



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 56, No. 8 • August 2023

Fun, Faith, and Fellowship at Pine Lake Camp!

You are warmly invited to an all-church gathering at Pine Lake Camp, Sept 2 and 3 (Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend).

FUN includes: Free-choice activities such as boating, swimming, napping, hiking, art projects, and roasting marshmallows.

FAITH includes: Singing around the campfire, lakeside worship on Sunday morning, time in nature to connect with our Creator God.

FELLOWSHIP includes: Relaxed conversations with new friends and long-time members over meals in the dining room, games, and beach time.

Pine Lake United Methodist Camp is located just outside of Westfield, WI. The camp features a beautiful clean lake surrounded by woods and beautiful hiking trails. Our time at camp starts with lunch on Saturday, and concludes with lunch on Sunday. Lodging consists of private rooms (for individuals or family units) with separate bathrooms. Sunday morning will feature a lakeside worship!

[Register online](#) on our website under Upcoming Events, as we need to give the Pine Lake Camp office an advance count for rooms and meals.





PASTOR'S COLUMN



I love summer! Anyone who knows me well knows that summer is my favorite time of year. I rarely complain that it's too hot and if you go out to eat with me when the sun is shining, we are going to sit outside! I love walking and running when the weather is warm. I enjoy camping, hiking, kayaking, and boating, so summer is my season.



The other thing I like about summer is vacation. Many of us take some sort of vacation or time away during the summer. Many of our church staff are taking some much-needed time of rest and so am I. Rest is good. Rest is needed. And rest is Biblical.

Genesis 2:3 "God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work of creation."

Psalms 23: 2-3 "He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul."

Hebrews 4: 1 "Therefore, since the promise that we can enter into rest is still open, let's be careful so that none of you will appear to miss it."

Luke 5: 16 "But Jesus would withdraw to deserted places for prayer."

Rest is good for our minds, and bodies and for our spirits. I am a better pastor, wife, mother, friend, and a better Christian when I take time for rest and renewal. Each of us needs rest. We shouldn't wait until we are at the point of exhaustion, that is not what God desires. God wants us to rest. God wants us to be whole and well. May you find some space to rest this summer. May you allow others their rest. And may God fill each of us with renewed energy and love for our ministry together.



Happy resting,
Pastor Julie

Welcome Our New Members

On Sunday, July 30th, we welcomed sixteen new members to the Bethany family.



From left to right: Vivian and Ken Niemeyer, Marsha and Joe Biddick, Merle and Marge Bengston, Anna Wilson, Ted Wilson, Josie Drake and Kirk Fox and Adeline Fox, Sarah Stevens, Melody Miller, Carol and John Brewer, Linda Snell. Not pictured: Sean Carter

Simple Gifts for August — “The Road Home”

Simple Gift offerings that are made in August are backing The Road Home Dane County, which is committed to ending the issue of family homelessness in our community.



The Road Home relies on the help and support of individuals, congregations and businesses throughout Dane County to achieve this goal. The Road Home believes that for the greater good of our city and for humankind, we can and should join together to make a difference — because every child deserves a home.

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).

While it might sometimes be hidden from sight, homelessness exists our community. For example, during the 2020-21 academic year, there were more than 700 homeless youth attending the Madison Metropolitan School District.

The Road Home develops long-term relationships with homeless families with children — important work that changes lives. The organization works with families, not only to relieve the immediate crisis of homelessness, but also to build skills, resources and relationships that set the stage for long-term success.

In 2022, The Road Home:

- Spent more than 12,000 hours serving families through holistic, wraparound case management services.
- Served 284 families, including 619 children in all of its programs.
- Supported 14 housing programs to help make affordable housing and support available to families that could not otherwise access housing. And 95 percent of the families supported remained stably housed.

There's no limit to what your help can do for vulnerable families. Your support can have immediate impact by helping families cover rent or buy groceries, and can also be used where needed for ongoing support services.

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

To learn more about The Road Home, visit: <http://trhome.org/>

Another opportunity to learn more will come on Thursday, Nov. 9, when The Road Home Dane County hosts its 19th annual Homes For Families Fundraising Breakfast.

This event shares highlights from leadership, staff, community partners and donors as well as a family's journey to stable housing. Consider attending this event to learn more about the innovative housing programs and services offered.

Up next: Simple Gifts for September will go to support Harvest of Hope



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.

NEW NAME TAGS

Some have inquired about the warning statement on the magnets of our new nametags, It says "Caution-Magnetic device. Do not use with pacemaker." Apparently there is a slight risk of interference when some pacemakers are near magnets. According to research, the shielding weakens the magnet and it is safe 30mm or more from the pacemaker so wearing on the right side would be safe. For anyone who is concerned, we recommend talking with your doctor. We are happy to provide a clip-on nametag to anyone who requests one. Just call the church office.

UWF READING PROGRAM

There's only one more month to complete this year's reading program. Send your report to vmayfield@charter.net or put it in the UWF mailbox by Sunday, September 3. If you haven't read all five books, save the list of ones you have read for next year. Any questions, call Vada, 608-321-2307.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is invited to join us at 11:30 am on August 16 at Cafe Hollander in the Hilldale Shopping Center 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. Donna Wold is the hostess for August. If you would like to attend, please call Donna with your reservation by July 17 at 608-274-3483 or by email at [donnawold@Gmail.com](mailto:donnawold@gmail.com).

