



# The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

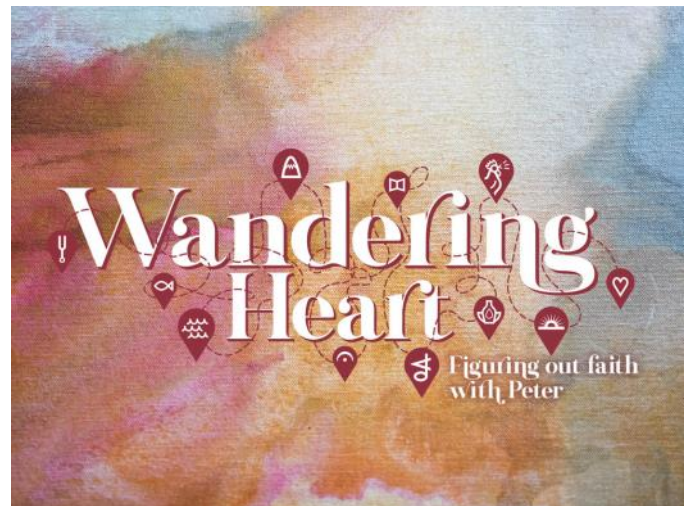
*Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 57, No. 2 • February 2024*

## Coming in February

### Lent Starts February 14

Ash Wednesday Service, February 14, 7:00 pm. We begin Lent with a reflective worship service that includes an imposition of ashes as we prepare our hearts for Lent. This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out — just like us.

This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story. We will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.



### February 3 — Crafternoon

All ages are welcome to enjoy a fun afternoon—or “crafternoon” at Bethany in Fellowship Hall from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm where you can bring a hand project from home to work on or choose one of the craft projects available including cutting fabric for lunch smocks, or mending the angel wings used in the Christmas Pageant, or working on a felt banner.

### February 4 & 11 — New Member Class

Come and learn how you can be part of the Bethany family. Pastor Julie is offering a membership information class on Sunday, February 4 & 11 from 8:30—9:30 am. For more information, contact [Pastor Julie](#).

### February 9 — Youth Skiing/Snowboarding

For youth in grades 6 to 12 there's snowboarding and skiing at Tyrol Basin from 6:00 pm to 10 pm. Tickets are \$30 plus the cost of rentals. For more details, contact our Youth Director, [Kathy Mohs](#).

### February 17 — Church Family Tubing at Tyrol

Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon at Tyrol Basin in Mr. Horeb tubing and enjoying snacks in the café. Tickets (\$30) may be purchased on the Tyrol website beginning Sunday, February 11th at 5:00 pm. Note: weekend tickets sell fast so book promptly. Contact [Kathy Mohs](#), Bethany's Youth Director, for additional information. All ages welcome.



## PASTOR'S COLUMN



This is such an exciting time for Bethany. On Sunday, January 7 Bethany members overwhelmingly voted in favor of accepting the MCCI prescriptions presented and now we have started this process. Whether you have been part of MCCI from the beginning stages, whether you voted affirmatively, whether you didn't, whether you were there in person and were part of the vote or whether you worship with us online each one of you are an important part of what God is going to do next. Bethany UMC was chosen to be part of this process and the Holy Spirit has been working with the people of Bethany UMC for over 75 years because of the unique gifts each of you have shared.



One of the things that I noticed when I came to Bethany is the love many of you have for puzzles. Whether it's during fellowship time or game night or retreat, I often see puzzles being put together. When you put a puzzle together you have all kinds of pieces – some are corners, some the edges and some belong in the middle. Each of these pieces is important. If just one piece is missing the puzzle won't be complete. God needs each one of us right now for the next piece of this journey.

In the next few weeks, you will be invited to sign up for a prescription team. Please begin praying about what team might fit you perfectly. Every person can be on a team, your involvement can

be as unique as each puzzle piece. You might lead a team, or you might be in prayer for the team. You might be sharing ideas and vision for a team, or you might be making treats or inviting others to events. You are uniquely shaped, gifted and connected as part of Bethany UMC and you are needed to shape the future of Bethany. I can't wait to see the beautiful picture God is creating for the future of Bethany. Thank you for sharing this journey.

Pastor Julie



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## 2024 Bethany Leadership Board



During worship on January 14 the Leadership Board was installed. Pictured from left to Right: Sara Roquemore, Jim Carter, Julia Goetzka, Diane Barrett, Karen Dischler, Lisa Coleman, Craig Jacobson, Kirk Fox, Jessica Crombie.  
Not pictured: Jenny Weiland.



## Simple Gifts for February — “Africa University”

During the month of February, 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 providing basic essentials for students and 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. When you give, you are providing basic essentials for students and 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.

### Ash Wednesday Special Offering

In February, there will be a special Ash Wednesday collection to support [Open Doors for Refugees](#), an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to help refugees make a home in the Madison area. With the support of the Madison community, Open Doors collects furnishings and sets up apartments, provides translation, transportation, ESL, childcare, and employment services for arriving refugees.

