



PATHWAYS

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church



MAY 2026

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter

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



Church Work Day

Saturday, May 2nd | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us to care for our church building and grounds. Indoor & outdoor projects for all skill levels.

Bring tools you enjoy working with.

Free lunch served afterward! Stay for fellowship.



Donate Blood

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church Blood Drive

Saturday
May
9
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

N84 W16707 Menomonee Avenue, Men Falls
Main Community Room

*<https://tinyurl.com/ECUMCMay2026> to make your appointments via this link or QR code.

*Any questions or need help, call 877.232.4376 or visit www.versiti.org/WI

Curds for a Cause! All attempting donors receive a coupon for free cheese curds from participating local restaurants, while supplies last

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.



ALTAR FLOWERS ON MAY 24

Everyone is encouraged to bring a cut flower to add to our altar bouquets on Sunday, May 24, for Memorial Day weekend. When you arrive in the Sanctuary or Celebration Hall, bring your flower to the altar where a Worship Team member will add it to the arrangement



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A WORD FROM PASTOR MATT

Pastor Matt Hadley; MattH@ec-umc.com

Loving Boldly, Serving Joyfully, & Leading Courageously

Churches, like other organizations, have a stated mission statement to help guide them in living faithfully into the work of that mission. Here at Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church, our mission statement is short and sweet: "Imitating Christ Together." Our denomination also has a mission statement: "The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Our worship series for the final three weeks in the month of May will be based on a new vision statement that complements the Church's longstanding mission statement, inspired by Matthew 28:1–20.

The new vision states: "The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."

The vision encourages United Methodists to embody the following principles:

Love Boldly: Passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life. (Inspired by Matthew 22:37–39 and John 13:34–35)

Serve Joyfully: With a Christ-like heart, journey alongside the most vulnerable, offering care and compassion with joy. (Inspired by Psalm 100:1, Nehemiah 8:10, John 13:14–15, and 1 Peter 4:10)

Lead Courageously: Follow Jesus' example by resisting and dismantling all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation. (Inspired by Joshua 1:9 and Ephesians 6:10)

Last May, United Methodists received the following message from the Council of Bishops: "This new vision is not simply a statement or a plan; it is a catalyst for transformation," said Tracy Smith Malone, President of the Council of Bishops. "It is a vision that will help the Church embrace the opportunities before us, to follow where God is leading us, and to more fully engage in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Each week we will explore how we at Emmanuel can faithfully live into loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously. I look forward to worshipping together and being challenged to "Let the service begin!"

In Christ,

Pastor Matt

INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

Last month our church family grew in membership as our confirmands took their vows and became members here at Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church. Moments like that often lead others to wonder what membership looks like at ECUMC and what it means to be part of this community of faith. If you've ever been curious about joining the church or simply learning more about our mission of Imitating Christ Together, Pastor Matt will be offering a New Member Exploration Class on Sunday, May 31, from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, immediately following the Celebration Hall service. The class is informal and designed to answer questions about the church, membership, and ways to get involved. If you are interested, please let the office or Pastor Matt know—even if that specific date doesn't work for you. We would love to help you explore the next step in your faith journey.

HOW OUR CHURCH WORKS TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION:

Each month going forward we will provide a brief write-up on a committee or group that works behind the scenes to support our Church's mission: To Imitate Christ Together. It is our hope that these articles will highlight the accomplishments of these groups and may inspire others to participate in the future. Each group will be asked to respond to the same four questions.

This month we are going to highlight the **Staff-Parish Relations Committee**.

What are the goals and purpose of this group? The SPRC plays a vital role in the life of our church by nurturing a healthy, effective relationship between our congregation and our staff. This team works closely with our pastor and other staff members to provide encouragement, support, and accountability in their ministries. They serve as a confidential listening group, helping staff members grow spiritually and professionally while also ensuring that the needs and concerns of the congregation are heard and addressed.

The SPRC is responsible for matters related to hiring, evaluation, and overall staff well-being. They help create a positive work environment where our leaders can serve with joy, clarity, and purpose. By fostering open communication and mutual respect, the committee strengthens the connection between leadership and the church body. The committee meets monthly.

