



PATHWAYS

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church



NOVEMBER 2025

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter

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

WELCOME TO OUR NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR!

Our SPRC is delighted to introduce the newest ECUMC staff member, Youth Director Anna Schoenenberger, who officially began her work here on October 1. Anna is enthusiastic about taking on the role of Youth Ministries Director.

She is a lifelong Methodist and grew up in Waukesha.

After attending UW-Madison where she majored in Elementary Education, she taught in Cudahy and Pewaukee for a few years before staying home to raise the three children whom she shares with her husband, Ryan: Calvin (5th grade), Wesley (3rd grade), and Ada (1st grade).

They live in Sussex and are involved with sports, scouts, and school activities as well as participating in church events. In her free time, Anna enjoys a variety of hobbies including running, knitting, baking, reading, and rooting for the Brewers.

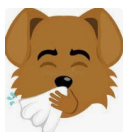
She is ready and excited to help our congregation's youth build strong foundations as Christians and form closer relationships with God while growing in faith.

We are delighted, Anna, that God led you to us and look forward to our ministry together!



STAYING HEALTHY

Now that cold/flu/COVID season is back, please wear a face mask if that increases your comfort at church. Stay well, everyone!



NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

A new paper directory will be printed in the beginning of 2026.

It will include the following information for each family unit, as listed in our Realm database:



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

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.

YAHAS

Brush up on your TV trivia!

Then join us for a fun YAHAS get

-together on Tuesday, 11/18. We'll be teaming up to test our "classic" TV knowledge.

There may be valuable (?) prizes awarded!

Sign up on the YAHAS sheet outside Pastor 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 competition. Dues: \$3.

Bring a friend!



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“Which way are you going?”

*“And if you leave God’s paths and go astray, you will hear a voice behind you say,
“No, this is the way; walk here.” Isaiah 30:21*

Each Thanksgiving season, many of us find ourselves watching that classic comedy *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles*. The story of two unlikely travel companions—played by Steve Martin and John Candy—trying to get home for Thanksgiving is full of laughter, frustration, and a surprising amount of heart.

One of the most memorable scenes happens on a dark highway. The two are driving along when a couple in another car pulls up beside them, frantically yelling, “You’re going the wrong way!” Steve Martin’s character, convinced they’re mistaken, laughs and waves them off. John Candy joins in the fun, mocking the warning: “How do they know which way we’re going?” Moments later, headlights appear in the distance... and suddenly, it’s clear that the strangers were right all along. They were going the wrong way—directly into oncoming traffic!

It’s a hilarious and terrifying scene because, deep down, we’ve all been there. Maybe not barreling down the wrong lane of an interstate—but moving through life confidently in the wrong direction. It’s easy to get caught up in our routines, convinced we know where we’re headed, when in reality we might be moving further from God’s love, from grace, from gratitude, from one another.



The late Pastor Zan Holmes once said, “If you haven’t come face to face with the Devil, you’re probably traveling in the same direction.” That quote makes us chuckle, but it’s also a bit unsettling. Sometimes we don’t notice how far off course we’ve drifted until something—or someone—tries to wave us down and get our attention.

The good news is that turning around is possible. In fact, that’s the essence of repentance—realizing we’re on the wrong road and choosing to turn toward home. When we do, we might meet resistance. The Adversary doesn’t much like it when hearts start turning toward God, toward love, toward reconciliation.

But once we make that turn, the scenery changes. The road opens. Peace returns.



As Thanksgiving approaches, may we each take a moment to check our spiritual direction. Are we traveling toward love, or away from it? Are we running on fumes of self-reliance, or being refueled by grace?

This season let’s be sure to travel in love, toward love, and extending love to everyone we encounter—whether on the highway, around the Thanksgiving table, or in the day-to-day roads of life. After all, when our destination is gratitude, grace, and goodness, we’re bound to arrive safely—right where God wants us to be.

With Gratitude,
Pastor Matt

CHURCH OFFICE

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

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 AM–1 PM

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Contact: Anna Schoenenberger; AnnaS@ec-umc.com
Thank you for the warm welcome as I begin my new role as Youth Director. I am excited to get started planning events, service projects, and helping our 6th-12th graders grow in their Christian lives.

The Pumpkin Carving event on 10/19 was a success!



We had 24 youth and children in attendance, plus some enthusiastic and helpful adults.

