



# Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



[bethelmadison.org/bethelite](http://bethelmadison.org/bethelite)

## BETHEL PUSHING OUT ON THE FRONTIER

### Wisconsin Historian's Bold Thesis

In the Wisconsin historical records, it is historical marker 317, a simple metal marker at the intersection of Cook Street and Wisconsin Street in downtown Portage, the home of his birth. Frederick Jackson Turner was to become the most prominent historian of his generation. Teaching at UW from 1890-1910 and then at Harvard from 1910-1922, Turner was best known for what was called the "Frontier Thesis" of American history. He believed that the best way to understand American history you had to see it from the West looking East. Most historians and theorists held that what was uniquely American began on the East Coast and moved West. But Turner turned that around arguing quite convincingly that what was truly unique about American culture was shaped by the frontier. His research led him to believe that the tools, trades, resources, views, beliefs, and self-understandings that Europeans

brought with them fell by the wayside on the expansion West. The more that immigrants, explorers, adventurers, entrepreneurs, and desperados moved West the more they found the frames of reference from the Old Country were ineffective and maladaptive for life on the unknown edge (at least to Europeans) of North America. As

Turner's views have undergone considerable modification since originally published. What I think is important for us at Bethel, though, is the awareness that as people travel into distant and unknown lands, they change. They learn new skills, develop new tools, adopt new values. There is something about



this moment in time that feels to me a little bit like a frontier. We are living and moving forward together we are learning new skills, developing new tools, and discovering important values. The pandemic and social tensions have altered our landscape. It is when we are pressed to the wall,

they pushed West across the frontier, they were forced to devise new tools, new ways, and new habits in order to survive. They learned to inhabit their world differently. This, said Turner, is where the distinctively American experience and values begin to appear.

when we are all out of answers, when there is no obvious way forward, it is then that we let go of some of the old ways and create the new. The difficulties and challenges we are facing together are provoking in us

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a new sort of growth and life. As a church community, we are adapting, adjusting, and thriving. In the process, there is a new sort of Bethel taking shape. From where I sit, it is quite beautiful and exciting. Challenging, yes, but still very exciting. And you, beloved people, are also adapting and adjusting to this new land. It is hard on the frontier. But we are with you. Your stresses, struggles, and hopes are dear to us. The frontier is not a place you stay as much as pass through. And we will all pass through this together. 🌈

–Mike Brown, Lead Pastor

## Drive-In Family Worship & Movie

Saturday, July 25 at 7pm



Join us at the Alliant Energy Center Parking Lot on Saturday, July 25 at 7pm for a special family worship (30-40min) and then watch Disney's Finding Nemo movie!

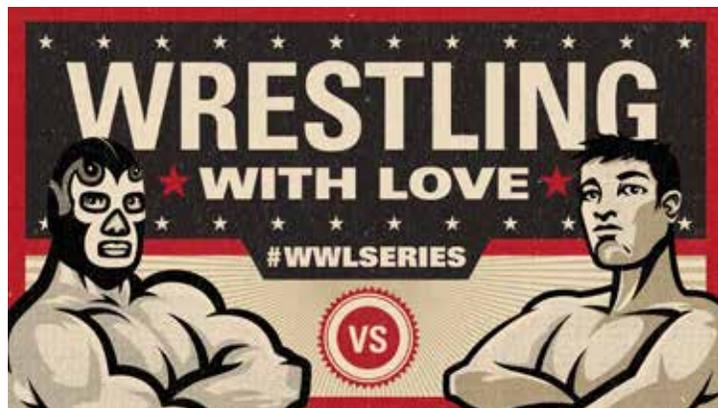
Saturday, July 25 at 7pm  
Alliant Energy Center Parking Lot  
30-40min worship followed by Disney's Finding Nemo movie

More info: [www.bethel-madison.org/nemo](http://www.bethel-madison.org/nemo)

Have a question or concern in advance of the event?  
Email [cindy@bethel-madison.org](mailto:cindy@bethel-madison.org). 🌈

## Wrestling with Love

New Sermon Series: Aug 2 – Sept 13



Sometimes loving others feels like stepping into the ring. Take the normal everyday relationships in life, add a worldwide pandemic, personal isolation, social unrest, political animosity, and economic uncertainty, and you have the makings of a World Wrestling League bout between loved ones, neighbors, or even strangers. Fortunately for us, the Bible is full of insight and counsel on how to handle such situations. Join us at Bethel for Pastor Mike's new series of messages: WRESTLING WITH LOVE, from Aug 2 – Sept 13.