Who are the members? Jeff Schmidt (Chairperson), Pastor Matt Hadley, Sabrina Kahler, Bonnie Lill, Paul Slesar, Guy Vance, and Sue Wilkes. Tricia Gequillana (Church Council Leader), and Karen Burzinski (Lay Leader) are considered adjunct members of the committee.

How do people volunteer to be part of this committee? Members of this committee are selected by the Nominating Committee on an annual basis and voted in at the annual church conference. Volunteers are elected to either a 1, 2, or 3 year term.

How does this committee's work support the church's mission? By caring for those who lead us, we model Christ-like compassion, humility, and service. Our efforts help ensure that our church remains a place where ministry can flourish, relationships are strengthened, and all of us are encouraged to grow in faith and to live out the love of Christ in our daily lives.

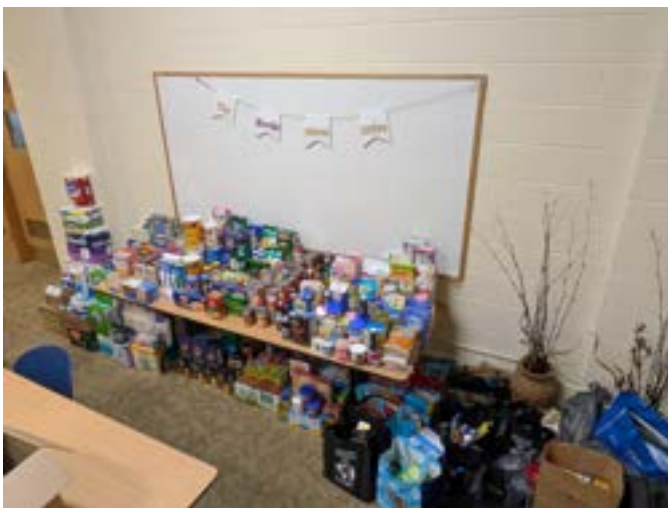
YOUTH MINISTRIES

Contact: Anna Schoenenberger; AnnaS@ec-umc.com

What a blessing the last few weeks have been in our Youth Ministry! On **4/12**, we focused on 1 Timothy **4:12** at our youth-led service. The service included the induction of five of our youth as members into our church community. Congratulations to Andrew Heinen, Addy Marshall, Katelyn Mosher, Brady Morgan and Max Zeitler. The introduction of this summer's mission trip to Lake Traverse in South Dakota was also presented, and we got to meet the youth who will be attending.



The Goods News Drive concluded last month on Easter Sunday. A huge thank you to all who donated food and goods to help those at Rooted and Rising. The Missions Team delivered 1,137.7 pounds of donations from our congregation! The Sew-and-Sews also contributed quilts and their quilt sale proceeds (\$677) to the cause. Again, thank you!



Coming up next: Youth Mission Spaghetti Dinner. The Youth will continue raising funds for their mission trip by hosting a spaghetti dinner on May 17th 4:30-6:30 pm in Celebration Hall. There is both a dine in and a to-go option available. Tickets will be on sale in Fellowship Hall between services until May 10th. There will be tickets for sale at the door on the 17th as well. Cost is \$8/adult and \$5/child (age 10 and under). Activities for younger children will be available and led by our youth during the event.

Youth please sign up to volunteer for the spaghetti dinner here:



MUSIC MINISTRY

Contact: Bill Follmann; BillF@ec-umc.com; 414-881-3023

I would like to thank all of the musicians and families who made the music for Easter very special. All of the hard work, time and talents were evident for the musical presentations. We had 62 participants among the children's music, the handbells, the vocal choirs. Add to that the 28 people who came forward to sing the Hallelujah Chorus at the end of the service.

I especially want to thank Doug Thompson for his percussion work, Amy Bell, for her flute playing, Rosie Jashinsky for adding another keyboard to the festivities, to Laura Hohl for preparing our youngest singers, Kathy Kamps for her continued excellence in leading the bell ringers, and to Abbey Harkins for her talents, sense of humor and patience.

We are a blessed congregation!

