

Dear Emmanuel Community,

September 14, 2020

I earnestly hope everyone is – by the Grace of God – doing well. It is by Grace, Grace, and Grace alone that we came this far through the COVID-19 pandemic. It was wonderful to celebrate our Kickoff Sunday on the 13th. My heartfelt gratitude goes to all who took part in this and for all those involved in organizing this event extremely well. Thank you!!!

The last couple of weeks I have been specifically encouraged by these words from the scriptures:

Your beauty and love chase after me
every day of my life.
I'm back home in the house of GOD
for the rest of my life.

– Psalm 23:6 (The Message)

This means a lot to all of us – to our church, to each disciple of Jesus – that God is forgiving, healing and reconciling us every day, and that God's mercy chases us each moment of our lives despite and in spite our sin-filled nature. So, let us give thanks to the Lord for his goodness and mercy. We are certain that his Goodness and Mercy are chasing ECUMC! Let us extend that mercy to others who are in need.

Let me invite all of us to pray on the following:

- 1.** Next year (2021) our church celebrates 175 years of ministry and we pray that Lord will continue to guide us to be united in Christ as a body and prepare us for the Jubilee in new ways. **"Come Holy Spirit -Lead Us to Rejoicing, Renewal and Recommitment!"** Let us pray to the Holy Spirit as we approach this special moment for our congregation.
- 2.** Let's pray for our partner church – Summer Field UMC and her challenging ministry in the city of Milwaukee, especially during the pandemic.
- 3.** Please pray for all our ministry staff and their ministries as we work together with you to build up the Body of Christ in these challenging times.
- 4.** Pray for the teachers, kids and parents as we all struggle together to educate our new generation amidst the huge challenges posed by the pandemic.
- 5.** As we are still in the *Season of Creation* (September 1st – October 4th) we will continue to pray that everyone will celebrate creator God and be an ecologically responsible citizen in our community.
- 6.** Please also pray for the senior members of our church, especially those who are home bound and living in senior care homes and assisted living.
- 7.** Let's also pray for the healing of the nations and church's ministry in the work of creating peace and facilitating reconciliation.

The steadfast Goodness and Mercy of the Lord is sufficient for all of us my friends – as the Psalmist sings, we cannot escape 'ever Chasing Beauty and Love' of the Lord – rest assured!

Grace and Peace,
Jerome Sahabandhu



World Communion Sunday Offering, October 4th

Behind each ministry is a story of hope and restoration and the unmeasurable impact of generosity. The impact of 12.5 million United Methodists, in 136 countries, is phenomenal. Together we witness to the love of Jesus Christ for a hurting world and transform lives and communities in his name. Please help by supporting World Communion Sunday, October 4th.

World Communion Sunday your special gifts/donations will be immensely helps to offer scholarships to the international students and create cross-cultural studentships throughout the world and these scholarships are managed by the General Board and Global Ministries or General Board of Higher Education & Ministry.

You can either give directly, https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=x1a8uAgje-8dTfwGAicT4jfYGSQ2YUK1meeOWIRPxd1YzobNDOqExusiAiLTuMtoo6-d3DQA40Rqw3EBWBnq49OLO7Dg8yDFJe-osqoHKPeIRMIUQO1ws0MDmjSxQn1PNu4dk3RU8TgnE-2Qc-mSA== or your check could be sent to ECUMC office, we will make sure the funds reach right place.

Creation Prayer Walk tomorrow September 15th

Have you seen our beautiful church property recently? The Green Team has renewed the fence of the Growing Faith Garden which is, in addition to faith, is also growing many lovely vegetables that are being donated to the Food Pantry. There's also a charming new sign.

But the most obvious difference to the church's "backyard" is how much of it there is – a huge open space stretching forever to the tree line in the distance. Of course, this field was always there, but for many years it was obscured by dense undergrowth and invasive plants.

Tomorrow's Prayer Walk will leave from the church parking lot (9:00 am) and go into that newly revealed field. Rick Kohlmann will provide some commentary as we take a Creation Prayer Walk together. Wear old shoes; no doubt WI mud will be part of the tour!

Our deep appreciation to Rick Kohlmann, Doug Maschman, Neil Neff, and Bob Weiland who spent many, many hours clearing out everything. To them and the entire Green Team, thank you for your commitment to God's wonderful creation!

A Huge THANK YOU!

Dear Friends in Christ, to all of those who helped with the festivities for **The Fall Kick-Off!!!** The all the ECUMC staff, leaders, organizers, speakers, volunteers, tech, and more.



Let me express my heartfelt thanks to YOU personally for all the work and talent, prayers and support, creativity and teamwork you put in together to make the *Kickoff Sunday* a reality!

People were blessed, God's name was praised and thank you all.

Let's ask God's blessings and grace for all that is to come in fall and upcoming advent!

To God be the Glory!!
Grace and Peace
Jerome

Many more thanks

I would like to thank all the people who worked to create the worship service yesterday!

Thank you to all of you involved in creating the Kickoff Sunday worship yesterday. It had such a good positive feeling and gave everyone a chance to see the staff and leadership in action. I loved the creativity and variety in activities. It was ECUMC at it's best. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to gather and interact with my church family.

I think we should have horns blowing in every church service.

Bonny Walters

Pastor Jerome sends his Invitation to All

Dear Friends in Christ,

I would love to get to know each and every one of you, and so I am inviting you to sign up for pastoral time. We can check-in and connect on "how you are doing? Spend time with me, I will pray with you, and if you have any pastoral concerns, we will attend to that as well. This time is also an excellent way for me to get to know my community better.

My Thursdays are prayerfully dedicated to this from 9 am to 3 pm. You can sign up at ec-umc.com or call 262-251-3830. We can meet in-person individually or family, by phone call or zoom.

Sign Up for Community Quest!

Pastor Jerome's Beatitudes study begins this Wednesday, and other small groups quickly follow.

Be sure to register soon so you'll know how to virtually join the group(s) of your choice!

Click here <https://form.jotform.com/202390847327054> or call the church office.

- † Beatitudes - Wednesdays, 7-8 pm – starts Sept. 16th
- † Bible Study - Fridays, 10-11 am – starts Sept. 18th
- † FaithLinks - Sundays, 7:30-8:30 pm – starts Sept. 20th
- † White Kids - Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 pm – starts Sept. 22nd
- † Anxiety - Sundays, 9:45-10:30 am- starts Sept. 27th