



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 56, No. 6 • June 2023

Celebrating 60 Years of the Casavant Organ

In 1948, the church purchased a used Estey reed pump organ for use in the Larkin Street building. It often needed repair and, as the bellows were worn out, it was occasionally powered by a neighbor's vacuum cleaner! The congregation purchased an electronic Estey organ in 1952 after moving worship into the Fellowship Hall. This electronic organ moved into the sanctuary in 1957, but it did not fit the new space, and it was unreliable.

In 1960, a study committee was formed. After many consultations with organ companies, listening to organs in other churches, and traveling many miles to do so, they decided to purchase a pipe organ. This required fundraising by a still relatively small congregation! By 1963, their new Casavant Freres Organ was delivered from Quebec. Its cost was \$24,822, with 21 ranks, 16 stops, and 1145 pipes. The dedication date was June 2, 1963.

This Casavant organ needed refurbishment in 2010, so it was sent to Quebec for a complete overhaul. Ten weeks later, it was returned and reassembled by members of the company. If this sounds simple, it was not! The organ had to be revoiced and retuned after it acclimated to the space in order to function well. A capital fund-raising drive covered the total cost of around \$111,000. The organ still works quite well, and though some larger pipes will need some work soon, this will be less extensive.

Organists have included Sally Sprecher, Lois Neurenberg, Tannisse Joyce, Lee Gruenewald (below left) and now, Sue Poullette (below right). It is significant throughout the years that the building caretakers have worked with the organists to ensure that each mechanical aspect of the organ functions well, because the temperature and humidity in the building makes such a big difference to the condition of the organ in both the short- and long-term.

As a church family, we have been blessed to have such an awesome instrument as a part of worship. We give thanks for our organists, past and present, for sharing their gift for music in worship. We give thanks for leaders in the church, past and present, for choosing to purchase and maintain this instrument. Thanks be to God for this beautiful instrument!





PASTOR'S COLUMN



As part of our Breakthrough Prayer practice we have been identifying the times we see God breaking through – our word for this is God Sightings, places where we see God working in our lives and in our world. This was my God Sighting yesterday. It's a great story of hope and love amidst sorrow and division.



Seven months ago, six churches in the NW Houston suburb of Cypress voted to disaffiliate. Several members of each church came together to start a new United Methodist community. On May 21 a new church was officially chartered with 275 members as Mosaic United Methodist Church. One church member said, "We were all broken but came together to form a beautiful mosaic that values inspiring inclusion, authentic community, and joyful service. The mosaic "M" pictured represents all who joined today but still plenty of room left for more to come!"



I mentioned the idea of Hopepunk in my sermon yesterday. Hopepunk is love, kindness, and faith in humanity but not as a bright optimistic state of being, but as an active choice, made with an awareness that things might be bleak or even a bit hopeless, but you're going to keep hoping, loving and being kind, nonetheless. Hopepunk – keep fighting for what is right, keep believing in humanity (and God) no matter what. Mosaic Church is an excellent example of Hopepunk and of what is possible with God!

Many people have been asking me about the disaffiliation process and what is happening in our denomination. At this point there are about 40 churches in Wisconsin that have voted to disaffiliate. The decisions will become final after Annual Conference this June where a vote is required. Any changes in the denominational doctrine will be voted on at General Conference which is scheduled for April 2024. This is a heartbreaking time for many people who are faced with very difficult choices. Please pray for the members of these congregations as they seek to discern God's call on their lives. Please pray for our denomination and give thanks for the way that God is continuing to work in the midst of challenges.

Please continue to pray the Breakthrough Prayer and take note of God Sightings. It has been humbling and joyful to hear the many ways each of you experience God. Many of the sightings shared with me are confidential or not mine to share, but I encourage you to keep sharing your God Sightings with one another. I'm so grateful to be in ministry together. God's blessings and love on each of you.

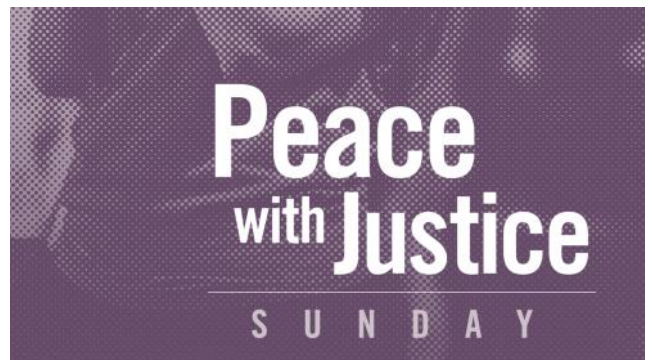
Pastor Julie

Special Sunday Offerings

June 4 is Peace With Justice Sunday, which enables the United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs.

