



# PATHWAYS

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church



**AUGUST 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)

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

Do you like to eat, sing, play, and learn about God? Would you like to come and see what we are up to at Camp Firelight?

Volunteer for an evening, (we'll feed your stomach and your soul) or come every night Sunday, August 10 -

Thursday, August 14, from 5:30 PM until 8:00 PM.

Register your child/grandchildren/neighbors or volunteer today using our website: <https://www.myvbs.org/ECUMC2025/>



### SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

It's that time of year again. The Falls Area Food Pantry is collecting school supplies. Distribution to the students will be August 12-September 5.

- Plastic school pencil boxes any color (Approx size 7X5X2)
- Crayola 12 colored pencils
- Crayola Washable Markers Classic Colors Broad Line
- Crayola Washable Markers Classic Colors Thin Lined
- Elmer's Large Glue Sticks Purple
- 1", 1.5" 3-Ring Binders Clear View Cover
- Headphones and Ear Buds (No AirPods)
- Spiral Sketchbooks 9X12
- Highlighters Multiple Colors Thick or Thin
- Sharpie Black Thin Markers
- Expo Large Dry Erase Markers (Low Odor)
- Expo Dry Erase Fine Tip (Black, Green, Red, Blue)
- Wide-Ruled Loose Leaf Paper
- One Subject Wide Ruled Notebooks
- 3 Subject Wide Ruled Notebooks
- 3X5 Index Cards (Color/Plain/Lined)
- Post It Notes 3X3 and 4X4 (Lined and Unlined)
- Pens (Black/Blue/Red Ink)

There's a basket in Fellowship Hall for your donations. Thank you for helping our students start the year with the tools they need to be successful.



### RALLY DAY IS COMING!

*What is Rally Day?*

Rally Day celebrates the restarting of our music and ministry programs which have been in recess for the summer, including Christian education for children, youth, and adults in Sunday morning classes, which begin again on 9/14.

Join us on Sunday, September 7 for worship at 9 AM followed by lunch and community activities.

Pastor Matt's worship series for September is called

**Social & Environmental**

**Justice with Dr. Seuss** and our

Rally Day worship will be based around *The Lorax*.

(Subsequent weeks include *The Sneetches*, *Horton Hears a Who*, and *The Butter Battle Book*.)

Come be a part of Rally Day fellowship, food, and fun in the sun!

Don't miss out! There will be only one service that day - at 9 AM.

More information is coming your way soon!



### CHURCH OFFICE

262-251-3830 [Church@ec-umc.com](mailto:Church@ec-umc.com)

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 AM–1 PM

### In this issue...

- p. 2 Pastor's Letter, Ministry Teams Meet*
- p. 3 Stewardship and Children's Ministries*
- p. 4 Music and Choir*
- p. 5 Adult Study, Thank You*
- p. 6 Message from our Bishop*
- p. 7 ECUMC August Calendar*

**“One Way, Closed Lanes, and God’s Direction”**

Dear Emmanuel Family,

Summer in Southeast Wisconsin means that it is road construction season. For many of us, what used to be an easy drive to church is now an exercise in creativity, patience, and prayers that the rims on our tires will be unscathed. It’s not just on Menomonee Ave.; it is everywhere as new pipelines go in and roads are being resurfaced.



Road construction is everywhere—lanes closed, one-way detours, and stop signs where there used to be smooth sailing. It's frustrating, slow, and often confusing. But as I sat at one of those “flagger ahead” signs last week, I began thinking: our spiritual lives often feel the same way.

Sometimes, God places “lane closures” in our lives. Doors that once were open shut without warning. Plans we thought were solid come to a standstill. Relationships, job paths, dreams, they narrow, change, or pause altogether. It’s tempting to get frustrated and honk at heaven like we do at a red light that won't turn green. But maybe that’s exactly where God wants us—paused long enough to hear Him speak.

Amid all this, I’ve noticed a lot of “One Way” signs. On the road, they keep us from crashing into others. Spiritually, they remind us of something Jesus said in John 14:6: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” In a world full of detours and distractions, Jesus is the one sure path. He doesn’t just point the way; He is the way. When we follow Him, even if the road is under construction, we can trust we’re moving in the right direction.

