



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 56, No. 11 • November 2023

November Highlights

MCCI Express Day

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 and led by the MCCI team comprised of members from other UMCs who have been praying for our congregation all year. An evening meal will be provided at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Then, on November 12 the MCCI team will share their report and recommendations (called prescriptions) during worship. The prescriptions will be based on all that they learned and heard from Bethany members during the MCCI process.

Plan ahead for town hall meetings to be held on December 3rd (immediately following worship), December 6th at 2:30 pm, and December 14th at 7:00 pm. During these sessions we will look at the possibilities God has opened through our prayers and reflections. This will be a safe, honest space for members to ask questions and seek clarification regarding the prescriptions. Childcare will be available for the December 3rd town hall. Childcare for the other sessions can be arranged by calling or emailing the church office.

A final vote on whether to accept the "prescriptions" will be held at a special Church Conference on January 7th at 11:15 am.

Game Night!!

We are looking forward to another game night on Saturday, November 4th from 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm in Bethany's Fellowship Hall. 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.

Please RSVP to either [Lisa Weaver](#) or [Kathy Mohs](#), so we can get a headcount for food and fun!

November Forums

Sunday, November 5: Our Peace Corps Experience — Lin and Carol Compton will discuss their experiences as Peace Corps Volunteers in Thailand in the early 1960s and the impact of their Peace Corps service on their education, their lives and their careers. 11:00 am in the Chapel.

Sunday, November 19: What's New In The Playing Field — Come hear Abbi Kruse, Executive Director of the Playing Field, update the congregation about what's new at the Playing Field. 11:00 am in the Chapel.

Bethany Hosts Near West Side Festival of Gratitude Service

We are pleased to be hosting the Service of Gratitude with other near-westside churches on Wednesday, November 22, at 6:30 pm. Clergy, members and friends from the neighborhood will gather to give thanks to God, to worship, to sing and to pray together. There will be a combined choir welcoming singers from all participating congregations, and even a combined handbell group. (If you are interested in singing or playing bells, contact [Kristie Halverson](#) or [Nick Bonaccio](#).) The service will be followed by a Pie Reception and a time of fellowship. All are welcome!



PASTOR'S COLUMN



"We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks; your name is near. People tell of your wondrous deeds."
Psalm 75:1



Last week I watched the leaves begin to fall off the trees and gave thanks for the beautiful fall colors. While, I'd rather have endless summer, I have learned to be grateful for the beauty of each season. Most people are aware that gratitude is good for our health. Being grateful has benefits to our physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing. November is a

traditional time for being grateful and I wanted to share some of the things that I am grateful for at this moment.

First, I am grateful for family. I was blessed to have my son home from Washington last week and to spend lots of time with my immediate and extended family. The difficulty of saying good-bye is made easier when I reflect on the joy of our time together. I'm overwhelmed with gratitude and joy for the love of my family.

I'm also grateful for our amazing church staff. I know I have said this before, but they are truly wonderful, hardworking, kind and caring people who make my ministry easier and enjoyable. I'm grateful for the many people who serve at Bethany. Most go unrecognized and go above and beyond in their service to the church and our community. Be it making treats and serving for

fellowship time, greeting members and guests on Sunday morning, or taking care of our church property and church administration, we are so blessed with caring people who have a heart for serving. I'm grateful for music, and children and youth. For those who give financial support to our ministries and to those who pray for me, our church, and our world.

I have learned to see God at work in all aspects of my life and that makes being grateful even easier. The psalmist reminds us to tell about God's wondrous deeds, to give thanks and to recognize that God is present. May you find many things to be grateful for this month.

Blessings,
Pastor Julie



New Members Received on October 22nd



From left to right, front to back: Kathleen Thompson, Bob & Marianne Julian, Judy Winkel, Jim & Jean McLaughlin, Steve Van Der Moere, Keith & Sue Plasterer, Pastor Julie, Jessica Crombie

Simple Gifts for November — “Africa University”

During the month of November, Simple Gifts collected are going to support Africa University, which aspires to become a world-class university for leadership development in Africa.

Africa University opened in 1992 in Mutare, Zimbabwe, and grants bachelor’s degrees, master’s degrees, and PhDs across various programs. It is the first and only fully accredited institution of higher learning established on the African continent by action of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Africa University today is home to more than 1,200 students from more than 35 African countries. These promising future leaders are being educated on how to transform their content through dynamic programs that include: agriculture and natural resources, education, health sciences, humanities and social sciences, management and administration and theology. The Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance offers postgraduate diplomas and master’s programs.

