

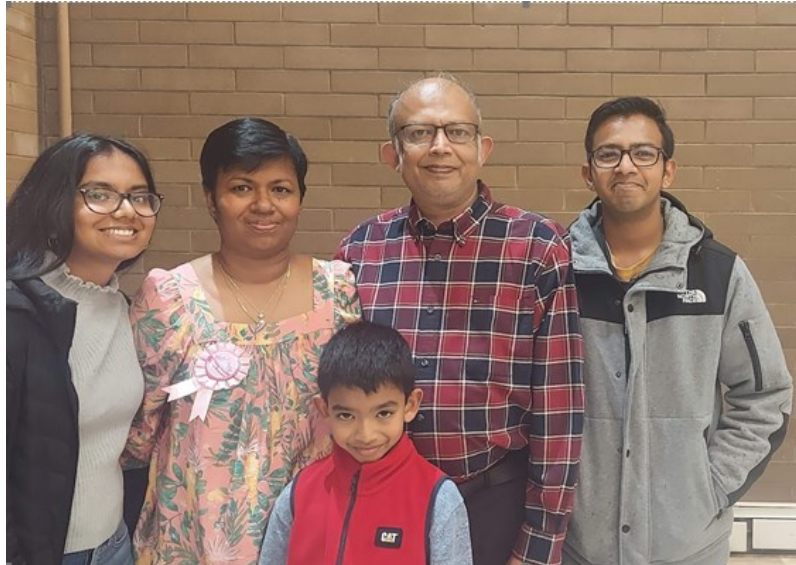
# PATHWAYS

JUNE 2023

## Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter

N84 W16707 Menomonee Avenue, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051 ✧ 262-251-3830 ✧ [www.ec-umc.com](http://www.ec-umc.com)

### *Goodbye Pastor Jerome & Family*



With gratitude, ECUMC says goodbye to Pastor Jerome and his beloved family. Pastor Jerome and his family offered their prayers, presence, services, gifts and witness in our church and community. Pastor Jerome's ministry and his servant leadership will be greatly remembered for a long time to come. Key moments that have been celebrated and launched in our church under his pastoral watch are: 175<sup>th</sup> Jubilee, Solar Panels project, reconciling work. Emmanuel Community cherishes this ministry of prayer, cross cultural advocacy, global theological insights and biblical preaching and teaching. Pastor Jerome's commitment to creation care have had a great impact in our community. Thank you Sahabandhu family for your love and grace. We wish you all the best for your next ministry adventure!

### **A TRIBUTE FROM LAY LEADER ROLLIN KRING**

What a way to start a new assignment! Start a new job during a pandemic with the COVID outbreak. That is what Pastor Jerome Sahabandhu did. Our church was closed. Our church needed to continue Worship services, therefore, we started streaming our services. Pastor Jerome recorded his sermons so our congregation could still hear God's Word. We slowly opened and Jerome's spiritual faith helped lead past the pandemic.

Pastor Jerome is a deeply spiritual pastor. His years of study in different countries and experiences helped him in this new assignment in a new place. Inoka also assisted with ministry teams and attended services. She went to Summerfield church every week and assisted with whatever was needed. Nisal has been a great assistance to the AV-Tech team with running equipment during two different services. Shalomi was a Sunday school teaching assistant, helped with AV-Tech, and volunteered with the Summerfield United Methodist Church Food Security program in Milwaukee. Meshach is an active young boy who attends services with his family but also assists with ushering at the Celebration service and children's activities.

We have all learned about Sri Lanka, Jerome's native land. His spiritual journey landed him in Wisconsin as he presented God's Word. Now Jerome will learn to be a Packer Backer with his new assignment in Green Bay. I am sure Jerome will hear "Go Pack Go", but his message will be "Go God Go"!

## PASTORAL MESSAGE

### ***Lord, Bind us Together in Love***

To my mind, Christ invites us to partner in his mission—the mission of *KOINONIA*; unity and fellowship, solidarity and communion of the church in these challenging times.

Let's discuss why we should be working toward koinonia with the Lord?

