

BETHELITE

JANUARY 5, 2022: VOL. 70, NO. 1

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*Jan 23 at 4pm
(New Time)*



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Color Bethelite provided in part by
Bethel Endowment Foundation*

ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN

It's amazing how we don't always recognize the value of what we have when we have it. Take for example a hole in the ground. Digging holes was one of my favorite past times as a boy in the semi-arid scrub-land of West Texas. Whether alone or with friends, I would trek into the pasture where there was little more than mesquite, tumble weeds, horny-toads, lizards, and cicadas with my shovel over my shoulder looking for a good spot to start digging. Sometimes we would dig in search of buried treasure. Other times, we'd dig to find our way to China. Most of the time we would dig channels and large open areas over which we would lay sheet metal, wood, then newspapers, and lastly dirt. These channels and chambers became a subterranean club house for my friends and me, shielding us from the scorching glare of the West Texas sun. Sometimes, we would pull string attached to cans or some used water hose throughout to provide some form of communication system. These underground cave systems became a base of operation for summer expeditions and explorations. It was a dirty experience, but honestly, getting dirty was half the fun. Yes, indeed, we knew all about holes in the ground. It was in our skin and in our pores. It was probably because we spent so much time in holes we had dug that I had little interest in another hole not far from the place where I lay my head each night. My parents introduced me to that hole as I remember them loading up the family in the 1976 yellow Plymouth Fury to drive us out to what seemed like the middle of nowhere to see it. It was a short trip, less than ten miles away. At the time, I didn't really see the big deal. Like I said, I knew all about



This space rock hit 65,000 years ago.

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holes. I had seen them and dug them.

Later in life, though, I think it was during a summer in high school, something dawned on me. I had the strongest need to race out to that hole where my parents had taken me. So I jumped in my 1965 Ford Galaxy 500 with a V-8 engine and a double-barrel carburetor and headed south. In no time flat I travelled the ten miles and was there. That Galaxy 500 would shoot like a rocket when you pushed the gas pedal far enough down. As I walked in and around that site, it hit me that the big hole in the ground my parents took me to years before had been created by a meteorite, which was still on display in the little museum at the site. All those years, I had lived so close to one of the rarest occurrences in the world, and the second largest in the US – an impact



When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established; —Psalm 8:3-4

crater – and scarcely gave it any attention. The meteorite that made that crater hit some 65,000 years ago and was actually part of a meteorite shower that created five craters in the same general area. Made of iron and metal, it was easy for anyone with a metal detector to discover fragments for their personal collections, which I certainly did.

Another name people give to meteorites is “shooting star” because often times, when meteorites enter the atmosphere friction results heating the object to red hot and white temperatures. Most meteorites burn-up completely in the atmosphere. A few will hit the earth, like the one that caused the Odessa Meteor Crater, a crater that was ten stories

deep and 500 feet across. Filled-up over time with sediment, the crater is still an impressive hole. For me, the significance of the meteorite and impact crater has been how it seemed to bring together both “heaven” and “earth”. A rock from “space” hit the ground I walked on.

