







The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 56, No. 9 • September 2023

Coming this Fall – Wrestling with Faith Questions

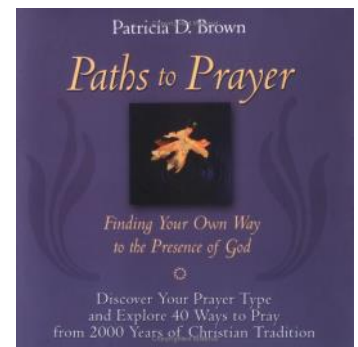
This Bible Study group will:

-  Meet Tuesday evenings from 7:30 pm—8:30 pm [via Zoom](#) (link is also on our website under Upcoming Events).
-  You can participate in one or all sessions
-  Book purchase is optional
-  Preregistration is welcome via email to the [Bethany Office](#)

Paths to Prayer, Finding Your Own Way to the Presence of God By Patricia D. Brown
September 12, 19, 26, 3

- How do I pray?
- What if my mind wanders when I'm praying?
- How do I know if my prayer is answered?

Often, we struggle to find the perfect way to pray or the perfect prayer. Pastor Julie will be leading a study on prayer using the book *Paths to Prayer* by Patricia D. Brown as a guide. During our time together we will explore how prayer and our personalities can mesh. We will explore several types of prayer. Some you may be very familiar with, and others you may never have heard of or even considered "prayer." We will explore different types of prayer and learn that we don't all speak to God or listen for God in the same way. [Contact Pastor Julie](#) with any questions.



What is the Bible and How Do We Understand It? By Dennis R. Edwards
October 10, 17, 24

- "But did that really happen?"
- "What do you mean?"
- "Does that happen today?"

Sometimes children and youth ask the most direct questions, inviting us to stop and consider a well-known Bible story from a fresh perspective. Sunday School teachers, parents, grandparents, and anyone who enjoys reading scripture will appreciate this concise, conversational-style book by Dennis Edwards that "shines light on contemporary debates about the Bible and calls us to faithful, loving interpretations and applications of the Word of God." We will cover two short chapters of the book each evening. Lisa Weaver (Director of Children's Ministries) will offer a brief introduction of the material, and then invite group input via conversation starters and questions to consider. We will conclude each evening by reading a Bible story together, and considering the content in light of our earlier discussion. Contact [Lisa Weaver](#) with any questions.





PASTOR'S COLUMN



“Keep alert; stand firm in your faith; be courageous; be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”

1 Corinthians 16: 13-14



Last night as I was out walking my dog I passed a family with a toddler out for a walk as well. As I passed by, I said hi and following behind me I heard a little voice repeat “hi, hi, hi, hi.” Smiling, I turned around, waved, and said bye. Then I heard “bye-bye, bye-bye, bye-bye.” It was the most adorable, sweet sound and it brought me so much joy. That interaction has made me think about joy today. How simple it is to spread joy and the invitation to be open to experience and acknowledge when we feel joy.

I know for many people life is hard. Starting back into the routines of fall is stressful. Back to school, back to sports practices and other activities. Scheduled activities that took a summer break are back in session and it can feel overwhelming. So, I’m pondering how I can bring joy and hope into my corner of the world. Not just on Sunday morning, which is a blessing and responsibility I take very seriously. But I also realize that just like each of you my words and actions every moment of every day are powerful.

I was recently interacting with a support person from my cell phone provider. At the end of our conversation, they thanked me for being kind and patient and said not everyone does that. I could sense the pain in their words. Such a simple thing, being patient, being kind, saying hi or waving goodbye can make an incredible difference in someone’s life.

The above scripture passage from 1 Corinthians is foundational for me. Perhaps it will bring you strength as you venture into the next season of business. And finally, I offer the blessing below that is a portion of a blessing prayer by John O’Donohue, from his book *To Bless the Space Between Us*. The words beautifully reflect the simple joy of life and provide encouragement to live in joy, and love and to practice kindness.

