

# PATHWAYS

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church



APRIL 2026

## Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter

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

### Holy Week

#### Daily devotions on YouTube

#### Holy Week Devotions

Tune in to our YouTube channel ([ECUMCYouTube](#)) to watch daily devotions during Holy Week. The series is inspired by *Restored: Finding Redemption in our Mess* by UMC Pastor Tom Berlin. Restoration is the goal of the Christian life, but all of us struggle and, frankly, sometimes our life is a mess. During the week, through Scripture, song, and thoughtful message, we'll move from mess management to life restoration. Join the staff as we journey together.

Monday: This is a Real Mess

Tuesday: Who Left this Mess?

Wednesday: Bless this Mess

Thursday: No Messing Around

Friday: Address this Mess

Saturday: The Message in the Mess



**Thursday, 4/2, 7 PM:** Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion (S)

**Friday, 4/3, 7 PM:** Good Friday Worship (S)

**Saturday, 4/4 9 AM:** Rehearsal for All Choir Sunday

**Saturday, 4/4 9-11 AM:** Easter Egg Hunt

**EASTER SUNDAY—APRIL, 5, 2026**

**8:30 AM and 10:00 AM Worship Services only**



**Monday, April 6: the church office will be closed**

The Worship Team would like to thank everyone who ordered flowers to decorate the church on Easter Sunday. They always add so much to the beauty of the Sanctuary.

Thank you for your support at this special time of year!

#### WOMEN'S MINISTRY

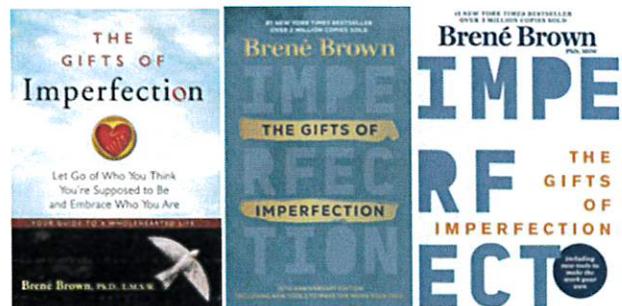
#### Women's Study: *The Gifts of Imperfection*

April 15-May 27

Please join us as we study a book filled with honesty, humor, and how-to's for living wholeheartedly. True fulfillment comes not from striving for perfection, but from embracing our imperfections and living with courage, compassion, and connection.

Brené Brown encourages us to embrace imperfection and cultivate authenticity, self-compassion, and resilience. Through anecdotes and research, she offers strategies for whole-hearted living, practicing self-acceptance and connecting with others in a more meaningful way.

Don't worry about which edition of this classic to pur-



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## COVENANT- WHO WE CHOOSE TO BE TOGETHER

Pastor Matt Hadley; MattH@ec-umc.com

Last month Emmanuel welcomed **Kim Olson** to the staff as our new **Office & Communications Coordinator**. If you have called the office, stopped by during the week, or received a church email recently, there is a good chance Kim has already helped make that happen. She has been a wonderful addition to our team, bringing warmth, organization, and a strong sense of hospitality to the role. We are grateful she has joined us in ministry.

What many people may not know is that whenever a new staff member joins our team, the entire staff takes time to **revisit our Staff Covenant** together. Right outside my office, posted on the bulletin board in the hallway, hangs a document titled "**EC-UMC Staff Covenant**." How many of you have ever noticed it?

My guess is that many of us walk right past it on our way to **Fellowship Hall or Celebration Hall** without giving it much thought. And that's understandable—it's just a sheet of paper on a wall. But for the staff, it represents something much deeper. A covenant is different from a policy. Policies tell us what we *must* do. A covenant reminds us who we *choose to be* together.

Every time our staff team changes, we gather to read through the covenant again, talk about it, and recommit ourselves to living it out in our daily work. It helps us remember that ministry is not just about completing tasks or running programs. It is about the way we treat one another, the way we care for ourselves spiritually, and the way we serve Christ through this congregation.

Our covenant reminds us to **feed our souls** through worship, study, and prayer. It calls us to **confidentiality and trust** in our conversations with one another. It encourages us to **respect and support each other**, especially during stressful seasons of ministry. It reminds us to extend **hospitality to every person who walks through our doors**, whether they are members, visitors, or strangers.

It also reminds us to care for ourselves and one another through **Sabbath and self-care**, to remain focused on our mission to "**Imitate Christ Together**," and to practice **faithful stewardship** of our time, gifts, finances, and church resources. In other words, it is a commitment to the kind of ministry culture we want to create at Emmanuel.

