



PATHWAYS

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church



July 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

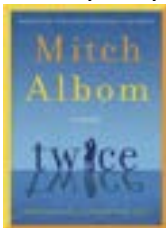
8:30 AM—Sanctuary Worship
(available online)
10:00 AM—Celebration Hall
Worship (NOT available online)
No Sunday School until
September



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.

the summer BOOK CLUB

Join us for our Summer Book Club. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall at 11 AM (after the second service) for a group discussion. Snacks will be provided!
Sunday, July 26



What if you got to do everything in your life twice?

Twice is about the boy – and then the man – who has the ability to go back in time to any event and undo what he had previously done to

change the outcome and what follows it.

There are a few catches though, one being that he can only undo an event or a specific time period only once. If he makes any mistakes the second time, or the result is something he doesn't like, he'll have to live with it for the rest of his life.

Another one is that he's the only one who can remember the first event or time period before he

changes it. No one else.

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.



Coming on 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.

ARK PARK

Our Nursery is available every week 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.

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A WORD FROM PASTOR MATT

Pastor Matt Hadley; MattH@ec-umc.com

1776-2026

As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary, Americans find themselves reflecting on both our history and our future. These are not easy times. Political divisions seem deeper than ever. Public discourse is often marked by anger rather than understanding. Many of us look at the headlines and wonder whether our country can find common ground again.

Yet if history teaches us anything, it is that we have faced difficult seasons before. The United States has endured a revolution, a civil war, economic depressions, world wars, social upheaval, and countless moments when people wondered if the nation could survive its challenges. Through each generation, Americans have disagreed passionately, struggled mightily, and ultimately found ways to move forward together. Our story has never been one of perfection, but it has often been one of perseverance.

As Christians, one of the greatest gifts we celebrate in this country is the freedom of religion. Long before many nations embraced such liberty, the founders envisioned a place where people could worship according to the dictates of their conscience without fear of government interference. That freedom has allowed churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and countless faith communities to flourish. It has enabled believers to gather openly, proclaim their faith boldly, and serve their neighbors generously.

For those of us in the church, religious freedom is not merely a constitutional principle—it is an opportunity and a responsibility. We are free to worship, but we are also called to witness. We are free to gather, but we are also called to go into the world in Christ's name. The best way we can honor this gift is by living our faith with humility, compassion, and grace.

As we commemorate 250 years of American independence, may we give thanks for the blessings we enjoy while praying for wisdom for our leaders, healing for our divisions, and hope for the generations yet to come. Most importantly, may we remember that while nations rise and fall, our ultimate allegiance belongs to God's kingdom—a kingdom built not on political victory, but on justice, mercy, love, and peace.

Happy 250th Birthday, America. May God continue to bless our nation and guide us toward a future worthy of the ideals we celebrate.

Blessings,
Pastor Matt



Emmanuel Church family, I want to personally reach out and invite you to join me at Rooted & Rising's Driving for Change Golf Scramble on Monday, September 14th at The River Club of Mequon.

Join us for a day of golf, connection, and purpose at a beautiful course alongside fellow corporate and community leaders. Rooted & Rising's work in Washington Park centers on providing stable housing, food access, early childhood education, and neighborhood engagement for families and residents.

This first-ever Golf Scramble is a meaningful milestone, and your participation will play a key role in sustaining and growing that impact to reach more individuals and families and continue providing essential resources in the community.

Here are a few ways you can support this event:

- Putting together a foursome
- Registering as an individual golfer
- Not a golfer? Register as a program attendee for the dinner and reception

Event Details:

Date: Monday, September 14

Tee Time: 11:00 a.m.

Reception: 5:00 p.m. Dinner & program included for golf registrants

Blessings,

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 Worship Committee:

Learn More About the Worship Committee

Submitted by Marty Schmidt

What are the goals and purpose of this group?

The Worship Committee acts as a direct, essential partner with the pastor and church staff to help create a meaningful worship experience for all. The committee performs "behind-the-scenes" work ensuring the altar is prepared and cleaned before/after services and to keep our worship spaces welcoming. The members set up communion vessels, bread, and juice as well as care for altar linens. They uphold the church's liturgical heritage by changing the paraments (banners, altar clothes, etc.) for the various church seasons according to the church's color calendar (e.g. purple for Lent, white for Easter). Additionally, the team members prepare for baptisms and handle flowers, candles, and decorations for weekly services and special events like All Saints' Day, Christmas, and Easter.

