



# PATHWAYS

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church



MARCH 2025

## 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)

### Lent 2025

Pray

Give

Study

#### 40 Days from Ash Wednesday to Easter

Our Lenten journey goes from Ash Wednesday on March 5 to Easter on April 20.

There are a variety of ways to prepare our hearts for the death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Take advantage of these opportunities during this holy season.

#### Ash Wednesday, 3/5

We will begin with a simple meal at 6 PM prior to our 7 PM Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary. This service will include

both the imposition of ash and Holy Communion. Drive-through imposition of ash will be offered under our carport from 5-6 PM that evening.

#### Sunday Worship: "Famous Last Words"

Seven "words" are recorded in the Gospels, sentences which Jesus spoke as he was dying on the cross. What do these final words say about Jesus? What is their message for us?

#### Other Wednesdays during Lent

On Wednesday nights throughout Lent, we will gather in

Celebration Hall for soup and bread at 6 PM and a study with Pastor Matt at 6:30 PM. In conjunction with the Sunday sermons, we'll go a little deeper into Jesus' final words from the cross. All are welcome.



#### Lenten Study: *The Message of Jesus - Words That Changed the World*

More than 3 billion people claim to follow Jesus, but how many actually know what he taught?

Much of what people *think* Jesus taught, he never said.

In this study, Adam Hamilton explores the most important themes in Jesus' teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. From Jesus' initial "sermon" to the commissions he gave after his resurrection, Jesus' message is not only life-changing, but world-changing.

Choose the morning or afternoon session on Thursdays, whichever is more convenient: 9-10 AM or 5-6 PM, both in Fellowship Hall.

We'll meet on March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3, 10.

Study books are available in the church office for the discounted price of \$5.

#### Lenten Food Drive

In 2020 more than 110,000 Milwaukee County residents reported experiencing food insecurity, which means their households lacked the ability to provide enough food to live an active, healthy life. About one out of four children in Milwaukee live below the poverty level and experience food insecurity. (continued on p. 2)



#### **In this issue...**

- p. 2 *Pastor's Letter, Food Drive (cont.)*
- p. 3 *Women's Spa Day, ECUMC Breakfast, YAHAS*
- p. 4 *Easter Flowers, Stewardship, Missions*
- p. 5 *Children's Ministries, Children's Marketplace*
- p. 6 *Youth Ministry, AudioFetch, UMCOR*
- p. 7 *Lenten Food Drive details*
- p. 8 *March Calendar*

**FAMOUS LAST WORDS**

Dear Emmanuel Church Family,

I have been receiving positive feedback on the worship series, *"I Have A Friend Who..."* That series ends not on a Sunday morning, but on Wednesday evening, March 5 at our Ash Wednesday worship service. That evening, I will be preaching a sermon, "I have a friend who is dying." We begin the season of Lent with a reminder of our need for a savior.

As we journey together through the Lenten season, I am excited to invite you into a powerful new Worship series: "Famous Last Words: Words That Changed Everything." In this series which prepares us for Holy Week and Easter Sunday, we will explore Jesus' final sayings from the cross." Over the weeks, we will reflect on the seven profound statements Jesus spoke as He endured the cross—words filled with grace, forgiveness, and hope.



Each phrase reveals the heart of Christ, His love for us, and the depth of His sacrifice. From "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" to "It is finished," these words are more than just historical statements—they speak life to us today. They remind us of God's mercy, the call to trust Him in suffering, and the ultimate victory we have in Christ.

I encourage you to join us each week as we explore these life-giving words. May this series deepen our faith, renew our gratitude, and prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's resurrection. Let's walk together through the cross to the empty tomb, allowing Jesus' words to transform us.

Looking forward to worshipping with you!

Pastor Matt

**CHURCH OFFICE**

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

**Lenten Food Drive**

(continued from p. 1)



Rooted & Rising of Washington Park has been providing needed food to families in Milwaukee for 32 years. This includes food given without cost through their food center, a Senior Stockbox Program, and cooking demonstrations.

This past November they served 400 families with food assistance, the largest number ever recorded.

During the season of Lent the Green Team is asking our Emmanuel Community members and friends to **give**

**out** resources rather than **give up** something for Lent, and contribute food to the Rooted & Rising ministry. We also ask you to use our Emmanuel Community reusable shopping bags to gather food and bring it to church, then continue to help God's creation by using these bags in the future rather than throw-away bags. You'll see directions for the food drive on page 7.