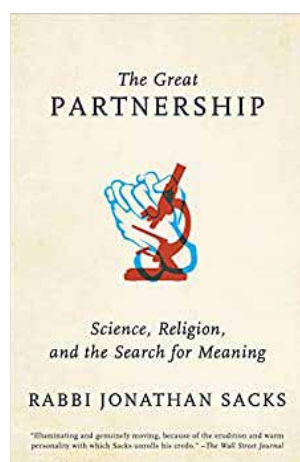
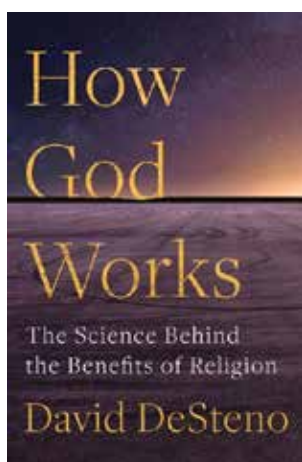
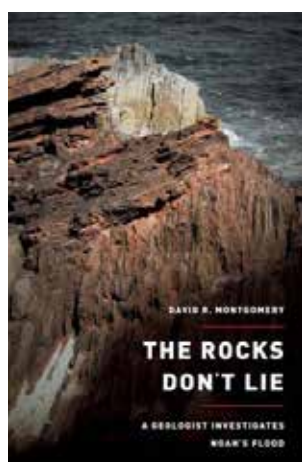
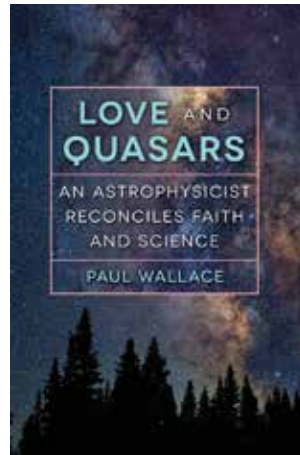
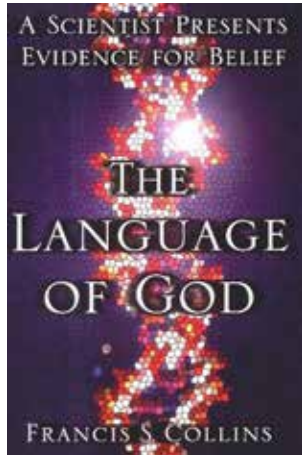
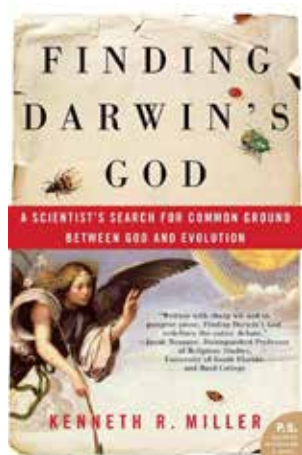
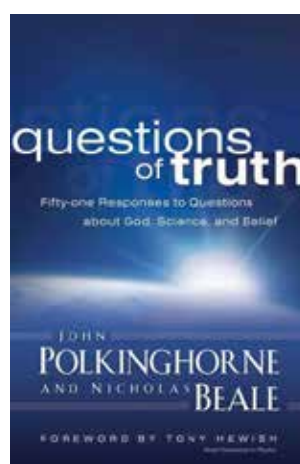
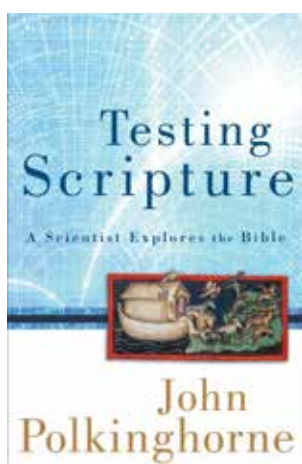
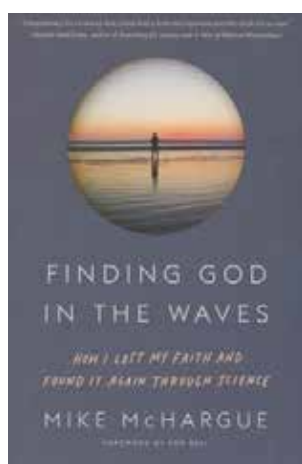
In truth, the space rock that made that hole is part of the same creation as the earth, the moon, and everything else. Yet, for me, pondering the immensity of the cosmos and my connection to it had a way of bringing me closer to God. A deep connection with God comes in all shapes and

from all directions. The joy we will celebrate in January is how science and the physical world become places of contact with the divine. 🌈

*Pondering
the
immensity
of the
cosmos*



RECOMMENDED READING FOR FAITH & SCIENCE



SERAPH BRASS AT BETHEL

Jan 23 at 4pm (new time)

Seraph Brass is a dynamic brass quintet drawing from a roster of America's top female brass players. Committed to engaging audiences with captivating programming, it presents a diverse body of repertoire that includes original transcriptions, newly commissioned works, and well-known classics.

