



PATHWAYS

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church



OCTOBER 2025

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter

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

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

We've had so many requests for an UPDATED Church Directory – we know you're wanting to connect with others in our faith community!

To that end, a new paper directory will be printed in the beginning of 2026. It will include the following information for each family unit:

Name, Address, Primary Email, Primary Telephone
and first names of minor children

This information will be compiled from our Realm records.

NOTE:

- 1) If your information is missing or inaccurate in Realm, please correct it by December 1, 2025 or ask the church office to make updates at 203-251-3830 or Church@ec-umc.com
- 2) If you would NOT like to be included in the printed directory, opt out by December 1, 2025 by contacting the church office at 203-251-3830 or Church@ec-umc.com

Please help us make this upcoming resource as accurate as possible.

NEW VOLUNTEER RIDE MINISTRY:

With a Little Help from My Friends

We are excited to explore a new ministry at ECUMC! As we seek to care for one another, we'd like to help congregants attend worship in person, even after they're no longer able to drive.

Some of our beloved seniors are facing the difficult transition of giving up driving, and we want to ensure they continue to feel connected and supported by our church family. We are seeking



compassionate volunteers willing to provide transportation on Sunday mornings. If you have a reliable vehicle with auto insurance and a heart to serve, please consider being part of this ministry. Your availability, even one or two Sundays a month, would be much appreciated. To volunteer or learn more, please contact the church office at 262-251-3830 or Church@ec-umc.com so we can begin building our driver list. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ!

YAHAS

Join us on Tuesday, 10/21, for what may be one of the most significant YAHAS events you've ever attended!

Representatives from the YMCA (west of the church on Menomonee Avenue) will be sharing the many different fitness and well-being activities offered there. You'll learn about outstanding opportunities for all ages and fitness levels. Whether you're looking for wellness programs, exercise classes, swim lessons, or just a welcoming community, come to find out if the Y is for you.

A healthy church is a healthier church!

Sign up on the YAHAS sheet outside Paster Matt's office.

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



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“In God We Trust? Or, In God We Trust!”

On September 10, the evening news was filled with stories that made many of us shake our heads and bow our hearts in sorrow. The killing of Charlie Kirk dominated the headlines as it was deemed a political assassination. On the very same day, another story emerged—this one from Evergreen High School in Colorado, where a young person opened fire on classmates. Investigators later discovered a chilling connection between this shooter and the young person who opened fire at Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, Wisconsin, last December. Both had followed the same toxic websites.

As I watched the news unfold, an expert commented that there is a growing number of people who “hate the world and want it to hurt.” That statement has echoed in my mind. Why is it that some people reach such a place of despair, anger, and destruction?

I believe the political shootings, the school shootings, and the violence that scars our communities stem from something deeper than ideology or even mental illness. I believe they stem from distrust. Political violence and discord almost always are a result of the opposite sides of the aisle being fearful, or angered by the distrust they feel. I will be bold enough to name it sin.

If you trace the story of sin back to its beginning, you will find distrust at its root. In Genesis, the serpent’s temptation was not merely about eating fruit; it was about trusting whether God truly knew best. God had said: “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

Notice the generosity in God’s words: any tree. But when Eve repeated the command, she left out “free” and “any.” She made God sound more restrictive than God truly was, and she even added a restriction—“you must not touch it”—which God never said. Subtly, God’s abundance looked like scarcity, God’s freedom sounded like bondage, and God’s goodness was cast in doubt.

The adversary works through lies, whispering: “You can’t really trust God. God is holding out on you. You know better.” Sin, then, is born in the soil of distrust—distrust of God, distrust of others, distrust of systems and communities.

When distrust takes root, violence is not far behind. But we are called to trust in the Lord. The antidote to distrust is found in God’s Word:



*“Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this.” (Psalm 37:3–5)*

*“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.
Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.” (Isaiah 26:3–4)*

What our world longs for—peace, stability, hope—cannot be manufactured by political power, personal ambition, or human anger. It is found in trusting the Lord. Trust is not a passive resignation, but an active faith. The psalmist ties trust directly to action: “Trust in the Lord and do good.”

When we trust God, we no longer need to grasp for control or take matters into our own hands. We are freed from the adversary’s lie that says we know better than God. Trust births peace, and peace bears the fruit of love.

(continued on next page)

A WORD FROM PASTOR MATT (continued)

So, is there a word for today? I think about that comment from the news: “There is a growing number of people who hate the world and want it to hurt.” As Christians, we are called to be the opposite: a growing community of people who love the world and want it to heal. That begins with trust.