- ♦ **We are called to be a Trinitarian community:** As the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit are ONE, we are called to be one body and one people of God. We are called to live in harmony and peace, as well as to overcome all of the evil, division, and fragmentation that the world has created. We praise our Father, we follow Jesus the Christ, and we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to create a BELOVED community.
- ♦ **We are called to be the ONE organic body of Christ:** Within the diversity of the **body of Christ**, koinonia is both a gift and a calling; we are formed into a new creation as both one and many (2 Cor 5.17), a creation born of the reconciling Power of Christ.
- ♦ **We are called to sow the seeds of Koinonia:** A lesson we learn from the early Christian community is that they prayed together and worshiped together, they broke bread together, they evangelized others together, and they shared food and everything they had together. The basis of all of that is LOVE.

When we do all of these things, we are following Christ's commandments to live in unity and love.

During my 27 years of ordained ministry, here are some of the things I have learned and shared with others—things related to unity, togetherness, and koinonia.

1. Unity cannot be built through human efforts alone. It will fail miserably. Human uniformity can lead to Babel towers. Unity is God's desire. Unity is His gift and grace.
2. Forgiveness is fundamental for unity and togetherness so that we all grow in Christ's love and forgiveness, offering them to others. "There is no future without forgiveness." — Nelson Mandela
3. Respect and honor diversity: Christ accepts and loves people from all walks of life, irrespective of person's color, caste, class, educational background, intellect, gender and sexual orientation. We have to accept diverse ways of doing things, including diverse leadership styles. We promote unity in diversity and diversity in unity, not uniformity.
4. To test the caliber of the community, determine how that community treats the weakest and the lowest, the last and the least in that community. Remember that a Samaritan person reached out to the weakest in that moment (while being a marginalized community member himself). He helped to build relationships and inspired service with sacrifice, healing the world for generations to come.
5. Be a peacemaker at all times. Jesus said, "Blessed are the artisans of Peace, for they shall be called children of God." I hope you want to be children of God.
6. Respect dissent. The simplest wise saying would be, "In Christ, we agree to disagree, respect one another, and accept all in love."

My prayer is — Lord help ECUMC to welcome and affirm all God's children!

God's vision is the Koinonia of all creation: It is called SHALOM ! Let's build this just by doing our part. Let's pray for it; we need that today.

Happy June!

**Pastor Jerome Sahabandhu**

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MATT

Greetings to my new friends in Menomonee Falls!

I am excited to begin engaging in mission and ministry with all of you. What an honor it is to be appointed to serve Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church! Ours is a church with a long track record of faithful witness to the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Some of you have been at the heart of this for decades while others are new to the community. Some may be hurting in this season of transition, others may be excited. New and old, hurting or excited, we will move forward together.

Over the years, I have served small and large churches. I received my Master's of Divinity in 1996. In 2009 with the support of the church I was serving at the time, I completed my Doctor of Ministry degree in "Preaching for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC. I am grateful for so many positive experiences and lessons that I can now bring with me to walk and to work with you.

My first weekend in worship with you will be July 9. I encourage you to invite someone to come to worship with you. This may be uncomfortable for you, so I am going to help you. We know that researchers have found that one of the main reasons people are hesitant to invite someone to be a guest at their church is fear of being embarrassed by what their friends might experience. Will the music be terrible? Will the pastor be able to deliver a relevant message that feeds the soul? From everything I have heard and I am sure you have witnessed personally, we know the music is going to be wonderful, so let's address the preaching. The truth is you don't know if the sermon is going to be good. This takes all of the pressure off of you. You can invite your neighbors, friends, or family members by saying, "Our new pastor is preaching this weekend. We don't know if he's any good, would you like to come and check it out with me?" If the sermon is bad you won't need to apologize. But, if the sermon is relevant and meaningful for your guest then you will have offered a blessing to their soul.

Together we are called to do the important work of, ***"Imitating Christ Together."*** This is our mission. It is why we exist. May God bless us all as we faithfully live this out in new and exciting ways.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Matt

P.S.

What follows is an exercise I want to explore with the congregation and my preaching plan from July 9th until Labor Day.

It is my prayer that I will be able to meet with as many of you as possible in person for a “meet and greet” session so that I can hear your hopes and fears for the impact Emmanuel Community United Methodist will have not just in the greater Menomonee Falls area, but well beyond our community.