### Special Thanks for Christmas Giving

Thank you so much to the knitters and shoppers who contributed to the mitten tree! The donations (57 hats, 20 scarves, 30 mittens/gloves, and 2 pairs of socks) were taken to the Allied Drive neighborhood for kids and adults in need of warm clothing. (Thanks to Eileen Rech for transporting the donations). In addition, Christmas gifts were given to four families at The Playing Field. We also received donations that have been forwarded to the following: Allied Food Pantry (\$72.50), UMCOR (\$312.50) and The Playing Field (\$2160.00).

### UWF End-of-Year Giving

Bethany United Women in Faith donated over \$4000 at the end of the year. These donations were given to Just Dane, Rooted and Rising (formerly UM Children’s Services), DAIS, Northcott House, UMCOR Emergency, Allied Drive Food Pantry, UWF District Office and Miracle Garden. Thank you to all the faithful givers of UWF.



# 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

Susanna Circle of the United Women in Faith will not meet in February. Their next meeting will be March 6th.

### LYDIA FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting for Lydia Fellowship will be held on Monday, February 12, at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall at Bethany. Judy Loveless is our hostess. Judy's program is titled *Tim Russert and Buffalo, NY*. Tim Russert was the director of CBS News and the moderator of Meet the Press for about 10 years. He died unexpectedly in 2008 of a heart attack. Judy will talk about his life and his devotion to Buffalo, NY, a city with a unique culture and the Buffalo Bills football team. Tim Russert would end his Meet the Press programs with the cheer, "GO BILLS!". Everyone is welcome to attend. If you will attend, please email [Eileen Rech](mailto:Eileen.Rech@bethany.org) or phone at 608-228-6256.

### AGAPE

The first meeting of Agape for 2024 will be held at 6:30 pm February 12. It will be in person at the church in Room 228. Marge Lyford will be showing a slide presentation of the history of Bethany UMC! All are welcome!

### FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Hey Food & Fellow-shippers! Y'all are invited to send me your intentions to come to Benvenuto's restaurant (Fitchburg) for the Food and Fellowship luncheon on February 21st at 11:30. I have a few names of people who checked off on the sign-up sheet passed around at N & S Restaurant last month. But we can do better! This a great opportunity to get to know our fellow Bethany members and guests and eat a fabulous meal! I will take your names and send out a reminder email mid-February. — [Judy Loveless](mailto:Judy.Loveless@bethany.org), February Hostess

### REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

Reflections Book Club will meet Monday, February 26th at 1:00 pm in the Bethany library. February's book is *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus ---- about a gifted research chemist in 1960's California whose career takes a detour when she becomes the reluctant star of a beloved TV cooking show. Copies of the book are available in the church office. Come and join our lively discussion. Everyone is welcome.

### THE PLAYING FIELD — FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Bethany volunteers are needed to help with The Playing Field's Family Fun Night on February 15. This event is a special time for the children and their families to come together for a meal and fun. It's especially important for the teachers to be able to interact and spend time with the families, too. That's where you come in...the teachers can do that when we step up to help with other things like set up, serving, and clean up. If you can help out from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm on the 15th, please contact [Paula McKenzie](mailto:Paula.McKenzie@bethany.org). Thank you for your support of this important program at Bethany.

### PINE LAKE WOMEN'S RETREAT

Women of the Church: It's time to think about our upcoming retreat at Pine Lake on Saturday March 2nd to Sunday March 3rd, with an option of arriving on Friday evening for personal enrichment time. The retreat is sponsored by Bethany's United Women in Faith.



Bethany women have been going to Pine Lake Camp annually for a retreat since 2002 ... staying at the Bishop Rader Retreat Center and eating supper and breakfast at the Camp Dining Hall. The photo below was taken during Bethany's third retreat in 2004. The Spiritual theme this year will be "Faith, Hope, and Love in a Changing Climate." We'll learn how to live as followers of Jesus Christ in a climate changing world. Our spiritual leader will be Marianne Cotter, a retired United Methodist pastor who is active in climate change organizations.

Please consider joining us! It will be an opportunity to participate with other women in study, worship, games, working on a puzzle, going for a walk, and eating meals ... and become acquainted with women from other United Methodist churches in Madison.

Registration blanks will be available in the lobby on Sunday mornings, or contact registrar [Karen Mayeshiba](mailto:Karen.Mayeshiba@bethany.org) to register by email. Registrations are due Feb. 20.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## GREAT FINANCIAL NEWS FROM BETHANY'S BOARD

The Bethany Leadership Board reviewed the year end financial reports at our January meeting and have great news to share. In the year 2023 our income exceeded our expenses by \$7,512.79! This was an especially nice surprise because the 2023 budget was created expecting a \$20,000 deficit. All in all we received just over \$20,000 more than budgeted and our expenses were about \$8000 under budget. This gives us very solid footing for starting 2024!

We are so grateful for the faithful givers who supported Bethany and our ministries throughout 2023, and we're excited about what lies ahead in 2024. Together we will make wonderful ministries happen!