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

### Pampering for a Purpose, RSVP by 3/23

The Women's Ministry Team is hosting a "Pampering for a Purpose: a Spa Event" at ECUMC on Saturday, April 5, from 9:30-11:30 AM.

There will be something for all ages to enjoy a little pampering! Choose



from among the following offerings:

- ◇ A DIY manicure station with lots of polish colors and pampering tools
- ◇ A relaxation zone with soft music, breathing balls, and coloring pages
- ◇ A soothing foot soak over river rocks
- ◇ A crafting area: make a Sugar-S(alt Scrub or beaded earrings or bracelets
- ◇ Spa-style snacks
- ◇ A fun game of "Musical Pedicure"
- ◇ Themed baskets for a silent auction

So that's the "pampering" part.

#### What's the purpose?

We want to alleviate "period poverty."

*What if you had to miss school or work because you didn't have proper menstrual supplies?*

*What if no one ever taught you about getting your period or if taboos and myths made you feel ashamed of your body?*

Millions of women around the world and right here in Southeast WI face period poverty every month.

**Donations:** While admission to "Pampering for a Purpose" is free, we hope you'll make a donation which will be divided between *Days for Girls* ([www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org)) to support international menstrual education and supplies and Rooted & Rising – Washington Park which distributes feminine products to the girls and women they serve. If you'd rather bring pads or tampons instead of a cash donation, they will be delivered to Rooted & Rising.

**RSVP:** Because of the necessary purchases for this event, we will need firm RSVPs no later than Sunday, March 23. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A8AE23A4FC1-55134818-pampering> Please invite someone special – a granddaughter, a neighbor, or group of friends – to enjoy Pampering for a Purpose with you!

### Book Brunch, 3/5

The Women's Ministry Team will be hosting a Saturday morning book brunch on March 8. We're going to discuss *The Measure*, by Nikki Erlick. This New York Times Bestseller poses the question: How do you measure your life?



By creating a world in which everyone knows how long their life will be, Erlick explores the questions raised by such knowledge, as well as the social, cultural and political implications.

The book can be found on Amazon or at other sellers.

The bulletin board has a sign-up sheet for you to bring a "breakfast" dish to share (fruit, juice, muffins, breads, etc.) or RSVP online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A8AE23A4FC1-54656061-womens>

Hope you'll join us!

### ECUMC COMMUNITY BREAKFAST , 3/22

Come and enjoy breakfast and fellowship at 8:30 AM on Saturday, March 22.

Stay, if you can, for a presentation by Jennifer Larson of Arch Solar to speak about the benefits of solar energy for your home and some first steps to take if that's something you're considering.



The presentation will begin at 9:15 AM.

A freewill offering helps defray the cost of the meal. All are welcome, so bring a friend!

### YAHAS (Young At Heart And Spirit)

One Tuesday, March 18, join YAHAS for a nostalgic look at Wisconsin Supper Clubs. Jeff and Marty Schmidt will be presenting the unique history of Supper Clubs and sharing their own experiences "supper clubbing" around the state!

Sign up on the YAHAS sheet outside Pastor Matt's office. Dues are \$2.



Plan to bring a salad or dessert and meeting Celebration Hall at 11 AM for fellowship and a supper club meal. Feel free to bring a friend!



## EASTER FLOWERS

The Worship Team will be taking orders for Easter flowers from March 17 to April 6. Order forms will be included in the bulletin those Sundays.



There are lilies, tulips, and daffodils in 6.5" pots. If you would like to purchase in Honor or Memory of someone please print that clearly on the order form. Make all checks out to ECUMC and indicate Flowers in the memo line.

The flowers can be picked up after the last Easter service or any day the week after Easter.

## A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Contact: Gary Wilkes; GEWilkes@outlook.com

### Love That Moves Us

One of the things I love most about the Good News is its message that God loves us just as we are, right where we are. That is the most fundamental message of grace — that “God loved us while we were yet sinners” (Romans 5:8). God sent His Son into the midst of a world that would ultimately put Him to death. And God continues to reach out to those who are the least, the last, and the lost.

But there is another part.

Yes, God loves us just as we are, but He also loves us too much to let us stay where we are. God’s desire for us is to grow in all ways to become more like Jesus.