Sing Every Day,

Bill Follman

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

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

The Children's Ministry Team hosted an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Saturday. Families, toddlers, children, and tweens spent the morning hunting, crafting, playing games, and enjoying snacks from the Kitchen Klub. Twenty-five children from the Nursery through 5th grade searched for eggs throughout the church, and two lucky children found golden eggs. Thank you Kitchen Klub for feeding us and thank you to the Velie family for stuffing and hiding hundreds of eggs! Did I mention that the Easter Bunny even showed up?!



Easter Sunday the Children's Choir joined the adult

choir and 4:12 group and celebrated our risen Lord in song. Thank you to Laura Hohl, our Children's Choir Director, for helping our children rise and shine! If you missed it, they will be singing one more time this spring for Mother's Day on Sunday, May 10, at both services.

The children are focusing on The Lord's Prayer to round out the Sunday School season. Some of our students know the prayer by heart while others are exploring it for the first time. How old were you when you learned The Lord's Prayer? What version did you learn? Did it include sins, debts, or trespasses? Were you asking to be delivered from evil or the evil one? We are teaching the children the version with "trespasses" that we use in church every Sunday.

Teacher Appreciation Sunday is on May 17. Help us honor all of the individuals that make it possible to lead our children in their faith formation. We will also be celebrating the end of the Sunday School season with a scavenger hunt and an ice cream sundae bar.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Come one, come all to ECUMC's 2nd Annual Church Carnival! Planning is well underway. On Saturday, June 6, from noon to 3:00 pm our parking lot will be filled with food, fun, and new and exciting attractions! A free-will offering will be collected for Habitat for Humanity.

This Summer, the Children's Ministry Team will be hosting two Intergenerational Sunday School services in Celebration Hall. The first will be held on Sunday, June 14, at the 10:00 am service. Our mission will be Habitat for Humanity. We will be decorating 2x4s to bless the home of a Habitat home recipient. Join us in sharing Christ's blessings!



removal of plastics from parks and other public areas.

Adopt a park. Visit it frequently. Attend special events at the park, such as fairs, concerts, and play performances, and stay to help clean up after. Report any damage to nature, tripping hazards, or other dangerous conditions to the park office.

Immerse yourself in nature. Try forest bathing (using all your senses to connect to your environment), hiking, enjoying a park, hunting for waterfalls and wildflowers, going to a botanical garden or arboretum, getting out on the water in a sailboat, kayak, or canoe. Renew your commitment to care for the nature that renews you.

Lead the next generation to love nature. Create a scavenger hunt or play I Spy that is age-appropriate for your children, grandchildren, or neighborhood children. Invite them to observe and wonder. Add a sketch pad and colored pencils or allow them to use phone cameras to document their treasures from the day. Talk about God's call to us to take care of creation.

Pick up litter. Take a walk in a park. With a bag and gloves, where you see litter, pick it up and dump it in available trash cans. Other people may see your actions and be prompted to care for their own rubbish or perhaps join your efforts.

Leave no trace. Have a picnic and then be sure to clean up all leftovers or debris. Pack it in/pack it out. Take your trash home with you. Before you leave, challenge children to see if they can find any indication that someone was there. Teach by example.

Walk on established pathways—concrete, asphalt, wood chip trails. Staying on the path keeps green areas green. Remind children that the green spaces are home to critters who are God's creation too and deserve our respect.

Protect wildlife. Microplastics from degraded discards like plastic bottles and bags are ingested by birds and other animals, which endangers them. Prioritize

Join a "Friends of [...]" group in support of your favorite park or trail. Work together to clean up or shore up the conditions, including trail building or repair, pulling invasive plants, removing trash. Or volunteer as a Sunday school class or congregation for a workday on behalf of God's creation.

Take advantage of nature on the church's property. Create a space for outdoor worship or for exploring the environment close at hand. One church used their trail through the woods on their property as a special learning and prayer place.

Advocate for more trees and pocket parks. No matter how small, as air temperatures rise, a green oasis can be a source of cool and community, keeping tempers down and bringing people together as neighbors. Speak up to local decision makers.

