



PATHWAYS

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church



MAY 2025

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter

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

CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY, 5/3

The Trustees are hosting an All Church Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 3.

Come anytime between 9 AM and noon and stay as long as you'd like. Breakfast snacks will be available.

Bring your favorite tools to work both inside and out. You'll enjoy working along other members and friends of our church and making our house of worship shine!!!

Please contact Gary Morgan with questions at 262-893-1146 or GaryM@ec-umc.com.



ECUMC BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, May 10, 8 AM – 1 PM
in Celebration Hall

When you donate blood, you help save a local patient's life and give hope to that patient's family. Accident victims, premature babies, and those needing blood transfusions to stay healthy are counting on people like you to love their neighbor.

Volunteers are needed to assist donors and the blood drive staff. Contact the church office to volunteer for an hour or two.

Register for either whole blood or double red donations by calling the church office (262-251-3830) or using this link: <https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/>



THE EARTH WEEK CHALLENGE

The Green Team's Earth Week challenge encourages us to do our part to care for God's creation for our benefit and for our descendants.

Which new steps will you/your family try for the month of May?

- ✧ Reduce food waste, check how much less garbage you can throw out
- ✧ Eat more meals that are richer in plant foods
- ✧ Support groups that protect rainforests and/or plant trees
- ✧ Have a portion of your electricity come from the We Energies Energy for Tomorrow clean energy
- ✧ Explore installing solar energy
- ✧ Replace conventional light bulbs with LED bulbs
- ✧ Reduce unnecessary purchases, shop resale
- ✧ Reuse older items you would throw out
- ✧ Recycle everything possible
- ✧ Install a smart thermostat in your home
- ✧ Help the Green Team with the church garden and landscaping



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A WORD FROM PASTOR MATT

Pastor Matt Hadley; MattH@ec-umc.com

*See what great love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!
-1 John 3:1 (NIV)*

Dear Emmanuel Friends & Family,

As we step into the month of May, we are preparing for a special sermon series titled "Children of God." This series will explore both the timeless and powerful themes of identity, belonging, and love through scripture, poetry, and history.

This series is designed to remind us of our beloved-ness, our sacred worth, and the divine image stamped upon every human soul. Each week, we will explore a different theme centered on childhood—both literal and spiritual.

Our first Sunday in the series will reflect on the classic nursery rhyme "Monday's Child," and how its message, though simple, speaks deeply to who we are as children of God. Each day of the week in the poem represents a different characteristic, but I invite you to consider how we, as children of God, are all uniquely shaped by God's grace, love, and purpose.

The series will also shine a light on the powerful life of Frederick Douglass. Douglass's autobiography recounts a significant moment where he understood he was "somebody's child." This realization came after his mother intervened on his behalf against a cruel overseer, highlighting the power of his mother's love and protection. Despite the unimaginable abuse and pain he endured as a child, Douglass held onto the belief that he was somebody's child—God's child. His perseverance is a testimony to the resilience of the human spirit and the unbreakable bond between us and our Creator.

Lastly, we will delve into Jesus' words, "Let the children come to me." These words were not just an invitation to the children of his time but are a reminder that we, too, are called into the arms of God with open hearts and hands. This message transcends age, background, and status; we are all children of God, loved unconditionally and welcomed into God's family.

Whether you feel strong in your identity as a child of God or find yourself struggling to believe it, I hope this series will speak to your heart. Come with curiosity, bring a friend, and let's discover again what it means to live as beloved children of a gracious and loving God.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Matt



CHURCH OFFICE

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

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday April 27, our church welcomed this year's confirmation class into membership of the church.

Congratulations to: **Landry Buchholz**
Will Grimm **McKayla Loehe**
Keegan Sommers

Macey Burling
Maggie Schlotthauer
Rachel Sromalski

Jaxton Fettig
Colton Schmitt



At Celebration Hall worship on 4/13, **Rick & Jan Lange** and **John & Marion Dalacker** were received into ECUMC membership.

