



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 56, No. 7 • July 2023

Vacation Bible Camp

We had a wonderful week at VBC! Forty children and a robust number of adult staff and volunteers gathered at Covenant Church for:

Bible Stories

Noah's Ark
Baby Moses and Miriam
Jesus Calms the Storm
Woman at the Well

Songs

Bubbling
Peace Like a River
Wade in the Water
Deep and Wide

Projects

Watercolors
Clay animals
Mug painting
Mural art

In addition, we all enjoyed outdoor games (bubbles, bean bag toss, the parachute), a Scavenger Hunt, and Music-and-Movement.

Thank you to Pastor Julie (Bethany), Pastor Charlie (Covenant), and Pastor Valerie (Madison Mennonite) for supporting the effort! Directors of VBC 2023 were Lisa Weaver (Bethany) and Kathy Mohs (Covenant).





PASTOR'S COLUMN



July 1 marks the anniversary of my first year at Bethany. What a joy and blessing this year has been. It has also seen some heartbreak and plenty of challenges. Moving is hard. Learning so many new things is difficult. Even simple things can be overwhelming when there are so many at once. Yet, the rewards far outweigh the challenges and I feel so blessed to be your pastor.



At a recent retirement celebration a friend commented that being in ministry is a privilege and an honor. I wholeheartedly agree. It is a privilege to get to know each of you and share in your lives. It is an honor to share God's love and vision together. It is a joy to worship God together and a joy to share in meals and laughter and friendship.

Thank you for welcoming Ted and me. Thank you for the wonderful ministry we are doing together. Thank you for your patience and kindness this year. Thank you for your faithful service and witness. I can't wait to see what God has in store for our ministry together. Happy Anniversary!

Pastor Julie

New Member Class

The vision of Bethany UMC is that every person knows, feels and shares God's love. We do this through worship, fellowship and service. God's love is available to all and needed by all. Would you like to learn more about officially joining Bethany UMC and joining in fulfilling this mission? Pastor Julie is offering a two-part membership information class on July 9 and 16 from 8:30 to 9:30 am and everyone is welcome. Come and learn how you can be part of the Bethany family. For more information or if you have questions contact Pastor Julie.



Simple Gifts for July — “Just Dane”



JUST DANE

Changing Lives. Changing the Community.

During the month of July, Simple Gift offerings are going to support our partners at JustDane, a non-profit agency that offers an array of direct service programs for individuals and families involved in the criminal justice system.

Life's circumstance or missteps can lead to incarceration or other life challenges that can be difficult to overcome. The philosophy of JustDane is that it's better for everyone when we can ensure a person has the chance to put the pieces of their lives back together — creating a society where everyone has an opportunity to succeed.

JustDane, which formerly was known as Madison Area Urban Ministries, is designed to inspire hope and create real change. The organization accomplishes this through field-tested initiatives that have transformed lives for over 15 years. According to the organization's website (JustDane.org):

- ◇ Journey Home is a program that works to reduce recidivism (return to prison). This work focuses on the areas of residency, employment, support and treatment — as well as transportation and education. The program's two-year recidivism rate ranges from 9 to 15 percent — compared to the state average of 67 percent.
- ◇ The organization's Just Bakery is a 12-week educational and vocational training program. The program works with individuals who are experiencing significant barriers to employment (homelessness, criminal conviction history, lack of education, and/or a lack of work history or skills). After taking the program, students are job ready to pursue their careers.

In addition, all proceeds from Just Bakery sales are reinvested into the program and have allowed the program to hire its graduates to work in the program both on the instructional and production side.

- ◇ The program's Healing House is a recuperative care shelter for families experiencing homelessness. It offers a safe, nurturing place for these families to heal when an immediate family member needs care prior to or following a medical procedure or hospitalization.
- ◇ JustDane also provides a range of workshops that provide eye-opening experiences.

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 will make a difference in real and relevant ways.

Up next: Simple Gifts for August will go to support Road Home Dane County



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.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Everyone at Bethany is invited to join us at 11:30 am on Wednesday, July 19 at Vintage Brewing Co. at 674 S. Whitney Way in Madison. 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. Betsy and Eileen Dunne are the hostesses for July. If you would like to attend, please call Eileen with your reservation by July 17 at 608-831-0174 or by email at eileen5491@gmail.com.

UWF READING PROGRAM

If you are reading for the United Women in Faith Reading Program, leave your report in the UWF mailbox by Sunday, September 3, or send an email to vmayfield@charter.net. Ask Vada if you need a report form or have any questions.

NEW NAME TAGS COMING

You may have seen some people wearing new name tags. The Welcoming Team will be providing these new name tags to everyone in the coming weeks.

INTERFAITH PRIDE SERVICE

Mark your calendars for Monday, August 21st for this year's Interfaith Pride Service to be held at Bethany. Several congregations from a variety of faith traditions will participate.

REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will not meet during the summer months. Watch the Banner and e-Banner for information about the book for September. Thank you to all who have participated this past year.

TASTE OF MADISON ~ SEPTEMBER 2ND

United Women of Faith is volunteering to serve in a beverage booth at Taste of Madison on September 2. All money raised will go to DAIS (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services). We could use a few more volunteers for shifts of 1:30-5:00pm or 5:00-8:30pm. Please contact Linda Huttenburg at jlhutten@charter.net if you would like to volunteer. Thanks!