- Aug 2** – Strengthening Your Core
- Aug 9** – Handling the Anger
- Aug 16** – Turning Conflict on Its Head
- Aug 23** – Breaking Free of Abuse
- Aug 30** – Taking People Pleasing to the Mat
- Sept 6** – Escaping Religious Traps
- Sept 13** – Walking Away a Winner 🌈

## New Member Spotlight

Ronald & Judy Wenger



We are longtime residents of Madison. Having recently left another local church which we attended for many years, we are excited to have discovered the historic Bethel Lutheran Church and its dynamic new minister Pastor Mike. We

have already signed up for the Bethel Bible Series and are anxious to meet other members of the church. 🌈

# COVID 19 Task Force Update

Bethel's COVID 19 Task Force started meeting weekly on May 6. The Task Force consists of a group of scientists, medical providers and church leaders who will advise Bethel on best practices for church operations during the COVID 19 pandemic. Our goals are to create policies to align church operations with the Forward Dane Phased Reopening Plan, create policies for employee health and safety, and provide guidance for various stages of in-person gatherings as we move through the next 12–18 (or more) months.

To fulfill our mission we regularly review and discuss various primary source materials including the Center for Disease Control guidelines, the Wisconsin Badger Bounce Back Plan, Forward Dane Phased Reopening Plan, information from the ELCA and Wisconsin Council of Churches, and materials provided by the Neckerman Insurance Agency. In addition, Pastor Mike regularly interfaces with the pastors of other downtown churches to coordinate the opening of buildings for in-person worship at approximately the same time. With but a few exceptions, the current consensus is that there is no rush to begin in-person worship in the near future.

The Task Force will make recommendations regarding congregational activities (such as in-person worship) to the Joint Council, who will respond to recommendations within 24 hours. Operational decisions (such as cleaning recommendations) do not need to be presented to Joint Council. Currently:

- Most staff are working from home.
- Weddings and funerals may take place if the event is limited to 10 people (including the pastor and all service participants).
- Bethel will not exceed city and county occupancy guidelines during any phase of the Forward Dane Plan.
- Bethel will follow all CDC guidelines for cleaning; we are ordering equipment and supplies.
- The Task Force divided into action teams to work on policy development that covers the following areas: staff health and safety; worship; children and family ministry; facility readiness and sanitation; homeless ministry / food pantry; and facility use. Look for more on each of these in the upcoming weeks.

Please reach out to any of the Task Force members if you have questions.

God's Peace,

Judy Armelin, Tony Arneson, Craig Gjerde, Kim Kindschi, Eric Knueve, Steve Lawrence, Kiel Majewski, Heather Moen (facilitator), Greg Moses, Kathy Pielage, Bev and Mike Thom, Denis and Laura Vogel and Pastor Mike Brown

***Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4: 6-7 🌈***

## New Member Orientation

Bethel IOI Class; August 5 – Sept 9

Pastor Mike invites you to a six-week orientation class to life at Bethel. The class will include elements of Bethel's teachings on what it means to be a follower of Jesus, how to understand the Bible, the meaning of the Lord's Supper and baptism, how to get involved at Bethel, and many other subjects. Since booklets will be

sent by US mail, pre-registration is encouraged. Bethel 101 will meet on Wed evenings from 7:30-8:30pm.

To pre-register, please email [pastormikebrown@bethel-madison.org](mailto:pastormikebrown@bethel-madison.org). This class is open to all people, members, non-members, and the simply Bethel-curious. 🌈

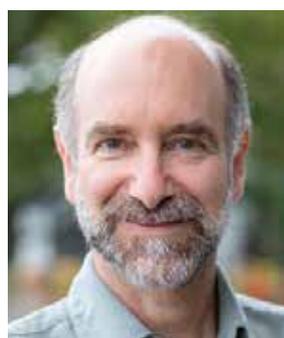
# Caring for Creation

Preventing the Next Pandemic: Urgency for a Planetary Health Approach



July 21 | 7pm | Online Event

Connect online to a special video event sponsored by Bethel's Caring for Creation and Caring for Social Justice groups. The centerpiece is an encore presentation of Professor Jonathan Patz's brilliant 2020 Earth Day talk that links two urgent global concerns: the threats to human health from viral pandemics and environmental degradation. As relevant now as it was in April, the presentation will be hosted live by two members of Bethel's re-opening task force, Craig Gjerde and Greg Moses, who will also respond to viewers' questions after the video presentation. This event will occur this week only in lieu of Pastor Mike's usual Tuesday Fireside Chat.