Seraph released their debut studio album, *Asteria*, on Summit Records in January 2018 and has toured throughout the United States, Mexico, and Europe. They have performed multiple concerts at the Lieksa Brass Week in Finland, and they were the featured ensemble at the International Women's Brass Conference. Seraph has performed concerts at the Forum Cultural Guanajuato in León, Mexico, Dame Myra Hess Concerts in Chicago. They are on the roster of the Manhattan Music. Many members of Seraph Brass performed with Adele on her North American tour in 2016.

Now, Seraph Brass, the group that has been called "the next Boston or Canadian Brass" comes to Bethel for one night only. There is no admission fee. This concert is being funded by a generous gift from an anonymous donor. 🍀

VIEWS FROM SCIENTISTS



Greg Moses
Nuclear Engineer



Elena D'Onghia
*UW Associate Professor
Astrophysics*



John Hawks
UW Professor Paleo-Anthropology

Scientists not pictured above who are sharing their insights include Bethel members: **Jared Schmitthenner**, PhD, theoretical physicist and educator, and **Todd Fansler**, PhD, physicist. 🌈



EPIPH

Local Scientists Join Bethel's Conversations on Faith/Science

Sunday morning Adult Education during the 9am and 10:30am education hours is in for a real treat during January. Drawing on the insights of Greg Moses, Elena D'Onghia, John Hawks, Jared Schmitthenner, and Todd Fansler Sunday morning education a Bethel video will set the stage. Class will be a combination of video and discussion. Running through the video of these local scientists will be a central emphasis on the compatibility of the study of science and the experience of God. Religion and science provide two different perspectives on life in the world. In differing they do not compete. It is a false teaching that says people must choose one of the other. Instead, they work together to bring into greater focus what we

and not one, we have greater depth of vision and clarity. This is called "binocular" vision. In biology, binocular vision is a type of vision in which an animal has two eyes capable of facing the same direction to perceive a single three-dimensional image of its surroundings. Like binocular vision, faith and science work together to give greater perception and comprehension.

Each one, both faith and science, have a single perspective. Science addresses questions about **how** the physical universe came to be. Faith addresses questions about **who** brought the universe to be. Science is the search for explanation. Faith is the search for meaning. Science provides a perspective that



observe and how we interpret it. Faith and Science work together like the pair of eyes we use each day. Because we have two eyes

the Bible does not. Science focuses on what some call the "Book of Nature". Faith focuses on the "Book of Scripture". 🌈

ANY SERIES

WORLD OF WONDER

LESSONS FROM SCRIPTURE & SCIENCE

SERMONS JANUARY 9, 16, 23

JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

TS Elliot

“A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.”
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursiang and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.
Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;

With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.
All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death. 🌈



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Bethel is looking for individuals who are interested in becoming Stephen Ministers. A new class will be scheduled after all applications are received. The Caregiver's Compass is the central theme of Stephen Ministry training. It describes the following traits necessary to become a Stephen Minister. They are that an individual is full of faith, compassionate, trustworthy, and skilled. The skill to become a Stephen Minister is obtained by attending Stephen Ministry classes. Topics covered in the class include the art of listening, process versus goal-oriented results in caregiving, confidentiality, and discussion of specific illness and personal issues that a Stephen Minister may encounter when ministering to a Care Receiver.

Additional information about Stephen Ministry is available on the Bethel website under Care ministry and in recent articles of the Bethelite. Applications to become a Stephen Minister are also available on the Bethel website. Anyone interested in becoming a Stephen Minister can complete the application and return it to Pastor Mike. 🌈



STARRY NIGHT PAINT AND SIP

Jan 19, 7pm

There is more than one way to enjoy the wonder, beauty, and mystery of the night sky. Some, like King David connect with the cosmos in prayer and song.

Some, like TS Elliot, connect with the cosmos in poetry and writing. Others, like Galileo connect through a telescope. Still others, like Einstein and Michio Kaku connect through math—the language of science. Finally, others like Van Gogh connect through art. To support, encourage, and inspire the deep appreciation for God's creation and of Jesus Christ, Bethel will be hosting a Paint and Sip party, facilitated and led by artists



and directors from Wine and Design of Madison. The cost for the evening is \$50, not including a glass of wine. Other non-alcoholic beverages and snacks will be available at no cost. All materials and instruction will be

provided by Wine and Design. This event will be a maskless gathering.

