



# PATHWAYS

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church



SEPTEMBER 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)

### RALLY DAY - SUNDAY, 9/7 @ 9 AM

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

**WORSHIP** will be in the Sanctuary (one service only, at 9 AM) with Fellowship Hall streaming live for overflow or anyone preferring to worship there.

In addition to our usual liturgy, there will be an appearance from our VBS choir (sporting NEW ROBES!) and Communion. Our

September worship series is **Social & Environmental Justice with Dr. Seuss** and our Rally Day worship will be based around *The Lorax*. (Come back for *The Sneetches*, *Horton Hears a Who*, and *The Butter Battle Book*.)

**LUNCH** will be served in the *back parking lot* near the Celebration Hall entrance.

There will be tables nearby (some under canopies) for dining and fellowship.

Bring a **salad or dessert to share**, if you can. The Kitchen Klub will provide cookout entrees.

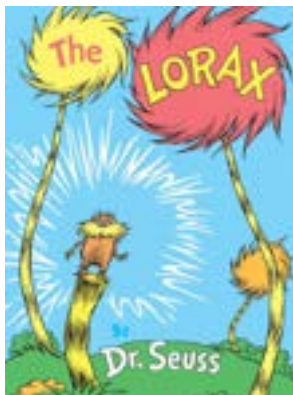
**FUN** for everyone includes a bounce house, rock painting, seed paper projects, and face painting!

**PARKING** for most of us will need to be in the Aurora lot since the east side of our lot will be reserved for after-worship activities. (Who knows what our front yard will look like that week?!?)

Thank you for walking over if you're able, and leaving spots for those with mobility issues. Come be a part of Rally Day fellowship, food, and fun in the sun!

**WEAR** (if you'd like) your new green ECUMC T-shirt or something else green to celebrate God's creation.

**INVITE** someone to join you for the festivities!



### 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 free 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)



#### In this issue...

p. 2 Pastor's Letter, Missions Update

p. 3 Confirmation and Children's Ministries

p. 4 Music and Choir

p. 5 Green Team, Stewardship, Consecration Sunday

p. 6 Supper Club, YAHAS, Rooted & Rising

p. 7 ECUMC September Calendar

## A WORD FROM PASTOR MATT

Pastor Matt Hadley; MattH@ec-umc.com



*"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." Genesis 8:22*



For many, September is a favorite month in Wisconsin. The air turns crisp, the humidity drops, and the sunsets seem to glow a little richer. Kids are back in school, the Green Bay Packers kick off another season, and—if all goes well—the Milwaukee Brewers are making that exciting push toward the playoffs. It's a season filled with energy, hope, and anticipation of what's ahead.

But beyond the weather, sports, and school schedules, there's a deeper rhythm to September—a spiritual one. This month sits in that sweet spot between the restlessness of summer and the busyness of the holiday season. It's a time to pause, take stock, and listen for God's direction in our lives.

In the Old Testament, God often used the changing seasons to teach His people. Harvest time was not only about gathering crops but about remembering God's provision and faithfulness. September can be our modern "harvest season" of the soul—a time to ask:

- What has God been growing in me this year?
- Where have I seen His faithfulness?
- What is He calling me to nurture in the months ahead?



As the Packers aim for touchdowns and the Brewers swing for the fences, let's also be intentional about aiming for spiritual growth. Let's root ourselves in prayer, step up to opportunities for service, and cheer each other on in faith as passionately as we cheer on our teams.

My prayer is that this September, we don't just enjoy the cool mornings and colorful leaves, but that we also draw closer to the God who created them—and who is always at work bringing beauty and new life into our hearts.



See you in worship,  
Pastor Matt

## MISSIONS

Contact: Mary Klein; MaryKlein1@gmail.com



### UMCOR IS HELPING

If the news from around our country and the world is pushing you to do something, Global Ministries and UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) may be the answer. To donate, you can send money to our church with the designation of UMCOR – Gaza relief, or UMCOR – Ukraine relief, and even, UMCOR – Refugee and Immigrant relief, and it will be forwarded immediately.

