



PATHWAYS

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church



AUGUST 2024

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter

N84 W16707 Menomonee Avenue, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051 ✦ 262-251-3830 ✦ www.ec-umc.com

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE:

THRESHOLD'S CAMP FRIENDSHIP CELEBRATION

Thursday, August 8 from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

All summer ECUMC has been hosting Camp Friendship, a summer camp program for special needs children run by Threshold, Inc. Each morning the kids arrive at church and then head out to activities and adventures, playing, learning and having fun. This camp is a welcoming bridge between our community of faith and our local community.



On August 8, we will celebrate this summer of fun with them, their families, and counselors. ECUMC is helping sponsor this event by cooking lunch and assisting with games and activities.

The party is on **August 8, 11:30 – 1:30** in our parking lot (inside if it rains). We need helpers to make this a wonderful time for the children.

Here are the volunteer opportunities: baking cupcakes; set-up, grilling and food prep in the morning before the event; serving food, helping with games, general hospitality during the event, and clean-up afterwards.

Please contact Anne Weiland to volunteer: aweiland5@gmail.com, 262-424-8480

Through Rally Day, 9/18: Sunday School in Recess

Sanctuary Service @ 8:30 AM

Celebration Hall Service @ 9:45 AM



ECUMC Summer Schedule



Coming Soon: ECUMC Rally Day September 8, 2024

Mark your calendar for **ONE WORSHIP SERVICE** at **9:00 AM** and food, fellowship, and fun afterwards.

NOW HIRING!

ECUMC is hiring a Nursery Attendant to work with Renee Rusch, Nursery Coordinator, on Sunday mornings (both services) and occasional special events.

If you or anyone you know might be interested, please contact SPRC Chair Peg Heinen or the church office.



In this issue...

p. 2 Pastor's Letter

p. 3 All-Church Brunch on 8/18, Children Ministries

p. 4 Hearing "Aid," Youth Ministries

p. 5 Book Discussions, Garden News, School Supplies Drive

p. 6 Lay Leader Notes, Funeral Reception Committee thanks, New Bishop Appointment

p. 7 and 8 Report on the WI Annual Conferenced business from ECUMC delegate Anna Thompson

p. 9 Letter from the Council of UM Bishops

p. 10 Church Events Calendar

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)



Like so many of you who love to read, while packing for a vacation I go over the stack of books that I have set aside throughout the year. For vacation, I usually choose works of fiction. The reality of my working life is that there is not much time for fiction.

While packing books for vacation have you ever packed the Bible?

The answer for many is no. Not because they don't love God, but because the Bible can be hard to understand without a study group or a slew of other resources. Many of us find ourselves puzzled by its complexity, historical context, and varied literary styles.

Understanding the Bible is not just an intellectual exercise but a spiritual journey, one that can profoundly enrich our faith and daily lives. This August, I invite you to explore how we can make sense of the Bible.

The Bible as a Library

First, it's important to recognize that the Bible is not a single book but a collection of books, written by different authors over centuries. It includes history, poetry, prophecy, wisdom literature, gospels, and letters. Each genre requires a different approach to understanding. For example, the Psalms are poetic and often metaphorical, while the Gospels are narrative accounts of Jesus' life and teachings. Recognizing these genres helps us interpret the text more accurately.

Historical and Cultural Context

Understanding the historical and cultural context of the Bible is crucial. The events described and the messages conveyed were shaped by the times in which they were written. Knowing the history of ancient Israel, the context of the early Christian church, and the customs of those times can illuminate the meaning behind the words. Resources like Bible commentaries, historical texts, and scholarly works can provide valuable insights into these contexts.

The Role of Translation

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The translations we read today can vary based on the manuscript used, translation philosophy, and linguistic choices. Some translations aim for word-for-word accuracy (like the NASB), while others strive for thought-for-thought readability (like the NLT). Reading multiple translations can offer a broader perspective and a deeper understanding of difficult passages.

Reading with the Holy Spirit

As believers, we are not alone in our quest to understand the Bible. The Holy Spirit, whom Jesus promised would guide us into all truth (John 16:13), plays a vital role in our reading and interpretation of Scripture. Praying for wisdom and discernment before and during our Bible study invites the Holy Spirit to illuminate the text and reveal God's truth to us.

