



The Playing Field



Community Involvement

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.

**Matthew
25: 35-36**

Partnering with Early Head Start and Bethany United Methodist Church, The Playing Field opened a child care and early education program in 2015 at Bethany UMC. The Playing Field seeks to create a unique model that educates children experiencing homelessness right alongside children from more advantaged backgrounds. Bethany believes this model is a step toward minimizing the disparity between white and minority children and has amazing benefits for children from both groups. Bethany's involvement includes financial support as well as volunteer opportunities for the whole family — children and adults. The Playing Field represents a portion of Bethany's response to "Our Madison Plan— Mobilizing Madison for Change," as proposed by the Justified Anger Coalition.



Bethany United Methodist Church
3910 Mineral Point Road
Madison, WI 53705-5124
Phone: (608) 238-6381
bethanyoffice@bethanymadison.org
www.bethanymadison.org

 **Bethany**
United Methodist Church

Community Involvement

Luke House provides a community meal pro-



gram serving 100-150 people, most dealing with some aspect of poverty. Bethany is one of about 40 faith communities taking responsibility for shopping, providing a main dish, and serving a noon and evening meal each month.

Porchlight operates an emergency shelter for

men at Grace Episcopal Church. Volunteer organizations prepare and serve two meals each day to more than 100 individuals using the shelter. Bethany volunteers shop for groceries and serve the evening meal on the first Sunday of the month.



Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens



is a local non-profit group that plants, grows, and provides area food pantries with over 100,000 pounds of fresh vegetables a year. In season, Bethany's volunteers work at the Ken Witte Garden in Verona on two evenings a week. Family volunteer groups are welcome.

Allied Partners is an interfaith coalition of congregations working together to assist residents in the Allied-Dunn's Marsh neighborhood. Bethany participates by contributing food, financial donations, and volunteers for the Food Pantry, the Eviction Prevention Fund, and the Wellness Center/Cooperative, and by providing representation on the Allied Partners Board.



Allied Partners
Action in Faith



Habitat for Humanity builds affordable



housing for families in need. Supported throughout the community, Habitat raises funds and uses volunteers to build these

homes. Habitat for Humanity of Dane County helps spread this "Ministry of the Hammer" around the world, as well as at home. Bethany participates during the year in Habitat Build projects and for recurring Faith Builds.

Meals on Wheels provides hot, nutritious, noontime meals 365 days per year to individuals in need living in Madison, Middleton, Monona, and Sun Prairie. All meals are delivered by dedicated volunteers, including volunteers from Bethany. Volunteers provide safety checks on recipients and offer a friendly smile.

The Road Home, in collaboration with local faith communities and organizations, is committed to the empowerment and long-term success of homeless families with children, and to serving each family with dignity and respect. Four times a year, Bethany serves as co-host for families for a week with Temple Beth El and Blessed Sacrament. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, dinner preparation, childcare and overnight supervision.



Simple Gifts received as offerings each Sunday

help to support a variety of Community, Social Justice, and Mission projects locally, nationally and throughout the world. Community organizations benefiting from Bethany's Simple Gifts offering include:



- ◇ Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens
- ◇ Meals on Wheels
- ◇ Bethany's Annual Youth Mission Trip
- ◇ The Road Home
- ◇ Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality and Solidarity (MOSES)
- ◇ Harvest of Hope
- ◇ Domestic Abuse Intervention Services
- ◇ Madison Urban Ministries
- ◇ Porchlight
- ◇ Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN)

Offerings of loose change in the offering plate, or checks and cash in mission envelopes go specifically to the Simple Gift recipient for the month.