Welcome to the ECUMC faith family!

MISSIONS

Contact: Mary Klein; MaryKlein1@gmail.com

GOING THE EGGSTRA MILE

We've literally been going the eggs-tra mile(s): our Rooted & Rising Team has been driving to Amish Country to purchase eggs.

Why? *At \$4 /dozen it's worth the drive!*

The 55 dozen eggs purchased each trip have been washed, packed in 1/2 dozen cartons, and taken to the Food Center at R & R by our team. This couldn't have happened without the \$917 donated by members of our church during the month of February. The Food Center genuinely appreciates our "eggstra" effort in donating almost 400 dozen eggs since January when we began this new project.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this cause. Don't forget to bring your empty cartons back church.

SPRING JACKET DRIVE

Are you spring cleaning your closets?

During the month of May we will be collecting GENTLY used jacket (please only jackets) and taking them to the Food Center. Adult and children sizes go very quickly.

Thank you to everyone for all the support given to the mission work at Rooted & Rising. If interested in learning more or helping to volunteer, talk to anyone on our ECUMC Missions Team.

UMCOR

Recently a ECUMC member sent me an email stating "One of the best things about the UMC is UMCOR." She went on to tell how often she used it, even as a gift in the name of a family member for a special occasion.

"I have used it with personal donations to honor deceased friends, as well as Charitable Giving from investments to saves on taxes." she said.

UMCOR's (United Methodist Committee on Relief) mission is to alleviate human suffering in the name of Jesus Christ. One of their brochure's says "From California to Florida, from Ukraine to the Philippines,



from Gaza to Guatemala, [UMCOR] makes courage and resilience possible for people in need."

Find out more by googling UMCOR. Or go on our church's website, click on the GIVE button where UMCOR is one of the options. 100% goes directly to your designated Mission!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Did you know that our church has a loooong history with Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity? Since I've only been a member for about seven years, I don't even know when we began our support; possibly twenty years ago or more?

Although our financial support has decreased, our enthusiasm continues. June will be Habitat month at ECUMC.

Beginning in May, we will collect items for the *Welcome Home Gifts* for the dedication of the LaPorche's new home. Ms. LaPorche and her children were our guests at last fall's Harvest Brunch. After a lot of hard work on her part, she will close on her new home at the end of May.

In June, the proceeds of our all-church Carnival will go to Milwaukee Habitat.

Finally, on June 22, at the intergenerational worship service, we will be decorating 2x4s that will be part of a new home being built this year.

If you are interested in working at a "build site" with other church members, or donating some of your time to the Habitat ReStore, just contact Mary Klein or anyone on the Mission team.

A THANK YOU NOTE

The Falls Area Food Pantry would like to thank the members of Emmanuel for your generous support and the many donations of food, funding, time and talent over the past year. The hundreds of families that we serve every month appreciate the additional food as well as the generosity and kindness of our volunteers. Thank you for being involved and working to assure that food and other resources are available and our clients are served with a caring and positive attitude.

May God continue to bless your ministries!



ECUMC SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Love to read? Join your fellow ECUMC bibliophiles this summer in one, two, or three All-Church Reads selections. We'll meet at 11 AM (after the second service) for a group discussion in Fellowship Hall. Of course, there will be snacks.

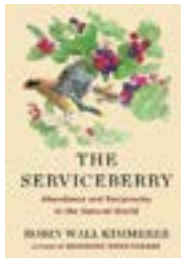
Each book has been recommended by an ECUMC ministry team, so you know they're all winners! All are available from your library or for purchase new or used from your favorite book seller.

June 8: *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* by Robin Wall Kimmerer (128 pages, Non-fiction)

NOTE: Doug Walters has 4 copies of the book to give to the first who request them:

Doug3Walters@gmail.com or 262-623-2834.