UW-Madison **Professor Jonathan Patz**, a co-recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, is one of the world's leading authorities on public health, especially its relation to environmental and climate change.

Plagues and pandemics are not only part of our culture—they are caused by it. Viral diseases like Ebola, HIV-AIDS, Dengue fever and now COVID-19 originate in animal hosts but spill over to and spread among humans when environmental factors align. These factors include urbanization, international travel, pollution, and land-use and climate changes. Restoring planetary health will reduce the risk of future pandemics and benefit human health in many ways. 🌍

**Caring for Creation Leadership Group:** Todd Fansler, Faith Fitzpatrick, David Knuti, Sigrid Knuti, John & Giselz Kutzbach, Wilda Nilsestuen, Tom Solheim

**Caring for Social Justice Leadership Group:** Susan Bruckman, Kris Fansler, Aileen Kacvinsky, Ann Leon, Wilda Nilsestuen, Dana Lund Rice

**Caring for Creation (C4C)**

[www.bethel-madison.org/caring-creation](http://www.bethel-madison.org/caring-creation)

**Caring for Social Justice (C4SJ)**

[www.bethel-madison.org/caring-social-justice](http://www.bethel-madison.org/caring-social-justice)

# Mud Pit Festival & Picnic

## Bethel Horizons Camp on August 16

*"GOD formed the man out of dirt from the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. The man came alive—a living soul" – Genesis 2:7*



There's nothing like some good clean fun! And Horizons has been thinking of you! On July 11, you will have your first great opportunity for some deep woods hikes. In less than an hour, you are transported to another world of beautiful nature. Food is available for purchase by registering in advance (more details in the article to the right called 'Pick Up or Picnic'). The second is a socially distanced outdoor party with food, music, and a mud pit on Aug 16. Step, slide, or belly flop your way into the holy pit of oozing mud and be reminded that you come from the same stuff. Awards will be given for most original jump, longest jump, best belly flop, and best canon ball. Water hoses will be nearby to hose off. Many people often wear their swimwear beneath their clothing or bring clothes to change into. Also, bring a towel. Bethel Horizons Camp is located near Dodgeville at 4651 Co Rd ZZ, Dodgeville, WI 53533. 🌈

–Mike Brown, Lead Pastor

# Pick Up or Picnic!

## Saturday, July 11 from 11am–2pm



Come join us for a socially distant picnic! While you're here, you can go hiking or just relax and socialize! Pre orders are required for this event. If you have a dietary restriction you would like us to accommodate, please reach out to us ([micky@bethelhorizons.org](mailto:micky@bethelhorizons.org)) after you have purchased a ticket. You are welcome to eat at distanced picnic tables, bring your own blanket and spread out on the lawn, or take your meal to go! Once you're done eating you may want to explore our property, hike our many trails, or just soak up some sun. When you arrive there will be signs directing you where to go and how to pick up your food.

### The Menu:

Entrees - Baked chicken quarters marinated with Bethel Horizons secret marinade or stuffed peppers  
Sides - Potato salad, seasoned brown rice, watermelon or coleslaw  
Drinks - Bottled water, cans of lemonade or capri sun pouches  
Each meal will come with a cookie for dessert.

**Price:** \$11 per person or \$35 for 4 people

**REGISTER HERE!** (pre-orders required)  
<https://tinyurl.com/y85y2gyv> 🌈

# 2020 Madison Community Graduation Parade



# Drive-In Family Worship & Movie



**Puerto Rico Mission Trip (Apr 20-27, 2021)** - As we are all adjusting to the COVID-19 pandemic, it's time to start thinking of the 21st annual mission trip to Puerto Rico, which will take place April 20-27, 2021. It is a fun filled trip and an opportunity to meet some amazing people. Applications are already coming in and we will be limited to 19 people. You can find the application on the Bethel website ([www.bethel-madison.org/pr](http://www.bethel-madison.org/pr)) or contact Phil Ingwell at [pingwell60@gmail.com](mailto:pingwell60@gmail.com) or 608.535.0777. We look forward to speaking with you.

**Fireside Chats with Pastor Mike** - Pastor Mike will be sitting down with you virtually and answering questions you have for him during his Tuesday Fireside Chats live-streamed on Facebook at 7pm (or it can be viewed on YouTube any time after 8pm). If you have any questions you would like to ask him, please send them to [christal@bethel-madison.org](mailto:christal@bethel-madison.org).

