



## Announcements & Upcoming Activities



### Removing Christmas Decorations

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

### 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.



### Tubing at Tyrol (January 25, 1:00 pm—5:00 pm)

Snow, slopes, fresh air...this is your opportunity to join Bethany friends and family for outdoor fun. Purchase tickets through the Tyrol website ([tyrolbasin.com/tubing/](http://tyrolbasin.com/tubing/)) for this date and time, and we will meet up there. All tubes are provided, and a warming shelter is on-site to visit as needed during the afternoon. Check with Kathy Mohs (Youth Director: [youth@bethanymadison.org](mailto:youth@bethanymadison.org)) or Lisa Weaver (Children's Ministry Director: [children@bethanymadison.org](mailto:children@bethanymadison.org)) for questions or more information.

### Puzzle Tournament (February 2, 1:30 pm—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](http://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.



# Bethany

United Methodist Church



Sunday, January 5, 2025  
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](http://BethanyMadison.org)

### Bethany's Vision for the World

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



### Gathering Music

*Sue Poullette, Organist*

#### "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"

*(arr. Wilbur Held)*

#### "We the Magi"

*(arr. Steven Scott)*

#### "Away in a Manger"

*(arr. Mark Hayes/Marvin Gaspard)*



### 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.

 **Call to Worship \* (responsively)**

*Curt Campbell*

Leader: How did you get here?

**Left side: I walked, eyes looking up, following the star.**

**Right side: I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.**

**Left side: I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.**

**Right side: I ambled like a river, caught up in God’s flow.**

**All: I crawled, kissing the earth below me.**

Leader: Tell me again. How did you get here?

**All: I am here by God’s grace and love’s pull.**

Leader: Welcome home. This is God’s house. There is room for you here.

**All: Let us worship our gracious God.**



**Song**

#245 “The First Noel”

Red Hymnal  
*Sue Poullette, Organ*



**Children’s Message**

*Lisa Weaver, Director of Children’s Ministries*



**Anthem**

“Little Drummer Child”

*Evan Lange, Piano*



**Scripture (Isaiah 43:16-21) CEB**

*Curt Campbell*

<sup>16</sup> The LORD says—who makes a way in the sea and a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse, army and battalion; they will lie down together and will not rise; they will be extinguished, extinguished like a wick. <sup>18</sup> Don’t remember the prior things; don’t ponder ancient history. <sup>19</sup> Look! I’m doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don’t you recognize it? I’m making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness. <sup>20</sup> The beasts of the field, the jackals and ostriches, will honor me, because I have put water in the desert and streams in the wilderness to give water to my people, my chosen ones, <sup>21</sup> this people whom I formed for myself, who will recount my praise.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Circle any words that hold meaning for you, or that you wonder about.  
What questions do you have about this passage?*



**Message**

“The Road Isn’t Straight”

*Pastor Julie*

 **Affirmation of Faith**

On Screen



**Song**

#254 “We Three Kings”

Red Hymnal  
*Sue Poullette, Organist*

**Offering**



Scan the QR Code or

Text “Bethanyumc” to 73256

*Pastor Julie*



**Discipleship Moment**

*Pastor Julie*



**Song**

#431 “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Faith We Sing  
*Evan Lange, Piano*



**Communion and Time of Prayer**

*Pastor Julie*

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**



**Receiving Communion & Star Words**

*Did you receive communion today?  
How did that make you feel?*

*Pastor Julie*



**Song**

#251 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Red Hymnal  
*Evan Lange, Piano*



**Final Blessing and Greeting One Another**

*What friends do you already know?  
Are there new people to meet?*

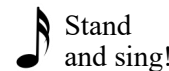
*Pastor Julie*



**Closing Music**

*Sue Poullette, Organist*  
**“Improvisation on ‘March of the Magi’”**  
*(arr. Jon Spong)*

\* Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org



Stand and sing!



Listen with your heart



Write or draw



Communion



Pray (quietly and with spoken words)