



PATHWAYS

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church



JUNE 2026

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter

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

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 AM - Sanctuary Worship (available online)

10:00 AM - Celebration Hall Worship (NOT available online)

No Sunday School until September

Our summer worship series is *A Baker's Dozen*. Each week (6/7-8/30) will focus on a different one of Jesus' disciples: Andrew, John, Peter, Matthew, James ben Zebedee, Thaddeus, Philip, Bartholomew, Simon, Thomas, James ben Alphaeus, Judas, and Matthias.



JUNE SUPPER CLUB OUTING

Our June 17th Supper Club Dining at 6:30 PM event will take place at the Great Outdoor Supper Club, Kewaskum, Wisconsin. It is a wonderful experience that welcomes anyone looking for delicious food and fun memories. It is located at 8906 Forest View Road, Kewaskum, and the entire front dining area has been reserved for our group. Individual checks are available. Sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board outside Pastor Matt's office. Questions may be referred to Doug & Norine Janzen at 262-251-5745.

ECUMC SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Sunday, June 28 Jon Meacham *The Soul of America* (non-fiction)

CHURCH DIRECTORY DISTRIBUTION

The updated church directory is ready for pickup from the church office. Remember that you can use Realm.org on your phone or computer to look up people even without a hard copy version! If you have any updates please email them to Kim at church@ec-umc.com

ARK PARK

Our Nursery is available every week from 8:15-11 AM for babies through age 2. They are ably cared for by our Nursery staff, Renee and Dori.

Summer Sundays from June through August, the Ark Park will be open from 8:15-11:00 AM for children ages 3-6 who are not ready to sit in church.

Activities and a snack will be provided.

While this room is attached to the Nursery, it is intended to separate the infants and toddlers from the younger children.

SEW AND SEWS

Just a reminder that Sew and Sews do not meet during the summer months. We will meet again in September. June, July and August are free and if anybody needs help putting anything together, you can put out a call and I'm sure some of us will meet you at church.

In this issue...

p. 2 *Pastor's Letter*

P.3 *How our Church works to support our Mission and church membership*

p. 4 *Youth Ministries*

p. 5 *Children's Ministries,*

p. 6 *Missions, Roots & Rising, Church Carnival*

p. 7 *Rooted & Rising Annual Report*

p. 8 *Stewardship*

p. 9 *Music Ministry, Save the Dates*

p. 10 *ECUMC June Calendar*

Baker's Dozen: Who were these guys?

This summer at Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church, we invite you to join us for a brand-new worship series titled "Baker's Dozen." For thirteen weeks, we will take a fascinating deep dive into the lives of the disciples of Jesus — the ordinary, imperfect, surprising people chosen to help change the world. Who were these men really? What can we learn from the Bible, historical records, and the writings of the early church fathers about their personalities, struggles, strengths, and failures? How did this ragtag collection of fishermen, tax collectors, tradesmen, doubters, zealots, and outsiders transform from uncertain followers into courageous leaders who helped launch the Christian faith across the world? More importantly, what do their stories still teach us in 2026? In a world searching for meaning, purpose, courage, and hope, the stories of these early disciples remind us that God has always worked through ordinary people. Baker's Dozen will explore the humanity, humor, faith, fears, and faithfulness of those Jesus chose to begin the church here on earth while pointing people toward the kingdom of heaven.

Here is a quick peek:

June:

- 7 Andrew, the one who brought others to Jesus
- 14 John, son of Zebedee, the one whom Jesus loved
- 21 (Father's Day) Peter, the one who became the rock
- 28 Matthew, the one who went from part of being the problem to being part of the answer

July

- 5 James, son of Zebedee, the one whom Jesus made great
- 12 Thaddeus, the one brave enough to ask a question
- 19 Philip, the one whom Jesus tested
- 26 Bartholomew, the one in whom there was no deceit

August

- 2 Simon, the one known as the Zealot
- 9 Thomas, the one who doubted
- 16 James, son of Alphaeus, the one in the right crowd
- 23 Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed
- 30 Matthias, the one who replaced

As you see, each week's message title begins with the words "The One Who..." because every disciple had a story—and perhaps, somewhere in their story, we may discover something about our own as well. I hope to see you in worship this summer as we strive to worship the Son more than the sun!

Pastor Matt

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 Trustees:

What are the goals and purpose of this group?

The main focus of the Trustees is to make the church a safe and comfortable place for all who want to worship and utilize our facilities. We try to fix things when they break, or get someone who is qualified to fix it. We strive to make the church grounds comfortable for all, keeping the basics working (water, electricity, heat/air conditioning, network, etc). We also work to enhance the property, like painting a room or adding trees to the property. This team also works with and oversees the management of organizations and individuals that want to use our facilities for activities such as scouting events, Frisbee Dogs, weddings, funerals, blood drives, etc.