While eating pizza and apple pie, socializing,

carving pumpkins and scooping seeds, we also had Jesus' Parable of The Growing Seed on our minds. As we participate in autumn events and enjoy the harvest fall brings each year, we will strive to remember how, like Jesus taught in this parable, we should strive to work hard to make rich our spiritual lives so we can someday grow and thrive in the plentiful harvest that is Heaven.

Outreach can nurture this growth, so at the event our youth wrote replies to students in the Becas program, strengthening our church's connection with these youth in Honduras.

Coming up next: Youth Drop 'n Shop. Parents - bring the kids to church on Friday, November 21, from 6-8 PM for a night of fun activities and a meal while you shop, eat, or relax at the start of this busy time of year! Our Youth Group and adult chaperones will provide child watch and lead kid-centered activities. The cost is FREE, but please consider donating items to help kick off the food drive (see below). Youth Group volunteers and children should sign up ahead of time by emailing AnnaS@ec-umc.com or by using the sign-up link to ensure we have enough food and supplies.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A45A5A82AA7FF2-59512328-november>

The Youth are partnering with the Missions Team for the "Stuff the Sleigh" food drive which will run from November 16 – December 14. Look for more information posted in the hallways and watch as our sleigh fills up after it glides into church. Donations will benefit Rooted & Rising. Let's be a blessing to others this upcoming holiday season.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Contact: Liz Cannon LizC@ec-umc.com

On Sundays through December 7, the Children's Ministry Team will be rehearsing for the Christmas program that's coming up on December 14. Sunday School will be from 8:30-9:30 AM and music and rehearsal will be until 10:00 AM. We appreciate the participation of our elementary students and their families!



THANKS FOR YOUR 2026 PLEDGES

Dear ECUMC Family,

We extend our deep gratitude for your remarkable generosity and commitment during our annual pledge drive.

The spirit with which you made your pledges is heart-warming and an incredible testament to your faith and dedication to our church community.

Your pledges resonate powerfully with the Apostle Paul's words in 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.* Your gifts, given cheerfully and thoughtfully, are an offering not just to the church, but also to God.



The total commitment expressed through your pledges is more than a number; it's a foundational element that allows our church to function effectively and plan for the future.

Your pledge is vital because it provides the baseline for our annual budget. Unlike a typical collection that fluctuates week-to-week, a pledge gives the church leadership a reliable, predictable estimate of the income we can expect in the coming year.

This financial clarity is essential. It enables us to responsibly budget for all our ministries—from our vital youth programs and outreach initiatives to maintaining our facilities and supporting our dedicated staff. Without this predictable financial foundation, we would struggle to confidently commit to necessary expenditures or plan for the growth of our mission. Your commitment allows us to move forward knowing we have the resources to continue sharing the Gospel and serving our neighbors.

Thank you for faithfully participating in the Lord's work through your financial stewardship. May God richly bless you for your generosity!

Also, please realize that if you haven't yet made a pledge, it's not too late! Contact the church office to

have a pledge packet mailed out or pick it up at the church office. On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, Gary Wilkes, Chairman

GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Contact: Karen Norz

DIY Advent CALENDAR FRAME

This Advent, the Women's Ministry will once again be distributing daily devotions to help you prepare your heart for the season.

If you'd like to customize the frame/holder to complement your home's Christmas décor, join us for a special crafting event: Friday, 11/7 from 6-8 PM and/or Saturday, 11/8, from 9-11 AM.

Choose the session that's most convenient – or come to both! Please RSVP using the link below so we know how many materials are needed.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A8AE23A4FC1-59160816-create>

Advent Calendar Order Form

Once again, the Women's Ministry Team is offering Advent Calendars to any interested women in the church (limit 2 per family).

Use the link below to sign up to receive the entire calendar or just this year's devotional refills.

Orders are due by Monday, November 10.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A8AE23A4FC1-59827132-advent>



WORSHIP

Decorating the Sanctuary

The worship team invites members to help put up the Christmas tree and hang the greens on November 23 after the 8:30 AM service. We especially need people to put up and decorate the tree in the Sanctuary. Please consider helping make the church beautiful for the coming Advent/Christmas seasons.

Poinsettia Orders

The Worship Team is selling Poinsettia plants for our altar display. Order sheets will be available starting 11/23 in the bulletin or in the office.

Checks should be made to ECUMC with Poinsettia in the memo line.

