



The Banner

Every person feels, knows and shares God's love

Monthly Newsletter for Bethany United Methodist Church • Madison, WI • Vol. 56, No. 1 • April 2024

Easter Sunday — March 31

The Joy of Easter

Worship at 8:30 am and 10:00 am: We will offer two worship services on Easter morning. These will be joyous celebrations of new life and the hope we have because of the resurrection. Our Easter morning worship will include music from our choir, handbells, and a special brass ensemble.

- **Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 to 10:00** for children of all ages on the front lawn. There will be no separate Sunday School classes but the nursery will be open during both services for children ages 5 and younger.

Men's Retreat to Pine Lake

April 26-28, 2024

The annual Men's Retreat is returning the weekend of April 26-28 at Pine Lake United Methodist Camp. All men, and their sons, are invited — whether a Bethany member or not. In addition to theme-related talks there will be lots of time for games and exploring the variety of activities that Pine Lake offers.

We will prepare our own meals in the Oakwood Center (across from the Rader Center lodging). This option will provide more opportunities for a flexible schedule. Meals will include lunch on Saturday and Sunday, dinner Saturday evening and breakfast Sunday morning. Costs for meals are still being worked out but should not exceed \$40 per person for the four meals.

Lodging will be at the Rader Center (think motel-like accommodations). The cost for a shared room will be \$45 per person per night. A private room will be \$90 per person per night. You are welcome to come up Friday evening to enjoy an evening of games and Saturday morning exploration. Or, come up Saturday morning in time for the first session at 10:30 am. The retreat will formally end after Sunday's lunch.

Reservations should be made to the Church Office no later than Friday, April 19th. Reservations may be made by calling (608.238.6381) or emailing the [church office](#) or filling out the [online registration form](#).





PASTOR'S COLUMN



“God of all possibilities, we are listening.” As I prepare for Easter these words we have been praying in our Breakthrough Prayer keep coming to mind. Easter is a reminder of what is possible for God. An empty tomb is the sign of hope and possibilities. What an amazing God we have!



This is an exciting time in the life of the church. In a few weeks our rescheduled 2020 General Conference will take place. This denominational meeting has the potential to make some significant changes in the United Methodist Church. I hope you will attend the information session we have scheduled on April 2. We will hear from three of our Wisconsin delegates. They will share the process and possible outcomes as well as answering questions. Come and hear what might be possible for the future of the United Methodist Church.

Another exciting possibility are Bethany's MCCI Prescription Teams that are beginning their work. This process has been going on for more than a year and it's exciting to imagine what is possible through our prayers and shared vision for Bethany. I wonder what is possible in the next few months for Bethany and for the larger United Methodist Church. Just as we see new life around us as spring is beginning, we see hope and possibility in the resurrection. We as people of faith know that anything is possible for God. I can't wait to see what grows from this time. Happy Easter. Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen Indeed!

Pastor Julie



New members received on Sunday, March 10th:
Teresa & Art Pratt, Natalie Christensen, Dora Cortada and Blanche Emerick.

Simple Gifts for April — “Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice”

Simple Gifts during the month of April are going to support Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, which connects and empowers faith communities and individuals to work for the common good and a life of dignity for everyone.

This organization advocates for change so that all individuals and families can thrive socially, prosper economically, and participate fully in civil society. Its efforts center on intentionally building bridges across faith communities that can draw on the collective wisdom, courage, and strength of our various faith traditions.

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice supports efforts related to:

- Health equity
- Housing
- Immigration justice
- Interfaith bridge building
- LGBTQ+ rights
- Racial equity
- Voting rights
- Workers’ rights



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).

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

To learn more about Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, visit: <https://www.wisconsinfaithvoicesforjustice.org/>

Up next: Simple Gifts for May: The Playing Field General Fund

2024 Special Sundays

Over the course of the year, Bethany will participate in several special offering Sundays sponsored by the broader United Methodist Church. In the sharing of our gifts on these Special Sundays, as Methodists we can come together and make a significant difference in a way that no individual is able to on his or her own.

The next offering of 2024 is April 14 – Native American Ministries Day. The offering helps to nurture mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians.

GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION SESSION

On Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00 pm Bethany and First UMC will co-host an information session with three of our Wisconsin delegation. Rev. Allie Scott, Rev. Krysta Dedee and Jessica Goebel will join us via zoom to share some information about General Conference. They will answer questions and have some questions for us as well. The meeting will take place at Bethany and First simultaneously. Bethany's meeting will take place in room 228.

General Conference is a meeting of The United Methodist Church that takes place every four years. The next session will take place at the end of April, 2024. General Conference is composed of United Methodist clergy and lay leaders who are elected from annual, missionary and provisional conferences around the world. This representative body is the only one that can set official policy and speak for the denomination.





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.

MABEL HEIL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Wisconsin Conference United Women in Faith

The Mabel Heil Scholarship is made possible by earnings from a trust established by the will of Sarah Mabel Heil, a resident of Cuba City, WI. Funds are awarded by the Heil Scholarship Committee of the Wisconsin Conference United Women in Faith and are invested in the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. Any Wisconsin United Women in Faith woman working to improve her education may apply. Eligibility requirements and the application procedure are available on an information sheet in the lobby, near the bulletins. Application deadline is May 1.