Applying the Bible to Our Lives

Understanding the Bible is not just about gaining knowledge but about transforming our lives. James 1:22 reminds us to "be doers of the word, and not hearers only." As we read and understand Scripture, we should ask ourselves how its teachings apply to our lives today. What changes do we need to make? How can we grow in love, compassion, and service to others?

Community and Study Groups

Finally, studying the Bible within a community can greatly enhance our understanding. Discussing Scripture with others allows us to hear different perspectives and insights. Joining a Bible study group or attending Sunday School classes can provide a supportive environment for asking questions, sharing discoveries, and growing together in faith.

In conclusion, making sense of the Bible is a lifelong journey. It requires patience, study, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Let us commit to this journey together, encouraging one another and seeking deeper understanding. As we do, we will find that the Bible not only makes sense but also speaks powerfully into our lives, offering wisdom, hope, and the very words of life.

With Hope, Pastor Matt

ALL-CHURCH CELEBRATION BRUNCH

Following 9:45 AM Intergenerational Sunday School on 8/18, there will be an all-church brunch to celebrate the blessings ECUMC has experienced over the past year! These include:

- ◆ Wonderful additions to our church leadership (We love you, Pastor Matt - Abbey - Liz!)
- ◆ A balanced budget
- ◆ Welcoming 20 new members
- ◆ *The Threshold's* Camp Friendship
- ◆ Increased Sunday morning attendance
- ◆ Our partnership with Rooted & Rising-Washington Heights
- ◆ New faith-development initiatives
- ◆ Dedicated laity in leadership positions



Come to enjoy food and fellowship as we rejoice that God is at work with us!

If you're able, please help the Kitchen Klub with set up or clean up. Either Rick Kohlmann or Donna Baumgartner can direct you where you're most needed.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Contact: Liz Cannon;
LizC@ec-umc.com/262-370-7512

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please let Liz Cannon know when you are able to be a Nursery helper for either or both services. We want to protect all of God's children.



We want to provide a Safe Sanctuary for the children who attend the Nursery and all the programming at ECUMC.

ALL-CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The evening of Tuesday July 23 marked our second All-Church Vacation Bible School - "JUST LIKE ME: Digging in and Growing Deep"



Digging in and Growing Deep" gathering.

Our primary goal was to understand what it means to be inclusive through the story of Jesus healing Bartimaeus from blindness. We learned that we can use our voice to ask for what we need and that we should ask others what

they need. Understanding how God responds to those who are excluded and using one's voice even when feeling silenced are important and empowering ways to live in God's light.

Our final session of VBS will take place on **Wednesday, August 21** at 5:30 PM. Come for food, fun, and a lesson about being part of a greater community.

SUMMER INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

On Sunday, July 21, Summer Intergenerational Sunday School continued with the theme of "Jesus & Me - Choose Kind."

Liam Velie provided special music, playing "Amazing Grace" on the violin!

The focus was on being kind to others even when others are not kind to us. Jesus modeled this when he showed love to Zacchaeus, even though he was the furthest thing from kind to others. The power of Jesus' love can change our lives and help us change others' lives!

For our "Kindness Project," we assembled more than 50 Hygiene Bags for those at Rooted & Rising who need them. We realized that we take our blessings for granted our and that we rarely go without our basic needs. Join us at 9:45 AM in Celebration Hall on **Sunday, August 18**, for another opportunity to share our blessings with those who are less fortunate.



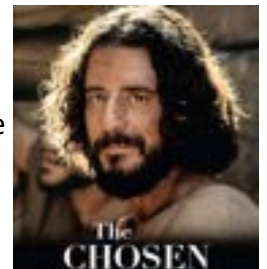
ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Contact: Janet Ray; JanetR@ec-umc.com

COMING THIS FALL

Have you heard of the TV series, *The Chosen*, a biblically imagined account of Jesus' ministry and the people around him?

For 8 Sunday afternoons this fall, we'll have opportunity to watch the first season and engage in discussion. Watch for more details!



CHURCH OFFICE

262-251-3830 Church@ec-umc.com
Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 AM–1 PM

AUDIOFETCH

*Improve what you are hearing
during Sunday's Sanctuary service*

ECUMC has a tool to assist anyone who wants a better "hearing" experience when attending Sunday's sanctuary service.