Remember, all funds go to the requested area of need. You can type in your browser "giveumcmmission.org" and it will take you directly to the site. Also, the link below gives you an idea of what UMCOR/Global Ministries does: <https://umcmmission.org/story/umcor-and-humanitarian-partners-feed-thousands-in-gaza/>

### AN APOLOGY FROM COURAGE +

At the Intergenerational Service in July, our speaker from Courage + didn't show up! Since then, we have received multiple apologies from the organization. Mr. Schlaikowski, our speaker, had a minor health emergency, and didn't have a phone number to reach us!

We will continue to support them and pray for his quick healing.



## CONFIRMATION KICK-OFF!

We're excited to launch this year's Confirmation journey—a time of growth, discovery, and deepening faith.

Over the coming months, our confirmands will explore the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, Wesleyan theology, and how to use critical thinking for faithful living in today's world.

Parents and confirmands are invited to join us for our Kick-Off Meeting on Sunday, **September 14, at 11 AM** (right after the Celebration Service, and the Packers don't play that day) in the Youth Room.

Confirmation will take place at 8:30 AM worship on Sunday, April 12.

This will be a great opportunity to meet, share the vision for the year, and begin this exciting step in our walk with Christ—together!

Please contact Pastor Matt if you have any questions; [mhadley@ec-umc.com](mailto:mhadley@ec-umc.com)



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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



August was an exciting time for Children's Ministry, and I don't mean the great flood of 2025 that we experienced here in southeastern Wisconsin!

**ARK PARK** Thanks to a great effort by Stacy and Todd Velie and family, our Ark Park is in tip top shape. Along with Angie Schneider, this summer we've hosted our young friends who were too old for the Nursery, but not yet ready to sit in church. Please note that the Ark Park is shut down for the season with Rally Day on September 7.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** start at 8:30 AM on 9/14! Classes are available for K3-high school, and there are adult formation classes as well.

**CAMP FIRELIGHT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** was delayed by a day due to the excessive rainfall, but we were able to extend our adventures by a day to get our last session in. Our memory verse for VBS 2025 was, *"Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in You."* (Psalm 56:3 CEB)

We had a small but mighty group of elementary school aged children who explored 5 bible stories, learned 5 new games, worked on 5 cool crafts, and

conducted numerous science experiments.

We were also well fed each night by our wonderful Kitchen Klub leaders Donna Baumgartner and Rick Kohlmann.

This event would not have been possible without the help of our awesome volunteers. I am eternally grateful to Angie Schneider, who brought along Anja, a volunteer visiting from Germany, Tricia Gequillana, Stacy Velie, Todd Velie, Mary Ann Steuber, Frank Vetrovec, Chloe Gequillana, Laura Hohl, Jean Reif, Jan Kohlmann, Meaghan Germana, and Anna Schoenenberger. Special thanks to our youth who worked in all areas: Andrew Heinen, Claire Heinen, Katelyn Mosher, Colten Schmitt, Carter Sturm, Lola Sturm, Liam Velie, and Noah Velie.

We had a special mission attached to our fun-filled nights at VBS. "Water for Tanzania" is operated by an organization that provides safe and accessible drinking water to communities all over Tanzania by digging wells, training drilling teams, and providing outreach to the people via missionaries who provide health education and spread the Good News. The children brought their change and solicited funds from the adults and raised over \$250 in 5 days. \$15 provides one person with access clean water. This mission helps people stay healthy, saves time and energy, allows children to go to school, and brings the love of Jesus to the people.

Way to go VBS Campers!



**ACOLYTE TRAINING** and **CLUB 4/5** are coming in October! Children's Ministry invites children in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade and their families to join us for an informational meeting this October.

Children and families who are new to Club 4/5 and acolyting will be get information and have the chance to sign up for acolyte training. Those have participated last year will be asked to share their experiences and to sign up to host a future Club 4/5 event.



## MUSIC MINISTRIES

Contact: Bill Follmann; [BillF@ec-umc.com](mailto: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 6:30 PM, 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.