Orders are due by 12/7.

Flowers can be picked up after the last Christmas Eve service or the following week when the church is opened. Please check off your name on the list in the back of the church so we know you've got yours!



A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE from Children's Ministry Director, Liz Cannon

Many years ago, when I was a member at Albright United Methodist Church in Milwaukee, Albright partnered with ECUMC for a mission project called "Tech Connect." I volunteered to work with those from ECUMC to help provide computer training to members of Albright's neighboring community. The neighbors we served were primarily older adults who had little to no experience working with computers, and most did not even have email addresses much less any experience with technology.

Our efforts helped these individuals access resources online and gave them the chance to communicate with family and friends via instant messaging and email. It was a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

There have been many times in my life where I know God was working in me and through me. Yet at times, I did not realize until much later on that certain experiences were stops on my path to my current position landing me here at Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church. During my efforts at Albright with Tech Connect, I met two people from ECUMC, Jan Kohlmann and Anne Weiland, who influenced my decision to apply for and accept the position as the Children's Ministry Director a year and a half ago.

This brings me to my message of gratitude.

I am very grateful for so many blessings in my life, and I would like to share those as I reflect on my time so far at ECUMC.



I am thankful for:

- ◇ The opportunity to serve my LORD, His people, and His children in a warm, safe, and loving environment.
- ◇ Emmanuel's staff, Pastor Matt, Janet, Bill, Mattie, and Abbey, all of whom welcomed me, encouraged me, and helped me to adjust into my role at ECUMC.
- ◇ The Children's Ministry Team and volunteers who make my job fun and worthwhile.
- ◇ David and Patti Rohr who step up in so many ways to make my life easier.
- ◇ Jean Reif who serves as the Youth Sunday School Leader and who inspires me to strive to keep the children engaged and active.
- ◇ Renee Rusch and Dori Hernandez for the love and care they provide the infants and toddlers, and for the many volunteers who serve the Nursery.
- ◇ The Missions Team who inspires and supports our efforts as a church to reach beyond our walls.
- ◇ The Finance and Stewardship Teams who make everything we aspire to do possible.
- ◇ The Kitchen Klub. (Does anyone else know of a more nurturing and generous group of people who feed us, and give of their time so unconditionally?)
- ◇ The Green Team who educates, guides, and encourages us to be stewards of our planet,
- ◇ The Trustees who hold our building and our people together.
- ◇ The congregation at Emmanuel who worships, prays, and celebrates our love as Christians.
- ◇ The families who bring their children to church, entrust us with their well-being, and emphasize the importance of being a part of a church family who serves others.
- ◇ The children who open their minds and their hearts and welcome Jesus into their lives.

On a personal note, I would like to show my appreciation for my husband, David, my family, friends, and neighbors, all of whom encourage me to do better each day. ALL THANKS BE TO GOD!

REQUEST FOR THANKSGIVING TURKEY CARCASSES

If your family has no plans for what to do with the bones from their Thanksgiving turkey, Donna Baumgartner can use them. Any families who are willing (and remember) to go the extra step after they bone their turkey for their own use, please preserve the carcass through freezing or refrigeration. Bring them to church kitchen on November 30 (Sunday after Thanksgiving) and Donna will make turkey soup for Rooted & Rising.



ADVENT 2026

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

Emmanuel - God with us ...

At Home (11/30)

At Work (12/7)

At Rest (12/14) 8:30 & 10 AM in Celebration Hall

At Play (12/21) 8:30 & 10 AM in Sanctuary

SINGING FOR CHRISTMAS

Contact Bill Follmann; BillF@ec-umc.com; 414-881-3023
Have you ever wanted to try out the choir for a few weeks to see if you would like it? Now is the time!



Come join us on Thursday evenings in the music room (behind Fellowship Hall). We are starting to learn Christmas music - what a great time to be raising your voice and singing God's praises.

Women's and Men's choir alternate between 6:00 and 6:30 on Thursday evenings and the Chancel choir is always at 7 PM.

Come and try it!

WOMEN'S CONTEMPLATIVE CHRISTMAS



Join us on Friday, 12/5 for refreshments in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM and our quiet, contemplative service of Advent preparation in the Sanctuary at 7 PM.

This service is designed for women pre-teen and older. Invite a friend who might appreciate a moment to breathe during this busy season.