My prayers and love are with you,
Pastor Julie

“Matins” (Morning Prayer)

I arise today

Blessed by all things,
Wings of breath,
Delight of eyes,
Wonder of whisper,
Intimacy of touch,
Eternity of soul,
Urgency of thought,
Miracle of health,
Embrace of God.

May I live this day

Compassionate of heart,
Clear of word,
Gracious in awareness,
Courageous in thought,
Generous in love.



Sunrise on Green Lake

Simple Gifts for September — “Reconciling Ministries Network”

Simple Gifts collected during the month of September will go to support the Reconciling Ministries Network, an organization seeking the inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in both the policy and practices of the United Methodist Church. As an expression of Christ’s inclusive love, the Bethany congregation voted on Nov. 20, 2002 to become a Reconciling Congregation. On Oct. 26, 2011 the statement was revised to be more inclusive.

Reconciling Ministries Network is committed to intersectional justice across and beyond the United Methodist connection, working for the full participation of all LGBTQ+ people throughout the life and leadership of the Church.

RMN works to advance justice and inclusion for all LGBTQ+ people in The United Methodist Church and beyond.

Since 1984, RMN has worked to transform hearts, churches, and communities. They do that through grassroots organizing, resourcing and educating, denomination-level change-making, pastoral care, and working with United Methodists: faithful people hopeful for a reconciled Church.

RMN began as a faith-based response to institutionalized homophobia braided into the fabric of The United Methodist Church. Now, over 30 years later, the Reconciling movement spans four continents, 1,000+ churches, and 40,000+ individuals. And they are still growing. Love is still growing.

RMN’s ministry partners include Extension Ministries, which are groups dedicated to specific ongoing ministry. Most Extension Ministries are identity-based. Another of RMN’s ministry partners is Strong Family Alliance.

Simple gifts contributions can be made by putting loose coins in the offering plates or checks or currency in a Missions envelope.



UMCOR U.S. LATEST RESPONSES

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and its partners are responding to disasters across the globe every day. Please join us in prayer for the affected areas and consider giving to UMCOR U.S. Disaster Response to support these efforts.

Wildfires in Hawaii

(Updated as of Aug. 14, 2023) Wind-driven wildfires on Maui have prompted evacuations and caused significant loss of life and widespread damage. UMCOR is coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to process an initial grant for emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings. As first responders continue to provide initial aid in the area, please join UMCOR in prayer for those affected. Gifts can be made by check made out to Bethany UMC with “Advance #901670-Hawaii” written on the memo line and placed in an offering plate.



UMCOR is often described as one of the first agencies to arrive and the last to leave. Dollars given to UMCOR Disaster Response are continuing to support relief efforts in these disaster areas:

Tornados in Oklahoma

The April 19 outbreak of tornadoes destroyed many homes and left families without power in McClain and Pottawatomie counties. It also caused significant damage to the high school in Shawnee. An UMCOR solidarity grant supported Shawnee High School students in completing the school year in the face of tornado damage.

Flooding and landslides in California

Beginning in mid-December 2022 and continuing into mid-January 2023, California experienced a continuous series of rainstorms (frequently referred to as “atmospheric rivers”). This comes on top of wildfire damage from the last few years for many areas. As a result, California has had an extensive number of floods, mudslides, landslides and other related damage.

UMCOR awarded a solidarity grant to the California-Nevada Conference to support a coordinated response for survivors, including relief supplies, debris removal and clean-up efforts. The conference aided several communities, including those in the Sacramento area, focusing on flooded agricultural workers and senior and low-income households.



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

The Susanna Circle of the United Women in Faith will meet on Wednesday, September 6th at 1:00 pm at the garden/woods on the property of Century Glenn in Middleton (6720 Century Ave). Ann Sowaske, our host, lives there and will meet with us in the garden. If it rains, we will meet in her apartment, #317. Our program will be presented by Gloria Carter who will describe the 50th anniversary trip she and Jim took around the world this summer. Any questions or for directions, Ann's telephone number is 608.203.5392. All Bethany women are welcome to attend.

LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

Lydia Fellowship of the UWF will start off the 2023-2024 year on Monday, September 11th, at 1:00 pm at the home of Sally Zwettler in Mount Horeb. Sally will demonstrate how to re-purpose knitted, embroidered and many more items with a presentation entitled *Move It Forward*. This will be a very informative and fun get-together!

BOOK BROWSERS

The UWF Book Browsers is a group that meets monthly for fellowship and book discussion. Book reviews are presented on a voluntary basis. Book Browsers first meeting of the year will be Monday, September 18 at 1:00 pm via Zoom. We will plan for the upcoming meetings. All are welcome. If you have questions, please [e-mail](#) Eileen Dunne.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

All adults of Bethany are welcome to gather for Food and Fellowship on Wednesday, September 20, 11:30 am at Nonno's Italian Restaurant (704 South Whitney Way, Madison). Since we must make a reservation by September 13, if you plan to attend please respond to Janet Daniel either [by email](#) or leave a message via phone (608.440.5280). Looking forward to welcoming Autumn with you.

REFLECTIONS BOOK GROUP

Reflections Book Study for September has a change of book — the new pick is *A Fever in the Heartland* by Timothy Egan. The book is about the Ku Klux Klan's Plot to take over America, and the woman who stopped them. The discussion will be lively, you are welcome to take part. Monday, September 25, 1:00 pm in the Bethany Library.

You may pick up a copy of the book in the Bethany Office beginning September 4th. The group is famous for its lively and informative discussions. All are welcome to participate!

CHOCOLATE BOUTIQUE

A Bible Study for All Women of Bethany

Join us for a rich and extravagant way to learn of God's Grace — Thursday, September 7, 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall



If you aren't quite sure about attending a church Bible Study, perhaps you need a little nudge to come.

Chocolate Boutique may be the incentive you need. This study will help you develop new friendships with other women as you grow in your relationship with God.

The topic is God's grace — how richly and extravagantly, and surprisingly he indulges us with his love and grace. And what better metaphor is there for grace than chocolate?

Chocolate activities will help to deepen and enrich your learning in a way you can really understand. United Women in Faith will also present their plans for the year and share information about their Circles and small groups. All women are invited.

SEPTEMBER FORUMS

Sunday, September 3 *Wisconsin Annual Conference Report* (11 am): *On Earth as it is in Heaven – Engaging in Transformative Community Building* was the theme at the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in June. Come and hear from Carol Clingan and Marge Lyford as they share what they learned at the Annual Conference.

Sunday, September 17 *Understanding Philanthropy Today* (11 am): Why do people choose to give to one non-profit organization over another? How do motivations for giving differ between generations? Is there something we, in the church, could learn in answering those two questions that would change how the church talks about its ministry to help donors and the community understand the positive impact the church is making. Rev. Jason Mahnke, Director of Programming and Campaigns with the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation will be using the latest research to help participants understand philanthropy today and what difference it makes to us in the church.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



LOST & FOUND

Over the course of the past several months (years?) we have accumulated a lot of water bottles, gloves, articles of clothing, and other miscellaneous stuff. Everything we have will be put out on tables in Fellowship Hall for Sundays through September. Anything not collected by Sunday, September 24th will be either donated or thrown out. Now's your chance to claim that long lost item you've been looking for.

NUMBERED OFFERING ENVELOPES

Do any of the following situations apply to you?

- Do not receive offering envelopes in the mail but would like them.
- Receive envelopes but give online so no longer need them.
- Receive weekly envelopes but now give monthly.

If so, contact the Financial Secretary, finance@BethanyMadison.org and indicate whether you would like to receive and/or stop receiving either weekly or monthly offering envelopes through the mail.

GIVING STATEMENTS

Giving statements will be generated September 6 for the previous 8 months, January 1st through August 31st. Please look for your statement and check it for errors or omissions. Please contact the [financial secretary](#) if you have any problems or questions.