So, how do we become more like Jesus? By growing as disciples —through devotion, prayer, generosity, following Jesus’ teachings, and being open to where God might lead us.

Grace is free, but holiness and godliness require discipline — the spiritual work to which we are called as disciples. In fact, the word “disciple” shares its root with “discipline.” Those who seek to grow in faith respond to the Good News of God’s love by committing to prayer, study, worship, and service.

This Lenten season, let’s renew our commitment to make room in our lives for God through all the means at our disposal.

(by Rev. Jason Mahnke, WI United Methodist Foundation)



## MISSIONS REPORT

The Missions Team would like to express our sincere gratitude for the amazing generosity of our church community during the recent coat drive for Rooted & Rising. In addition to donations of several gently used coats, \$1182 (\$407 from the Sew N Sews) was collected and used to purchase 125 children’s coats.



An abundance of hats, scarves, and mittens were donated on the mitten tree and shared with both Rooted & Rising and Northcott Neighborhood House. We will continue to use your monetary gifts to purchase much needed gloves and mittens throughout this winter season.

ECUMC shared 8000+ pounds of in-kind gifts with the Rooted & Rising community during 2024. That’s over four tons of winter wear, blankets, hygiene items, Fill Bill’s Truck donations, and weekly prepared entrees, salads, and dishes.

In addition, your generous monetary gifts have allowed us to purchase and donate fresh milk, butter, and eggs which are in short supply at the Food Center.

Of course, there are also many ECUMC volunteers who have generously given their time in so many ways by purchasing and preparing food items, unloading weekly food shipments from Hunger Task Force, and assisting customers with their shopping. You are all appreciated and making a difference in the lives of many.

We will continue our missional outreach with the Rooted & Rising community during 2025. Let’s set a goal of 10,000 lbs of in-kind giving. With your continued support and God’s help we can make an even greater impact on our Milwaukee neighbors.

### What Weighs around 8000 Pounds?

*Adult hippopotamus*

*Four pontoon boats*

*Empty semi-truck with a flat bed*

*An Orca whale*

*ECUMC’s 2024 donations to R & R*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

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

### Children's Choir

Wasn't it a treat to see the children in their choir robes singing in the Sanctuary at Christmas?!



Well, you won't have to wait any longer to see them again this year.

On Sunday, March 2, the Children's Choir will be singing at both services. They will be all suited up to sing again at both services for Easter Sunday on April 20 and yet again on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11. Led by our Children's Choir Director, Laura Hohl, we pray they fill your heads and hearts with joy!

### Nursery Update

It is with great pride that I share with you that our Nursery Coordinator, Renee Rusch, and our Nursery Attendant, Doricela (Dori) Herrera-Sanchez, have both completed Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED training through the American Red Cross Training Services. They are both certified for the next two years.



In addition to their Red Cross training, Renee and Dori have also successfully completed "Sleep Baby Safe" modules from The Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and other sleep-related infant deaths.

Renee and Dori take their jobs seriously and have demonstrated their devotion through professional development and safety training, as well as by the love and care they provide in the Nursery. They are such a gift to ECUMC!

### Prayers from the Heart

Thank you to everyone who participated in Prayers from the Heart! Some 80 children each received four messages and prayers during the month of February. That is 320 different ways we showed God's love in action! It is also one of those things that it is hard to say who benefitted more from the effort, the sender or the receiver? It is a "WIN-WIN" in my book. Way to go ECUMC Church Family!



## Children's Marketplace

The Annual Children's Marketplace will take place on Sunday, March 16 in Fellowship Hall from 9:30 AM-10:00 AM. Check out the display case in the Narthex to get an idea of what has been made in the past. A number of children and youth have signed up this year to make a variety of items to sell.

All proceeds from the Children's Market place will go to the mission of making "Birthday Party Bags" for the families at the Menomonee Falls Food Pantry. The Missions Team is working with the Children's Ministry Team on this project to brighten the lives of those less fortunate than us.



Please consider helping us reach our goal of 50 bags for 50 birthdays through your purchases at the Children's Marketplace.

**NOTE:** Stacy Velie is hosting a craft-making workshop on Sunday, 3/2, from 10 AM-noon in the Art Room.

This is for anyone who would like help making something to sell at the Children's Marketplace on March 16. Please let Stacy or Liz know if your children plan to attend.