UWF SUSANNA CIRCLE

The next meeting of Susanna Circle United Women in Faith will be Wednesday, April 3rd. Note: The meeting will start at 12:30 pm (not 1:00 pm) so that we can have our speaker, Kathy Mohs for our program. Our hostess is Bev Payne. All Bethany women are welcome. Please let [Judy Loveless](#) know if you are planning to attend.

UWF AGAPE

Agape Circle of UWF will meet on April 8, 2024 at 6:30 pm. Our program, presented by Vada Mayfield and Donna Wold, will be a tour through our church library and the UWF Reading Program books. We will meet in Room 228 to begin and then move to the library. All are welcome!

UWF LYDIA CIRCLE

The next meeting of UWF Lydia Fellowship is scheduled for Monday, April 8, at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall at Bethany. Kathy Doran is the hostess for this meeting. If you are able to attend, please send an email to [Kathy](#) or call 608-271-0560.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Food and Fellowship is an informal group of men and women who meet for lunch at a local restaurant on the third Wednesday of each month. Everyone orders from the menu and separate checks are issued. The next luncheon will be on April 17 at 11:30 at Adler's Pub and Grill on Watts Road. This is a good opportunity to get to know each other better and perhaps meet someone new to you. The hostess for April is Betty Hanneman. If you plan on attending in April, please let Betty know by Monday, April 15 so she can give the restaurant a count on how many to plan for. You can let her know [by email](#) or by telephone at 608-235-6148.

REFLECTIONS BOOK STUDY

The Reflections Book Club will meet in the church library at 1:00 Monday, April 22, 2024. The book that we will discuss is *The IT Girl* by Ruth Ware. All are welcome.

UWF SALAD LUNCHEON

MAY 4, 2024. 12:00 pm

United Women in Faith is hosting a Salad Luncheon on Saturday, May 4 at 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Tickets will be \$12 and are available April 21 and 28 in the lobby. Tickets will also be sold at the door on May 4. Child care will be provided from 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm.

There will be delicious salads and dinner rolls and scrumptious desserts! You will also have the opportunity to donate to a couple mission projects.

Let There Be Chocolate!! Our program for the luncheon will begin at 1:30 pm. It will be a presentation by Gail Ambrosius about her chocolate experiences. And there may be samples!

All are welcome as we enjoy good fellowship and support mission outreach!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



INVITATION TO BOOK STUDY

Trinity United Methodist Church's book discussion group, "Where's the Faith," would like to invite all members and friends of Bethany United Methodist Church to join us for a discussion of the book, "The Ever-Expansive Spirit of God: For All Who Feel Left Out," by Peggy Johnson (Acta, 2023).



Dr. Amanda Stein, South West District Superintendent of the Wisconsin Conference of the UMC, will lead the discussion. Dr. Stein was a first alternate DePagter to the Special General Conference of 2019 and has been a strong advocate for full inclusion of the LGBTQIA community into the life of the church, leading Trinity to become part of the Reconciling Ministry Network in 2007.

The program will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1123 Vilas Avenue. The hall is wheel-chair accessible. Free parking in church lot; please enter on the west side of the building. A light lunch will be provided afterward. Gluten-free options provided.

Please RSVP to [Chris Wagner](#) or 608-658-2272 by April 23rd if you can join us.

BETHANY'S WOMEN'S RETREAT AT PINE LAKE

After a lapse of a few years because of the COVID pandemic, Bethany women revived a long tradition of attending a retreat at Pine Lake during the first weekend of March. This year, eleven Bethany women attended the retreat and were joined by three women from First Methodist church and three women from Trinity church.

Carpooling and stopping at the Pioneer Restaurant in Westfield on the way to Pine Lake is also a tradition. Eleven of us gathered there and enjoyed a good lunch together.

Our spiritual theme this year was "Faith, Hope and Love in a Changing Climate." Marianne Cotter was our leader and presented us with two very well organized, informative and inspiring sessions, based on scriptures.

A few excerpts from the presentation and discussion - "Record high temperatures for the past year," "Maple syrup two months early," "Ice on lakes melting too soon," "Hope is not the same as joy because hope gives us the ability to keep trying," "Solar panels, electric cars, composting," "Continue to do all that we can," "When feeling anxious, remember who we are," "Live grounded in love."

In addition to the presentations, participants enjoyed fellowship, a hike along the lake, putting together a jigsaw puzzle, and eating an appetizing supper and breakfast in the Dining Hall.



GAME NIGHT

We are looking forward to another game night on Saturday, April 20th 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 using [this form](#) so we can get a headcount for food and fun!

BIBLE PRESENTATION

One of our faith milestones at Bethany Church is to present Bibles to children who are in 2nd grade, or to children who have joined the Bethany community after 2nd grade. We would love to give a Bible to any child who needs one! Bible presentations will be on Sunday, May 12 during the 10:00 am worship service. Please check in with [Lisa Weaver](#), Director of Children's Ministries, if you have a child in 2nd grade or older who would like a Bible.