Audiofetch amplifies everything this is picked up by our sanctuary microphones, sending it directly to your hearing devices, whether they be hearing aids, ear buds or wired headsets that are used with your "wifi" connected phone.

To improve what you are hearing in the sanctuary:

1. Download the Audiofetch app (it's free) from your app store
2. Log into the church's wifi: ECUMCPublic
3. Enter the wifi password: jesuslovesme
4. Once connected to the wifi, open the Audiofetch app, which will automatically connect to the broadcasted signal

Should you have any questions or problems, please connect with the ushers or reach out to Gary Morgan, Terry Royals or David Rohr.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Contact: Bill Follmann; BillF@ec-umc.com

Upcoming:

Threshold Picnic help!

We have a great opportunity to be involved with a group who has been using space at Emmanuel all summer. Threshold is the name of the group, and they are servicing 30+ special needs students Mondays through Fridays using Emmanuel as their base.

We are going to have a picnic for them, the staff and their families on Thursday August 8 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM We will need help with set-up, serving, and clean-up. This has been a great partnership for our church.

I am hoping this short-term missional opportunity would be a family opportunity to be involved with a

new group. Let me know if you are able to assist with this!!

Camping!

Youth ministries are again sponsoring a camping weekend Friday, 8/16, through Sunday morning, 8/18 for **all families of all ages**. 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 and a dump station is available.



We have swimming area, boats and canoes to rent, picnic tables, firepits, children's play area, volleyball court showers, and shelter for group activities. This is a great opportunity to experience God's wonderful creation and spend time with others from Emmanuel. Let Bill know ASAP if you can come. Cost for a site per night is \$30 but Youth Ministries will cover ½ the cost making it only \$15 per night for your family. A summer vacation bargain!

Please let Bill know if you are interested at all in this event as sites are already booking for the weekend.

Coming in September:

Rally Day! Look for a great time on Rally Day, Sunday, 9/8. One service at 9 AM then fun at the bounce house and 9-square plus food and a Road Trip.



Confirmation Class!

On September 15 at 11:00 am, Confirmation Classes will kickoff in the Youth Room. Confirmation families: look for a e-mail from Bill coming in the next couple of weeks outlining the year. Classes will meet from 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM on Sundays.



Youth Council!

Sunday, 9/15, at 6 PM will be our annual Youth Council planning session. This has been a great brainstorming session to gather ideas on what you would like to experience in 2024-2025.



This is for Youth 6-12 grades and their parents. Please let Bill know if you have any questions or concerns. I am looking forward to a great faith-building year!! BillF@ec-umc or Bill's cell 414-881-3023.

ECUMC SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Love to read? Join your fellow ECUMC bibliophiles this summer for All-Church Reads. We'll meet at 10:45 AM on Sunday, 8/25, for a group discussion and snacks in Fellowship Hall.

We Deserve Monuments

by Jas Hammonds (Young Adult Fiction)
Seventeen-year-old biracial teen Avery must follow her parents to small-town in Georgia. Tensions and mystery abound as Avery searches for someone to tell her the truth.



Anna Thompson will facilitate this session.

BOOKS BETWEEN BITES

Contact: Mary Jo Karnath; AKarnath@wi.rr.com

Books Between Bites will meet on the second Friday of August, 8/9 at Ally's Bistro at 1 PM.

We will read *Firefly Lane* by Kristin Hannah. Note the date change.



NEW GARDEN SIGN

We have a beautiful new sign on our Growing Faith Garden, thanks to the skill and generosity of Jim Mergener.

Our old sign had worn out and Jim made a new one with maple wood from his own home lot.

It was stained and printed with natural colors.

Jim then added carved images of a cross and a growing vine to symbolize how our faith can grow like the plants in a garden.

Thanks, Jim, for this beautiful addition to the natural area in the back lot of our church.

Take time to check it out!



SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

The Menomonee Falls Food Pantry is having a **Back to School Supply Drive** and we are hoping ECUMC members will be able to help out the many children that we serve.

Below is a list of the items that the teachers have requested we purchase so that every child has the same thing.