LUKE HOUSE UPDATE

For 40 years, Bethany United Methodist has supported the community meal program at Luke House, 310 South Ingersoll Street in Madison. Many churches work to bring the food and serve the nine meals a week provided for Madison's poorest individuals and families. Bethany currently serves seven evening dinners per year for around 90 people. Prior to COVID, we also served a noon lunch. Luke House would appreciate resumption of this participation. Meals are served on the fifth Tuesdays and Thursdays of the month.

Since the number of guests is increasing, Bethany needs more volunteers (adults and teens) to keep the evening service viable and to resume the lunch meal service.

Participation opportunities include working 2 hours at the meal site, providing food for the meals, and/or emailing volunteers to assure there are adequate workers and food for each designated service date.

Please email Janet Daniel (jm.dn.daniel@gmail.com) to volunteer. Thank you!

CONFIRMATION

In the United Methodist Church youth and young adults are asked to confirm the vows taken for them at their baptism. While there isn't a set age, confirmation typically occurs during Middle School or early High School. A new confirmation class for any youth in 7th Grade or older is being formed for the 2023-24 school year. The class is a time to explore faith and learn about the United Methodist church. Following the formal classes each child will have the opportunity to publicly confirm their faith if they feel they are ready. Class time is to be determined based on student's schedules. Please contact [Pastor Julie](#) if you or your child is interested in participating.

CHOIRS STARTING UP

Chancel Choir

Are you a person who enjoys singing, and would you like to see what it's like to sing with the Chancel Choir? The Chancel Choir sings a variety of choral repertoire and periodically leads congregational singing. We enjoy rehearsing from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and participating in worship on many Sunday mornings. Childcare can be provided; all ages welcome. No previous singing experience is necessary to see what it's like to sing in the choir!

Our first rehearsal will occur on September 6. I hope to see you there!
— [Kristie Halverson](#), Director of Music

Bethany Carillons

Have you ever been curious about ringing in a handbell choir? Are you looking for fun ways to participate in Bethany's vibrant music ministry? Now celebrating 40 years of music-making, Bethany Carillons is looking for at least three new members to join our handbell choir this year! With a full group of ringers we'll be able to take advantage of Bethany's five octaves of handbells and three octaves of handchimes, and add some joyful noise to worship services once a month.

We meet to rehearse on Thursday evenings from 6-7 pm, starting on September 7th. A basic ability to read sheet music is required, but no previous handbell experience is necessary!

If you're interested or have any questions, feel free to reach out to [Nick Bonaccio](#), Director of Bells.



NEW MEMBER RECEPTION



On Sunday, July 30th, we welcomed sixteen new members to our Bethany family. Following worship, new members, staff and team leaders gathered in Fellowship Hall for a lunch where we got to know each other better.



Left to right: Ken and Vivian Niemeyer, Joe & Marsha Biddick, Merle & Marge Bengston, Anna Wilson, Ted Wilson, Josie Drake, Adeline Fox, Kirk Fox, Sarah Stevens, Carol and John Brewer, Linda Snell, and Pastor Julie.
Not picture: Sean Carter





Stewardship Conference

As a member of the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation (WUMF) Board, Pastor Julie co-led the Stewardship Conference, *Stewardship from the Ground Up*, at Pine Lake camp. The conference featured workshops on vital stewardship techniques and essential stewardship practices that have been and continue to be important for local congregations and other ministries. More than 45 churches participated in person and online.



(L-R: Jason Mahnke, WUMF Director of Programming & Campaigns; Barb Steele (Appleton: Emmanuel UMC); Anna-Lisa Hunter (Suamico UMC); Julie Wilson (Madison: Bethany UMC); Tom Alverson (Beloit: River of Life UMC) and WUMF President Krystal Goodger. Not pictured: Dan Fahs (Whitewater: First UMC).)

Bidding Farewell to the Russell Family

The congregation bid a fond farewell to the Russell Family (Bill, Carla, Elizabeth and Ethan) who will be living in Briton, England for the next 3 years. The family was presented with prayer shawls made by participants in the Lydia Fellowship.