Finally, the covenant encourages ongoing communication and accountability through regular **one-on-one check-ins and annual reviews**, helping us grow not only as staff members but as disciples.

After revisiting the covenant together this past month, each member of the staff signed it once again. It now hangs again on the bulletin board outside my office—not just as a document, but as a visible reminder of the promises we make to one another and to God.

So the next time you walk down that hallway on the way to Fellowship or Celebration Hall, you might pause for a moment and take a look at it.





## MUSIC MINISTRIES

Contact: Bill Follmann; [BillF@ec-umc.com](mailto:BillF@ec-umc.com)

### Musical Events for April 2026

April is a very busy month for the church and music is no exception. We are preparing for Holy week and Easter as well as a youth led service that includes confirmation on April 12.

Thursday April 2, Maundy Thursday service at 7PM with the Chancel Choir singing for the service.

Saturday, April 4, All-Choir rehearsal for Easter. All the musical groups of Emmanuel will gather at 9AM to rehearse for Easter. We will rehearse the children first so they can get to the egg hunt on time!

Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday with services in the Sanctuary at both 8:30 and 10:00 AM. All the musical groups will add to the worship experience as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ the King!

Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> is Confirmation with 4:12 Singers joining Chancel in the 8:30 service and the Men's Choir to sing at the 10:00 Celebration Worship.

Sunday April 19 and Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> will provide music from the Spirit Ringers as well as the Chancel Choir.

Please plan on joining us in worship and bring a friend along with you!!

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sing Every Day

Bill Follmann

[billf@ec-umc.com](mailto:billf@ec-umc.com)

414-881-3023 – Bill's cell number

Stewardship Moment-Starting With What We Have  
Courtesy of the WUMF – A reflection inspired by a devotional by Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail "The Good News Is.....Together, the Impossible is Possible" In a Lenten devotional I read recently, Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail reflected on the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. When the disciples saw the crowd gathering, they immediately began doing the math. There were simply too many people and far too little food. Their focus was on the problem. But Jesus started somewhere else. Instead of beginning with what was missing, Jesus began with what was already present: five loaves and two fish. What seemed impossibly small to the disciples became a starting point for a miracle in the hands of God.

Churches can fall into the same pattern of thinking. We sometimes begin by naming everything we lack – too few volunteers, tight budgets or not enough people in worship. Scarcity can shape the way we see our future. But the Gospel story reminds us that God does not begin with scarcity. God begins with what we have. I once heard a pastor describe stewardship this way: imagine placing everything your church has on a table – your people, your ministries, your building, your finances, your passion for serving others. It might not look like much compared to the needs of the world. But that is exactly how the miracle of the loaves and fishes began. The miracle did not start with abundance. It started with a small offering placed into Jesus' hands.

And that is often where God's work begins today as well.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

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

April 2026 Pathways

Thank you, Thank you, THANK YOU to the anonymous donors that gave the Fischer Price Little People farm animal and school bus sets!

We have Good News, Great News, and Wonderful News to share!

The children that visit the Ark Park will greatly enjoy playing with these adorable characters. From The National Institute for Play: "Play is a fundamental, 'childhood's work' that is essential for healthy development, fostering cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth. It improves problem-solving, emotional regulation, and creativity while building motor skills and confidence. Both structured and free play are crucial for learning to navigate the world and building resilience."

The Children's Market Place exceeded our expectations and was a tremendous success. We hope you enjoyed Frank's "Dad jokes" which were a special addition to this year's Market Place. The children and youth of ECUMC made \$1,000 selling their arts, crafts, and snacks.



These funds enabled us to donate the money to Heifer International and get a pair of mating cattle. Initially we thought we would earn enough money for one cow but not only did we have enough for two cows, Heifer International had a 10X match. Families in need will receive 20 cows!



**Heifer International** is an agency that addresses needs around the world and helps families become self-sufficient in sustainable ways. The United Methodist Church and Heifer International share a vision of ending hunger and poverty.

<https://www.heifer.org/give/gift-catalog/animals>

The Children's Ministry Team invites you to attend our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00-11:00AM. Hundreds of eggs have been filled and will be hidden by our youth group throughout the church. There will be games, crafts, and snacks from the Kitchen Klub. Come join in on the fun, fellowship, and food!