**REGISTER:** Please sign up using the link below to make and "sell" items for our mission. In the past children have made crafts, games, and other small items. Be sure to check out what others are making to avoid duplicate items.

[Children's Marketplace Sign-up](#)

### Easter

Easter is a time of celebration. The Children's Ministry Team wants to do just that by hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at Emmanuel on Saturday, April 19 at 10 AM (after choir practice).

The Kitchen Klub has graciously offered to provide a light snack afterwards.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

While we will not have Sunday School on April 20, remember that the children will sing at both services. Parents, please arrive 15 minutes early so your child(ren) can put on their robe(s) and ready themselves. Thank you!



## YOUTH NEWS

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

### Confirmation News

The confirmation retreat is scheduled for Friday Feb 28 to Saturday March 1 at Camp Lake Lucerne

(overnight event). Please use the registration link to sign up for this retreat. It is a 20 point confirmation event and will go into detail about the Methodist church, its beginnings, structure and future.

<https://wiumcamps.campbrainregistration.com/>

### Church Lock In

We will have a bunch of fun scheduled Friday night March 7 starting at 6:30 PM and into Saturday morning at 8 AM – look for activities such as indoor 9-square, games, devotional time, making items to be sold at the children's market place on Sunday, March 16, movies, homemade pizza, with pancakes and sausage in morning! Please let Bill know if you are planning to attend.

### Confirmation Faith Statement

There will be a Faith Statement workshop on Saturday, April 12.

This is a mandatory event as our confirmands come together to gather what they have learned and studied this past year into a statement of faith.

### Coming Soon

We are looking to head to Madison in April to visit campus ministries there and we will schedule time with the Trustees to assist with the annual Emmanuel clean-up morning.

Also coming up in May will be an evening of field games outside and some grilling.

We continue to announce these events in the weekly eNews, via e-mail from Bill, or in the weekly opportunities in the bulletin and in upcoming *Pathways* articles.

If there is another means of communication you would like, please contact Bill Follmann, Youth Director at [BillF@ec-emc.com](mailto:BillF@ec-emc.com) or Bill's cell 414-881-3023.



## AUDIOFETCH

ECUMC is expanding the use of the AudioFetch application to include Celebration Hall.

This exciting tool can assist anyone that wants a better "hearing" experience when attending Sunday's services.

AudioFetch allows you to capture everything that is picked up by the church microphones and send it directly to your hearing devices, whether they hearing aids, ear buds or wired headsets that are used with your "wifi" connected phone.



To improve what you are hearing, you need to:

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

Questions? Contact an usher or Gary Morgan, Terry Royals or David Rohr. Enjoy!

## UMCOR AT WORK

UMCOR support for relief work in Gaza includes large grants that further the work of partners who implement large scale distribution of food, water, personal hygiene and other non-food items. Grants also support health care and health facilities that have managed to remain open inside Gaza. Smaller grants of equal importance support organizations to reach specific vulnerable populations.

The Princess Basma Centre in Jerusalem, a long-time UMCOR partner serving disabled children, received several smaller grants. One made it possible for them to develop online learning for their constituency, who, although living in Jerusalem, were harassed trying to transport children to the center.

A second grant supported a new program to reach children in Gaza injured by the violence there.

With its expertise serving children with limb injuries and other disabling conditions, Princess Basma opened a pediatric satellite unit at Al Ahli Hospital, a sister institution in Gaza City.



## GIVE US THIS DAY

In observance of Lent, many people choose to “give up” something they enjoy as they enter a period of reflection. The Green Team invites us to “give out” instead.

You/your family can take a reusable shopping bag and put one or more items into it each week between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday. Each week has a theme and donation ideas for inspiration.

Return your bag to worship on **Palm Sunday or any day during Holy Week.**

Traditionally, food pantries do not receive many donations during the winter/spring months, so our efforts to restock the shelves at Rooted & Rising will be appreciated.