INTERFAITH PRIDE SERVICE





INTERFAITH PRIDE SERVICE



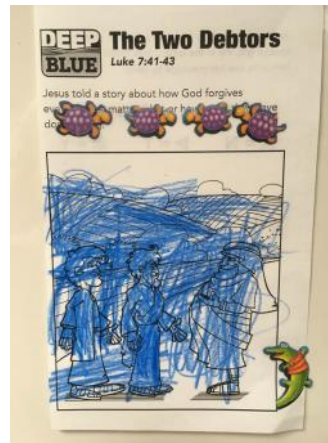
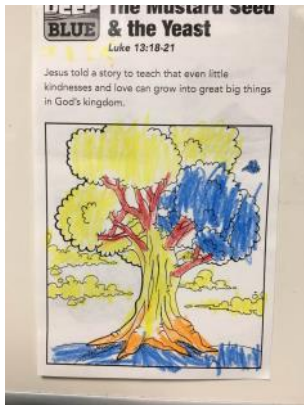
Bethany was honored to host the 2nd annual Interfaith Pride Service on Monday, August 21st. Ten community organizations had displays of information and advocacy support prior to the service. Over 125 people attended the service organized by people from a variety of faith traditions. The service acknowledged the harm done by faith communities and pledged renewed support and advocacy. During the service a mural of hands with messages of love was created by participants and attendees. The mural will be traveling to various sponsoring organizations



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

Worship Bags

Each week children pick up Worship Bags at the sanctuary doors. Inside are items to keep small hands busy, while ears and eyes are open! Bubble times, lacing cards, and squishy balls are all favorites. Ms. Lisa also enjoys seeing the coloring pages that the children do each week! As seen here, some kids favor using stickers, some dedicate an entire page to one color, and some are free-hand. All are delightful!



Fall Sunday School!

September 10 welcomes the return of fall Sunday School for Bethany children. This year we will offer three age-group classes:

- Kindergarten - 1st grade
- 2nd-3rd grade
- 4th-6th grade

Our regularly scheduled lead teachers will be Lisa Weaver (Director of Children's Ministries), Melissa Jacobson, Tom Doran, and Kathy Mohs (Director of Youth Ministries, grades 4-6 only).

The kindergarten through 3rd grade classes will use the *Celebrate Wonder* curriculum. The 4th-6th graders will use a curriculum called *Learning to Use My Bible*. Sunday School takes place during the 10:00 am worship service. Children begin in the sanctuary with their adult family members, and then walk to Sunday School at the point designated in the bulletin. This is often after the song which follows the Children's Message.

If you are an adult and would like to get in on the fun (music, stories, projects, conversations!) please see Lisa for information on how to be an adult volunteer helper. This role does not require outside planning, and you may sign up for whatever weeks suit your schedule. Helping in the children's Sunday School program is a delightful way to serve the Bethany community, and encourage the faith development of our youngest friends. As well, many of our adult volunteers let me know that their own faith journey is enriched by the experience, too.



Youth News

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

Greetings everyone! I really enjoyed meeting some of the youth on August 20th! Please remember to email or text me your answers to the email I sent and/or the postcards I handed out! For reference, the questions were:

1. What are you in to? What do you like to do?
2. Are you in sports and/or clubs in or outside of school?
3. Please list 3 things/ideas that you would like to do as part of an epic middle or high school youth group.

Also, be on the look out for upcoming events such as Pine Lake and Seed Collecting at Pheasant Branch!

Looking forward,
 Kathy Mohs
 Director of Youth Ministries



Welcome Kathy

On Sunday, Augusts 20th, the kids welcomed Cathy Mohs, our new Director of Youth Ministries, with lots of questions.



SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (IN-PERSON AND YOUTUBE)

Sunday, July 30	Sunday, August 6	Sunday, August 13	Sunday, August 20	Sunday, August 27
Total 140	Total..... 132	Total.....124	Total..... 107	Total 140



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
Youth Director	Kathy Mohs
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 Rebolz
Global Mission Partner	Temba Nkomozepe, Mujila Falls, Zambia

E-Banner Deadline: Fridays at Noon

Banner Deadline for the October Issue: September 18