Over the course of each year, Bethany participates in several special offering Sundays sponsored by the broader United Methodist Church. These church-wide Special Sundays collect offerings that enable United Methodists like you to: offer refuge in times of disaster; promote peace and justice; provide scholarships and student loans; reach out to the community; teach skills to encourage self-sufficiency; and share the love of Jesus Christ with God's people.

Special offerings may be placed in the offering plate using a Mission Envelope in the pew (please mark it "Peace with Justice") or you may give online (click on We Serve and, from the drop down menu, select Giving Financially).



Simple Gifts for June — “Porchlight”

During the month of June, Simple Gift collections are going to support Porchlight, which strives to reduce homelessness in Dane County.

Porchlight collaborates with the community to provide shelter, affordable housing, and support services that eliminate barriers and empower the individuals and families it serves.

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

Porchlight offers a range of services:

- ◆ **Housing:** Porchlight is the largest non-profit provider of affordable housing in Madison, with 350 units across 26 sites, ranging from single room occupancy (SRO) units to family units with 1-4 bedrooms.
- ◆ **Men’s Emergency Shelter:** This shelter provides emergency overnight shelter to male-identified individuals over the age of 18. Guests receive two meals per day, personal hygiene supplies, access to showers and bathrooms, and case management services. Shelter hours are 5 p.m. to 8 a.m.
- ◆ **DIGS Prevention Program:** Porchlight’s Dwelling Intervention Grants & Sustenance program (DIGS) provides housing-related emergency assistance to individuals and families in Dane County who are facing eviction and therefore at risk of becoming homeless. Additionally, DIGS offers financial support to those who have secured affordable housing but need assistance with the first month’s rent and security deposit.
- ◆ **Veterans:** The Veterans Transitional Housing Program (VTHP) is a grant and per diem collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Located on Spring Street, VTHP is a 24-bed, single-room occupancy, transitional program for male-identified individuals who are military Veterans and are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.
- ◆ **Safe Haven:** Since the onset of the pandemic in the winter of 2020, the area has seen a drastic increase in the number of people seeking mental health services at Safe Haven. Programming dollars from Dane County, Crisis Stabilization, and rent are not enough to close the budget gap. Porchlight is looking to raise funds so that it can meet this increase and not have to turn anyone away from these basic services.

Porchlight staff, in conjunction with several other community agencies, as well as Public Health Madison & Dane County, have been working hard on both proactive measures and crisis response plans since the onset of COVID-19 has caused increased pressures in the homeless population.

To learn more about Porchlight, visit: <https://porchlightinc.org/>

Simple Gifts can be made by placing loose coins in the offering plates, or by putting cash or a check in mission envelopes. One can also mail in your offering — or can give online at BethanyMadison.org (click on We Serve and, from the drop-down menu, select Giving Financially).

Up next: Simple Gifts in July will go to support JustDane.



Porchlight Safe Haven



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

There will not be a Susanna Circle meeting during the summer. Our next meeting will be September 6th at the home of Ann Sowaske.

LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

The 2023-2024 meeting year for Lydia Fellowship will begin on September 11, 2022. Look for more information about this meeting in the August Banner.

AGAPE

The Agape meeting for June will be our annual dine out evening. We will meet at Nonno's Ristorante Italiano on Wed. June 14th at 5 pm for an evening of good food and conversation. Please RSVP (Ann at anniehill50@gmail.com) before Friday, June 9th so reservations can be made. All women of Bethany are invited. If you have always wanted to see what Agape is all about, this is a fun night to attend.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

All men and women at Bethany are invited to join us at 11:30 am on June 21 at Benvenutos in Fitchburg. We each order from the menu and share a pleasant time of dining on good food and engaging in conversations with our fellow church members. This is a good opportunity to get to know each other better and perhaps meet someone new to you. Joyce Benjamin is the hostess for June. If you would like to attend, please call Joyce with your reservation by June 19 at 608-271-6834. All our welcome. Hope to see you there.