#### **CHURCH OFFICE**

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

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 AM–1 PM

Church Office will be closed on Labor Day, 9/1

## GREEN TEAM

Contact: Doug Walters; Doug3Walters@gmail.com

### The Season of Creation

For the past several years Emmanuel Community church has been recognizing September as the "Season of Creation."

Besides a time of students returning to school, football games, and a full range of activities at our church, it's a wonderful time to appreciate the beauty of God's creation. Mild temperatures and changing colors of leaves draw us into the outdoors for walks, bike rides, and just seeing nature. It's also a time that we recognize the critical role that humans play in caring for creation.

Pastor Matt will lead us in considering our part in creation care with his sermon about Dr. Seuss' book, The Lorax, on Rally Day. In the narthex display case the Green Team is creating a

presentation on the importance of trees for maintaining healthy air and soil on our earth.

We'll have one or two special activities for our kids about seeds for flowers and trees and appreciating their leaves this month.

Starting on September 28' you can join us in the study titled *Living the Kingdom Now: Healing & Hope in God's World* about the dangers facing our environment and some good things people are doing to keep it healthy.

Join us in one or more of these activities this September as we celebrate the Season of Creation.



## IT'S NOTHING – A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Contact: Gary Wilkes

*Jesus said, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.'* Matthew 14:16

In the familiar story of the feeding of the 5,000, the disciples come to Jesus with a reasonable concern: it's getting late, the people are hungry, and they need to go somewhere to buy food. But Jesus turns the problem back on them: Feed them.

Their response? "We have nothing...except five loaves and two fish." It's a statement of limitation.

And maybe also embarrassment. This is all we've got? It's not enough.

But Jesus sees it differently. He takes the "not enough," gives thanks for it and it becomes more than enough.

We do this too, don't we?

We say things like:

"I don't have much time to offer."

"I'm not sure I have any real skills to share."

"We're just a small church."

"We don't have the money for that."

We minimize what we have. We measure our gifts against the size of the need and we come up short. But Jesus doesn't measure the way we do. He isn't asking us to be miracle workers – just to be willing to offer what we have.

What you bring matters. Whether it's five loaves and two fish, one visit to a homebound member, an extra \$25 in the offering, or one prayer offered in love – it's not nothing.

In fact, in the hands of Jesus, it may be the beginning of something bigger than we can imagine.

- Rev. Jason Mahnke, WI United Methodist Foundation

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS –

### CONSECRATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26!

This October, our worship series theme is **"Kids Say the Funniest Things About Money."**

We'll hear their simple (and surprisingly wise!) answers to big questions like: *How much is a lot of money? How do you get it? How do you make it? Why give it away? Why does God entrust us with it?*

Join us each Sunday as we learn, laugh, and listen for God's wisdom—then celebrate together on Consecration Sunday, October 26!



V  
B  
S





## ADULT DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Year-Round Mid-week Bible Studies

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

### Resuming September 14 @ 8:45 AM (CL)

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

## SUPPER CLUB GROUP

Hi Friends, it's time to think about another adventure to a Wisconsin Supper Club!

We'll be dining at the Fox & Hounds on Saturday, 9/20.

For those of you who want to carpool, please meet at church at 5:30. Dinner is at 6:30.

If you have any questions, contact Linda & Bob Wagner at 262-255-0441.



## Equinox

Ah, September, the beginning of Spring!—  
season of growing light and new unfoldings,  
season that smells of promise, of the future!

Sounds odd, doesn't it?  
Only if you're in the Northern hemisphere,  
and only if you think it's always about you.

Your experience is not the norm;  
your perspective is not completely right,  
your reality not the only one.

Even when you take sides, stay humble.  
Practice curiosity. Listen.  
So often there is also another right answer.

And to you, friends in the global south,  
and to you who are usually ignored:  
you are not forgotten. The last shall be first.

In the Realm of God,  
every day  
is the first day of Spring.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes  
[www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net)

## YAHAS RESUME 9/16

On Tuesday, 9/16, join YAHAS for an engaging, humorous, and uplifting presentation by Julie Cote. Julie, daughter of Jan and Ed Hall, is a talented storyteller, comedian, and award-winning writer.