Do you trust that God knows best? Do you trust that God’s ways are life-giving? Do you trust that God’s Spirit can bring peace to a hurting world? The world does not need more distrust. It needs witnesses to the God who can be trusted. It needs people who will embody hope, who will commit their way to the Lord, who will hear the cries of the small and vulnerable, and who will live as if God’s promises are true.

Let us be such people. Let us be a church that, in a time of distrust and despair, places its hope in the Rock eternal, and continues to commit to “Imitating Christ Together.”

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Matt



WOMEN’S PM STUDY STARTS 10/15

Have you ever struggled to find your faith footing? Join us this fall as we study *Untangling Faith: Reclaiming Hope in the Questions Jesus Asked* by Amberly Neese.

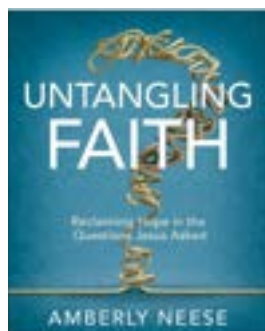
Chapters explore our own questions like Can God Be Trusted?, How Can I Grow in Faith?, and How Can I Know God’s Will?

Amberly’s unique humor and wit help guide us through deep and rich issues of personal faith, doubt, and growth.

The six-week study begins on Wednesday, 10/15, and ends on 11/19. We meet from 7 – 8:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.

The Participant Workbook is available for purchase on Amazon or Christianbooks.com. There are some daily readings for those who choose to prepare in advance, but it’s fine to read the chapter all at once, or simply to come and join the discussion.

What Wednesday evening participants value most is the opportunity to connect with other Christian women, to be vulnerable exploring and challenging our faith, and to support each other through love and prayer. Please RSVP on the bulletin board or using the link below: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A8AE23A4FC1-54615339-wednesday>



YOUTH PUMPKIN CARVING & PIZZA PARTY

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, October 19, from 12:15–2:15 PM, our Youth (grades 6-12) will gather for one of our most popular traditions—pumpkin carving, this year with pizza!

Every year we’re amazed at the creativity that shines when a simple pumpkin becomes a canvas for imagination. Prizes will be awarded for the best designs!

This fun-filled afternoon isn’t just for our older youth—younger children are welcome to join if parents are present. Families are encouraged to come, enjoy some pizza, and cheer on the creativity.

Email Youth Directory Anna Schoenenberger (AnnaS@ec-umc.com) to RSVP so we have plenty of food and pumpkins.

Don’t miss this great chance to carve, laugh, and celebrate fall together!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Contact: Liz Cannon LizC@ec-umc.com

Did you see the acolytes on the first day of Sunday School?

Millie Germana and Sylvia Petrie offered a preview of the children's new choir robes. We look forward to showing off the rest of the robes when the Children's Choir sings this Fall. Sunday School classes are in full swing! The elementary age children are delving into the DEEP BLUE curriculum. It is a weekly adventure through the Bible.

Our first unit is on Samuel with our memory verse being, "Speak. Your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:10) Since the Science Station was so popular at VBS, we are also conducting experiments and exploring sound.

Heifer International is our mission this Sunday School season. Our first goal is to raise \$20 for a flock of chicks to help provide a family in need with a starter flock, along with the training that will empower them to turn the donation into a lifetime of opportunity.

Each flock of chicks provides eggs and protein for nourishment, boosts income through sales of extra eggs and offspring, and ensures security for generations through "Passing on the Gift."

The Youth Sunday School group are exploring a new curriculum called LinC. *LinC: Living in Christ* from Cokesbury is a biblically-based resource that helps our youth examine relevant faith and life issues, using the latest music, movies, news, and current events. These are timely topics for younger and older teens. Mission and science activities are also provided which we pray will help them grow in their faith.

A Club 4/5 event and Acolyte Training is scheduled for this month. Children's Ministry is excited to welcome new children into the fold. Many thanks to Brittney Powers for organizing the first Club 4/5 activity of the season!

Safe Sanctuaries Training is starting soon! The United Methodist Church and Emmauel Community UMC will provide comprehensive training to protect our children, youth, and other vulnerable



people in our congregation. These measures are proactive and preventative so everyone can flourish in our midst. More details will be forthcoming in our eNews and Community News.

2026 PLEDGE DRIVE

As we begin our annual pledge drive, I want to turn our hearts and minds to the powerful truth of 2 Corinthians 9:7: *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Our giving is not a burden, but a joyful response to God's immense generosity in our lives. It's a chance for us to reflect on the blessings we've received and to return a portion with gratitude.