Here is what I want you to think about. Imagine that you will be relocated for five years. When you return to EC-UMC after those five years, here are the questions I want to hear your answers to:

1. *What is one thing you hope has not changed at all?*
2. *What is one thing you hope we will have finally realized has run its course and needs to end?*
3. *What is one new thing you hope we will have finally started to offer or engage in?*

*What is one topic/question you hope the pastor will address in a sermon in your first six months back?*

In my ministry I have found these four questions to be a valuable tool for shaping mission and ministry in the local churches I have served. If taken seriously, they reveal first what is the fundamental core of the church family. Secondly, what things we are using valuable resources on that may no longer be meeting the specific need that may have existed decades ago. Third, the relevant issues our geographic region are currently wrestling with. And finally, how my preaching choices can best assist you to grow spiritually.

I can't wait to get into the pulpit at Emmanuel. Here are my first two sermon series:

#### **“GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER”**

July 9 – This is a Day of New Beginnings”

*Together we start a new journey*

July 16 – “The God Who Calls”

*God calls all of us to service. I will share my call to ordained ministry*

July 23 – “Bucket List”

*What things do we all want to accomplish before we are called home to God*

July 30 – Guest Preacher

#### **“IMITATING CHRIST TOGETHER”**

*My take on our ECUMC mission statement*

August 6 – “Imitating Christ’s Love”

August 13 – “Imitating Christ’s Sense of Justice”

August 20 – “Imitating Christ’s Compassion and Grace”

August 27 – “Imitating Christ’s Humility”

## HOW I BECAME A RECONCILING ADVOCATE

### The Testimony of Janet Ray

My mother prayed that I wouldn't be left-handed. She grew up at a time when parents, teachers and coaches tried to force her to use her non-dominant hand and punished her when she didn't comply. She didn't want that for me.

Today we understand that being left-handed isn't a moral defect or "sinister" in some way—it's just another attribute of "YOU."

In most circles, this trait is accepted without question or discrimination in the 10% of the population who are left-handed.

As a teenage Christian, I was solidly in the camp that classified LGBTQ+ people as "unnatural," morally corrupt, and somehow "less than." Looking back, I am ashamed of my prejudice and ignorance, but perhaps my journey to a new perspective can be helpful.

As I attended college in the early 1980's, I met LGBTQ+ people—lovely human beings who worshipped the same Lord and Savior as I. They were worship leaders in campus ministries, Eucharistic stewards in their home parishes, and ministerial candidates.

These wonderful, kind, and patient individuals, by their actions and character, upended my long-held prejudices.

In addition, there's been a new body of research about LGBTQ+ people during my lifetime. The idea, popular in the 1990's, that children can be "socialized" to change their sexual orientation has been utterly debunked. Brain imaging technology has shown a variation in brain structure between homosexual and heterosexual men. I came to understand that (like left-handedness), sexual orientation is part of "YOU." Science exposed my ignorance.

But as a generations-long United Methodist and a self-avowed "rule-follower," I was still not ready to imagine defying the UMC Book of Discipline's rules against ordination and in-church wedding ceremonies for LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters. For that, I needed one final persuasion: the Word of God.

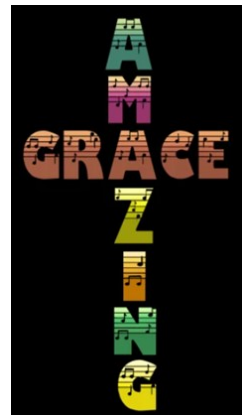
I don't know Greek or Hebrew, so I am dependent on those who do to provide a translation.

Sometimes, translators get it wrong (think of all the portraits of Moses with horns!) and sometimes they project their own biases.

For example, it surprised me to learn that the same word "*phusis*" is used by Paul in both condemning men for having long hair and also for having sexual relations with other men, in 1 Corinthians 11 and Romans 2 respectively. For Paul, both are equally "unnatural," but few would condemn their male pastor for having a ponytail. (For the record, short-haired women are deemed equally "unnatural.") An investigation of similar Scripture and their historical contexts convinced me that the Bible does not mean to deny anyone their Spirit-led calling or the joy of human love.

Ultimately, though, I reflect on my own unworthiness. The Bible, which is (at best) ambiguous and imprecise about the behavior of LGBTQ+ persons, very clearly and in multiple contexts condemns pride, falsehood, and greed. I know myself to be competitive, to stretch the truth, and to be self-serving. God and/or the United Methodist Church would be wise to set limits on me and my influence.

And yet God's grace prevails. God can use even me. God can use even you. God can use even everyone.