*Thank you to the ECUMC Foundation for sponsoring the reusable shopping bags!*



### Week 1 (ending March 9): Breakfast Foods

Thank you, Lord of the Harvest, that I can start each day with food in my stomach. Amen

*Satisfy us in the morning, Lord, with your faithful love*

*so that we may shout with joy and be glad all our days. (Psalm 90:14)*

Cereal (boxes, oats, etc.)	Bisquick or Pancake mix	Muffin mix
Pop Tarts	Powdered eggs	Powdered milk

### Week 2 (ending March 16): Lunch Foods

Thank you, Great Provider, for my midday meal and a place to work and learn. Amen

*Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth*

*and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. (Genesis 1:29)*

Canned tuna / chicken / beef	Mayonnaise / mustard	Fruit snack packs / raisins
Snack bags popcorn / trail mix	Pudding snack packs	Jam / preserves / peanut butter

### Week 3 (ending March 23): Dinner

Thank you, Generous Host, that I can enjoy a meal after a day of doing my best and sharing love. Amen

*Go ahead - eat your food and be happy; drink your wine and be cheerful. It's all right with God. (Ecclesiastes 9:7)*

Canned soup / chili	Salad dressing / hot sauce	Lemon pepper / seasoned salt
Cooking oil / olive oil	Pasta / sauce	Boxed pasta meals / rice meals

### Week 4 (ending March 30): Hygiene

Thank you, Water of Life, that I have access to clean water and a safe home. Amen

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)*

Toilet paper	Toothpaste	Individually wrapped toothbrush
Diapers size 5, 6	Bars of soap	Deodorant / shampoo

### Week 5 (ending April 6): Odds and Ends

Thank you, God of Creation, for the little things that make life easier. Amen

*Come to me all of you who are tired from the heavy burden you have been forced to carry.*

*I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)*

Dish soap / laundry soap	Sponges / dish cloths	Laundry soap
All-purpose cleaners	Paper towels	Juice

### Week 6 (ending April 13 – Palm Sunday): Celebrations

Thank you, Lord of the Dance, for times of joy and opportunities to celebrate. Amen

*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)*

Canned frosting	Birthday napkins / gift wrap	Birthday candles, sprinkles
Baking spices	Sugar / flour	Cake mix (yellow, white, chocolate)



# March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (FH) 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Adult Study (FH)	24 10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	25 	26 10am - Bible Study (FH) 5:30pm - 4:12 Singers (MR) 7pm - Women's Study (FH)	27 10am - Spiritual Guidance 6pm - Women's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	28 Camp Lake Lecerne Retreat Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	1 
2 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	3 9:30am - Sew and Sews (112) 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 6:30pm - Green Team (CL) 6:30pm - Mission Team (FH)	4 5:45pm - Children's Ministry 6:30pm - Trustees (CL)	5 Ash Wednesday 10am - Bible Study (FH) 5pm - Drive Thru Ash 6pm - Ash Wed Meal 7pm - Worship (S)	6 10am - Lenten Study (FH) 5pm - Lenten Study (FH) 6pm - Men's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Women's Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	7 Office Closed 6:30pm - lock in 10am - Bible Study (Z)	8 9am - Women's Book Brunch
9 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Confirmation Class	10 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 5:30pm - Stewardship (CL) 7pm - Finance (CL)	11 	12 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - 4:12 Singers (MR) 6pm - Soup & Study (CH)	13 10am - Lenten Study (FH) 5pm - Lenten Study (FH) 6pm - Women's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	14 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	15 Pathways Deadline by Noon 9am - Craft Morning (FH)
16 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 9:30am - Marketplace 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Confirmation Class	17 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 7pm - Church Council (CL)	18 9:30am - Comm Care (FH) 11:30am - YAHAS (CH) 6:30pm - SPRC (CL)	19 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - 4:12 Singers (MR) 6pm - Soup & Study (CH)	20 10am - Lenten Study (FH) 5pm - Lenten Study (FH) 6pm - Men's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Women's Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	21 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z) 1pm - Books Between Bites 7pm - Game Night (FH)	22 
23 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	24 10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	25 	26 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - 4:12 Singers (MR) 6pm - Soup & Study (CH)	27 10am - Lenten Study (FH) 10:30am - Spiritual Guidance 5pm - Lenten Study (FH)	28 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	29 8am - Community Breakfast
30 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	31 10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	1 5:45pm - Children's Ministry	2 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - 4:12 Singers (MR) 6pm - Soup & Study (CH) 6:30pm - Trustees (CL)	3 10am - Lenten Study (FH) 4pm - Scout Troop 107 (CH) 5pm - Lenten Study (FH) 6pm - Men's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Women's Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	4 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z) 3pm - Women Ministry Setup	5 8am - Spa Day (FH, CCR, 102,