**HE IS RISEN!** On Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, there is no Sunday School. However, there will be children's activity bags available outside of the Sanctuary. Happy Easter!

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

Contact: Anna Schoenenberger; AnnaS@ec-umc.com  
**"We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders".** Psalm 78:4

New beginnings are abundant in April. Easter with its fresh start and renewal of a faith-filled life. Nature's awakening from a cold winter. And for some of our youth, Confirmation and the foundation of their lives as members of our church.

As we waited and prepared for this time of year, the youth kept busy!

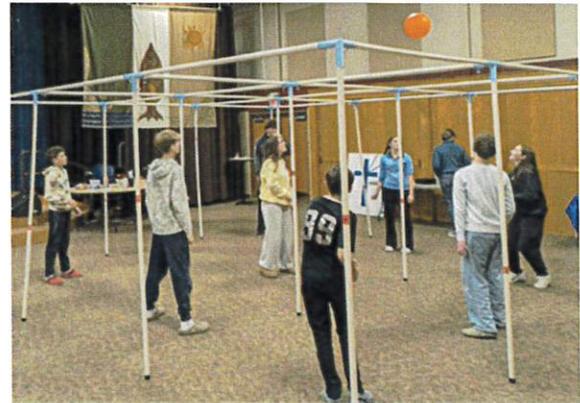
In March, the Youth Group had an afternoon of baking with -Donna from the Kitchen Klub. They prepared tasty goodies to sell at the Children's Marketplace: apple hand pies, pretzel bites, and popcorn. While working hard and having fun, they also helped contribute to the Heifer International mission goal.

The Youth Lock-In also took place last month. We invited our youth group friends from Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Oconomowoc and had a blast staying up late (some of us all night!) eating pizza, connecting through devotionals and discussions, an escape room, trivia, and more. What a blessing to have this time together!

Coming up next is Youth Sunday and Confirmation on April 12. Our Confirmands have been working hard all school year engaging in fellowship, digging deeper into scripture, and figuring out what it means to be a Methodist in preparation for this meaningful day. The Confirmation ceremony will take place during first service on the 12<sup>th</sup>. This service will be led by the youth as well. Youth attending the summer mission trip to South Dakota will be introduced. If your youth missed the planning session on March 15, but would still like to be involved, please reach out!

**There will be a rehearsal for confirmation and Youth Sunday on Saturday, April 11 at 10:00 AM.** Please try to attend if you are involved!

The Goods News Drive continues until April 5 (Easter Sunday). Thank you for all of your donations thus far. These items will be much appreciated at Rooted and Rising.



From the Mission Team:

### LET'S BUILD A HOUSE!

Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity is one of ECUMC's special missions. Our church has sent volunteers and donations to support home building in Milwaukee for over 30 years!

This year, Milwaukee Habitat will build 40 new houses – their largest number yet (38 in Milwaukee and 2 in West Allis). Let's be part of that.

Our past support has been outstanding. Although it has varied through the years, one great example is 2006. During that year, ECUMC donated \$20,000, sent 22 volunteers to help with building, and gave three quilts to one new homeowner on 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Just last year, we donated \$1,500, decorated 15 2X4s, created two Welcome Home baskets, provided lunches at a work site, and celebrated at "home dedications" with two new homeowners.

Jim Durden, a former member, who for 24 years was a regular volunteer, noticed that there was a need to standardize some of the building and installation processes. He developed a system to build exterior stairs in the workshop that are installed on site, which was adopted into **Habitat's build manual**.

Judy Newman, another former member, was honored by Milwaukee Habitat with the creation of "**The Judy Newman Building Beauty Awards**", after many years leading the Plant Share, and personally working with new homeowners to beautify their outdoor space. Her legacy lives on in gardens across the Milwaukee area.

From April 26 to May 17, 2026, you will receive more information about how you can continue our church's support of Habitat's life-changing mission.

**Trustees are hosting an All Church Clean-up Day on Saturday, May 2, 8 AM – 12 PM.** Stay for lunch afterwards!

There are two options for helping.

For Outdoor workers, bring your favorite yard tools, wheel barrel, rake, trimming shears, etc.

For Indoor workers, we will have all the products you need to help us wash windows, touch up pews, clean around the corners, and just do any general cleaning. Come and rub elbows with new and old congregants to enjoy their company.

### COMMUNITY BANQUET

A consortium of churches work together to host a Community Banquet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month. Duties rotate among the churches and our church coordinators are Anne Weiland (cooking), Karen Gravenkamp (set up & desserts), and Jean Reif (clean-up). Every month or two, our church takes the lead for one of these areas.