CHURCH OFFICE

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

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 AM–1 PM

ECUMC SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Love to read? Join your fellow ECUMC bibliophiles this summer in one or more All-Church Reads selections. We'll meet at 11 AM (after the second service) for a group discussion. Snacks will be provided! All are available from your library or for purchase new or used – order your copy or place a hold in preparation.

New this year: movie-lovers are welcome to the discussion of *Project Hail Mary* as both the written and cinematic account will provide plenty to talk about.

Sunday, May 31

Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir (science fiction) follows Ryland Grace, a middle school science teacher who wakes up on a spaceship as the sole survivor of a last-ditch mission to save humanity from an extinction-level threat. Along the way, he collaborates with an alien ally in an effort to save both their species. The optimistic, humorous book has been adapted into a 2026 film. Whether you've read the book or seen the movie, come join the discussion.

Sunday, June 28

In *The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels* (non-fiction), historian Jon Meacham looks back over our nation's divisive past from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement and highlights how we have, together, overcome periods of turmoil through respect, generosity, and engagement. Written in 2018, it is a powerful and encouraging lesson for our time as we celebrate our 250th birthday.

Sunday, July 26

Twice by Mitch Albom (fantasy) is a love story about magical second chances. Alfie discovers he can redo any moment in life – but only once. Ultimately, he must make a choice that will change everything. If you've ever wondered "what if," you'll love how Albom's gifted storytelling and memorable characters travel down that road to its unlikely conclusion.

Sunday, August 23

The Line Becomes a River by Francisco Cantu (memoir) details the author's experiences as a U.S. Border Patrol agent in the Southwest from 2008-2012. He and his colleagues learn to track other humans across drug routes and smuggling corridors. This book goes behind the headlines to uncover the complex human tragedy on both sides of the U.S./Mexican border.



KINDNESS IS NOT OPTIONAL

A Stewardship Message

Submitted by Gary Wilkes adapted from an article by Karen Swallow Prior that appeared in *"The Dispatch."*

The New Testament invokes an apt metaphor when it commands Christians to "clothe" ourselves with kindness. To be clothed in something suggests a quality that is both felt by the wearer and seen by others. Kindness is like this: It resides inside a person but is outwardly visible. A growing body of research shows that people who are kind gain physical and mental health benefits. Kindness doesn't just help the recipient of kindness but, it seems, it helps the person who is kind.

A 2024 NPR segment showcased research demonstrating this connection between kindness and health. Research found that people who volunteer regularly have a lower risk of mortality and can perform physical activities at higher levels. Additional studies have linked kindness with improved cardiovascular health, likely because acts of kindness often require more physical activity, which improves both bodily and mental health. Being kind can also increase the happiness of those who act with kindness consistently. Kindness, as with all other virtues, is its own reward.

Yet kindness is more than just a self-improvement plan. It is central to Christian teaching and the Christian life.

First, God himself is kind, as the scriptures state over and over. He who is himself love says that love is kind. God is characterized as exhibiting lovingkindness, having compassion for all he has made and demonstrating his love for us by sending Christ to die for us when we were not deserving of such a sacrifice.

Christians are likewise instructed to be kind: Christians are commanded in the Bible to be clothed in the qualities of mercy, humility, patience and kindness. The Apostle Paul says that Christians "must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful." Being kind demonstrates to others the very nature of God and marks our identity in God, showing that we are of the same kind as him. Kindness is an outward expression of inward compassion. Kindness is, for the Christian, obedience to God and the display of his character through our bodies to all the world.

Kindness isn't the same as being nice, which simply means being pleasant or agreeable. Kindness essentially means treating others as though they are family. Healthy family relationships center neither on flattery or contrariness but are open, honest and loving - especially when dealing with difficult situations or hard truths. Since kindness is a virtue, it is tied to other virtues such as justice, courage and prudence. Moreover, like all virtues, kindness moderates between an extreme of excess and an extreme of deficiency. Kindness is the balance between the vices of contrariness (or quarrelsomeness) and obsequiousness (or flattery). And, like all virtues, kindness has an opposing vice: envy.