### Thank You from the Reconciling Task Force

Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to attend a Listening Session or fill out our Questionnaire. You should have received a detailed letter in the mail, but here is an abbreviated version of the feedback we received:

We hope you will join us on June 4 at 9:30 AM\* to vote on whether you believe ECUMC should affirm the Reconciling Statement.

A special **thank you** to our Listeners—Jeannie Berrall, Bonnie Falk, Bill & Susanne Gay, Rosie Jashinsky, Mary Klein, Kelly & Matt Kons, Rollin Kring, Nancy Lockwood, Janet Ray, Anna Thompson, Bonny & Doug Walters, and Anne Weiland—we appreciate all of the time you took to connect with church members!

\* If you cannot make it on June 4, there will be a short time to vote on May 28 at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall.

	FS		SS		O		Total
Age	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
13-25 year olds	6	100%	0		0		6
26-35 year olds	0		0		0		0
36-45 year olds	14	88%	0		2	12%	16
46-55 year olds	15	100%	0		0		15
56-65 year olds	18	95%	1	5%	0		19
66-75 year olds	31	89%	4	11%	0		35
76+ year olds	19	65%	6	21%	4	14%	29
Total No.	103		11		6		120
Total % (out of 120)	86%		9%		5%		

FS = Fully Support

SS = Somewhat Support

O = Opposed

## ECUMC SAYS GOODBYE TO SUMMERFIELD



Summerfield Church is closing its doors in June. The congregation, along with the Food Program could not re-establish itself post-Covid. ECUMC has been very involved with the M-W-F Warming House w/ Lunch and the Saturday Evening Meal Program.

Our prayers go out to the members of SUMC as they bring their 150-year long history to a close. Our prayers also go out to the community people who relied on the availability of food and the constant spiritual and emotional support they found at SUMC.

ECUMC is now transitioning its mission activities from SUMC to United Methodist Children's Services. This is a WI UM Conference initiated and supported mission serving the Washington Park area. You will hear more in the future.

The Summerfield Team of Rick Kohlmann, Jean Reif, Lisa Mass, Inoka Sahabandhu and Bonny Walters thank ECUMC for your support. We would like to acknowledge those who made side dishes, Cindy Morgan, Pam Laurion, Pam Janke, Anne Weiland, Kris Thomas, Linda Kent, Mary Dambekaln, Ginny Patterson, Debbie Kasprzak, Debbie Kimmel, Samson Mass, and those who picked up the food donated to us, Doug Janzen, Doug Maschman, Ray Adler and Jon O'Connell.

Over the years we at ECUMC have been committed, focused, organized, diligent, hard-working, compassionate and loving disciples. "Well done good and faithful servant" is certainly appropriate.

## ALL CHURCH READS—SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Join other ECUMC readers who'll enjoy fellowship and snacks while discussing a book! Coming Up:

**June 11 @ 10:15 AM**(Fellowship Hall) ***House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune**  
(400 pages)

*Young Adult fantasy fiction – Recommended by the Reconciling Ministries Team*

Linus Baker leads a quiet, solitary life. He lives in a tiny house with a devious cat and his old vinyl records. As a Case Worker at the Department in Charge Of Magical Youth, he spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in government-sanctioned orphanages.

Until the day when Linus is unexpectedly given a curious and highly classified assignment: travel to Marsyas Island Orphanage, where six dangerous children reside. He must set aside his fears and determine whether or not they're likely to bring about the end of days.

An enchanting story, masterfully told, *The House in the Cerulean Sea* is about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place—and realizing that family is yours.

Later this summer:

**July 16 @ 9:45 AM** (Fellowship Hall) ***Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond**

**August 20 @ 9:45 AM** (Fellowship Hall) ***Secondhand* by Adam Minter**



## YOUTH MINISTRIES



### High School Senior recognition Sunday is June 4!

We are recognizing our high school seniors on Sunday, June 4, following 8:30 sanctuary service. Please join us in Celebration Hall and take time to enjoy a cupcake, a cup of coffee, and conversation as we honor our graduating seniors. We look forward to seeing you at 9:30 AM, after the sanctuary worship service.