If you'd like to help, contact one of the coordinators or watch for the call for volunteers in our church announcements.

You don't have to be a volunteer to eat, though; it is not a needs-based program. All are welcome to this free meal, hosted by St. James Catholic Church (W220 N6588 Town Line Road, Menomonee Falls) from 5:00 – 6:30 PM.



## UNITED METHODIST GREEN TIPS FOR CREATION JUSTICE

**Plan for April's Earth Day/Month.** Consider visiting local environmental centers or setting up a resource fair with handouts, seedlings, samples, and crafts such as making seed balls or mobiles from nature items. Look for a service-to-Earth project, such as trail or invasives clearing. Hold an outside worship service with liturgy on the theme of Creation care.

**Dispose of worn-out, stained, torn clothes** and fabric scraps with Earth in mind. Send them to [ReTold Recycling](#). As of 2025 this repurposing company has diverted 312 tons from landfills, the equivalent of saving 4.4 million liters of water, preventing 980,805 pounds of coal burning, and removing emissions from 206 gas-powered cars for a year.

**Connect the dots.** Climate change is affecting food prices. Super storms, drought, floods, extreme heat—all mess with food production and our budgets. Food cost is the second biggest way climate change is impacting people globally. Climate change is real.

**Be a bee saver.** One in three bee species is facing risk of extinction largely because of neonicotinoid pesticides in lawncare products such as Round Up. First, do no harm: boycott those products and their suppliers (Amazon and Home Depot). Second, do good: plant gardens or patches that offer pollinator blooms early spring through autumn.

**Use your influence at work.** At your place of employment—in your office, on your work team—invite others to join you in doing something for the environment. Could they agree to avoid single-use plastics? Recycle paper? Reuse rather than trash? Compost lunch food scraps? Even one action by a group is powerful! Publicize your efforts for more impact.

**Read more.** A book club could read *Saving Us*, by Katherine Hayhoe, or *Stewards of Eden*, by Sandra Richter, for starters. As part of the discussion, encourage people to talk about what they are doing and bring their questions.

**Watch for connections to faith.** As a Sunday school class, choose a speaker, film, or panel to discuss sustainability, the connection of climate change to environmental justice, and actions individuals, families, and the church can take.

**Wait before you buy.** Sorting out wants from needs takes time. Give yourself a deadline of 48 hours, a week or two, perhaps a month to reflect then decide to buy or not. Avoid mindless consumerism.

**Update your laundry practices.** More earth-friendly options are available, including powders in tablet form, liquids in non-plastic pods, refills, wool dryer balls, clothes pins for hanging up laundry to dry. Avoid plastic bottles, save emissions from transport and from dryers, save water. Check out [blueland.com](#) and [ecoroots.com](#).

**Spread the ban.** Banning single-use bottles and bags prevents millions of tons of plastic from entering the waste stream, forces companies to innovate, and helps shift consumers' mindset as people recognize the dangers. Contact your employer, city council, and state lawmakers to say, "No more!" Make it official.



### CHURCH OFFICE

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

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 AM–1 PM

**CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026**

# April 2026

ECUMC Church Calendar/Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church

Apr 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29</p> <p>8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 7pm - 4-12 Singers (MR)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10am - Bible Study (FH) 6:30pm - Trustees (CL)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Maundy Thursday 7pm - Worship (S) 8pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Good Friday Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z) 7pm - Worship (S)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9am - Easter Egg Hunt (CH) 9am - Rehearsal (S)</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Easter Sunday 8:30am - Worship (S) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Church Office Closed 6:30pm - Green Team (CL) 6:30pm - Tech Team (CH)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 5:45pm - Children's Min. (FH) 6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10am - Bible Study (FH)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6pm - Women's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Youth Sunday 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 5:30pm - Stewardship (CL) 6:30pm - Mission Team (FH) 7pm - Finance (CL)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:30am - Spiritual Guidance 6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Pathways Deadline by Noon 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - Scout Pack 60 (V) 7pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6pm - Women's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30am - Sew and Sews (112) 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 7pm - Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:30am - YAHAS (CH) 6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR) 6:30pm - SPRIC (CL)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10am - Bible Study (FH) 7pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6pm - Women's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8am - Comm Breakfast (CH)</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting (FH)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10am - Bible Study (FH) 7pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6pm - Women's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)</p>	<p>2</p>