And those detour signs? As much as we dislike them, they serve a purpose. They prevent us from driving into danger or unfinished work. God does the same. Proverbs 16:9 says, “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.” There have been seasons in my life where I’ve had to take the “long way” to get where I was going—only to realize later that God was protecting me or preparing me in that delay. What feels like a spiritual detour is often divine direction.

What’s more, road construction is temporary—but the improvement is lasting. Once the paving is done, the new path is smoother, safer, and faster. In the same way, when God does construction in our lives—shaping our character, smoothing out our rough edges, or redirecting our plans—He’s building something better. Romans 8:28 reminds us that “in all things God works for the good of those who love Him.”

So, if you’re in a “lane closure” season—if life feels narrow, disrupted, or uncertain—take heart. You’re not lost. You’re in God’s work zone. Stay patient. Follow the signs. Trust the process. And remember there is one way, one truth, and one life—and that is Jesus. He is with you in every construction zone, guiding your steps, even when you can't see around the orange cones.

Let’s be a church that supports each other during these detours. Let’s walk together, encourage one another, and point each other toward the One who leads us faithfully.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Matt



**MINISTRY TEAMS MEET**

All Ministry Teams will meet at 6:30 PM in Celebration Hall on Monday, August 4. Following devotions, we will break into Ministry groups .

## THE MINISTRY OF PRESENCE

### – A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"* Matthew 18:20

In a world of crowded calendars, overflowing inboxes and endless notifications, there is one gift that remains powerful, rare and deeply spiritual: presence.

Not presence as in attendance, but presence as in attention. As in showing up – wholeheartedly – for God, for one another and for the sacred work to which we are called. When we talk about stewardship, we often speak of time, talent and treasure. But we don't always name how transformational it is simply to be present. Presence is what turns a worship service into a community. It's what transforms a hospital visit into holy ground. It's what makes a church meeting more than a checklist – when someone takes time to listen, pray or ask, "How are you really doing?"

Think of Jesus. He didn't publish books or host podcasts. He sat at tables, walked dusty roads and looked people in the eye. His power was not just in what He said, but in how fully He showed up. This month as many of us squeeze in final vacations, youth trips or back-to-school prep, let's remember that presence is a form of generosity. And one that doesn't require a budget line of a campaign. Your willingness to show up – for worship, service, conversation or prayer – may be one of the most meaningful offerings you give this season.

When we are present to each other, we bear witness to the presence of God. Let's not underestimate the holy work of showing up.

- Rev. Jason Mahnke, WI United Methodist Foundation

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Contact: Liz Cannon [LizC@ec-umc.com](mailto:LizC@ec-umc.com), 262-370-7512

### The Summer of LOVE Continues!

*"Love each other like the members of your family."*

Romans 12:10a

The second session of Intergenerational Sunday School took place in Celebration Hall on Sunday, July 20. The Children's Ministry Team and Missions Team proudly presented a Bible story lesson about Paul (Saul) and Barnabas and the growth of the Church. This Bible story contains several acts of love. Paul showed love to God by serving God and preaching. Barnabas showed love by speaking up for Paul. The

community of believers showed love to Paul by accepting him. Love can look like different things in different situations. You may be called on to love people in different ways at different times, but all forms of love are valid. As a reconciling congregation we learned about a new mission outreach with Courage +. [Courageplus.org/what-we-do/](http://Courageplus.org/what-we-do/)



For the mission activity we assembled 50 "Courage Kits." Similar to "Blessing Bags", "Courage Kits" serve a younger population (children and youth) and provide basic hygiene products, socks, gloves, and snacks, as well as demonstrating LOVE to God's children. It is an act of living our faith.

To top it all off, there were sweet treats from local bakery Batter & Mac located at N89W16750 Appleton Ave, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

[batterandmac.com](http://batterandmac.com)

This month's story is called, "Love in Action."

Feel the "LOVE" on Sunday, August 24, at 10 AM.



Our mission project will be assembling hygiene bags for Rooted & Rising. A special thank you goes out to ECUMC's Church Foundation whose generous grant helped make these projects possible!