As Indigenous scientist Kimmerer harvests serviceberries alongside the birds, she considers the ethic of reciprocity that lies at the heart of the gift economy. Our own economy is rooted in scarcity, competition, and the hoarding of resources that actively harms what we love. Serviceberries show us another model, one based upon reciprocity, where wealth comes from the quality of your relationships, not from the illusion of self-sufficiency.



June 29: *Under the Whispering Door* by TJ Klune (384 pages, YA Fantasy)

Wallace Price is unlikeable, unsympathetic, and all alone. But even in death he's not ready to abandon life, so when Wallace is given one week to cross over, he is determined to live differently for seven days. This reimagining of the classic Greek mythological ferryman Charon is full of humor, entertaining twists and turns, and redemption.



July 27: *James: A Novel* by Percival Everett (320 pages, Historical Fiction)

Everett takes the familiar world of Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and reframes it by telling the story through the eyes of Huck's escaped-slave companion, Jim. The original saga is the springboard for exploring themes of race, survival, and freedom. Whether or not you have read Twain's original, you will be



challenged and moved by this work, already predicted to be a modern classic.

Different people will facilitate each session, but for general questions, contact Janet Ray (JanetR@ec-umc.com)

YOUTH EVENTS

On Saturday May 3 from 9 AM to noon, we are assisting the trustees as we beautify the church both inside and out. Bring your work clothes and plan to assist where you are able.

On Friday, May 16, weather permitting, we are planning an outdoor fun time from 5-8 PM. Be ready for some field games, kick ball, kite flying, making a fire and cooking hot dogs and smores. Bring a friend! Please let Bill know if you are planning to attend so we have enough adult helpers and food.

Finally, we are planning a reception for the graduating class of 2025 on Sunday, June 1. Please come and talk with our seniors as we wish them well on their next chapter of their lives.

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

Questions? Please contact Bill Follmann, Youth Director at BillF@ec-emc.com or Bill's cell 414-881-3023.

NOTE: See related story on page 7.



Dry Bones SUNDAY SCHOOL



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

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

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

You may have heard we had a very successful Children's Marketplace in March, raising over \$754. But did you know that Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church's children turned their profits into 55 "Birthday Bags" for our friends at the Falls Area Food Pantry? It was truly a wonderful sight to see the Sunday schoolers decorated and filled the bags with all the items you would need for a birthday celebration!

The proof is in the photos!

Celebrate WONDER

Sunday School for the elementary aged children wrapped up their Lenten unit, "REMEMBER," at the end of April. They will finish the season with a 3-week unit entitled, "SHARE." The definition of "SHARE" is sharing the good news through witness. The memory verse is: *The community of believers was one in heart and mind.* Acts 4:32a Sunday, May 18, is the last day of Sunday School for children and youth. (It will also mark one year for me as your Children's Ministry Director at ECUMC.) We will celebrate the lessons learned throughout the school year.

We will also honor our awesome group of volunteers who have shared in teaching our growing disciples since September of last year.

When they say, "It takes a village...", they're not kidding! (We are so very grateful to the parents that entrust their children into our care as shepherds on their faith journeys.)



Those who served include Jeannie Berrall, Meaghan Germana, Laura Hohl, Amanda Petrie, Jean Reif, Nate Schlotthauer, Jeff Schmidt, Angie Schneider, Anna Schoenenberger, Stacy Velie, Todd Velie, Frank Vetrovec, Bonny Walters, and Anne Weiland.

Of course, we can't forget our wonderful Nursery Staff Renee Rusch and Dori Herrera-Sanchez for the love and care they provide to the little ones. Special thanks to Bill Follmann for helping the youth live their faith and for leading the confirmands on their steps into becoming members of the church. And thank you to Pastor Matt Hadley for guiding us all. I honestly can't say thank you all enough to everyone who made this a meaningful time of spiritual growth for the children of ECUMC!

CHURCH CARNIVAL – COMING SOON!

Mark your calendars: Saturday, June 7, 4:30-6:30PM. ECUMC is having a summer extravaganza of fun! Join us for carnival games, food, fun, and fellowship. There will be a free-will offering with all the proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity.

INTERGENERATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL IS BACK!

Once a month this summer (June 22, July 20 & August 24) we will have an interactive mini-lesson and a hands-on mission project during the Celebration Hall service at 10:00 AM. The theme is "The Summer of LOVE" based on the scripture, "Love each other like the members of your family." Romans 12:10a

VBS 2025

Coming August 10 - 14:
Camp Firelight-A Summer
Camp Adventure with God
"Whenever I am afraid, I
put my trust in
you." Psalm 56:3



UMC CAMPS LAKE LUCERNE & PINE LAKE

Wanna go to sleep away camp this summer?! Click on the QR code to register for Wisconsin United Methodist Church Camp today!

Contact Liz Cannon for scholarship info.



A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE: CHICKEN OR EAGLE

Contact: Gary Wilkes; GEWilkes@outlook.com

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

Once upon a time, a man found the egg of an eagle. It had been abandoned for some reason by its mother, but as it was still warm, the man took it and placed it in the nest of one of his backyard chickens, along with the other eggs already being brooded. After a time, the eaglet hatched.

Along with the other chicks from the nest, it began to roam the backyard, doing what the others did. He scratched at the earth for worms and insects. He pecked at the corn the man scattered across the yard. He clucked and cackled as best he could, and as he grew, he would flap his wings and fly a few feet into the air – just like the other chickens.

Years past and the eagle grew old.

One day, he saw a magnificent bird high above him in the cloudless sky. It glided gracefully through the powerful wind currents, soaring and swooping, scarcely beating its long, golden wings.

The old eagle watched in awe. "What is that?"

"That is the eagle – the king of birds," one of his neighbors replied. "He belongs to the sky and the high places. We belong to the earth. We are chickens."

The old eagle believed it was true. And so, he lived and died as a chicken – because that is what he thought he was.

Very often in life, our perspective determines our reality. By experiencing the transforming power of God's love and grace, we begin to see the world, the ministry of the church as a whole, our shared ministry as United Methodists, and even our individual lives in a new and extraordinary way.

What if, instead of being held back by fear of failure or the challenges in front of us, we are able to soar, accomplish the extraordinary – sustained and lifted by the grace of God.

Adapted from Rev. Jason Mahnke, WI United Methodist Foundation



SPEAKING OF GIVING...

The generosity of our congregation for our Lenten Food Drive inspires awe!

Delivery to Rooted & Rising (which will take a few weeks) has begun; once we have the total poundage, that will be reported.



LAY LEADER MESSAGE OF SERVICE

Ray Adler just had his 88th birthday and the anniversary of 58 years of service to our church. Ray has served on many committees and assisted with events. He still loves serve as an usher.

2025 brings several committee and ministry positions that need our congregation to step up with their service. The Nominations Committee will be asking members for their time and talents. We need a variety of people on every committee.

I was working on Stewardship and a newer member to the team, J. J. Barnes, brought up the use of QR codes. I was unaware of their usefulness. Now our church uses them in many ways. This is one example of a new committee member with new ideas.

Whatever time you can spend on a committee or ministry team, whether young or old, have served before or never served, we need your help.

Easter brings time to reflect on Jesus and the meaning of service. My daughter remembers a poem by John Richard Moreland which my mother gave her; it seems extra important during Easter.

*His hands, But only they,
The hands of Christ, Reach heaven at last
Seem very frail, Whom those frail, broken
For they were broken, Hands hold fast.
by a nail.*

Let's all use our hands for His service.

Rollin Kring, Lay Leader

SPRC NEWS

Contact: Peg Heinen; PegHeinen@yahoo.com

YOUTH DIRECTOR OPPORTUNITY!

SPRC would like to thank Bill Follman for his service to the youth of ECUMC for the last several years! Bill will be stepping back from this role at the end of the month. (Don't worry - he's staying on as our treasured Music Director.)

Through Bill's time with our youth, his relationships with middle schoolers and high schoolers have helped them connect with God and build their faith.