### Youth Mission Trip to United Methodist Children's Services

Wednesday -Friday, June 21, 22, 23. – We are joining with the Oconomowoc youth group we met at Lake Lucerne winter camp in January and with United Methodist Children's services to create a local mission trip. Students going into 6<sup>th</sup> grade this fall (5<sup>th</sup> grade now) through graduated Seniors (12+) are eligible to go. We will be helping Children's Services prepare for their annual block party event they give to those who use their services and for the surrounding community.

We will meet at church at 8:30 AM on each of the mornings. We will arrive at UMCS at 9 AM and spend most of the day there. On Wednesday, we will travel to Good Shepherd UMC directly from UMCS after the day's work and enjoy a meal at their church prepared by their congregation. On Thursday, we will come back to Emmanuel for the evening meal and have 9 square set up and a campfire going. On Friday we will only work until noon and then will come back to Emmanuel where everyone will return home. We ask that you please bring a bag lunch for Wednesday and Thursday. We need assistance with putting the meal on here for all on Thursday evening. Much will be needed to do as we will go on-site to be God's hands and feet getting work done. More to come as details get firmed up.

### Emmanuel is going Camping!

August, 4, 5, 6 – Friday through Sunday – Family Camping at Pine Lake located near Westfield, WI. Youth ministries are again sponsoring a camping weekend for ***all families of all ages***, who enjoy camping. We are camping at the Wildwood campsite area at the Methodist Pine Lake Camp. This is a separate area from the retreat area, but each campsite will have electricity and water. Available for us to use is a swimming area, boats and canoes to rent, picnic tables, firepits, children's play area, volleyball court, showers, and shelter for group activities. They also have a dump station for campers. Let Bill know ASAP if you can come camping. Cost for a site per night is \$30.00, Youth ministries will cover ½ the cost making it only \$15 per night for your family. A summer vacation bargain!

## MUSIC MINISTRIES



Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble is coming to Emmanuel!

Sunday June 4, the MHE will perform a concert in the Sanctuary here at Emmanuel. MHE has been guests with many musical groups in the area including the Midwest Vocal Express, Bel Canto Chorus, Present Music, and Milwaukee Symphony. Amy Bell is a member of the MHE.

Parents, please bring your children as there is a demonstration starting at 2:15 just for them. The concert begins at 3 PM and light refreshments will be served following the concert. See Amy Bell, Kathy Kamps or Bill Follmann for more details.





## JUNE / JULY PREACHING SCHEDULE

As we transition this summer, we want to share the preaching schedule with everyone, as there are some updates!

Summer Services:

One service only at 8:30 AM

- ◇ June 4 – Pastor Jerome's last sermon, "Farewell Siblings in Christ!"
- ◇ June 11 – Rob Tack, "Advice for Life"
- ◇ June 18 – Melissa Minkley from Healing Hearts – theme will be healing
- ◇ June 25 – Reverend Lamar Gibson – topic TBD
- ◇ July 2 – Bill Follman – topic Liminal Spaces and Transitions \*\*\* Please note communion will move to 7/9
- ◇ July 9 – Pastor Matt Hadley – "This is a Day of New Beginning" - Communion Service

Also, Pastor Jerome will be on vacation after annual conference, from 6/15 through 6/30. His last day in the office will be on June 13. He has graciously coordinated pastoral support for the two-week time frame. Pastor Jim Altman from Sussex United Methodist Church will be able to support members for needs that arise during this time. Contact details will be provided closer to the vacation dates.

## GREETINGS MEMBERS OF ECUMC

It's been six years since we created a pictorial directory of members. With our new Realm software, we can keep our directory updated, and you will be able to have it at your fingertips when you need it—but we need your help.



First, please accept the invitation to join ECUMC Realm and look at your personal information. Then update anything that is not correct.



Next, take your individual and family photos and upload them to your profile. This will help—as in really help—Pastor Hadley put names with faces when he comes on board! If you need help with this, there will be a team in Fellowship Hall to help with this.

Realm helps keep track of lots of information for our church; such as who is on what ministry team, what our members' talents are, and attendance. Only the pastor, financial secretary, and the system administrators have access to all your data. The Realm information is not available to the public!

BUT for the online directory, the following data will be available to all ECUMC members:

- Adults: name, street address, telephone number, and email address
- Kids under 18: name only

If you do not want to have the above information available to your fellow church members in the online directory, you must email Mattie, our new Church Office Administrator, at [church@ec-umc.com](mailto:church@ec-umc.com) and tell her you want this information to be left out of the member directory.

Please do this by June 1, 2023.