## MUSIC MINISTRIES

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

### MEN'S, WOMEN'S, AND CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN THURSDAY, 8/28!

We have a unique opportunity here at Emmanuel to have a variety of ways in which you can develop and share your musical talents. If you enjoy singing a wide range of music from gospel to classical with a sprinkle of laughter and fellowship thrown in, these groups are for you.

*We seek to be channels of God's grace, blending our individual gifts as an offering to God. We honor what God is creating in ALL people, sharing in many forms, the inclusive message of Christ. We welcome the movement of the Holy Spirit in us and through us as we worship through sung praise and prayer.*

The ensembles also offer mutual support and fulfillment for its singers. The music of the choirs is always dedicated to the glory of God. I know there are questions about the adult choirs, so here are a few

frequently asked questions and the answers:

#### **Do I need to audition to sing in any of the Choirs?**

No. All are welcome! There are no auditions for adult choir membership, just a love of music. This is your chance to relax, unwind and have fun with music.

#### **Do I need to read music?**

No. Many of the current choir members do not read music. You only need to come with the willingness to learn and expand upon the gifts given to you.

#### **When do the choirs rehearse?**

Chancel Choir rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:00 PM.

Men's choir and Women's choir also rehearse on Thursday evenings and alternate weekly starting at 6:00 PM. One week the Men's choir will meet from 6:00-6:30 PM and the Women's choir from 6:30-7:00 PM and next week it will be the reverse, Women's Choir at 6 and Men's Choir at 6:30. A schedule is available to let you know when the rehearsals are.

#### **What if I can't be there every week?**

That is just fine, we want you to come and sing as

often as you can! We are better with you singing

some of the time rather than none of the time. Virtually everyone in the choir will miss Sunday(s) and/or Thursday(s) during the course of the year and is the reason we need everyone who would like to sing be a part of the choir. No one is prohibited from singing Sundays because of missed rehearsals. Remember - You are Important! Members are encouraged to attend rehearsals as often as they can as this is an essential part of building an ensemble sound and being comfortable with the music being sung.

#### **What happens on Sunday mornings?**

The Chancel Choir sings at either the 8:30 or 10:00 service and alternates the service from one week to the next unless otherwise noted.



The Men's choir and Women's choir will sing 12-13 Sundays per year and will also alternate services on the weeks they sing. All choirs will meet in the music room (Chancel and Women's choir wear robes) approximately ½ hour before the start of the service to warm up and rehearse that Sunday's music. Again, a schedule is available to let you know what services we

sing at and what musical number we are singing.

*"Use what talents you possess;*

*the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."* - Henry Van Dyke.

Here is the starting Thursday rehearsal schedule for the fall of 2025

- ◇ 8/28/2025 – Women's Choir from 6 PM to 6:30 PM, Men's Choir from 6:30 to 7 PM, Chancel Choir from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.
- ◇ 9/4/2025 – Men's Choir from 6:00 to 6:30PM, Women's Choir from 6:30 to 7 PM, Chancel Choir from 7:00 to 8:00 PM
- ◇ 9/11/2025 - Women's Choir from 6 to 6:30 PM, Men's Choir from 6:30 to 7 PM, Chancel Choir from 7:00 to 8:00 PM
- ◇ 9/18/2025 - 9/4/2025 – Men's Choir from 6 to 6:30 PM, Women's Choir from 6:30 to 7 PM, Chancel Choir from 7:00 to 8:00 PM

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns -

[BillF@ec-umc.com](mailto:BillF@ec-umc.com) or my cell 414-881-3023.



## ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Contact: Janet Ray; [JanetR@ec-umc.com](mailto:JanetR@ec-umc.com)



### NEW STUDY THIS FALL

***Living the Kingdom Now: Healing & Hope in God's World*** is a study developed just for ECUMC by Janet Ray in conjunction with our Green Team!

This 4-week study is filled

with interesting facts, Biblical connections, and green initiatives that we can support and share.