**Wednesday Night Live Streamed Lord's Supper** - Join us on Wednesdays at 7pm for the Lord's Supper. Just because we are unable to meet in person for worship doesn't mean we can't share the Lord's meal. There are few features more central to the life and teaching of Jesus than the common meal. Every Wednesday until we are able to celebrate in person, a pastor will lead us in a live-streamed Lord's Supper at 7pm on Bethel's Facebook or you can watch any time after 8pm on our YouTube channel. Of course, no Lord's Supper is complete without the bread and wine (or juice). So, everyone is asked to have wine/juice and bread ready for the evening's communion (any type of bread and wine/juice will work). A pastor will lead the blessing over the internet. We will all share the body and blood together and the goodness of God.

**Contemplative Scripture Reading on Thursdays (Interactive)** - Join Pam Shellberg for a time of interactive, contemplative scripture reading. During each 45-minute period, we will read a passage from scripture and reflect on it by way of the ancient practice of lectio divina. This involves engaging the scripture with our minds, imaginations, and hearts – along with good measures of silence and sharing. This will happen in “real-time,” and you will be able to join in as part of a video conference (if you have a webcam on your computer) or by phone. Links will be provided in the

Thursday Daily Devotion email for joining this group. Send any questions to Pam Shellberg at [pam@bethel-madison.org](mailto:pam@bethel-madison.org).

**Use Amazon Smile and Donate to Bethel** - Do you shop online using Amazon? Did you know you can donate to Bethel by doing your regular shopping through Amazon? By using Amazon Smile, they will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchase automatically to Bethel!

How can you set this up? It's Easy!

1. Go to: <http://smile.amazon.com> (we recommend bookmarking this page for easy accessing)
2. Under the search bar click on the word “Supporting” in orange letters.
3. Select “Change your charity”.
4. Type “Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison, WI”
5. Click the Search Button.
6. Click the Select button.

That's it! You will now be donating to Bethel every time you make a purchase. (Remember to use the Amazon Smile web page as that is how Amazon tracks your purchases for donation. If you use the regular Amazon page, your donation won't be recorded.) Your Contact: [christal@bethel-madison.org](mailto:christal@bethel-madison.org)

**TEXT TO GIVE** - Text “BLC” to 73256 to give.

**GIVE ONLINE** - [www.bethel-madison.org/giveonline](http://www.bethel-madison.org/giveonline)

**Bethel Now on Instagram** - Scan the image below to follow us!





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608.257.3577 | Email Christal Swigart: [christal@bethel-madison.org](mailto:christal@bethel-madison.org)

## 6 PENTECOST

Pastor Mike Brown - July 5 at 7:45, 9am & 11:15am

## 7 PENTECOST

Pastor Mike Brown - June 12 at 7:45, 9am & 11:15am

### SUNDAY, JULY 5

- 7:45a Worship Service (live-stream on Facebook & YouTube)
- 9:00a Worship Service (viewed on Facebook & YouTube)
- 10:00a Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom - Interactive)
- 11:15a Worship Service (live-stream on Facebook & YouTube)

### MONDAY, JULY 6

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 12:00p Food Pantry Open 12-3pm (M-F)

### TUESDAY, JULY 7

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 7:00p Fireside Chats with Pastor Mike (live-stream Facebook)
- 8:00a Fireside Chats with Pastor Mike (YouTube)

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 7:00p Lord's Supper (live-stream Facebook)
- 8:00p Lord's Supper (YouTube)

### THURSDAY, JULY 9

- 8:00a Second Harvest Delivery
- 8:30a Men's Current Christian Concerns (Zoom - Interactive)
- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 10:00a Contemplative Scripture Reading with Pam Shellberg (Zoom - Interactive)
- 8:30p Contemplative Scripture Reading with Pam Shellberg (Zoom - Interactive)

### FRIDAY, JULY 10

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)

### SATURDAY, JULY 11

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 9:30a Food Pantry Open 9:30-11:30am

### PASTORAL STAFF

**Pastor Mike Brown - Lead Pastor**  
[pastormike@bethel-madison.org](mailto:pastormike@bethel-madison.org)

**Pastor John O. Swanson - Director of Congregational Life**  
[jswanson@bethel-madison.org](mailto:jswanson@bethel-madison.org)

### Sunday Flowers:

June 21

Altar Spray was giving in memory of her husband Ron White by Carolyn White.

Pulpit Bouquet was giving in memory of his parents by Tom Solheim

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