There is a donation box in Fellowship Hall that will be delivered to the Food Pantry.

If you would rather drop off the supplies at the Pantry yourself, the outside door is always open with shelves available to leave your items safely.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Barb Kumrow & the Food Pantry



Large solid color backpacks (no wheels)
Crayola Washable Markers (Classic box - Broad Line)
Crayola Thin Markers
Crayola Watercolor Paints 8 or 16 Colors
Elmer's Large Glue Sticks Purple
Elmer's 8 oz Bottle Washable Glue
5 2-Pocket Folders (Red, Green, Blue, Yellow, Black)
1" or 1.5" 3-Ring Binders Clear View Cover
Headphones and Ear Buds (No AirPods)
Spiral Sketchbook
Highlighters - Multiple Colors

Sharpie Black Thin Markers
Expo Large Dry Erase Markers (Low Odor)
Expo Dry Erase Fine Tip (Black, Green, Red, Blue)
Expo Dry Eraser
Wide-Ruled Loose Leaf Paper
One Subject Wide Ruled Notebooks
Fiskars Round and Pointed Scissors
3x5" Index Cards (Color/Plain/Lined)
Post It Notes 3x3 and 4x4 (Lined and Unlined)
Rulers (Transparent and Wooden)
Red Pens Amazon

FUNERAL RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Thank you, bakers!

The funeral reception committee would like to thank the many bakers whose contribution of baked goods is so appreciated by family and friends who gather to celebrate the life of a loved one.

Two ladies deserve special thanks: Ginny Patterson and Jan Kohlmann who stepped up when I had to be out of town recently.

If this ministry is something you'd be interested in, our committee is always looking for help! Contact chairperson Lenis Brown at 262-893-2530 to find out how you can serve in this way. Again, many thanks to those who contribute to make these receptions successful.



FORMER ECUMC PASTOR ERWIN P. AMENDA

May 18, 1933 – May 26, 2024

Pastor Erwin Amenda served as pastor of ECUMC in the 1970s and early 1980s. A Celebration of Life will be held in Sioux Falls SD on 8/24.

If you remember the Amenda family, you might want to express your condolences to his widow:

Theonia Amenda
111 W. 17th Street #217
Sioux Falls SD 57104



LAY LEADER NOTES

We made it through Covid. We hired a new lead pastor, a new accompanist, and a new Director of Children's Ministry. Through Disaffiliation, the denomination lost 43 churches. We know members that have left our own church for various reasons. To be true disciples we need to have new disciples and previous disciples to ensure we are Imitating Christ Together.

Have you ever asked someone to see what our church is all about? I think sometimes it is harder to ask someone you don't know to come to our service than asking someone you know. Do you know a member that has not been at church for awhile? I asked a long time active member that has not been in church to come back to see what we now have to offer. Their family and job situation has changed. They bought a house in Arizona and can work from home. They are in Arizona more than in Wisconsin. So now I know why they do not come any more. How many previous members have not been asked why we don't see them anymore.

I challenge all of you to ask someone that used to come why you don't see them anymore. They might just be looking to hear from our church.

By the way, you can also ask anyone to come see what we have to offer. Currently we are becoming more exciting and membership has increased. Let's keep the growth and excitement going. Thank you for all you do for our church and community.

Yours in Christ,
Rollin Kring, Lay Leader



WELCOME BISHOP DAN SCHWERIN! FAREWELL BISHOP JUNG!

The North Central Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church, meeting July 10-13 in Sioux Falls, S.D., affirmed the assignment of Bishop Dan Schwerin to the Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area, effective 9/1/24. "The Wisconsin Conference has enjoyed many gifted and impactful episcopal leaders," said Bishop Schwerin. "I feel humbled and blessed to be assigned to serve among you. I can't wait to see what God will do through us." He is currently Bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference.

