy of the Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook. This is the resource we use in Sunday School classes, so now families can follow-up and re-read Bible stories at home, or explore new stories together. Please see Ms. Lisa if your family has not yet received your copy of Celebrate Wonder!



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

Vacation Bible Camp 2023

Children in preschool through 5th grade are invited to Vacation Bible Camp (VBC), June 12-15. We will meet from 3:00 - 5:00 pm for Bible stories, singing, snacks, and projects. Three congregations will be participating in VBC this year: Bethany United Methodist Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church, and Madison Mennonite Church. We will gather at Covenant Presbyterian Church, which is located at 326 S Segoe Rd (on the corner of Segoe and Mineral Point). Our VBC theme this year is WATER...so dive in and join the fun! Contact Lisa or [follow this link](#) for online registration details.



A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, April 2	Sunday, April 9	Sunday, April 16	Sunday, April 23
Total 123	Total 225	Total 120	Total 128



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: Fridays at Noon

Banner Deadline for the June Issue: May 22nd