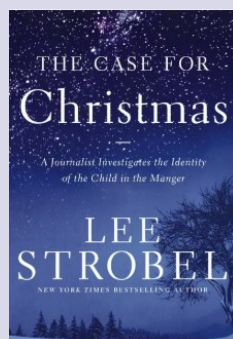
For moms who need childcare, RSVPs are required by Friday, 11/21: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A8AE23A4FC1-59828670-womens>

RSVPs are helpful but not required for other attendees and their guests.

ADVENT STUDY – THURSDAYS IN DECEMBER

Contact: Janet Ray; JanetR@ec-umc.com

When the angels announced that a Savior had been born in Bethlehem, the shepherds were determined to investigate for themselves. "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about" (Luke 2:15). They ran to confirm the report. Investigation is the motivation for this Advent study, Lee



Strobel's *The Case for Christmas*. Is the nativity story true? What does the Bible actually say (and NOT say)? How accurate is it?

Award-winning legal journalist and former atheist, Lee Strobel weighs the evidence to distinguish myth from truth around

- Historical reliability of the gospel accounts;
- Evidence for the virgin birth;
- Old Testament prophecies fulfilled.

Choose the morning or afternoon session in Fellowship Hall on

Thursdays, 12/4 & 12/11 & 12/18
10 – 11 AM or 5 – 6 PM*

If you'd like to do additional reading (not required), books are available for \$5 in the church office.

*Chancel Choir members - bring your dinner to eat between 6 and 7.

SOUP, STORIES, AND SONG

Wednesdays (12/3, 12/10, 12/17) @ 6:30-7:30 PM

We'll enjoy a light meal together in Celebration Hall, sing a carol or two, and then Pastor Matt will tell a Christmas story.

The Kitchen Klub will provide soup and salad and various Ministry Teams will supply desserts. Bring the whole family - and feel free to invite others to join you.



INVITE OTHERS TO WORSHIP

We have some great invitational Sundays coming up.

On **Sunday, 11/9**, our Children's Choir - resplendent in their new robes - will sing at both 8:30 and 10 AM worship. In addition, our 4:12 youth singers will also provide worship music that day.

On **Sunday, 12/14**, (both services in Celebration Hall), our ECUMC children will tell the story of Christmas through music and drama.

Finally, on **Sunday, 12/21**, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior through our annual All-Choir Sunday, when we and all our music groups raise our praise in melody and harmony! (Both services are in the Sanctuary.)

Consider who - friend, neighbor, relative - you might invite to any or all of these services!



TIPS FOR CREATION CARE

'Tis the Season... for overconsumption

Thanksgiving is for many the overeating feast that kicks off holiday buying and more overeating. Here are some tips for making your choices ones of "Giving Thanks."

Reverse the words, "thanks giving," to reshape your observance. **Develop a gratitude list.** As you make an entry, give thanks to God for that blessing in your life. Regularly reread your record of God's bounty and find peace in it despite all the disruptions swirling around you.

Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday are part of our culture of relentless advertising and overconsumption, which fills our landfills. **Be thoughtful about what you buy** and from whom. Discern wants versus needs.

Look for environmentally focused companies with ethical practices.



Consider packaging, durability, and sustainability in your purchases. Enjoy your Thanksgiving celebration **with a sustainability mindset:** reusable dinnerware, cloth napkins, less meat/more plant-based foods, a plan to use leftovers, a kitchen set up to maximize composting and minimize trashing, even washable rags for cleanup instead of killing trees for paper towels. Earth will be thankful you did.

The average American family uses 500 plastic snack bags annually, which are non-degradable and may contain BPA. To cut waste and keep plastics out of food and the environment, **choose eco-friendly alternatives**, including reusable silicone bags, paper sacks, bamboo boxes, and glass containers.



UMCOR & WATER IN WV

"I live on land owned by my family since the 1800s, surrounded by family. It's the place I want to be."

Diane Farmer never used to think about the water, which had always been plentiful and clean flowing from her family's well in Leckie, WV. She didn't imagine she'd have to grow old without clean water. McDowell County has produced a bounty of fuel for West Virginia's energy business over many decades. In 2019, strip-mining companies started production just up the road from the Farmers.

"Our water started getting rust-colored," Farmer explained. "[Now] we can't use the water to clean, to take showers, not even to wash our clothes. We think about what color clothing we buy because we know our water will ruin it."