"My deep appreciation to Wisconsin. We will miss you. I welcome Bishop Dan Schwerin and give thanks for his visionary leadership. He knows us and he has been a vital part of our mission and ministry," shared Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, who served the WI Conference from 2012 to 2024 and will now lead the Ohio Episcopal Area. In January, NCJ established a new episcopal area comprising the Wisconsin and Northern Illinois annual conferences. Other area Conferences also were combined to reduced the number of bishops serving NCJ's ten conferences to seven. *(for additional information on this, please see highlighted section, page 8)*

REPORT FROM WI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

From ECUMC Lay Delegate, Anna Thompson

The Annual Conference of the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church opened in Green Bay, Wisconsin on Friday, June 7. The theme for the session was “Abundant God, Beloved Community” based on scripture “I have come so that you may have life and have it in abundance.” As has become tradition of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, the session was opened with drumming by the Buffalo Creek Singers of the Oneida Tribe. Rev. Sue D’Alessio recognized the First Nations lands upon which we gathered. Rev. François Russel called the assembly to worship.

Opening Worship

The message, “Jesus is the Way of Life and Love,” was delivered by Rev. Medardo Vedia Gutierrez, bishop of the Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia (Iglesia Evangelica Metodista en Bolivia). Scripture focus: John 14:4-12

Afternoon plenary

Bishop Jung called the 54th session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference to order at 1:51p. “We gather here: It’s all about Jesus. It’s not you, it’s not me, it’s not us; it’s all about Jesus. ... Are we listening?” Bishop Jung noted this is the first Annual Conference following the postponed General Conference of 2020, which met in April-May 2024 in Charlotte, N.C. That presents the opportunity for Wisconsin to grow into the post-GC church. Bishop Jung prayed for the Conference.

Action Item wc102: Organization of the 2024 Wisconsin Annual Conference Session (including Setting the Bar, Roll Call, Agenda, Schedule, Session Procedures and Summary of General Parliamentary Procedures) (Two-Thirds Vote Required) Approved. 369 yes, 2 no, 1 abstain 2

Action Item wc103: Consent Agenda. Submitted by Program and Arrangements Committee Approved. 370 yes, 6 no, 3 abstain.

Action Item wc103a: Camp Promotion

Action Item wc103b Youth Ministries Sunday

Action Item wc103c United Women in Faith Sunday

Action Item wc103d Resolution Facilitating the Work of the Nominations Committee for the Remainder of the 2024-2025 Annual Conference Year

Action Item wc103e Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the Wisconsin Annual Conference

Action Item wc201: Election of the Implications Committee. Submitted by Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary. Cabinet: Park Hunter. Council on Finance and Administration: Steven Miller.

Connectional Table: Don Kim. Conference Lay Leader: Ben Brancel. UM Youth designated by bishop: Amillia Reed. Layperson at large designated by bishop: Robin Kelby. Clergy at large designated by bishop: Tsuker Yang. Conference treasurer (advisory member): Sarah Sneider. Bishop designates chair: Park Hunter. Approved. 313 yes, 2 no, 5 abstain.

Conference Statistician Don Cramer presented the Conference 2023 statistical report. Highlights:

- 310 of 396 churches submitted prior to the deadline
- 38,680 members in 2023, continuing trend of declining membership
- Average weekly worship 14,838 (up 1% from previous year)
- Average weekly Sunday school 2,816 (down 5%)
- VBS participants 2,756 (up 9%)
- Average church size is about 100. Median church size is 58 (50% have more than 58, 50% have less).



Full report will be shared on Wisconsin Conference YouTube channel and posted at www.wisconsinumc.org

Sarah Sneider, Treasurer & Director of Administration presented the proposed 2025 budget, which was included in **Action Item**

wc108: Proposed 2025 Conference Budget.

- In 2023, Conference expenses were \$195,511 under budget. For related information, see Trustees Report on Page 8 of the Reports of Boards and Agencies to the 2024 Wisconsin Annual Conference
- Questions going into 2025 budget year: who will be our bishop, implications of sharing a bishop with Northern Illinois, implications of just-completed General Conference, uncertainty in insurance industry.
- Other contributing factors in 2025: four district superintendents rather than five, lower general-church budget resulted in \$346,135 less in Wisconsin’s share to general-church budget.
- Trustees chair Jane Deuster reported to the Conference, indicating insurance will be a significant issue in 2025. Church Mutual will not service all of our churches. Wisconsin will seek a carrier that will agree to cover all congregations. Churches are instructed to pay their insurance premiums only monthly, in preparation for an expected change in coverage.