Our pledges are the very bedrock of our shared ministry. They are the expression of our commitment to God's work here at Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church.

Your cheerful contributions, given out of love, enable us to continue our community outreach programs, support our youth and children's ministries and maintain a place of worship for all. Every single pledge, no matter the amount, contributes to our ability to make a tangible difference in our neighborhood and beyond.

This year, as you consider your financial commitment, I ask you to approach it with a cheerful heart. Let us not think of our pledge as a duty, but as a joyful opportunity to fuel the ministries that bring hope, healing and Christ's love to so many. By giving cheerfully and intentionally, we honor God and strengthen our church family. Please take a moment to fill out your pledge card, sealing your commitment in an act of faith and love.

Thank you for your continued generosity and participation in ministry.

Gary Wilkes - Stewardship Committee

CONSECRATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26!

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

We'll hear their simple (and wise!) answers to big questions like: *How much is a lot of money? How do you get it? Why give it away?* Join us as we learn, laugh, and listen for God's wisdom and then celebrate together with a meal on Consecration Sunday, October 26!



MISSIONS

Contact: Mary Klein; MaryKlein1@gmail.com

Missions Encourages Support for COURAGE+

After introducing ECUMC to Courage+ in July, the Missions team is beginning a monthly donation. We will be providing toilet paper, paper towels and Tide laundry detergent to both the Courage House and the C2 Apartments.

We hope the generosity of our congregation will help.

The house and apartments are providing "safe havens" for LGBTQ+ youth. As the Courage website says "every dollar you give...sends love and affirmation to young people who need it most. At a time when so many LGBTQ+ youth are being told they don't belong, your support reminds them that they are seen, valued and never alone."

Please give a donation by placing a check made out to ECUMC with "Courage+" on the memo line, or go to the church website and under "Ways to Give" click on the "Give" and then "Courage+" button.

Kids Need Winter Jackets!



Cold weather in Wisconsin comes suddenly. It can be mild one day and winter jacket weather the next.

The kids served by Rooted & Rising could use our help in preparing by

getting winter jackets & snow pants for the approaching winter season.

You can help!

Here's a list of what's needed:

New & gently used winter jackets:

infant-18 months; 2T-6T; Youth 6-16

New & gently used snow pants:

18 months-6T; Youth 6-10



Please drop off donations in Fellowship Hall in the bin label "Kids Winter Wear." Cash or checks can be placed in the donation boxes outside the Sanctuary and Celebration Hall any Sunday in October or in the office during the week.

All donations made online to Rooted & Rising (formerly United Methodist Children's Services) during October will be used for this fund drive.



Update: Becas con Bendiciones/Scholarships with Blessings

ECUMC has supported Becas students with scholarships to attend school since 2010. Over these years we have provided over 400 annual scholarships in small mountain towns and larger cities. These scholarships can make the difference between a kid being able to stay in school or not. Over 13% of kids in Honduras are not able to attend school, either because they cannot afford the fees and supplies or they are needed to work to support the family.

The Becas program provides school uniforms, shoes, school supplies and backpacks as well as a Bible, tutoring and bus fare as needed, multivitamins for the students and anti-parasite medication for the whole family.

The cost is \$120 per student per year and all of the supplies are sourced in Honduras. The administrative costs and costs of local community support counselors are born by the Becas non-profit.

Current Students



Over the years some of the students supported by our church have graduated from high school and then we have "adopted" new ones.

The further a student can go in school the brighter his/her economic future.

Some of our church families have adopted their own students and receive photos and cards each year.

Our ECUMC Missions Team committed to funding 25 students in 2025. With the Honduras school year coming to a close, we will soon be deciding how many scholarships we can fund for 2026.

Please consider supporting these kids in any amount. Identify your gift with the word "Becas".

These scholarships are truly a blessing, Becas con Bendiciones, for these students and their families.



Two of our first students



Becas con Bendiciones, Inc.

TIPS FOR CREATION CARE

Regenerate! On a personal level, compost your food and lawn scraps; plant for pollinators; consider rewilding at least a portion of your property.

The first commandment given to humanity is to tend and care for the garden God gave us (Genesis 2:15). Regenerative agriculture practices are proven ways to do so.

Most actions taken on behalf of God's creation are helpful, but some have more impact than others. One of the biggest categories is food. **Become aware of food waste** and reduce it, take up composting, choose less or no meat, buy locally and in season. Everyone needs to eat; everyone can contribute to caring for Earth.

