



# The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 56, No. 10 • October 2023

## Upcoming Fall Events

### Fall Brunch

Everyone is invited to enjoy brunch and fellowship on Sunday, October 15th following worship. Come share a delicious meal prepared by Steve Nelson, including an Egg Bake, Pancakes (with Steve's famous Butter Pecan Sauce), and Fruit. The brunch is sponsored by the Welcoming Team and a free-will offering will be collected.

### Wrestling with Faith

October 10th, 17th and 24th Lisa Weaver will lead a study based on the book, *What is the Bible and How Do We Understand It?* Sometimes children and youth ask the most direct questions, inviting us to stop and consider a well-known Bible story from a fresh perspective. More detail is on our website under Upcoming Events.

### Pastor's Tea

A Pastor's Tea will be held on Monday, October 9th from 9:30 to 10:30 in the Oaks Community Room at Oakwood Village. Everyone is invited whether you are a resident of Oakwood or not. Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided. Come and enjoy a fun fellowship time together as well as sharing a brief communion service. Pastor Julie and Pastor Brad are looking forward to it.

### Game Night

Everyone is invited to the October Game Night on Saturday, October 14th from 4:30 pm — 6:30 pm There will be fun, food (supper-always a bonus!) and of course games! You can also enjoy a jigsaw puzzle or spend time at the art table! All ages welcome! Childcare staff will be present to help play with our youngest friends.

### Seed Collection

All ages are invited to meet at Pheasant Branch Conservancy (PBC) on Saturday, October 21, from 10:30 am — 11:30 am. More details are on Page 6.

### Confirmation

Pastor Julie and Kathy Mohs, our Director of Youth Ministries, are looking forward to the beginning of a new confirmation class. Our 7th grade students and mentors will be working through Confirm, Your Faith, Your Commitment, God's Call curriculum. In addition to our monthly meetings we have some field trips and a retreat planned. Prayers for the students, mentors and teachers are greatly appreciated.

### Forum October 8th

All are invited to hear Sarah Bullard, Director of Luke House, present a forum describing the mission of Luke House following worship on October 8th in the Chapel. Luke House has been feeding Madison's hungry at 310 South Ingersoll Street since 1986.



# PASTOR'S COLUMN



This week I finished my last MCCI pastor training session. As a reminder, Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI) is an intensive consultation and clergy coaching model designed to equip local churches for ministry relevant to their context. The unique thing about MCCI is that it is tailored to each individual church and it's a spiritual approach rather than traditional goal setting. For more than a year, the team consulting Bethany has been praying for our church. Our congregation has also been praying the Breakthrough prayer as a guide in this process. Rather than our own desires we are praying for God to show us what God desires for Bethany UMC.



A team of Bethany members has completed 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. Now, it's almost time for our Express Day where 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.

Our Express Day is scheduled for Thursday, November 9 at 6:30pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend this interactive training/dreaming session focused on your insights into what God desires for Bethany. I hope many of you can attend and be part of this exciting time in our history. Please continue to pray for Bethany and our sibling churches in this process. Thank you for joining on this journey. God is so good!

Peace and Joy,  
Pastor Julie

## MCCI Express Day



Missional Church  
Consultation Initiative  
*a new lifecycle of fruitfulness*

Save the date: our Express Day is scheduled for Thursday, November 9 at 6:30 pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend this interactive training/dreaming session focused on your insights into what God desires for Bethany.

Following the Express Day our MCCI team will share their report during worship on November 12. We will have about 30 days to review these "prescriptions" and then will have a congregational vote prior to moving forward. Before the vote there will be three Town Hall meetings where we can look at the possibilities God has opened through our prayers and reflections. This will be a safe, honest space for members to offer their thoughts and feelings about the prescriptions.

The Town Hall Meetings are tentatively scheduled for:

- ✓ December 3 directly following worship
- ✓ December 7 at 2:30pm
- ✓ December 14 at 7pm.

## 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 membership information class on October 8th 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 October — “Mujila Falls Agriculture Center”

Simple Gifts collected in October are going to support our longtime Global Mission Partners in the African nation of Zambia: the Mujila Falls Agriculture Center, which is led by Temba Nkomozepe.

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](http://BethanyMadison.org) (click on We Serve and, from the drop-down menu, select Giving Financially).

Bethany has long supported the Mujila Falls Agriculture Center, where men and women of the Lunda tribe learn sustainable and appropriate methods for growing crops and managing livestock. People across a large area benefit from the eggs and plentiful food produced on the farm.

Mujila Falls has been in its current location since 2000 and was led for most of that time by Paul Webster. However, Webster returned to the United States in October 2018, and Mujila Falls for the past five years has been led by Nkomozepe, a missionary with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries.



Nkomozepe leads efforts in a range of agricultural, education, and health projects, as well as church growth and development. Mujila Falls raises essential crops, such as corn, and engages in small animal husbandry, cattle and goat milking, fruit culture, tree nurseries, fish culture, and research.