Action Item wc104a: Resolution on Past Service Annuity Rate for 2025. Submitted by Board of

Pensions, Insurance & Equitable Compensation. That the Past Service Annuity Rate (PSR) for 2025 shall be \$930, which is a 5.9% increase. Approved. 361 yes, 4 no, 3 abstain.

Action Item wc104b: Resolution on Minimum Compensation for 2025. Submitted by Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance & Equitable Compensation. That the Minimum Compensation for Elders, Provisional Members, and Associate Members serving full time for 2025 shall be \$50,236. The Minimum Compensation for Local Pastors serving full time shall be \$45,450. This is a 3.2% increase. Approved. 361 yes, 4 no, 3 abstain

(continued on next page)

Action Item wc105: Proposed Revisions to Conference Policy 10.13.0 (Majority vote required).

Submitted by Conference Board of Trustees, New Ministries Strategy Board, Council on Finance & Administration and the Revive! Community Development Planning Team. Approved. 365 yes, 23 no, 12 abstain. To fund this initiative, the net proceeds from the closing of churches would be reallocated for the next quadrennium by amending Conference Policy 10.13.0. (See detail on Revive! will work with congregations to provide consulting for local churches looking to “right-size” their building, engage in Church and Community Assessment (in regard to ministry, property, and community needs) and offer church leaders practical and valuable information on how to leverage their respective churches’ real estate assets in an effort to maintain and expand opportunities to be of service to their local communities.

Joint Episcopal Area:

Rev. Steve Zekoff gave a report of the Shared Bishop Task Force. He gave a history of the conference and district identities affiliations in Wisconsin over the years:

- ⇒ Wisconsin Conference membership is approximately 25% of what it was at the time of union (1968).
- ⇒ Northern Illinois is roughly one-third the size of what it was then.
- ⇒ Effective 9/1/24, the Northern Illinois and Wisconsin episcopal areas will be shared.
- ⇒ This is not a merger of the two Conferences, just a shared bishop.

Other Annual Conferences, such as East and West Ohio and New England and Metro-New York will also will now share bishops.

At the recent General Conference, it was decided that an additional bishop’s position will need to be eliminated in the North Central Jurisdiction*. It is not yet decided where that will occur.

There may be some shared staff in Northern Illinois and Wisconsin. Cheryl Weaver will be the Conference Benefits Officer for both.

The Northern Illinois and Wisconsin Episcopal Area Office will be established separately from either conference office and will be located at the Wespath office in Glenview, Ill. Two assistants to the bishop and two executive assistants to the bishop will remain, serving in Chicago and Sun Prairie, respectively.

Wisconsin will sell the episcopal residence in Sun Prairie, the proceeds of which will go toward the housing allowance for the next bishop. Northern Illinois similarly will do so with the Chicago bishop’s residence.

Sara Sneider and Lisa Wink will be involved in establishing shared services and operations between the two conferences.

Rev. Zekoff introduced three representatives visiting this Conference from the Northern Illinois Conference; Liz Gracie, lay member of the Joint Shared Bishop Task Force, Rev. Danita Anderson, incoming Assistant to the Bishop, and Eugene Williams, Co-Conference Lay Leader.

Action Item wc106: Four Districts for a Revived Church! Submitted by: The Bishop, District Superintendents, and Conference Leadership). There shall be four districts in the Wisconsin Annual Conference, served by four district superintendents, effective July 1, 2024. Approved. 349 yes, 5 no, 0 abstain. Bishop Jung followed the decision with prayer.

Map of the new districts in the Wisconsin Conference, effective July 1, 2024

Action Item wc107: Resolutions Affirming the Discontinuance/Closing of Local Churches.

Submitted by: The Cabinet.

Action Item wc107a Abandonment of Chili Immanuel United Methodist Church, Chili, WI Approved. 381 yes, 6 no, 6 abstain.

Action Item wc107b Discontinuance of the Cristo La Roca United Methodist Church, Whitewater, Wisconsin. Approved. 383 yes, 7 no, 3 abstain.

Action Item wc107c Discontinuance of Granton United Methodist Church, Granton, WI Approved. 383 yes, 9 no, 1 abstain.

Action Item wc202: Electing members to the jurisdictional nominations pool. Approved. 268 yes, 2 no, 6 abstain.