Although we do not manage the overall funds of the church, we are the second largest consumer of the church's overall funding. We do much of the work ourselves to keep costs down, but do bring in outside partners when needed for things like maintenance of our boilers, roof maintenance, and even service needs of the rooftop solar plant.

Who are the members?

The members are Donna Baumgartner, Anthony Bender, Bill Hathaway, Rick Kohlmann, Neal Neff, David Rohr, Terry Royals, and Gary Morgan. Pastor Matt also attends our monthly meetings.

There are also a few teams that report into the Trustees: the Kitchen Klub, AV Tech, Cemetery team, the Building Use team, and Mowing/Snow Removal work.

How do people volunteer to be part of this committee?

We are always looking for those who like to get involved, are willing to roll-up their sleeves to work on a project, and like to see it through to completion. If this description fits you, please contact Gary Morgan.

How does this committee's work support the church's mission?

Quietly, in the background, the Trustees work every day to keep our church facilities inviting, open, safe and serene—all qualities that Christ conveyed in His teachings, His stories, and in how we should treat others.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

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

A huge thank you to all who attended the spaghetti dinner last month! The fundraiser was a great success in helping our youth as they get ready for their mission trip in July. A special thank you to all the volunteers who generously spent time cooking, cleaning and serving at the event. Grazie!



Speaking of the mission trip, there will be an info meeting after the first service on June 7 for youth, and parents of youth attending the mission trip. We will share information about the trip, discuss plans, ask questions, meet chaperones, and get to know one another. If you cannot make this meeting, please let me know so I can make other arrangements to get the information to you. The final payment for the trip is due on this day as well.

Congratulations are in order! A note from Anne Weiland: The ECUMC Scholarship Endowment Fund has awarded scholarships of \$350 to two of our graduating seniors: Claire Heinen and Noah Viele. From a young age, both have served ECUMC with steady commitment. They began in Children's Ministry as bright stars in Christmas plays, and, as they grew, became mentors to younger children. Noah has been a faithful teacher's assistant for many years in the 2-4 year old Sunday School class. Claire's musical and leadership gifts helped form the 4:12 quartet, enriching our worship for many years. Both also serve regularly on the tech team, supporting worship and sharing their skills beyond our walls. These young adults exemplify Christlike service. We bless them as they carry their gifts and faith into new horizons.

The ECUMC Scholarship Endowment Fund began as the Zion Scholarship Fund. When Zion UMC and ECUMC merged 17 years ago, Zion's faithful contributors brought this gift into our community of faith. Invested with the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, the original fund has grown so that its earnings may now provide these scholarships. To learn more about the Scholarship Endowment Fund or to support post-secondary education for youth and adults whose lives reflect their faith, please contact Anne Weiland at aweiland5@gmail.com.

Summer gets busy! Please save the date for future Youth Group Events on June 14, July 12, and August 9. More details to come, but meeting times will be at 6:00 PM. Feel free to bring a friend and be on the lookout for other pop-up events and Youth Group opportunities. Hope to see you there!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

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

From a Momentous May to a Joyous June and More Fun on the Way!

May was a busy month for the children attending ECUMC's Sunday School. We wrapped up The Lord's Prayer Unit and more than a dozen children recited the prayer from memory.

Everyone received a LORD'S PRAYER plaque to commemorate their accomplishments and continued efforts to honor God and love our Lord.



Mother's Day was a celebration of all things mom-related. Lead by our Children's Choir Director, Laura Hohl, the children performed their little hearts out singing "Into My Heart" at both services. They asked for the Lord to come into their hearts and to shine out into the world.



We finished out the Sunday School season by honoring our Children's Ministry Team, Sunday School Teachers, Youth Volunteers, and Nursery Staff. We also recognized Elliott Pokey for completing acolyte training and celebrated the baptism of his sister, Ella Pokey.



Our end of the Sunday School season was topped off with a scavenger hunt and ice cream sundaes for all. Three topics explored this month in the youth classes focused on the benefits of believing in Jesus's teachings, how the whole world today would be different if Jesus had never lived, and how to deal with prayers that don't seem to be answered. The Lord's Prayer and breath prayers were also reviewed. It was exciting to see attendance in the youth classes increase these past few months.

Intergenerational Sunday School will take place on June 14 and July 12. June's mission will be decorating 2x4s for a Habitat for Humanity home. In July we will assemble hygiene bags for our friends at Rooted & Rising.