Thank you letter from WI Faith Voices for Justice

June 8, 2023

Reverend Julie Wilson
3910 Mineral Point Rd
Madison, WI 53705-5124

Dear Julie,

What a wonderful thing you have done!

The most heroic of acts come directly from the heart and yours is



boundless. Thank you for your generous and compassionate gift of \$343.43 on 5/31/23 to WI Faith Voice for Justice.

It's a challenging time to be an interfaith education and advocacy organization trying

to create a more just and equitable society. Your gift is a bright spot and the encouragement we need to keep fighting to advance the common good.

Your investment will advocate for worker's rights, immigrant rights and racial justice. You are mobilizing faith communities around voter engagement. And you are allowing us to advocate for policies that promote equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Thank you for your grace, generosity and good will. Your gift is the fuel that keeps us addressing the needs of the hungry, poor, and marginalized. We could not accomplish this work without you.

Rabbi Bonnie Margulis
Executive Director



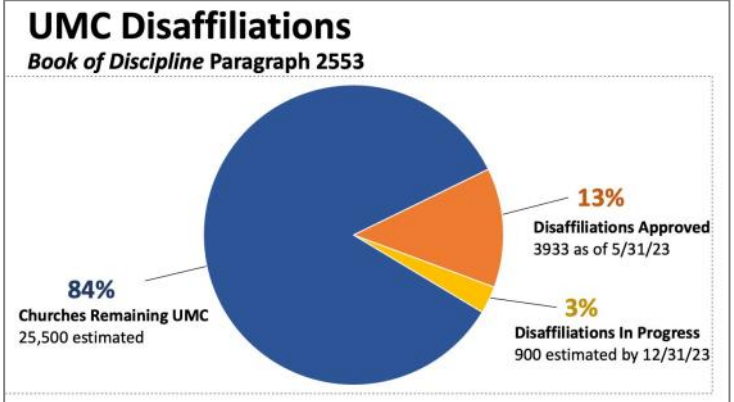
ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Report by Marge Lyford

The Wisconsin Annual Conference (The United Methodist Church's Annual Meeting) was held in Green Bay on June 9- 12, 2023. There were 448 churches represented. Marge Lyford, Carol Clingan, and Rev. Julie Wilson attended for Bethany.

The biggest order of business was discussion and vote regarding churches that wished to disaffiliate. The discussion and vote were not contentious. Bishop Jung led us in prayer before we voted and emphasized peace. The vote was held on Friday evening and the result was the disaffiliation of 43 churches. Many of these churches were quite small with less than 25 members. Bishop Jung emphasized the strength of the United Methodist connection. The adjacent graph shows the number of churches in the United States who have chosen to remain in the UMC.



Dr. Javier A. Viera, President of Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary led a thought-provoking Bible study Saturday and Sunday morning. The topic was the story of Jacob and Esau and how it relates to racial justice and radical inclusion. He urged that we acknowledge the damage that has been done and take responsibility regarding racism and our willingness to change. He emphasized that we need to work for racial justice.

Global ministries presentation shared that the conference had donated 6 motorcycles, 10 sewing machines, and worked on an elderly housing project for Bolivia. In addition relief funds were sent to aid the people in Ukraine, and a Korean Methodist resettlement church in the Milwaukee area. They also celebrated that in 2022 the largest conference offering to Midwest Mission was from Wisconsin.



We welcomed visitors from our sister Conference in Korea and heard about the Korea Peace Appeal. A group of Korean clergy presented a request for worldwide prayer for peace for Korea, following 70 years of war. People in attendance were asked to sign a petition for the Korea Peace Appeal.

The focus this year was on radical inclusion and creating a beloved community. The Connectional Table presented a skit to help us recognize our racism and explore how we can better relate to people of other cultures.

We also voted on the closure of five churches including Madison Wellspring and Madison Bashford. As part of the budget processes, we learned that Bishop Jung will be retiring in 2024 and Wisconsin will likely be merging with Northern Illinois and share one Bishop. We will also be going from 5 districts to 4 districts so there will be some realignment of districts and district superintendents.

There were also many meaningful worship services including a memorial service, retirement recognition and the ordination worship service. At the ordination service two Elders were commissioned as Provisional Elders and one Deacon and two Elders were ordained. Bishop Jung presided over the conference with a positive and hopeful outlook for the United Methodist Church.





VACATION BIBLE CAMP





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Children's News

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

Flowers

The children's Sunday School class, middle school helpers, adult volunteers, and childcare staff members filled the Bethany flower pots with joyful color on June 4. Take a moment to admire the blooms at the main door, or step out onto the patio facing Mineral Point Road (by the Children's Check-in Station) for additional arrangements. We also enjoyed rock painting under the oak trees!



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Welcome

Families with young children -- have you noticed these spots close to the parking lot doors?



Thank you

Thank you to the folks who arrive early on Sunday morning to make coffee and set out light refreshments for 9:15 am Fellowship. Remember that kind words go a long way, so take a moment to say thanks to those who are giving of their time and energy in this way.



A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, May 28
Total 112

Sunday, June 4
Total 138

Sunday, June 11
Total 119

Sunday, June 18
Total 99



Bethany
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: BethanyOffice@BethanyMadison.org

Website: bethanymadison.org

Sunday Morning Schedule

Faithlink Adult Discussion Class 8:45 am

Coffee Fellowship 9:15 am

Worship (in person and on 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 Auguts Issue: July 17