Action Item wc101: Report of the Conference Nominations Committee. Submitted by: Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary. Approved. 314 yes, 1 no, 9 abstain.

All videos and materials of this Annual Conference will be made publicly available at www.WisconsinUMC.org

The next Wisconsin Annual Conference will be held at the Marriot Madison West in Middleton, WI on June 6-8, 2025.

*Assignments in the North Central Jurisdiction are as follows:

- Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area: Bishop Lanette Plambeck
- Illinois Great Rivers: Bishop David Bard & Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
- Indiana: Bishop Tracy S. Malone
- Iowa: Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
- Michigan: Bishop David Bard
- Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area: Bishop Dan Schwerin
- Ohio Episcopal Area: Bishop Hee-Soo Jung





Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church



July 16, 2024

Following the recent assassination attempt on former President Donald J. Trump, the world is in deep sorrow and reflection. We absolutely condemn this act of violence. As people of faith, we are called to love one another and follow the example of Jesus Christ, who showed us the way to love, peace, and reconciliation. Christ calls us to be peacemakers in a world that often resorts to hate, violence, and division.

The polarization of political beliefs has created a divided world that often breeds discord. As United Methodists, we are committed to seeking non-violent ways to resolve our differences.

We denounce all acts of hatred and violence against groups or individuals. We are called to resist the temptation to engage in such acts and speech and commit to the work of compassion, peace, and unity.

As Christ's followers, we are called to be healers in our churches, communities, countries, and the world. In these times of political tension and disagreement, we must remember our shared humanity, the sacred worth, and the inherent dignity of every person. It is at times like this that God is calling us to renew our commitment to non-violence and remember our baptism vows, which urge us to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin. Our baptism vows compel us to accept the freedom and power that God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

We urge all United Methodists to denounce the divisive rhetoric and violence pervading our society and work towards creating paths of reconciliation, dialogue, and nonviolent solutions to our differences. May we love one another and build bridges towards peace and unity.

We pray for former President Trump, his family, and all those affected by this tragic event.

We also extend our heartfelt prayers to the families of those who were injured and those who lost their lives in this senseless act of violence. May God's comforting presence be with them in their time of need.

May God grant us grace to be God's agents as healers, peacemakers, and bridge builders in a troubled and hurting world.

We look forward to the day when all people "shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)

Bishop Tracy S. Malone

President - Council of Bishops, The United Methodist Church

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 8:30am - Sanctuary Worship 9:45am - Celebration 1pm - Hmong Alliance 4pm - TRIBE (MR)	29 10am - Staff Meeting (CL)	30 11:45am - Food Pantry 5pm - Food Pantry	31 10am - Bible Study (CL)	1 11:45am - Food Pantry 5pm - Food Pantry	2 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	3
4 8am - Summer Choir 8:30am - Sanctuary Worship 9:45am - Celebration 1pm - Hmong Alliance 4pm - TRIBE (MR)	5 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 6:30pm - All Ministry Team	6 5:30pm - Children's Ministry	7 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6:30pm - Trustees (CL)	8 St. James - Meal (Clean-up) 10am - Threshold Picnic (CH) 10:30am - Spiritual Guidance	9 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	10
11 8:30am - Sanctuary Worship 9:45am - Celebration 1pm - Hmong Alliance 4pm - TRIBE (MR)	12 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 5:30pm - Stewardship (CL) 7pm - Finance (CL)	13 6:30pm - Children Ministry	14	15 Campout - Pine Lake Pathways Deadline by Noon	16 Office Closed Threshold Ends 1pm - Books Between Bites - 7pm - Game Night (FH)	17
18 Campout - Pine Lake 8:30am - Sanctuary Worship 9:45am - Intergenerational 10:45am - Sunday Brunch 1pm - Hmong Alliance 4pm - TRIBE (MR)	19 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 7pm - Church Council (CL)	20 9:30am - Community Care 7:30pm - SPRC (CL)	21 10am - Bible Study (FH) 5:30pm - All Church VBS	22	23 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	24
25 8:30am - Sanctuary Worship 9:45am - Celebration 11am - Book Club (FH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance 4pm - TRIBE (MR)	26 10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	27	28 10am - Bible Study (FH)	29 6pm - Women's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	30 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	31