Purchase organic food. The few extra cents you pay at the grocery support farmers who avoid using the synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers that have been proven to deplete the soil. Organic farmers also refuse to subject their livestock to antibiotics and growth hormones. Organic farming practices are healthier for soil, livestock, and for those who eat the food. Reap the harvest. **Shop for food locally at farmers markets.** See and give thanks for those whose work feeds you and others. Care for the planet by reducing the carbon emissions that come from shipping food long distances. Eat more fruits and veggies and reduce the high cost to your body and the planet from many other foods.

Rake leaves this fall as a family, a group of friends, or a church group helping someone. Look for ways to **turn the leaves into mulch** so they continue to feed the soil, rather than bagging them and sending them to the landfill. Talk about the process God supplies for continuing to regenerate the land, which in turn sustains life.

Some food-waste issues are systemic, but many come down to **things individuals and families can do**: Plan meals, buy local, buy less, buy in-season, buy organic, store appropriately, use the freezer, reduce meat consumption, grow veggies, eat leftovers, make soup and smoothies, compost peelings and ends, share with others. Eat happily, knowing you are helping us all.



YOUTH MISSION TRIPS ARE BACK!!!

Your Youth Ministries Committee is excited to share that we will be attending a youth mission trip this upcoming summer!

Youth in *current* grade 5-12 are invited to Lake Traverse Reservation, SD from July 26-31 (in addition to travel days on either end).

We have 10 youth spots reserved and are asking those interested to commit by **October 10**.

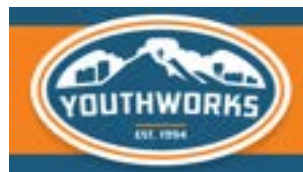
A \$50 deposit is required with reservation - checks can be made out to ECUMC with "Deposit for Mission Trip for *name*" in the memo line.

We are anticipating, through fundraising activities and sponsorship, the total cost of the trip to be not much more than your deposit.

Securing your spot will be on a first come basis. We will request a wait list through YouthWorks if indicated.

Please contact Brittney Powers (Mom of Leon and Oliver) with any questions:

brittneyjoy@uwalumni.com or 262-227-8758.



More information on the trip can also be found on this YouthWorks Website: [Lake Traverse Reservation, SD - YouthWorks](#)

SERVING WITH NEEDLE AND THREAD

The Sew & Sews are starting up again in October at a new time of the month. We will be meeting on the third Monday of the month so our first meeting will be October 20 at 9:30 AM.

We hope to work on making large square children's quilts for R&R. We will be working on cutting, laying out pre-cut squares, and sewing them together.

All are welcome to come and join in the fun. No experience necessary! There's room for cutting, measuring, and learning all the different things that go into making a quilt.



CHURCH OFFICE

262-251-3830 Church@ec-umc.com

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 AM–1 PM

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Confirmation Class 11am - Kingdom Now Study	10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 	10:30am - Spiritual Guidance 6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)	10am - Bible Study (FH) 6:30pm - Trustees (CL)	6pm - Men's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Women's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Confirmation Class 11am - Kingdom Now Study 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 6pm - Singers 4:12 (MR) 6pm - Youth Council (YR) 6:30pm - Green Team (CL) 6:30pm - Mission Team (FH)	5:45pm - Children's Min. (FH) 6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)	10am - Bible Study (FH) 6:30pm - Women's Study (FH)	6pm - Women's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Confirmation Class 11am - Kingdom Now Study 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 5:30pm - Stewardship (CL) 6pm - Singers 4:12 (MR)	6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)	Pathways Deadline by Noon 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6:30pm - Women's Study (FH) 7pm - Finance (CL)	6pm - Men's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Women's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	Memorial Service (11:00-4:00) Phyllis Waters
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Confirmation Class 11am - Kingdom Now Study 12:15pm - Pumpkin Carving	9:30am - Sew and Sews (112) 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 6pm - Singers 4:12 (MR)	11:30am - YAHAS (CH) 6:30pm - SPRC (CL) 6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)	10am - Bible Study (FH) 6:30pm - Women's Study (FH)	6pm - Women's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	8am - Comm Breakfast (CH)
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8:30am - Worship 8:30/10 (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 11am - Confirmation Class 11am - Meal 9:00/11:00 (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 6pm - Singers 4:12 (MR)	6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)	10am - Bible Study (FH) 6:30pm - Women's Study (FH)	6pm - Men's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Women's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	Clocks Back