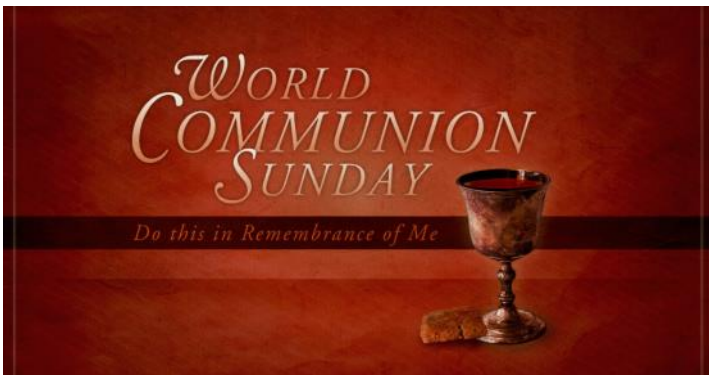
Nkomozepe will be visiting the Wisconsin Annual Conference from Oct. 17 to Nov. 6. He will also be visiting the Michigan Annual Conference, and Iowa.

In addition to creating employment opportunities for the youth, and contributing to rural development, Mujila Falls is currently in the process of constructing and establishing a rural training center that can educate numerous individuals. A ground-breaking ceremony for the training center was held with Webster earlier this year.

Nkomozepe is from Zimbabwe, where he received a BS degree in agriculture from the United Methodist-related Africa University in Mutare. He holds both a master’s and PhD in agricultural civil engineering, with an emphasis on water resource management, from Kyungpook National University in Daegu, South Korea.

Please give generously as your support makes a difference in real and relevant ways.

Up next: Simple gifts in November will go to support Africa University



### Special Sunday Offering

Also this month, there will be a Special Sunday Offering on Oct. 1 to support World Communion Sunday, which provides scholarships for U.S. racial and ethnic minority students, and international students, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Over the course of each year, Bethany participates in several special offering Sundays sponsored by the broader United Methodist Church.





# 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 SUSANNA CIRCLE

The Susanna Circle of the Bethany United Women in Faith will meet on Wednesday, October 4th at 1:00 pm at the home of our host Joyce Benjamin (5771 Chapel Valley Rd, Fitchburg). Her phone number is 608-298-7528.

Our program speaker is master quilter, Karin Hanson. She will display and explain several of her exquisite quilts. For directions or any questions, call Joyce. All Bethany women are welcome.

### UWF LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting of Lydia Fellowship is scheduled for Monday, October 9, at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Bethany. Joyce Benjamin is our hostess. Everyone is invited to attend. Please email [Eileen Rech](mailto:Eileen.Rech@bethany.org) if you will be attending.

### UWF BOOK BROWSERS

The October Book Browsers meeting will be held on Monday, October 16, at 1:00 pm via Zoom. The book to read has not yet been selected. Please watch the weekly e-Banner for more information.

### AGAPE

The first meeting of Agape will take place on Mon, Oct 9 at 6:30 pm [via Zoom](#). Note the change of day to the 2nd Mon of the month. We hope to allow more people to attend by having fewer conflicts. This meeting will be our annual book review. Please be prepared to share a recent/favorite book. A list of the reviewed books will be emailed to all Agape members after the meeting. And.....bring ideas for Agape programming for 2023-24 to add to our calendar. All women of Bethany are welcome!

### OCTOBER FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

All men and women at Bethany are invited to the next Food and Fellowship luncheon at 11:30 am on October 18 at Adler's Pub & Grill on Watt's Road. Everyone orders from the menu and shares a pleasant time of dining on good food and engaging in lively conversation. 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 October. If you would like to attend, please call (608.274.3483) or [email](mailto:Donna.Wold@bethany.org) Donna with your reservation by October 13. All are welcome. Hope to see you there.

### REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will meet Monday, October 23 at 1:00 pm in the Bethany library. The book to read has not yet been selected. Please watch the weekly e-Banner for more information.

### FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

You may have noticed the small grocery shelving at the Mineral Point Road entrance area to the church lobby. Lists of food items most needed by the Allied Food Pantry are available at these shelves.

Donations of financial contributions can be made by cash or by checks payable to Bethany with "Allied Food Pantry" in the memo. Place in an offering plate or mail checks to Bethany.

Supporting the Allied Food Pantry has long been a focus for Bethany. Help us continue this connection to assist community members in need. Thank you.

### BACK TO SCHOOL WITH PASTOR BRAD

Our current class is a 12-week lecture series titled *The History of the Bible: The Making of the New Testament Canon.* Taught by Dr. Bart Ehrman, a professor at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and bestselling author, the class explores the historical process by which the books of the New Testament were assembled into a single canon. The class meets Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am via Zoom.

### THE PLAYING FIELD COFFEE

On August 30th Pastor Julie, Lisa Weaver and Carl White set up a back to school coffee bar and treat table for the staff of The Playing Field — just to say thank you for all of the work they do there. We distributed "Blessing Tags" made by Bethany members.





# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## PINE LAKE RETREAT

Several Bethany members and youth enjoyed a fun filled time at Pine Lake Camp on September 2nd-3rd. We went hiking (and did NOT get lost!), paddle boating, swimming, jumping into the lake, as well as water yoga led by Steve Gloe! The staff at Pine Lake were wonderful, and prepared delicious meals. There were also s'mores, a campfire, some music and lots of laughter, and of course carpetball! Overall, it was a blessed time; we concluded with a morning worship service by the lake. Pine Lake was a time to connect and reflect with gratitude. Connections were made and connections were strengthened as God's love was seen, felt and heard.



## TERRACYCLE PLASTIC COLLECTION

The TERRACYCLE banned plastic collection will now be limited to empty toothpaste tubes, dental floss holders, old toothbrushes and old pens and sharpies. These items will not be recycled by your normal recycling company. Place them in the box next to the coat room in the narthex. The cost of mailing the other banned plastics has resulted in cancellation of the collections. Thanks to all who have participated in this recycling effort. Please continue recycling all your normal recyclable plastic at your home.

## HEARING LOOP AT BETHANY!

This new signage identifies an important addition at Bethany to improve the experience of worship for users of hearing aids.



In 2019 Bethany added a Tele-coil hearing loop to the Sanctuary sound system. Hearing aid users who have a "T" coil in their aid(s) can now make a direct link to the audio system. This means that the hearing aid's microphone does not have to pick up the sound from the loud speakers. The wearer can adjust the volume level with their own hearing aid controls for the loudness that they need. Hearing aid users may not be aware that their aid could have a "T" coil. It is an option that needs to be activated by their audiologist.

## BETHANY CHOIRS

### Chancel Choir

Everyone is welcome to participate in our Chancel Choir. The choir rehearses Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:00 pm. Once a month there is FLASH! Choir where people gather at 9:00 am to learn a song then sing it at that Sunday's service.

### Bethany Carillons

Bethany's handbell choir welcomes new participants who would like to learn to play bells and chimes. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings beginning at 6:00 pm with performances once a month in worship.

## NEW BETHANY BOARD MEMBERS

Bethany's Leadership Board is pleased to announce that three new members have been elected to the board. They are Diane Barrett, Julia Goetzka, and Sara Roquemore. They are filling three vacant slots on the board, so our board is now complete with 12 members. Next time you see them, please thank them for accepting the invitation to serve Bethany in this important role.



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

## Blessing Tags: "You Matter!"

The Bethany worship service on August 27 included time and space to create Blessing Tags for children, youth, and adults of all ages. This colorful reminder can be attached to a backpack, a lunch bag, or a door handle -- anywhere that you will regularly see the message. Extra Blessing Tags were given to The Playing Field staff.



## Seed Collection at Pheasant Branch

All ages are invited to meet at Pheasant Branch Conservancy (PBC) on Saturday, October 21, from 10:30 - 11:30 am. We will be joined by a PBC Land Manager who will guide us in collecting prairie seeds, which will eventually be used to start or strengthen other prairies in Dane County. Participants should meet at the [Homestead Site](#). You will "leave the path" for this activity, so close-toed shoes and long pants are encouraged! RSVPs to Lisa Weaver or Kathy Mohs are requested, so that change-of-plans due to weather can be communicated. (Rain date: Oct 28). We look forward to tending to God's creation in this way!



# Youth News

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

## GAME NIGHTS!!

We are looking forward to two upcoming game nights!! There will be fun, food (supper-always a bonus!) and of course games! You can also enjoy a jigsaw puzzle or spend time at the art table! All ages welcome! Childcare staff will be present to help play with our youngest friends.

Saturday, Oct. 14th: 4:30-6:30 pm at Bethany in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, Nov. 4th: 4:30-6:30 pm at Bethany in Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP to either Lisa or Kathy for each event, so we can get a headcount for food and fun!



## Youth Update

Our youth and families had a wonderful time at the Pine Lake retreat. We went hiking (and did not get lost!), paddle boating, swimming, jumping into the lake as well as water yoga led by Steve Gloe! Connections were made and connections were strengthened as God's love was seen, felt and heard.

Kathy Mohs, our Youth Director has also been busy teaching our 4-6 grade Sunday school class in order to get to know our up and coming Middle Schoolers. She has also been working with Pastor Julie to plan for confirmation which will begin this month. In addition to our classes, Kathy is planning some special trips and a retreat for our confirmation students.

We are also in the process of revamping room 228 to make it more welcoming for our youth. Thank you to those who donated to the Special Appeal that has allowed us to purchase some furniture. You can still donate if you'd like to help strengthen our youth programs.



## SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (IN-PERSON AND YOUTUBE)

Sunday, Sept. 3	Sunday, Sept. 10	Sunday, Sept. 17	Sunday, Sept. 24
Total ..... 132	Total..... 133	Total ..... 134	Total.....137





**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](mailto:BethanyOffice@BethanyMadison.org)

**Website:** [bethanymadison.org](http://bethanymadison.org)

## Sunday Morning Schedule

Coffee Fellowship 9:30 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 November issue:** October 23