



Announcements & Upcoming Activities



Simple Gifts for December: Porchlight

Porchlight collaborates with the community to provide shelter, affordable housing, and support services that eliminate barriers and empower the individuals and families it serves.

Simple gifts can be made by placing loose coins in the offering plates, or by putting cash or a check in mission envelopes.



Upcoming Sermon Series

This January our sermon series will focus on joy and peace in relationships. It promises to be both fun and deeply meaningful as we explore the joy and challenge of being peacemakers. This series will emphasize how God calls us to get along with others, spread joy, and build peaceful relationships.

Removing Christmas Decorations

As we approach the end of the Christmas season, help is needed to take down the Christmas decorations following worship on January 5. Your help is greatly appreciated as we prepare for the new year. If you're able to stay for a little while longer, your assistance will make a difference.

Puzzle Tournament

Save the date: Sunday, February 2, 1:30 - 3:30 pm. Mark your calendars for Bethany's first jigsaw puzzle competition! Teams of four will race to see who can finish a 500-piece puzzle the fastest. If speed puzzling is not your jam, you will enjoy the casual puzzling tables and can drop off or pick up gently-used puzzles at the Swap Table. Light refreshments and door prizes will round out the event. Registration details coming soon!

To Parents of Young Children

God put the wiggle in children. Don't feel like you have to suppress those wiggles in church.

- Consider sitting closer to the front, where it's easier for your little ones to engage.
- Quietly explain the parts of worship and actions of the worship leader, musicians, pastor and others who are involved in the service.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. That's how children learn.

If your child needs a bathroom or water break please feel free to leave the Sanctuary, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Keep in Touch

Church Office Hours: Weekdays, 8 am to 2:30 pm
Bethany UMC
3910 Mineral Point Rd.
Madison, WI 53705
608.238.6381
Website: BethanyMadison.org

Childcare: From 9:00 to 9:45 am our childcare staff are available in the library for children whose adult family members are preparing for worship. From 9:50 - 11:15 am, the nursery is open in Room 222 for children ages 5 and younger.



Sunday, December 29, 2024
10:00 am



Welcome

We are honored you chose to worship with us today.
To learn more about the life of the church, visit our website: BethanyMadison.org

Bethany's Vision for the World

Every person feels, knows, and shares God's love.

Gathering Music

Sue Poullette, Organist

“Festive Piece on ‘We Wish You a Merry Christmas’”

(arr. Dan Miller)

“Humoresque ‘L’Organo Primitivo”

(Pietro Yon, 1886-1943)

Welcome!

Pastor Julie

We believe all people are recipients of God's love and grace, and that God intends the church to be a community that embodies love, grace, and justice for all people. We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, social status, and so much more. Everyone is welcome!

Breakthrough Prayer

Pastor Julie

Timeless God, challenge us to know your radical love that created each person in your image. Open us to wonder, as we work for justice with kindness following the example of Christ. Amen.

Opening Prayer (responsively)

Bethaney Campbell

Leader: We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear—

People: God is in our joy.

Leader: God is in this room.

People: We have reason to celebrate.

Leader: We have a reason to sing.

People: Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.

Song

#246 “Joy to the World”

Red Hymnal
Evan Lange, Piano

Prayer of Confession (responsively)

Leader: Joyful God,

You told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven,
we must be like children.

People: Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy?

**Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism,
and open ourselves to delight?**

Leader: In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit,

People: this often seems easier said than done.

Leader: Forgive us, patient God, for the moments

when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.

**People: Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats
instead of jumping for joy.**

Leader: We know that even now

you are sowing delight in our lives.

People: Open our hearts up to it.

With gratitude we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness (responsively)

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

People: We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.

Song

#238 “Angels We Have Heard on High (verses 1 & 2)”

Red Hymnal
Evan Lange, Piano

Lesson One

Listen for Joy

Luke 2:10; Isaiah 9:2-3

Sing with Joy

#251 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Red Hymnal
Evan Lange, Piano

Practice Joy

Children’s Message

Lesson Two

Listen for Joy

Matthew 2:10; Psalm 148

Sing with Joy

#234 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (verses 1-3)

Faith We Sing
Evan Lange, Piano

Practice Joy

Joy Found in the Community

Lesson Three

Listen for Joy

Psalm 126:1-3; Isaiah 55:12-13

Sing with Joy

#240 “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Red Hymnal
Evan Lange, Piano

Practice Joy

Joy Found in Prayer and Giving

Song

#2279 “Trees of the Field” (2 times)

Faith We Sing
Evan Lange, Piano

Final Blessing and Greeting One Another

Closing Music

“March Humoresque”
(Raymond Haan)

Sue Poullette, Organist