FLASH! CHOIR

The FLASH! Choir is meeting at 9:00 on Sunday, April 7. We will rehearse a spiritual and then sing it in worship. The FLASH! Choir is made up of whomever comes to sing, and that can be YOU!

SENIOR RECOGNITION

Bethany will be having a Senior Recognition Sunday this spring. Please let [Kathy Mohs](#), Youth Director, know if there are any graduating seniors (high school and/or college) in your family.



Game Night

On March 16th, we had a wonderful game night with record attendance of over 30 people! All age groups were engaged in games, cards, puzzles, and sewing. A delicious taco buffet line was appreciated!





Chess

We have quite a few chess players among our Bethany children and youth! Chess boards are often out in the Bethany library and at fellowship events. Childcare staff members are holding their own with the kids, and all ages are willing to teach each other how to play or develop new strategies.



MCCI TEAMS

Serve Team

The Serve Team held its first meeting by Zoom on the evening of March 18, at which time participants read through the prescription and embarked upon preliminary conversations about "The Big Serve." The following people are now stepping forward in organizational roles:

Sara Roquemore, Ann Hill, and Carol Clingan will take the lead on organizing a church-wide canvass of all the ways that Bethany members are already serving in the community.

Lisa Weaver and Pastor Julie will take the lead on organizing an all-ages, all-abilities service project, likely on a weekend morning. This will likely be with The Playing Field — our most immediate neighbor! Lisa is talking with TPF staff on Thursday of this week to find out what an event like this might entail.

If you would like to join either of these efforts in the planning stage, please let Sara or Lisa know. Otherwise, stay tuned for details about other ways to participate in the future.

Faith & Life Team

The Faith and Life Team is being chaired by Julia Goetzka. Julia is eager to get the team together and plan. The team has a zoom meeting planned for April 4 at 3pm.

Triad Team

Jenny Weiland has agreed to chair the Triad Team. They had their first meeting on March 25 at 6:30pm. Following this meeting a coach will be assigned and the team will begin planning.

Capital Team

The Capital Campaign Assessment team chaired by Brian Crombie held a kickoff meeting on March 13th to begin the process of determining if Bethany should pursue a capital campaign. Jason Mahnke will be the team's MCCI coach. The team is reviewing previously identified needs and will begin additional work after seeking guidance from the MCCI coach in early April.

It's not too late to join a team! Please continue to pray for all our teams.



PALM SUNDAY



The donkey made an appearance and helped lead the Parade of Palms



The congregation participated in the Parade of Palms around the Sanctuary



Confirmation students Zach and Kerala assist Kathy with the scripture reading.



SUNDAY MORNINGS



New communion table



In the Lobby during worship



The Last Supper



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

Children's Sunday School

Sunday School children learned the story of the Last Supper with Jesus (Luke 22:14-20). Children in the PreK - Grade 1 class heard the story as they built a scene of blocks, clay "food" items, and small wooden dolls. Then they colored a mural, adding themselves to the long table. Children in Grades 2-3 read from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook* and then used playdoh to recreate the Last Supper scene. Children in Grades 4-5 have been reading passages directly from the Bible, and engaging actively in conversations and questions. Thank you to Sunday School teachers and adult helpers!



Vacation Bible Camp 2024 (VBC)

June 10-13 (Mon to Thurs), 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Location: Bethany United Methodist Church (3910 Mineral Point Rd)

All of our Bible stories this year feature BREAD in some way...stay tuned for more yummy details! But count on singing, projects, games, and stories.

The planners and Camp Directors are:

- Lisa Weaver (Director of Children's Ministry & Music at Bethany UMC)
- Megan Berry (Associate Pastor for Children, Youth, & Families Ministry at Covenant Presbyterian)

VBC is designed for children who are ages 4 - 11 years old. Register online using [this form](#).



Youth News

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

Confirmation Update

On March 1st-2nd, Pastor Julie, Kathy Mohs and Bethany's three confirmands attended the Wesleyan Heritage Retreat '24 at Lake Lucerne Camp. They attended services as well as four various sessions:

- "Jack & Chuck & Frank & Phil" (Methodist History)
- "World Wesleyan Web" (Methodist Connection)
- Compassion & Social Justice
- "BEING Methodist" (Missions & Justice)



Senior Recognition

Bethany will be having a Senior Recognition Sunday this spring. Please let Kathy Mohs, Youth Director, know if there are any graduating seniors (high school and/or college) in your family.



Summer Youth Mission Trip

Save the dates: Sunday, July 21-Friday, July 26th

We'll spend the first two days in Milwaukee, the next three days staying at First UMC, with the final day spent at the Dells! Our mission trip will have three focal points: Ecology, Politics (Justice) and Faith, Food Security and Homelessness. Bethany UMC will be teaming up with Rev. Mallory Yanchus of First UMC, as well as Pastor Mollie Foster of Park Ridge Community Church.

More details to follow as the planning unfolds!

SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (IN-PERSON AND YOUTUBE)

Sunday, March 3	Sunday, March 10	Sunday, March 17	Sunday, March 24
Total 193	Total 182	Total 163	Total 193



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

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
Youth Director	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 May Issue: April 22