Whether it was through confirmation, a winter retreat, movie night, a service project, or just a quick conversation in the hallway on Sunday morning, Bill has been our

youth's biggest cheerleader! His sincere connections and clever jokes keep our youth engaged with our church. He will be missed in this leadership role. We will be looking to fill this important part of the ECUMC team. If you are interested in learning more about what the Youth Director role entails, please reach out to Pastor Matt or SPRC.



ROOTED & RISING'S 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

From Rooted & Rising: "We're proud to share our 2024 Annual Report, a reflection of the incredible progress we've made together this past year.

With your support, Rooted & Rising reached new milestones in housing development, early education, food security, and community engagement—impacting over 7,000 individuals in the Washington Park neighborhood.

This report is not just a summary of our work—it's a celebration of what's possible when we come together as neighbors, donors, and partners."

Here's a highlight from p. 5: *Along with volunteerism, partnership is the key to the successful functioning of our Community Food Center, and we'd like to highlight the vital contributions in 2024 from some of our longtime and leading partners, including Hunger Task Force, Emmanuel Community UMC in Menomonee Falls and our many other UMC church partners, the*



Milwaukee Diaper Mission, Trader Joe's, Festival Foods, and the West Allis Farmers Market, among many others!

And from p. 8: *Through the tremendous support of our donors, 68 individuals and groups contributed a total of \$139,733 for the design and construction of our brand new playscape. A huge thank you to the Alexander family and our friends at Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church in Menomonee Falls!*

[Click here to view the full report](#)

POPE FRANCIS' FINAL MESSAGE

We join our Roman Catholic friends in mourning the death of Pope Francis.

Here is an excerpt of his final words of inspiration, "Urbi et Orbi" ("To the City and to the World"), delivered to the crowd in St. Peter's Square on Easter. *The resurrection of Jesus is indeed the basis of our hope. For in the light of this event, hope is no longer an illusion. Thanks to Christ — crucified and risen from the dead — hope does not disappoint! Spes non confundit! (cf. Rom 5:5). That hope is not an evasion, but a challenge; it does not delude, but empowers us. On this day, I would like all of us to hope anew and to revive our trust in others, including those who are different than ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas! For all of us are children of God!*



The light of Easter impels us to break down the barriers that create division... It impels us to care for one another, to increase our mutual solidarity, and to work for the integral development of each human person...

I appeal to all...not to yield to the logic of fear which only leads to isolation from others, but rather to use the resources available to help the needy, to fight hunger and to encourage initiatives that promote development. These are the "weapons" of peace: weapons that build the future, instead of sowing seeds of death!



May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	28 10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	29 6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)	30 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - 4:12 Singers (MR) 6pm - Troop 67 Council (CH) 7pm - Women's Study (FH)	1 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	2 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	3 9am - All Church Clean Up
4 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	5 9:30am - Sew and Sews (112) 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 6:30pm - Green Team (CL) 6:30pm - Mission Team (FH)	6 5:45pm - Children's Ministry	7 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - 4:12 Singers (MR) 6:30pm - Trustees (CL) 7pm - Women's Study (FH)	8 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	9 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	10 7am - Versiti Blood Drive
11 Mother's Day 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	12 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 5:30pm - Stewardship (CL) 7pm - Finance (CL)	13 10:30am - Spiritual Guidance	14 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - 4:12 Singers (MR) 7pm - Women's Study (FH)	15 Pathways Deadline by Noon 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	16 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z) 5pm - Youth Field Games	17 9am - Craft Morning (FH)
18 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	19 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 7pm - Church Council (CL)	20 9:30am - Comm Care (FH) 11:30am - YAHAS (CH) 6:30pm - SPRC (CL)	21 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - 4:12 Singers (MR) 7pm - Women's Study (FH)	22	23 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	24
25 8:30am - Worship (S) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	26	27 10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	28 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - 4:12 Singers (MR) 7pm - Women's Study (FH)	29	30 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	31