The mission of Africa University is to provide quality education within a Pan-African context, through which students can acquire general and professional knowledge and skills, grow in spiritual maturity, and develop sound moral values, ethics, and leadership qualities.

This university was founded in response to a call by African Bishops for a university for the whole of Africa. The General Conference of United Methodist Church unanimously approved the founding of Africa University in 1988 and made a commitment to provide financial support. After breaking ground on the project in 1991, Africa University opened in January 1992 as the first recognized private university in Zimbabwe.

The desire of the university’s founders was to nurture an institution that would be deeply rooted in Africa — drawing its agenda and priorities from the challenges of African communities and combining the social wisdom and indigenous know-how of African people with new knowledge to aid development and improve quality of life on the continent.

Please consider giving generously as your contributions will make a difference in real and relevant ways. Simple gifts can be made by placing loose coins in the offering plates, or by putting cash or a check in mission envelopes. You can also give online at BethanyMadison.org (click on We Serve and, from the drop-down menu, select Giving Financially).

When you give, you are equipping Indigenous solution-finders who are tackling some of their continent’s most pressing challenges with wisdom, innovation and spiritual maturity. Because of your generosity, The United Methodist Church is making a difference in Africa.

To learn more about Africa University, visit: <http://www.africau.edu/>

Up next: Simple gifts for December support the Allied Eviction Prevention Fund.

Thanksgiving: There will also be a special Simple Gifts collection on Thanksgiving to support Afghan Refugees.

Special Sunday: Nov. 26 United Methodist Student Day

Over the course of each year, Bethany participates in several special offering Sundays sponsored by the broader United Methodist Church. November 26th is United Methodist Student Day, which furnishes scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

This year’s Transgender Day of Remembrance, an annual observance honoring the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence, will be at Fitchburg Memorial United Church of Christ (5705 Lacy Road, Fitchburg) on Monday, November 20th. We gather to remember, and we will continue to gather until we are all accepted for just being us, human beings. The service will begin at 6:00 pm with Fellowship and Community Resource Fair beginning at 7:00 pm.





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 SUSANA CIRCLE

The Susanna Circle of the Bethany United Women in Faith will meet Wednesday, November 1st at 1:00 pm in the Bethany church library. Judy Loveless is hostess. All Bethany women are invited. Please let Judy know if you will attend (608-848-8243).

UWF LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

This next meeting of the Lydia circle is scheduled for Monday, November 13, at 1:00 pm at Bethany. Diane Johnson is our hostess. If you plan on attending, please, email [Eileen Rech](mailto:Eileen.Rech) or call 608-228-6256.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

The next Food and Fellowship luncheon will be held at Quivey's Grove on Nesbitt Road on November 15 at 11:30 am. Betty Hanneman will be the hostess. If you would like to attend, please let Betty know either by email (bkhannean@charter.net) or by call (608-235-6148). All men and women at Bethany are welcome!

UWF BOOK BROWSERS

Book Browsers for November will meet, via Zoom, on November 20th at 1:00 pm. Thelma Wells will review The book *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. Please join us.

REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Study will meet Monday, November 27 at 1:00 pm in the library at Bethany. The book to read has not been determined, so watch the e-Banner for details. We all read the same book and have a lively discussion together. Everyone is welcome to join in.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United's *World Community Day* will be held in person at Mt. Zion Baptist Church (2019 Fisher St.) on Friday, November 3rd at 9:30 am. You may also join via live stream at MtZLife on YouTube or on Facebook Live (MtZionBaptistChurch). During the celebration the Community Leadership Award will be presented to Dr. Dan B. Crim, Vice-chair for Inclusivity & Community Engagement at University of Wisconsin, Green Bay.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 19 we will celebrate United Women in Faith. Members of the Bethany UWF will participate in worship, serve as hosts and provide coffee fellowship with cake! A UWF Service Pin will be awarded to Eileen Rech.

Abbi Kruse, Executive Director of The Playing Field, will give the message and do a forum following worship describing the progress The Playing Field has made over the past eight years.

UWF, for over 150 years, has believed that love in action can change the world. "With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities."

Join us on Sunday, November 19 at the 10 am service!

WUMF STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The monthly stewardship newsletter from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation is now attached and on our website. To view this newsletter, please [click here](#).

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Many thanks to those of you who already returned your estimate of giving card.