While kindness is essentially good will toward another, envy is ill will. Thomas Aquinas defines envy as "sorrow for another's good." While good will leads naturally to acts of kindness, ill will easily leads to cruelty - actions that increase the suffering, rather than the joys, of the object of envy. Envy leads to gossip and defamation, joy at another's pain and pain in another's joy. Kindness is rooted in the desire to love one's neighbor. Envy is rooted in the desire to best one's neighbor. Envy culminates in hatred. Before Cain murdered his brother Abel, he envied him. Envy consumes, kindness generates.

For the Christian, kindness isn't optional. Nor is it optional for a civil society.

The good news is that while kindness isn't natural for most of us, it can be cultivated through practice. Such practice requires exercise and intention. But like a muscle, with practice kindness becomes easier, more natural and habitual. Even better news is research shows that kindness is contagious. Kindness has ripple effects that go far beyond the initial act or gesture. But the same is true of cruelty too, unfortunately. Kindness isn't likely to stop wars, prevent violence or satisfy the lusts of the envious heart. But like a leaven, kindness can make our lives and our world a bit lighter, a little more expansive and lift all whom it touches - including the ones who wear it.

SAVE THE DATES:

ALTAR FLOWERS ON MAY 24

Everyone is encouraged to bring a cut flower to add to our altar bouquets on Sunday, May 24, for Memorial Day weekend. When you arrive in the Sanctuary or Celebration Hall, bring your flower to the altar where a Worship Team member will add it to the arrangement.

ECUMC CHURCH CARNIVAL

The 2nd annual ECUMC Church Carnival will be held on Saturday, June 6, from noon until 3:00 pm.

Green Team: Electronic Recycling

As part of its theme to reduce, reuse and recycle, the ECUMC Green Team is hosting its second electronic recycling event on Saturday, September 26. This is an opportunity for you to clear out broken and obsolete electronics including most items that operate by electricity - either cord or battery. Some examples include TVs, computers, laptops, printers, microwaves, kitchen appliances.

If you are able to help with this initiative - greeting people, directing traffic, unloading vehicles and loading trucks, please reach out to Doug Thompson on the green team [djthompson1950@gmail.com]. More details to come as we get closer to the event.



REMINDER:

May 24th - September 13th

No Sunday School Classes

MAY 2026

ECUMC Church Calendar/Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church

May 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance	27 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 6:30pm - Green Team (CL)	28 6:30pm - Spirit Ringers	29 10am - Bible Study (FH) 7pm - Women's Bible	30 6:30pm - Women's Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	1 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	2 9am - All church cleanup -
3 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance	4 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 5:30pm - Youth Council 7pm - 4:12 Singers (MR)	5 5:45pm - Children's Min.	6 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6:30pm - Trustees (CL) 7pm - Women's Bible	7 6:30pm - Women's Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	8 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	9 8am - Blood Drive (CH) 8-
10 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance	11 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 5:30pm - Stewardship 6:30pm - Mission Team 7pm - 4:12 Singers (MR) 7pm - Finance (CL)	12 10:30am - Spiritual	13 10am - Bible Study (FH) 7pm - Women's Bible	14 6:30pm - Women's Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	15 Office Closed Pathways Deadline by 10am - Bible Study (Z)	16 9am - Safe Sanctuaries
17 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance 4:30pm - Spaghetti Dinner	18 9:30am - Sew and Sews 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 7pm - 4:12 Singers (MR) 7pm - Church Council (CL)	19 9:30am - Comm Care (FH) 11:30am - YAHAS (CH) 6:30pm - SPRC (CL)	20 10am - Bible Study (FH) 7pm - Women's Bible	21	22 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	23
24 8:30am - Worship (S) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance	25 Memorial Day - Office 6:30pm - Green Team (CL)	26 10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	27 10am - Bible Study (FH) 7pm - Women's Bible	28	29 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	30 8am - Comm Breakfast
31 8:30am - Worship (S) 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Book Club (FH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance 6pm - Youth Group 6:00-7	1 10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	2 11:45am - & 5:00pm Food 5:45pm - Children's Min.	3 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6:30pm - Trustees (CL)	4 11:45am - & 5:00pm Food	5 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	6 Annual Church Carnival 9am - Music Recital -