Children from K3 through 6th grade are invited to go on a 3-day adventure this summer at Journey to Adventure Island VBS. Our quest for God's Great Light will be held on August 17-19 from 9AM to noon.



MISSIONS

Contact: Mary Klein; MaryKlein1@gmail.com

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE from Jean Reif

Youth Sunday School classes participated in two service projects this past month. During one class, the youth assembled 106 bags of trail mix that were delivered to the food center at Rooted and Rising. During another class, they decorated wooden paint sticks that were used to indicate donations on the “little house” used in the Habitat fundraiser.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING HABITAT

The Missions Team is grateful to everyone who donated to our Habitat fundraiser. We were so fortunate to have five visitors to our church from Milwaukee Habitat: Brian Sonderman, the CEO; Kristi Sebald, the Volunteer Services and Events Manager; Dominic Jaehnke, the ReStore director; and Raven and Brandy, two future homeowners. Feedback from our guests about their visit with us was very positive. Brian who gave the sermon on April 26 said “This is such a friendly church!” Kristi was impressed with the scope of our fundraiser that included guest speakers, our “little house” donation station, plus our displays and bulletin boards. A steady stream of people from our church engaged in conversations with our guests the entire times they were with us! We are so proud of our congregation for their hospitality and for the support they have shown for this worthwhile organization.

ROOTED AND RISING 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

On the following page you will find the cover sheet for the Rooted and Risings 2025 Annual Report. Our church has an active role in this ministry so we thought you might find this report of interest. There is a link in the last paragraph to review the entire report.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS...

Last year, ECUMC donated a beautifully decorated book cart to Rooted & Rising, along with many books. It was very well received and the books have been flying off the shelves. So once again, we are looking for gently used or new books to donate. The books most in demand—children’s board books, chapter books (all levels), and picture books, - especially appreciated if they are culturally appropriate for the clientele (African American, Hispanic, etc.).

For adults, cook books and popular fiction or non-fiction, seem to go fast. Please—no text books or heavy tomes. Just bring the books to church and they will be delivered to R&R.

COME ONE, COME ALL!

ECUMC is having its second annual Church Carnival on Saturday, June 6, from 3 -6 PM. Admission is free with a free-will offering being collected for Habitat for Humanity. This year we are featuring a dunk tank with very special dunkees!



CAKEWALK at the CHURCH CARNIVAL

The worship team is going to be in charge of the cakewalk this year. The Cakewalk is a carnival game of modified musical chairs in which the winners win a cake or a plate of cookies or bars. The winners last year were delighted to take home their prizes OR eat them right away! If you have the time and talent, please volunteer to make a dessert (cake, cupcakes, bars or cookies) You may bring them to Celebration Hall on Saturday, June 6 anytime before 3:00 PM. Please let Anne Weiland know if you are able to help with baking (262-424-8480 aweiland5@gmail.com). Thank you, all, in advance.

ROOTED AND RISING
2025 ANNUAL REPORT: CELEBRATING A YEAR OF PARTNERSHIP AND IMPACT:

Dear Friends,

We are excited to share Rooted & Rising's [2025 Annual Report](#), a reflection of the powerful impact made possible through partnership, community trust, and the shared commitment of supporters like you.

This year's report highlights the people, programs, and partnerships that continue to strengthen Washington Park and help individuals and families meet their basic needs, build stable foundations, and pursue their dreams.

Because of our generous donors, funders, volunteers, churches, community partners, and neighbors, 2025 was a year of meaningful growth.

A few big wins from 2025 include:

[Growing Tree Children's Center](#) reached a major quality milestone by earning a **4-Star YoungStar rating**, while expanding infant classroom capacity and strengthening early learning outcomes for children, helping build their social-emotional, developmental, and foundational skills for lifelong success.

[Our Community Food Center](#) served **4,724 households** and reached **15,038 individuals**, including **7,040 children** while welcoming **1,239 first-time households**, and distributing fresh food, diapers, hygiene products, winter clothing, and other essential resources.

[Our Supportive Housing program](#) provided stable, affordable housing for **81 households and 265 individuals**, with **zero families returning to homelessness** in 2025.

Through our [Neighborhood Engagement](#) and establishing a new and improved [Washington Park Quality of Life Plan](#), we engaged **3,041 residents, families, and partners**, hosted **48 community events and 38 planning meetings**, while advancing strategies for long-term neighborhood vitality.

We also helped move forward new housing development through the [Early Childhood Educator Homeownership Program](#), transforming vacant lots into **four new single-family homes**, with two already occupied and two nearing completion. This initiative allowed us to support first-time homeownership, create equitable pathways, and long-term neighborhood investment for the educators who help shape our children's futures.