WHAT IS TERRACYCLE?

Overconsumption and a throwaway culture have led to a global waste crisis. While even complex trash is technically recyclable, most materials are not profitable to recycle. As a result, waste piles up in landfills and pollutes our planet while virgin materials are extracted from the earth to create new products.

TerraCycle works with people like you to keep trash out of landfills or from incineration. Through collaboration and innovation, TerraCycle developed the world's first solutions in everything from recycling to reuse.

[Click on this link](#) to find out much more and the types of things you can bring to Bethany to recycle including: old toothbrushes, razor blade handles, empty toothpaste tubes, floss containers, old markers, pens & pencils, and much more.

ONLINE GIVING

How would you like to make life easier for yourself and help Bethany, all at the same time? It IS possible—and here's how.

1. As we welcome summer, we also welcome time off from our structured lives. We can shorten our "to-do" lists by making our financial gifts to the church with an **automatic recurring transaction from our checking accounts**. That one simple act frees our regimented minds so we can tend our gardens, take a bike ride, or decide on which flavor of ice cream to order.
2. Our church also benefits financially if we designate this recurring gift to be transferred from your bank account to Bethany on the 5th or the 20th of each month. Amazing! When several of us make this same transaction on the same day, the church is charged for just one deposit rather than several.
3. [Click this link](#) for detailed information about making online contributions.

If you have questions about this opportunity, contact Sandra Arrington (email: Finance@BethanyMadison.org or call 608-833-4567). Know you are helping Bethany as you enjoy a bit of extra leisure yourself!

UWF SALAD LUNCHEON A SUCCESS

On May 6, 2023 at 12:30pm, 71 people enjoyed a delicious salad luncheon put on by United Women of Faith to raise money on behalf of missions. The total raised by this event was \$1657.00, which included tickets purchased and donations.

Thank you to the Salad Luncheon Committee, led by Eileen Rech, who planned the luncheon. And many thanks to those who donated salads, cakes, flowers and their valuable time in order to make a fun and enjoyable gathering!



And having the Madison Flute Choir concert following the luncheon was a perfect ending

Thanks for all the support, Bethany!



BETHANY ACTIVITIES



WI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church 2023 is scheduled for June 9 - 12, 2023 at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay. Along with Pastor Julie, Carol Clingan and Marge Lyford will be attending as Bethany's Lay Representatives. The Conference Vision is Radical Inclusion and Racial Justice. And the theme is "On Earth as it is in Heaven" – Engaging in Transformative Community Building. Please keep Pastor Julie, Carol, Marge and all the attendees in your prayers.

2023 WI ANNUAL CONFERENCE INGATHERING

The conference Mission Motivation Committee is working with Midwest Mission Distribution Center to collect items for Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits. Midwest Mission distributes these items locally, nationally and internationally to those in need during times of crisis. All supplies are given free of charge regardless of gender, race or religion. [Click here](#) for a list of items in urgent need including shampoo, 100-150oz empty laundry detergent containers, sewing machines (electric or peddle), blankets, non-electric tools (specifically shovels, brooms, rakes), medical equipment (folding walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, canes, slings).



Bring items to Bethany no later than Sunday, June 4th to be taken to Green Bay.

CIVILIAN RESPONSE TO ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENTS (CRASE) TRAINING TO BE HELD AT BETHANY

Police respond as fast as they can to an active shooters incident. But numbers tell the story:

- ⇒ Median police response time to an active shooter incident: 3 minutes
- ⇒ Percentage of active shooter calls that are over before police even arrive: 66%
- ⇒ Majority of active shooters strike between 8am-4pm
- ⇒ 61 active shooter incidents took place in the US in 2021, a 52.5% increase from 2020

YOU can make the difference in your safety and the safety of others in that first three (3) minutes. Learn the principles of what to do if an active shooter incident happens and increase your chance of survival by knowing:

- Avoid
- Deny
- Defend

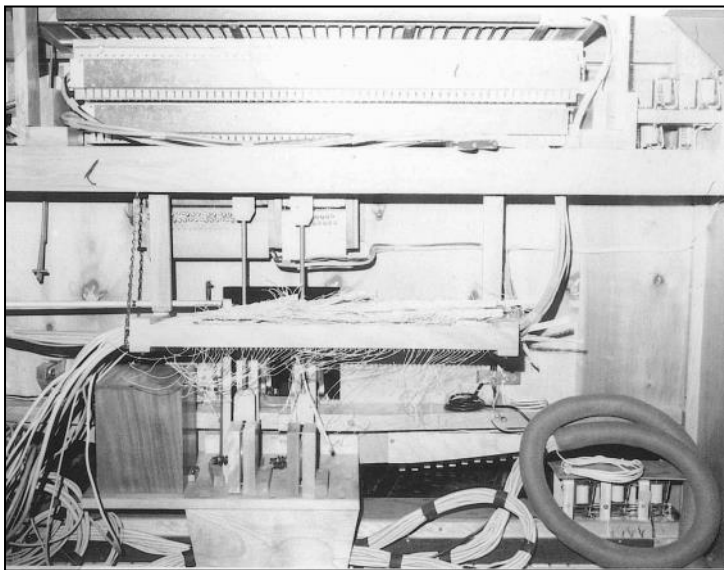
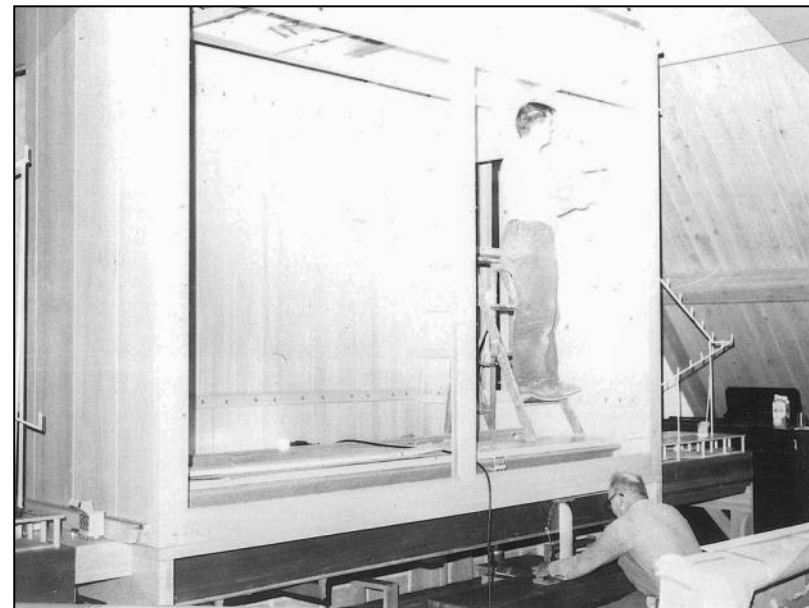
Also referred to as "Run, Hide, Fight."

CRASE training will be given at Bethany on **Thursday, June 22 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm**. All staff, team leaders, Worship Service Hosts, and anyone else interested should attend this important training by the Madison Police Dept.

Please let the Church Office know if you plan to attend.

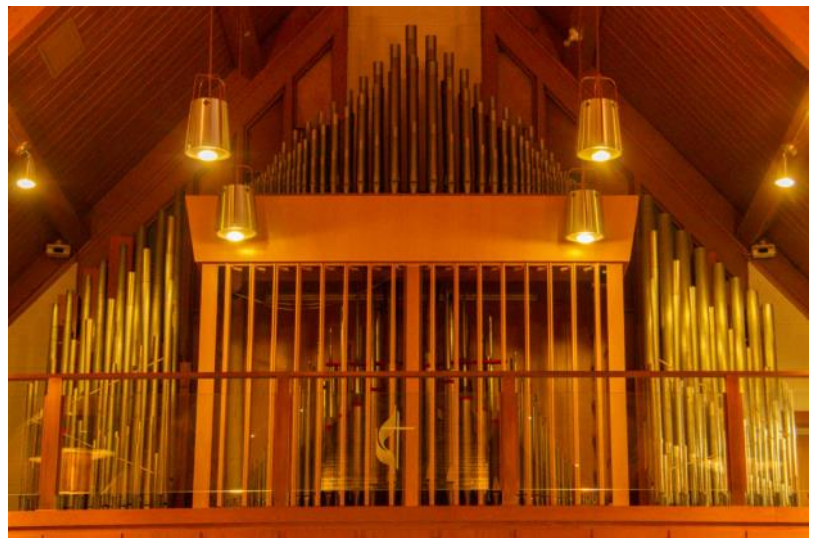


BETHANY'S ORGAN HISTORY





BETHANY'S ORGAN HISTORY





UWF SALAD LUNCH





VACATION BIBLE CAMP



We are looking forward to seeing you at Vacation Bible Camp (VBC), June 12 -15! Camp takes place from 3:00 - 5:00 pm each day, and on Thursday family members are invited to stay for a Taco Bar supper from 5:00 - 6:00 pm. VBC is located at Covenant Presbyterian Church this year. Directors are Lisa Weaver (Bethany) and Kathy Mohs (Covenant). Our Bible stories all involve water:

- ✓ Noah's Ark
- ✓ Moses and Miriam
- ✓ Jesus Calms the Storm
- ✓ The Woman at the Well

Our Sunday morning worship on June 25 (10:00 am) will include stories, songs, and photos from VBC.

VBC Pastors of participating congregations

- ✓ Julie Wilson, Bethany United Methodist Church
- ✓ Charlie Berthoud, Covenant Presbyterian Church
- ✓ Valerie Showalter, Madison Mennonite Church

Volunteer and Staff Orientation to VBC








Tuesday, June 6

4:00 - 5:00 pm at Covenant Church (326 S Segoe Road)

All volunteers and staff members are invited for meet-and-greet, a review of the VBC schedule, and a tour of Covenant Church. RSVPs to Ms. Lisa are welcome.

School Supply Drive @ VBC

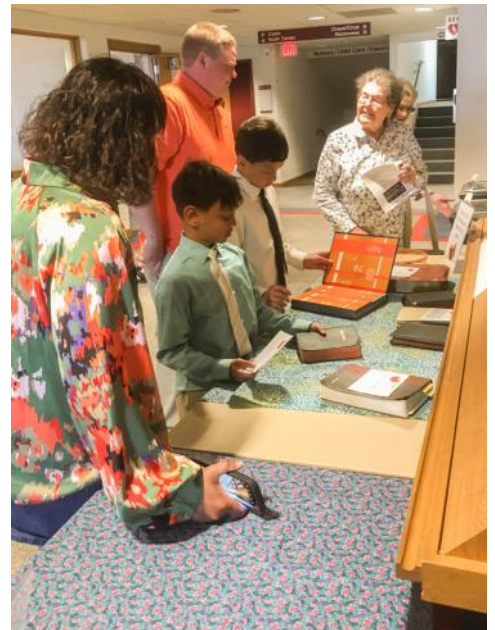
All participants at VBC are invited to bring new school supplies to VBC which will be donated to Glenn Stephens Elementary (a nearby Madison public school). In fact, any congregation member can bring supplies to Bethany the week ahead, and Ms. Lisa will take items over on June 12. Requested items include:

-  Pencils (sharpened, if possible)
-  Crayons
-  Pencil boxes
-  Crayola washable markers ("Classic" colors)
-  Glue Sticks
-  Scissors (Fiskars brand)
-  Backpacks big enough for a folder to fit in

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

2nd Grade Bible Presentation

We were delighted to celebrate with Bethany 2nd graders as they received their Bibles on Sunday, May 7. Many blessings to Patrick, Theo, and Evelyn! Congregation members were also invited to bring in Bibles from home that were special to them in some way - perhaps a childhood Bible, or a Bible given at a milestone event. For example, Ms. Lisa shared during the Children's Message that her favorite Bible is a tiny, orange New Testament text that her Grandpa gave her when she was 4 years old. Pastor Julie brought in a Bible that was on the coffee table of her house while she was growing up. If anyone in church is in need of a Bible, please let the office know and you will be gifted with one!



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

Children's Chimes

Bethany children led the Call to Worship on Sunday, April 30.

Praise God with clear, rising notes
 Praise God with gently falling tones
 Praise God with multiple, ringing voices
 Praise God with full, round harmony
 Praise God with our hearts and lives

As Pastor Julie read each line of the text, the children chimed in various ways: ascending notes, descending tones, and two chord groups. Nick Bonaccio, Kristie Halverson, and Ms. Lisa were delighted to work with these young musicians!



A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, April 30
 Total 151

Sunday, May 7
 Total 139

Sunday, May 14
 Total 129

Sunday, May 21
 Total 129



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 YouTube)	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
Custodian	Ron Reholz

E-Banner Deadline: Fridays at Noon

Banner Deadline for the July Issue: June 19th