All our welcome. We hope you will join us.

STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE

The landscape of ministry and stewardship has changed drastically in the past few years. Would you like to be part of helping Bethany reimagine how God might direct our financial stewardship? Please consider attending the Stewardship Conference, as we consider what it looks like for churches' stewardship ministries to meet the challenges and opportunities in today's world. This year's theme is Stewardship from the Ground Up and will feature workshops on vital stewardship techniques and essential stewardship practices that have been and continue to be important for local congregations and other ministries. Pre-Conference is Friday afternoon, August 11 and the Conference is Saturday, August 12 at Pine Lake Camp. Contact Pastor Julie with questions or you can register online at WIUMCAMPS.org.



FLASH! CHOIR

Do you enjoy singing? Why not join the Flash! Choir?

The next FLASH! Choir event will occur on August 27th at 9:00 am in the sanctuary. We will rehearse our song, which will be a round, and then present it on the same day in worship.

FLASH! Choirs are an opportunity for singers of all ages to put a song together on the same Sunday that they occur in worship. Come and sing!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



REMEMBERING FLORENCE CHENOWETH

Florence died recently in her native country of Liberia at the age of 78 years. At Bethany we remember Florence as being a friendly and interesting woman who was active on the Outreach Team.

However, internationally she will be remembered as an agriculturist who became Africa’s first female Minister of Agriculture and worked to promote world food security through her positions with the World Bank and the United Nations.

Florence became interested in agriculture at an early age and after graduating from the University of Liberia, she came to the U.S. to study earning a Masters degree in agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1970. After returning to Liberia, Florence worked at various agricultural jobs until 1977, when she was appointed the Minister of Agriculture by the President of Liberia.

The appointment of Florence to leadership in the government was a historic milestone, not just for Liberia, but for the entire continent because it opened doors for women to hold influential positions in male-dominated fields.

However her job was cut short in 1980 when the Liberian government became unstable and its President was assassinated. Warned that her life was in danger, Florence escaped, walking with others to safety in the neighboring country of Sierra Leone. When she was able to travel, she returned to Madison where she went back to school and obtained a PhD in land resources from the University of Wisconsin in 1986.

For more than 20 years Florence worked for the World Bank in Zambia and Washington D.C. and served as the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) liaison to the United Nations. Her job required a great deal of travel and interaction with high level politicians.

Ellen Sirleaf was elected as the President of Liberia on 2008 and asked Dr. Florence Chenoweth to once again serve as the Minister of Agriculture. She assented and during her second term was able to improve food security and sustainable agricultural practices in Liberia and increase crop production for the country. During that time Florence was also an advocate for women’s empowerment in agriculture. She retired from her position in 2015 and returned to Madison, Wisconsin.

Throughout her career Florence had intermittently spent time in Madison and had purchased a house on Segoe Road. At those times, she and her son, DeVon would attend worship at Bethany. Florence became a member of Bethany in 1994. On Peace Sunday in January of 2020 she was honored by the church, along with Cecile Tuong, for her extraordinary accomplishments in improving agricultural practices in the world as well as empowering women in the pursuit of food security.



INTERFAITH PRIDE SERVICE



This year’s Interfaith Pride Service will be held at Bethany. Several congregations from a variety of faith traditions will participate. Come celebrate and support the LGBTQIA+ community on August 21st. Resource tabling will begin at 5 pm with the service starting at 6:30 pm. Food will also be available.

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

Sunday School

Multi-age, summer Sunday School takes place both inside and outside, depending on weather and activity plans. Bible passages have included Psalm 23, and the stories of Noah's Ark and Jonah. Check in with Ms. Lisa if you would like to be an occasional adult volunteer helper with the Children's Ministry program!



For Youth Ministry information, contact Kathy Mohs, Director of Youth Ministries
 Phone: (608) 238-6381 / Email: Youth@BethanyMadison.org

New Youth Director

We are pleased to announce that Kathy Mohs has accepted our invitation to be Bethany's new Director of Youth Ministries and will start her work with us on August 1. Our interview team enjoyed meeting Kathy and she is really looking forward to working with our youth and staff. Kathy has been a voice and piano teacher for the past 18 years at Stoughton Center for the Arts and most recently at Monroe Street Arts Center. Several of Kathy's students included Middle and High School youth who she helped prepare for Solo and Ensemble and college auditions. Kathy has also been a church musician and most recently served as Interim Children's and Youth Ministries Coordinator for Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Kathy lives in Madison with her husband, Omar and their son Micah who will be a third grader at Anana Elementary School on Madison's west side. She enjoys spending time hiking, jet skiing and other outdoor activities with her family. She is also a proud soccer and karate mom. Kathy is looking forward to getting to know our youth and their families.



On Sunday, August 20 plan to come early or stay after worship to meet and welcome our new Director of Youth Ministries Kathy Mohs. From 9:30 to 10am and immediately following worship Kathy will be in the lobby and is excited to get to know our church family. Youth and their families are especially encouraged to come and meet Kathy. She is looking forward to meeting our youth and learning about your interests, passions and hopes for the future.

A LOOK AT OUR FAITHFULNESS

Sunday, June 25	Sunday, July 2	Sunday, July 9	Sunday, July 16	Sunday, July 23
Total 101	Total..... 122	Total.....117	Total..... 117	Total 120



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
Youth Director	Kathy Mohs
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 September Issue: August 11