These milestones are more than numbers. They represent children learning and growing, families staying housed, neighbors accessing healthy food, residents shaping the future of their community, and partnerships creating lasting change.

As we look ahead, your continued support will help us sustain this momentum and deepen our impact across Washington Park.

The full 2025 Annual Report is available to [download here](#).

Stewardship Moment – The Gift of Connection and Community
Jason Mahnke, Director of Programming & Campaign
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

In a world where we are more digitally connected than ever before, many people are also experiencing deep loneliness and isolation. We can text instantly, scroll endlessly and interact online throughout the day—yet still feel disconnected from meaningful relationships and authentic community.

One of the great gifts the Church still offers the world is something increasingly rare: real connection.

Church communities bring people together people who otherwise might never interact. Different generations. Different political viewpoints. Different life experiences. Different backgrounds and perspectives. In many ways, the local church remains one of the few places where people still regularly gather across lines that often divide society elsewhere.

That kind of connection matters.

It reminds us that we are more than consumers, social media profiles, or people sorted into ideological camps. We are human beings created in the image of God and called to live in community with one another.

And perhaps nowhere is the gift of Christian community more visible than during difficult seasons of life.

Over the last several months, as I've walked through cancer treatment, I've experienced this gift personally. My church community supported me and my family not only through prayers, but through dozens of cards, meals delivered to our home, help with lawn care, fall and spring yard cleanup and simple acts of kindness that reminded us we were not alone.

Those moments mattered deeply.

Not because any one act solved everything, but because together they communicated something powerful: you are loved, you are seen and you do not have to carry this burden by yourself.

That is stewardship too.

Stewardship is not only about money. It is about how we use the gifts God has entrusted to us—our time, compassion, presence, abilities, encouragement and resources—to care for one another and build up the Body of Christ.

Healthy churches cultivate more than generosity. They cultivate belonging.

And in a disconnected world hungry for meaning, that may be one of the most important gifts the Church has to offer.

MUSIC MINISTRY

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

As we have completed another music year here at Emmanuel, I would like to give a big thank-you to all the musicians who serve and share their talents with us. We have musicians from ages 3 to 90, both instrumental and vocal sharing their gifts and talents, and I am so thankful and fortunate to be part of this group.

Thanks also to those who are providing special music as solos and small groups for the summer. I do have some openings left, so if you are interested in providing special music, let me know.

Mark your calendars for summer choir on Sunday, June 28. We will meet in the music room at 8:00 AM and will go over the musical number for that day. If you are looking to give the choir a try, we would love to have you sing with us!

Look for another summer music date in July and for a date when all the choirs start back up again in late August.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

"The woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those who sang best."

—Henry Van Dyke

Let's make the woods burst forth with song!!

Sing Every Day,

Bill Follmann

SAFER SANCTUARIES

A Safer Sanctuaries Training workshop for the SPRC took place in May with plans to continue refining our church's policies and procedures to keep up with the ever-changing times. In order for us to flourish as a community of faith, we must work together to protect the children, youth, and vulnerable individuals in our midst. Training will continue with ECUMC's staff, teachers, volunteers, parents, and interested congregants.



SAVE THE DATES:

ECUMC SUMMER BOOK CLUB:

Sunday, July 26 - *Twice* by Mitch Albom (fantasy)

Sunday, August 23 - *The Line Becomes a River* by Francisco Cantu (memoir)



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.

CHURCH OFFICE

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

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 AM–1 PM

JUNE 2026

ECUMC Church Calendar - Emanuel Community United Methodist Church

www.umanet.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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 5:45am - 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 9am - Music Recital - 3pm - Annual Church
7 8:30am - Worship (S) 10am - Worship (CH) 10am - Mission Trip 1pm - Hmong Alliance	8 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 5:30pm - Stewardship 6:30pm - Mission Team 7pm - Finance (CL)	9	10 10am - Bible Study (FH)	11	12 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	13
14 8:30am - Worship (S) 10am - 1pm - Hmong Alliance 6pm - Youth Group	15 Pathways Deadline by 10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	16 10:30am - Spiritual 6:30pm - SPRC (CL)	17 10am - Bible Study (FH)	18	19 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	20 6:30pm - Supper Club -
21 8:30am - Worship (S) 10am - Worship (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance	22 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 6:30pm - Green Team (CL)	23	24 10am - Bible Study (FH)	25	26 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	27
28 8:30am - Worship (S) 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Book Club (FH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance	29 10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	30	1 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6:30pm - Trustees (CL)	2	3 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	4