Some of you will miss the old paper directory and perhaps the photo that froze you and your kids in time six years ago. On the other hand, this new system will help us stay connected, and that is what is most important!



**2023 RUMMAGE SALE SATURDAY AUGUST 5**  
**7:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

Volunteers are needed to help set up for the rummage sale right after church on Sunday, July 30. Fresh volunteers will be needed at 2:00 PM on August 5 to help clean up and get the rooms put back in order. Drop-off of donations will begin on Monday, July 31, thru Thursday, August 3, from 9:00 AM until 7:30 PM. Please use Celebration Hall entrance. The last donation drop-off day is Thursday, August 3. If you are unable to drop off donations during the week, we will accept items on Saturday, July 29, from 9:00 AM until noon.

Workers: All skill levels and interests needed – July 31, August 1 thru 4, 9:00 AM-7:30 PM (can work days or evenings). Only volunteer workers can do early shopping.

Please fill out a YOU CAN COUNT ON ME slip to work the day of the Rummage Sale. We would love to see each team/committee represented at the sale. Watch for sign-up and YCCOM's for church workers luncheon items, see sign-up in hallway. Help us advertise with flyers at the YCCOM tables and in the narthex. Spread them around, give them to friends and post them wherever possible. THIS IS A GREAT SALE!

**Non-acceptable Rummage Sale Items**

- Console or tube TVs and stereos
- Old computers, non-flat screen monitors, copy or fax machines
- Large furniture and appliances, pianos (small tables, chairs, etc., that can be handled by one person are acceptable)
- Anything that needs to be installed; including appliances (in or under counter), light fixtures, ceiling fans, water heaters or fireplace inserts
- Any construction equipment or materials (cabinets, windows, screens), chemicals or paint
- Tires or car parts
- Artificial Christmas trees
- Carpet remnants (good quality area rugs are fine)
- Car Seats
- Encyclopedias



If you have any questions, contact Ginny Patterson ([ginpatterson3@yahoo.com](mailto:ginpatterson3@yahoo.com)) or Jean Drumm ([jeanedrumm@att.net](mailto:jeanedrumm@att.net))

**JOURNEY TO WELLNESS: A CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**

No matter where you are on your cancer journey, join us for an opportunity to share experiences with others going through similar circumstances.

This group is offered by Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Network in partnership with Healing Hearts of Southeast Wisconsin.

Starting April 24 and the fourth Monday of the month thereafter  
6:00 – 7:30 PM  
Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church  
N84W16707 Menomonee Avenue  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051



To register call 262-751-0874 or email [info.hhwc@gmail.com](mailto:info.hhwc@gmail.com)

\* ECUMC is hosting this wonderful outreach. We will be providing snacks and drinks and need a volunteer to open the building, greet people and make them feel welcome. If you would like to be a host once a month, fourth Monday, contact Anne Weiland, [aweiland5@gmail.com](mailto:aweiland5@gmail.com).

## TIME TALENT AND TREASURE

God has given us many gifts by sharing his time, talents and treasures. He wants you to invest each of these and be in a position to create a “return on this investment.”

In I Peter 4:7-11 we read:

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever.

Are we sharing our time?

Do we share our talents?

Are we using our treasures/gifts?



God wants us to. Let's be more like him and as shown above: I Peter 4:10, “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

Amen

Terry Royals, Stewardship

### Books B/T Bites



Our book for this month will be *Lies of Omission* by Kathleen Ernst.

We will meet on June 9, at Judy Newman's home. We will bring our own lunch and enjoy Judy's Three Season Room.

Our evening Book Group will meet on June 26, at Uno's in Menomonee Falls at 5:30 PM .



YAHAS are on summer break!



### Something to Think About

Summer is a great time to “party hearty.” That original phrase has morphed into “party hardy.” No need to give up the bold, good times implied by “hardy,” but come back to the essence of being heart-centered when planning the next big event. Choose ways to have a heart for the earth.

### Tips for June 2023

Weddings, graduation celebrations, holidays, get togethers—all are important, and all can produce lots of waste. The average American wedding typically dumps 400–600 pounds of trash into landfills. **Choose alternatives to trashing:** Collect and compost food scraps and compostable plates and utensils. Avoid paper and plastic, substituting glass or ceramic dishes, serving platters, and silverware, which can be washed and reused.