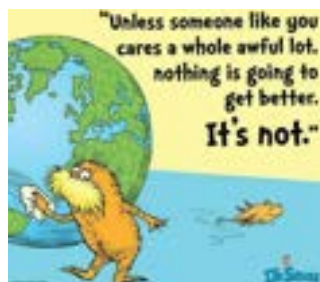
Members of the Green Team will facilitate each session at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall on Sundays:

9/28 - 10/5 - 10/12 - 10/19.

(Fear not - the Packers play at either 3:25 or 7:20 PM each of these weeks!)

**Bonus:** Each week there will be a “green” item for you to take and try in your home or workplace.

No book to purchase, no homework - just come and enjoy being in the company of others who want to explore the message of the Lorax: *Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.*



You'll need to sign up in advance to receive the Participant Guide and the weekly gift.

Each session is a stand-alone topic, so it's OK if you can only come once or twice.

Register on the bulletin board or email [JanetR@ec-umc.com](mailto:JanetR@ec-umc.com)

## OTHER ADULT DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### *Year-Round Mid-week Bible Studies*

- Wednesdays, 10 AM (Fellowship Hall)
- Fridays, 10 AM (Zoom)

### *Resuming September 14 @ 8:30 AM (CL)*

- *The Wired Word: The Bible meets The News*

## FROM THE MISSIONS TEAM

Thank you, ECUMC, for your generous contributions to the “Welcome Home Basket!”

LaPorche and her children moved into their **Habitat for Humanity**

home on July 1, and we were there to support her with overflowing baskets to get

her started on this exciting new chapter!

We collected enough money and items to support another Habitat family's “Welcome Home Basket.”



*Thank you to everyone for prayers, cards, and delicious meals!*  
*We are grateful,*

*Ken and Pam J.*

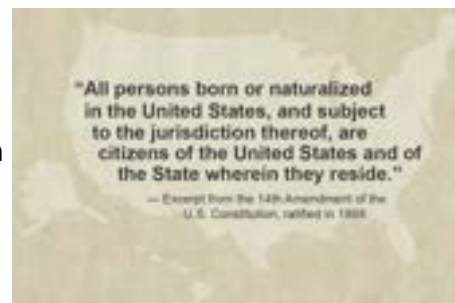
## WHAT CHURCHES NEED TO KNOW...

### ABOUT IMMIGRATION

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UM News)

United Methodist leaders are seeking to keep people informed as the U.S. government ramps up immigrant detentions and deportations.

At a July 17 webinar, attorneys gave an update on birthright citizenship cases, travel bans and Immigration and Customs Enforcement tactics. [Read story](#)





**Northern Illinois - Wisconsin**  
**Episcopal Area**  
of The United Methodist Church



Rev. Danita Anderson, Assistant to the Bishop  
Northern Illinois Conference  
danderson@umcnic.org | 872-810-0834

Rev. Barbara Certa-Werner, Assistant to the Bishop  
Wisconsin Conference  
bcertawerner@wisconsinumc.org | 608-837-8526



*Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil and hold on to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home.*

Romans 12:9-13

Grace and peace to you in the hope that is ours in Christ.

When the kids were little, we liked to walk in county or state parks. It was not uncommon for Rachel to see a toad or frog and pick it up. You know the inevitable question: 'Dad, can we keep her?'

I would explain. 'Rachel, that little frog has a mom, maybe a dad or grandpa or little brother, and soon they will start missing her. She will miss them. Let's let her go so she can hop home to her family's dinner table.'

I don't know if that was a gold standard answer, but Rachel learned empathy. She is now a social worker who engages those who live in Milwaukee without housing.

In her book, *Who Do We Choose to Be?* Margaret Wheatley says a decent human being must be willing to serve an inhumane and indecent time. More than being decent, what might a Christian be willing to do in an inhumane, indecent time?

Despite the fact that the federal government has built a concentration camp in Florida and has resorted to burning food aid rather than feed hungry children, I am still answering angry letters about the Council of Bishops' epiphany letter that sought dignity for immigrants.

I feel as if I am crouching down in my gentle fatherly voice and saying, 'the 34 people per cage have a mother, a sister, or a child. They are exposed to the elements and live in their own stench. Most are guilty of no crime. For the first offense, being in the US illegally is a misdemeanor, and when did misdemeanor crimes warrant incarceration in a concentration camp away from family and legal recourse? Their children are traumatized from missing their fathers. Let them go. Let them go back to their dinner tables.'