- Over 1/3 of those receiving pledge packets have returned their estimate of giving card.
- There are 13 households who have pledged for the first time.
- For 2024 we have received over 65% of the number of pledges and just over 85% of the amount pledged for 2023.
- Of those who have returned an estimate of giving card for both 2023 and 2024, more than 1/3 have increased their pledge for 2024.

However, we were working off a deficit budget for 2023 and are striving not to continue this trend. Every pledge enables us to continue the ministries we have and reach new people. We want to be able to retain and reward our excellent staff as they are critical to our ministries. If you have not returned your pledge card to the church yet (or filled out the online pledge form), please do that as soon as possible. If you are choosing not to pledge, please let us know that as well.

If you have any questions contact [Sandra Arrington](#), Financial Secretary.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



LOOKING TOWARD ADVENT

Sunday, Nov 26th, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Come help us prepare for Christmas! Participate in Christmas carols, art tables and decorating the church. You will be able to pick up your Advent supplies and enjoy a delicious meal.

SERVING THE HUNGRY AT LUKE HOUSE

Preparing meals for those who are elderly, needy, or hungry has been a long tradition of Methodist churches. Bethany has been following that tradition through our relationship with Luke House. Luke House had its beginning in 1983, when U.W. student Paul Ashe became concerned about the hungry people on the streets and decided to set up a nonprofit community meal program and invite Madison churches to get involved. Free noon lunches were initially served in the basement of St. Paul's Catholic Church located on State Street near the U. W. Library. Volunteers from Bethany prepared and served a hot lunch there on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Three years later, it was time to expand in order to add an evening meal and a former upholstery repair shop on Ingersoll Street was donated for that purpose. Volunteers contributed time and money to rehab the old building with a commercial kitchen and large dining room. The building was named Luke House because of a verse in the New Testament about sharing food with those who have none. Bethany has been acting on that directive by providing food and volunteers to serve a evening community meal nearly every month for the past 40 years!



IT'S POINSETTIA TIME!



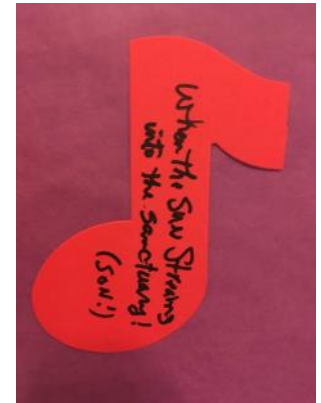
It's that time of year! Time to order Poinsettia plants to decorate the Sanctuary for the upcoming holidays. This year, the choices of plants will be either Red or White—each in a 5" foil-wrapped pot. Plants are \$10.00 each. To order plants, email or call the church office or look for the order blank on the table outside the Sanctuary beginning Sunday, November 5th. The deadline for ordering is noon on Monday, November 20th. Plants may be taken home following the 7:30 pm worship on Christmas Eve.

Children's News

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

Psalm 105:2

What part(s) of worship draw you closer to God and connect you with the faith community? The comments on these music notes are from members of all ages, and reveal the depth and breadth of what we experience in worship.



Game Night: Sat, Nov 4

Puzzles, art, games, food -- add in members of your faith family and you have a recipe for an evening of fun and fellowship! Photos here are from the October Game Night. Mark your calendar now for Saturday, Nov 4, from 4:30 - 6:30 pm.



Children's Christmas Pageant

On December 10, Bethany children will share a simple pageant during worship. Using scripture passages and songs, we will journey with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to welcome their child. Songs are practiced in a multi-age group for the first 10 minutes of Sunday School, starting Oct 29 and continuing each week until the pageant. There will be one additional rehearsal on Saturday, Dec 9 from 10:00 - 11:00 am in the sanctuary. Please check in with Ms. Lisa (Director of Children's Music and Ministry) if your child would like to participate or you have any questions.

Youth News

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

Seed Gathering

We had a wonderful time Seed Collecting on Saturday, October 21st at Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton! It was a bit fresh and windy, but we prevailed! We collected four various types of seeds that will be sorted and dispersed to prairie restoration sites around the county.



SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (IN-PERSON AND YOUTUBE)

Sunday, Oct. 1	Sunday, Oct. 8	Sunday, Oct. 15	Sunday, Oct. 22	Sunday, Oct 29
Total 136	Total..... 135	Total.....145	Total..... 163	Total..... 134



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	9:30 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 December Issue: November 20