Due to the ongoing threat of the pandemic and public health orders from Dane County and the CDC, all who participate in this Paint & Sip Party will be required to present documentation demonstrating full vaccination. Register online at the Bethel website at www.bethel-madison.org/starry. 🌈

ACTJAM BIG READ

Settlin': Stories of Madison's Early African American Families

We've all been there. You're talking with someone who mentions they grew up in the same town as you, or went to the same school, or whose great-grandparents came from the same spot in the world as yours. And suddenly you're connected. The "do you knows...." crescendo to a discovery that your sister-in-law's grandfather was a second cousin of your new acquaintance's great-uncle's wife. You're family!

Stories bond us. They're the glue of community – whether that's church or neighborhood. When we share our stories we find our connectedness. Can we love our neighbor fully if we haven't listened to their story?

This month starts the next leg of our ACTJAM journey where we're invited to share and listen to our own stories and those of our neighbors. It's about warming old relationships and forming new ones – inside and outside Bethel -- young and old, Black and White, Native and immigrant, straight and queer, in prison

and out. Because church is community and relationship is the ministry.

Our Big Read for January is *Settlin': Stories of Madison's Early African American Families* by Madison educator Muriel Simms. Community copies can be borrowed from the Bethel Library. Watch the calendar for discussion times.

Muriel Simms collected the oral histories of 25 African Americans whose families arrived, survived, and thrived here in the 19th and 20th centuries. Check out this article in *Isthmus* with excerpts from the book. <https://bit.ly/3m8w3Pg>

See the ACTJAM web page at www.bethel-madison.org/ACTJAM for how to share your story!

P.S. Guess what church is pictured on the book cover? (Hint: Starts with "B" and rhymes with "Ethel.") There's a story there! 🌈



ADAPTING WITH COVID

At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 21, the Bethel church council voted to adopt two new Covid-related policies to support the restarting of ministries and the protection of members and guests from preventable exposure to the virus.

As other organizations like the Overture Center for the Arts have done, and in compliance with Dane County public health ordinances, Bethel will now institute a practice of allowing masks to be removed in gatherings where every person in the gathering is fully vaccinated. This allows groups like CCC, Christian Men's Fellowship, Friendship Club, women's circles, youth groups, etc. to meet without masks, if and only if, each person in attendance has been fully vaccinated and demonstrates it with proper documentation.

Additionally, council also voted to suspend the serving of coffee and donuts on Sunday morning until Dane County alters its ordinance requiring masks at all indoor gatherings, with the exception being when everyone present is fully vaccinated. 🌈



Muriel Simms



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BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Madison, WI 53703



FINANCIAL REVIEW SESSION

Jan 16 at 6:30pm

What a year it's been at Bethel! Join in the Financial Review Session on Sunday evening Jan 16 at 6:30pm at Bethel to learn what has been accomplished with the financial support of faithful Bethelites, and what the well-considered plan is for the new year.

The budget presented within this review, is essentially what will be voted on at the annual meeting – the next Sunday, Jan 23. The past structure of having this preview time for those interested has proven to be an appreciated good discussion. Council treasurer Laura Vogel and Director of Finance Danielle Moyer (who celebrates her first year anniversary with Bethel in mid-January!) are the featured presenters. In house 'historian' Alice Mowbray will be on hand to lend perspective and context 🌈

BETHEL ANNUAL MEETING BY ZOOM

Jan 23 at 1pm



Annual Meeting Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7458589816>

Out of an abundance of caution and due to the ongoing pandemic and increasing threat levels posed by the virus, Bethel's Annual Congregation Meeting in 2022 will take place by Zoom, as it did last year. The 2021 Annual Report will be available in mid-January containing reports for congregational life, teams, Lead Pastor, financials, and the Nominating Committee. All members are welcome to attend and vote. If you are not yet a member of Bethel and would like to know more, please contact Pastor Mike at pastormikebrown@bethel-madison.org 🌈



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Worship Times: Sunday at 7:30am & 9am - Traditional; 10:30am - Contemporary
Saturday at 5pm - Acoustic Casual