Bishop Tom Berlin, our bishop assigned to the Florida conference, has raised his opposition to a concentration camp built in Florida that costs \$450 million per year to operate. Inmates are given food infested with maggots. Mosquitoes, some carrying disease, are everywhere. The lights are left on so inmates cannot sleep.

Of course, immigration reform is needed. Of course, persons who have committed serious crimes must be addressed. How do you defend a concentration camp with your Christian faith? Might the FEMA money used to maintain this be better spent in Texas or on a natural disaster?

Siblings in Christ, we have been divided by powerful, moneyed voices. Many hearts have been turned to revile immigrants by allowing ourselves to fear them in the most criminal terms. Consider how many United Methodists approve of this example of structural and systemic racism. Who would want to join that church?

Contact your representative and your senator. Join in prayer and protest. Feed those widowed because their husband has been swept up in a needless raid. Contribute to the [Texas flood relief](#) through UMCOR or a short-term mission trip. Love your neighbor. The neighbor, says Luke 10:37, is the one who showed mercy.

Know that your witness to Jesus and your service of the reign of God is critically important. Thank you for your witness and faithfulness. It is good to be in ministry with you.

Peace,

Daniel W. Schwerin, Bishop Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area  
The United Methodist Church

# August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>27</div> <div>8am - Summer Choir (MR)</div> <div>8:30am - Worship (S)</div> <div>10am - Worship (CH)</div> <div>11am - Book Club (FH)</div> <div>1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (FH)</div>	<div>31</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (Z)</div>	<div>2</div>
<div>3</div> <div>8:30am - Worship (S)</div> <div>10am - Worship (CH)</div> <div>1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</div>	<div>4</div> <div>9:30am - Sew and Sews (112)</div> <div>10am - Staff Meeting (FH)</div> <div>6:30pm - Ministry Team (CL)</div>	<div>5</div> <div>5:45pm - Children's Min. (FH)</div>	<div>6</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (FH)</div> <div>6:30pm - Trustees (CL)</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (Z)</div>	<div>9</div>
<div>10</div> <div>8:30am - Worship (S)</div> <div>10am - Worship (CH)</div> <div>1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</div> <div>5:30pm - VBS (V)</div>	<div>11</div> <div>10am - Staff Meeting (FH)</div> <div>5:30pm - Stewardship (CL)</div> <div>5:30pm - VBS (V)</div> <div>7pm - Finance (CL)</div>	<div>12</div> <div>5:30pm - VBS (V)</div>	<div>13</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (FH)</div> <div>5:30pm - VBS (V)</div>	<div>14</div> <div>5:30pm - VBS (V)</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div>Pathways Deadline by Noon</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (Z)</div>	<div>16</div>
<div>17</div> <div>8:30am - Worship (S)</div> <div>10am - Worship (CH)</div> <div>1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</div>	<div>18</div> <div>10am - Staff Meeting (FH)</div>	<div>19</div> <div>9:30am - Comm Care (FH)</div> <div>6:30pm - SPRC (CL)</div>	<div>20</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (FH)</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (Z)</div>	<div>23</div>
<div>24</div> <div>8:30am - Worship (S)</div> <div>10am - Worship/IG SS (CH)</div> <div>1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</div>	<div>25</div> <div>10am - Staff Meeting (FH)</div>	<div>26</div> <div>10:30am - Spiritual Guidance -</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>6pm - Women's Choir (MR)</div> <div>6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR)</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Office Closed</div>	<div>30</div>
<div>31</div> <div>8:30am - Worship (S)</div> <div>10am - Worship (CH)</div> <div>1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Labor Day - Office Closed</div>	<div>2</div> <div>5:45pm - Children's Min. (FH)</div>	<div>3</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (FH)</div> <div>6:30pm - Trustees (CL)</div>	<div>4</div> <div>6pm - Men's Choir (MR)</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's Choir (MR)</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (Z)</div>	<div>6</div>