— The Bethany Leadership Board

## CONTRIBUTIONS/STATEMENTS/SCHEDULED GIFTS

The end of year contribution statements have been sent out. We want to remind you of a couple things:

- Please check your statement carefully, and if you think there are any errors or omissions, please let [Sandra Arrington](#), our Financial Secretary, know so we can make a correction.
- If you didn't receive a statement, please [contact Sandra](#) so we can update your contact information and send one to you.
- If you contribute using the scheduled gifts feature in Realm, please review your bank transactions to make sure that the contributions are occurring as you planned, and let Sandra know if you have questions.

## PEACE ORGANIZATIONS

For Bethany members who would like to follow up on Peace Sunday by contributing funds to a organization that works for peace, following is a list of a few reputable organizations and their addresses:

Amnesty International  
5 Pen Plaza  
New York, NY 10001

Methodist Federation for Social  
Action  
212 E. Capitol Street NE  
Washington, DC 20003

Carter Center  
One Copehill, 453 Freedom  
Pkwy  
Atlanta, GA 30307

Bread for the World  
50 F Street NW Suite 500  
Washington, DC. 20001

Fellowship of Reconciliation  
Box 271  
Nyack, NY 10960

## FEBRUARY FORUMS

After church almost every Sunday the Adult Ministry's team hosts either a Speaker Forum or a Discussion Forum linking our faith to real life (Faithlink). The Speaker Forums are held in the Chapel on the third floor. Faithlink is held in room 220 at the top of the stairs on the right. The forums last for about an 45 minutes. Everyone is welcome! Forums coming up in February:

- February 4: Just Dane. Linda Ketchum, Executive Director, will talk about the many programs Just Dane provides to inspire hope for individuals returning to the Dane County community following incarceration.
- February 11: As a follow-up to the Just Dane Forum on Feb. 4, our congregation will have an opportunity to purchase bakery items made by Just Dane's Bakery and talk with Jacylyn Eitrem, Program Manager, and some of the Just Bakery employees. Come to Fellowship Hall.

## JANUARY GAME NIGHT

On Saturday, Jan. 20th, Bethany members and friends enjoyed an evening of puzzles, games, and tacos! The next game night will be Saturday, March 16th from 4:30-6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there!





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)

## Vacation Bible Camp - Save the Date!

Bible stories, art projects, singing, friends, games, snacks...mark your calendars for a week of fun, faith, and fellowship for kids ages 4 - 11. VBC will be held at the Bethany church building this year, from June 10 - 13 (Monday through Thursday) from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. As in previous years, we will partner with Covenant Presbyterian Church, our congregational neighbors on Mineral Point Road. Lisa Weaver of Bethany and Megan Berry of Covenant have already met to start the planning process! Online registration will begin in the spring.

## Childcare Staff Members

Bethany Church is blessed with a wonderful pool of six childcare staff members! Thank you to Babita, Shreya, Charlotte, Ellie, Ella, and Abigail who add kindness, enthusiasm, and childcare to many church gatherings. In addition to Sunday mornings in the Sunday School and nursery rooms, childcare staff participate in events such as Game Nights and pageant rehearsal, and provide care during church meetings and Thursday evening Bell Choir rehearsals.



# 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)

## Skiing and/or Snowboarding at Tyrol Basin

Calling all Youth grades 6-12!

Date: Friday, February 9th, 6-10 pm

Tickets are \$30 per person, plus the cost of rentals

Please RSVP to Youth Director, [Kathy Mohs](#), and let me know if you have any questions!



## Family Tubing at Tyrol....take 2!!

Tubing at Tyrol Basin

Date: February 17th, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Tickets are \$30 per person and will be available on the [Tyrol website](#) beginning Sunday, February 11th at 5:00 pm. (Note: weekend tickets sell fast so book promptly.) This event is for families, and all who love tubing! If you have any questions, please ask [Kathy Mohs](#), Bethany's Youth Director; she and her son, Micah, have gone several times, and love it!



## Summer Mission Trip

Families of youth grades 6-12: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

SUMMER YOUTH MISSION TRIP DATES: Sunday, July 21st through Friday, July 26th!

Kathy Mohs, our Youth Director, is teaming up with Mallory Yanchus of First UMC and Mollie Foster of Park Ridge Community Church to create a local mission trip. The first two days will be in Milwaukee, followed by three days at First UMC, and concluding with a fun filled day at the Dells! This mission trip will have three focal points: Ecology, Politics: Justice and Faith, Food Security and Homelessness. More details coming soon.

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

Sunday, December 31  
Total .....89

Sunday, January 7  
Total ..... 183

Sunday, January 14  
Total ..... 198

Sunday, January 21  
Total .....187



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 9:15 am

**Worship (in person and on YouTube)** 10:00 am

Sunday School 10:15 am

Coffee Fellowship Following Worship

## Staff

Lead 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
Director of Youth Ministries .....	Kathy Mohs
Director of Music .....	Kristie Halverson
Director of Bell Choirs .....	Nick Bonaccio
Organist.....	Sue Poullette
Pianist.....	Evan Lange
Custodian .....	Ron Rebholz

**E-Banner Deadline:** Fridays at Noon

**Banner Deadline for the March Issue:** February 19