Sign up outside Pastor Matt's office.

Plan to bring a salad or dessert to share and meet in Celebration Hall at 11:15 AM for fellowship and lunch, followed by the program. Bring a friend!



## FROM ROOTED & RISING

At our June Block Party, we were proud to celebrate a very special moment—a City of Milwaukee proclamation honoring our very own Executive Director Bill Schmitt for his six years of dedicated leadership and service.

This meaningful recognition was presented by our district alder, Ald. Russell Stamper II, and was received with cheers and heartfelt appreciation by board members and staff.

With over 400 attendees throughout the day, the block party was a joyful celebration of community and connection. Families enjoyed live entertainment, arts and crafts, kids' activities, and delicious eats from local food vendors.

## Welcome UMC Partners

We recently welcomed partners from the United Methodist Churches for a special lunch. Pastor Matt Hadley of Emmanuel Community UMC, a board member and event ambassador, led a thoughtful group reflection on faith and acts of service. Guests gained a firsthand look at how we're transforming lives through affordable housing, early childhood education, food security, and community-centered programming. The event featured inspiring testimonials from a longtime Washington Park housing resident and Bonny Walters, Mission Advancement Committee co-chair and Emmanuel CUMC supporter.





# September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<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>10am - Staff Meeting (FH)</div> <div>5:45pm - Children's Min. (FH)</div> <div>6:30pm - Mission Team (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>
<div>7</div> <div>Rally Day</div> <div>9am - Worship (S)</div> <div>10am - Meal (V)</div> <div>1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</div>	<div>8</div> <div>10am - Staff Meeting (FH)</div> <div>5:30pm - Stewardship (CL)</div> <div>7pm - Finance (CL)</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (FH)</div>	<div>11</div> <div>6pm - Women's Choir (MR)</div> <div>6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR)</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (Z)</div>	<div>13</div>
<div>14</div> <div>8:30am - Worship (S)</div> <div>8:30am - Sunday School (V)</div> <div>8:45am - Adult Study (CL)</div> <div>10am - Worship (CH)</div> <div>11am - Confirmation Class</div> <div>1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Pathways Deadline by Noon</div> <div>10am - Staff Meeting (FH)</div> <div>11:30am - YAHAS (CH)</div> <div>7pm - Church Council (CL)</div>	<div>16</div> <div>11:30am - YAHAS (CH)</div> <div>6:30pm - SPRC (CL)</div>	<div>17</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (FH)</div>	<div>18</div> <div>6am - Men's Choir (MR)</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's Choir (MR)</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (Z)</div>	<div>20</div> <div>6:30pm - Supper Club</div>
<div>21</div> <div>8:30am - Worship (S)</div> <div>8:30am - Sunday School (V)</div> <div>8:45am - Adult Study (CL)</div> <div>10am - Worship (CH)</div> <div>11am - Confirmation Class</div> <div>1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</div>	<div>22</div> <div>10am - Staff Meeting (FH)</div>	<div>23</div> <div>11:45am - Food Pantry</div> <div>5pm - Food Pantry</div>	<div>24</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (FH)</div>	<div>25</div> <div>11:45am - Food Pantry</div> <div>5pm - Food Pantry</div> <div>6pm - Women's Choir (MR)</div> <div>6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR)</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (Z)</div>	<div>27</div> <div>8am - Comm Breakfast (CH)</div>
<div>28</div> <div>8:30am - Worship (S)</div> <div>8:30am - Sunday School (V)</div> <div>8:45am - Adult Study (CL)</div> <div>10am - Worship (CH)</div> <div>11am - Confirmation Class</div> <div>11am - Kingdom Study (FH)</div> <div>1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</div>	<div>29</div> <div>10am - Staff Meeting (FH)</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>1</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (FH)</div> <div>6:30pm - Trustees (CL)</div>	<div>2</div> <div>6pm - Men's Choir (MR)</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's Choir (MR)</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div>10am - Bible Study (Z)</div>	<div>4</div>