McDowell County is one of the poorest in the U.S., and the communities of Anawalt, Leckie and Gary are some of the hardest hit by the current crisis.

Farmer is a member of Boyd's Chapel UMC in Leckie. Her pastor, the Rev. Brad Davis, arrived two years ago and was appalled to discover what members and their communities struggled through every day.

Pastor Davis felt God's call to do something.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and their Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) program was able to help. A WASH grant allowed them to obtain a 500-gallon "water buffalo" which is filled from the county water system and brought to a central location so all three towns can come to get water. Volunteers deliver to those who need it.

Meanwhile, residents, including church members, continue to advocate state and local officials for a permanent solution to their aging, compromised water infrastructure.

NOTE: UMCOR is currently poised to help Jamaica recover from Hurricane Melissa. Your donation will help deliver supplies, food, and water, remove debris, and provide temporary shelter. Donate: <https://gbhem-umc.my.site.com/hemgm/s/campaign/a3fPo000000D49plAC/umcor-international-disaster-response-and-recovery>



November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8:30am - Worship 8:30/10 (S)	10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)	10am - Bible Study (FH)	6pm - Men's Choir (MR)	Office Closed	Daylight Savings Time
8:30am - Sunday School (V)	6pm - Singers 4:12 (MR)		6:30pm - Women's Study (FH)	6:30pm - Women's Choir (MR)	10am - Bible Study (Z)	
8:45am - Adult Study (CL)				7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)		
11am - Confirmation Class						
11am - Meal 9:00/11:00 (CH)						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
All Saints Sunday	10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	5:45pm - Children's Min. (FH)	10am - Bible Study (FH)	9:30am - Worship Team (FH)	Office Closed	8am - Women Ministry (FH)
8:30am - Worship (S)	6pm - Singers 4:12 (MR)	6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)	6:30pm - Trustees (CL)	6pm - Women's Choir (MR)	10am - Bible Study (Z)	
8:30am - Sunday School (V)	6:30pm - Green Team (Z)		6:30pm - Women's Study (FH)	6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR)	6pm - Women's Ministry (FH)	
8:45am - Adult Study (CL)	6:30pm - Mission Team (FH)			7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)		
10am - Worship (CH)						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30am - Worship (S)	10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)	10am - Bible Study (FH)	6pm - Men's Choir (MR)	Office Closed	Pathways Deadline by Noon
8:30am - Sunday School (V)	5:30pm - Stewardship (CL)		6:30pm - Women's Study (FH)	6:30pm - Women's Choir (MR)	10am - Bible Study (Z)	
8:45am - Adult Study (CL)	6pm - Singers 4:12 (MR)			7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)		
10am - Worship (CH)	7pm - Finance (CL)					
11am - Confirmation Class						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:30am - Worship (S)	9:30am - Sew and Sews (112)	9:30am - Comm Care (FH)	10am - Bible Study (FH)	6pm - Women's Choir (MR)	Office Closed	
8:30am - Sunday School (V)	10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	10:30am - Spiritual Guidance	6pm - Scout Pack 60 (V)	6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR)	10am - Bible Study (Z)	
8:45am - Adult Study (CL)	6pm - Singers 4:12 (MR)	11:30am - YAHAS (CH)	6:30pm - Women's Study (FH)	7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	5pm - Youth Drop & Shop	
10am - Worship (CH)	7pm - Church Council (CL)	6:30pm - SPRC (CL)				
11am - Confirmation Class		6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)				
1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30am - Worship (S)	10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)		Office Closed	Office Closed	8am - Comm Breakfast (CH)
8:30am - Sunday School (V)	6pm - Singers 4:12 (MR)			Thanksgiving Holiday		
8:45am - Adult Study (CL)						
10am - Worship (CH)						
11am - Confirmation Class						
1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)						
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
8:30am - Worship (S)	10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	5:45pm - Children's Min. (FH)	10am - Bible Study (FH)	10am - Advent Study (FH)	Office Closed	12pm - Pierre Baby Shower
8:30am - Sunday School (V)	6:30pm - Green Team (CL)	6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)	6:30pm - Soup & Song (CH)	5pm - Advent Study (FH)	10am - Bible Study (Z)	
8:45am - Adult Study (CL)	6:30pm - Mission Team (FH)		6:30pm - Trustees (CL)		7pm - Women Worship (S)	
10am - Worship (CH)						
1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)						