**Make a statement with party favors that give back.** Look for something plantable, like herbs, succulents, seed packets. Or display a sign that you’ve made a donation in your guests’ honor, such as planting trees or [saving a favorite endangered wildlife creature](#), perhaps one that fits the theme of the day. Invite additional contributions and send an electronic notice with the amount raised and a thank you for caring for God’s creation.

[Nix the balloons.](#) They are not biodegradable, and they consequently harm birds and marine life. Also, helium is a nonrenewable gas needed in welding, rocket propulsion, and even scuba diving. Wasting helium in the momentary fun of balloons jeopardizes the other uses. Instead, **add sparkle and fun to the event** with tissue-paper pom poms, garlands from upcycled materials from home, fabric bunting, streamers made from recycled paper, or bubbles.

**Conserve water (save the planet too).** Time watering for early morning or later evening to avoid quick evaporation. Use a broom rather than a hose to clean up outside. Wash the car from a bucket, not from a running hose. Reuse rainwater and household gray water for outdoor plants. Set up a rain barrel.

Enjoy the great outdoors this summer—see and hear God at work! Look up to the sky. Is it blue? Full of clouds? Birds flying? What do you hear? Look out at eye-level. Perhaps you see flowers, colors, a bunny. Look closely at the ground. Be patient. Life is teeming there. Lift your eyes again to the sky. **Pray your praise and gratitude for God’s gifts of ecosystems, habitats, and beauty.**

Stop throwing away trees at every meal. Instead **use cloth napkins** and simply throw them in the wash with another load. Patterned napkins will hide stains and lengthen the usable life of the napkins. Find some distinctive napkin rings to mark each person’s and reuse the napkins a day or two before washing. If you visit garage sales, you can likely rescue napkins and rings from being trashed.

SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED 31	THU Jun 1	FRI 2	SAT 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Online/Sanctuary Worship (S)</li> <li>9:45am Pastor Jerome &amp; Family Fare</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Staff Meeting</li> <li>5:15pm Easter Study (CL)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>6:30pm Prayer Group (Z)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm Joe Burzinski -- Trumpet Lesson</li> </ul>	<b>Office Closed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study (Zoom)</li> </ul>	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Online/Sanctuary Worship (S)</li> <li>9:30am Reconciliation Voting (Narthe)</li> <li>9:45am Graduates Recognition (CH)</li> <li>2:15pm Handbell Workshop (S)</li> <li>3pm Milwaukee Handbell Concert</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Sew and Sews</li> <li>6:30pm Ministry Teams</li> <li>9:45am Graduates Recognition (CH)</li> <li>2:15pm Handbell Workshop (S)</li> <li>3pm Milwaukee Handbell Concert</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Staff Meeting</li> <li>11:45am &amp; 5:00 p.m. Food Pantry</li> <li>6:30pm Children's Ministry Team (Z)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>6:15pm Women's Ministry</li> <li>6:30pm Trustees</li> <li>6:30pm Prayer Group (Z)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:45am &amp; 5:00 p.m. Food Pantry</li> <li>5pm Joe Burzinski -- Trumpet Lesson</li> </ul>	<b>WI Annual Conference</b>	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>WI Annual Conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Online/Celebration Worship</li> <li>10:15am ECUMC Summer Book Club</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Offertory Counters</li> <li>5:30pm Stewardship</li> <li>7pm Finance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Staff Meeting</li> <li>5:30pm VBS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>6:30pm Prayer Group (Z)</li> </ul>	<b>Pathways Deadline by Noon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm Joe Burzinski -- Trumpet Lesson</li> </ul>	<b>Office Closed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Craft Morning</li> </ul>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Online/Sanctuary Worship (S)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Community Care Meeting</li> <li>7pm Church Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Staff Meeting</li> <li>6:30pm SPRC</li> </ul>	<b>Youth Mission Trip</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>6:30pm Prayer Group (Z)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm Joe Burzinski -- Trumpet Lesson</li> </ul>	<b>Office Closed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8am Community Breakfast</li> </ul>
25	26	27	28	29	30	Jul 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Online/Celebration Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Offertory Counting</li> <li>5:30pm Books B/T Bites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Staff Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>6:30pm Prayer Group (Z)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm Joe Burzinski -- Trumpet Lesson</li> </ul>	<b>Office Closed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study (Zoom)</li> </ul>	