Who are the members?

Members of the Worship Committee include Virginia Patterson (Chairperson), Lynette Burling, Abbey Harkins, Pam Laurion, Tom Patterson, Marty Schmidt, and Kris Vance.

The Worship Committee also coordinates with several affiliate groups including ushers, liturgists, greeters, and wedding and funeral coordinators as needed.

How do people volunteer to be part of this committee?

Membership is open to anyone willing to serve, and the committee is actively looking to grow its membership. If you're someone who prefers to be part of a "hands-on" committee and one with only a few meetings per year, the Worship Committee might be a perfect fit for you! Please contact any of the Worship Committee members for more information. We'd love to have you join us!

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

The Worship Committee supports the church's mission by creating a visually engaging environment that aligns with the theological themes of the sermon and season, enhancing the congregation's spiritual focus.

ECUMC Foundation Update

The Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church Foundation continues to be blessed by the generosity and support of our congregation. We are grateful for the opportunity to share an update on our recent work, introduce our leadership team, and highlight ways the Foundation is helping further the mission and ministry of our church.

Welcoming Our Leadership Team

The Foundation is guided by a dedicated Board of Directors committed to stewarding the gifts entrusted to us and supporting ministries beyond the church's annual budget. Our current leadership team includes:

- Rob Tack, President
- Brad Brandt, Vice President
- Kathi Carlson, Treasurer
- Amy Schlotthauer, Secretary
- Tom Sardina, Director
- Debbie Kasprzak, Director

We would especially like to welcome Debbie Kasprzak as our newest director. Debbie brings a heart for service and a commitment to supporting the ministries of Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church. We are excited to have her join the Foundation Board.

Recent Grants Approved

The Foundation recently approved several grant requests that reflect our commitment to supporting the church's mission, youth, and community outreach efforts.

Scholarships for Tech Team Seniors

We are pleased to award \$500 scholarships to three graduating seniors who have faithfully served on our church tech team: Trevor Marshall, Noah Velie and Claire Heinen

Their dedication behind the scenes has helped make worship services and church events possible week after week. We celebrate their accomplishments and wish them God's blessings in the next chapter of their journeys.

Support for the Green Team Basketball Court

The Foundation also approved \$1,500 in support of the Green Team's effort to build a basketball court on the church property. This project will create a welcoming space for recreation, fellowship, and community connection for youth and families.

Honoring the Legacy of Bill Gay

We would like to recognize and thank the many donors who made gifts to the Foundation in memory of Bill Gay. These memorial contributions are a meaningful way to honor loved ones while creating a lasting impact through the ministries of the church.

As a reminder, the Foundation is an excellent way to honor and remember family members, friends, and church members in a lasting way. Gifts to the Foundation are invested, and the earnings are used to support grant requests that further the mission of Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church.

How to Give or Request Support

More information about giving to the Foundation can be found on our church website or in the brochures located in the Welcome Center by the front doors.

Grant requests may be made by:

- Filling out the request form available in the church office, or
- Contacting one of the Foundation directors directly.

We encourage members and ministry teams to consider how the Foundation may help support projects and initiatives that extend the church's religious, charitable, and benevolent work. Our next and last meeting for 2026 meeting is in October.

About the Foundation

Established in 1959, the ECUMC Foundation is entrusted with funds given to the Foundation with an emphasis on providing support for additional mission and church needs outside of the annual budget. The Foundation is a special endowment: the principal is invested, and the earnings become available to promote the church's religious, charitable, and benevolent functions. Grants from the ECUMC Foundation are made upon request following review by the Board of Directors.

Thank you for your continued generosity, prayers, and support. Together, we are building a legacy of faith, service, and ministry for future generations.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

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

Welcome, summer!

Last month, the Youth Group gathered to play capture the flag. Before heading outside to “battle” and defend the flag, we assembled hygiene bags for Rooted and Rising, and we discussed Joshua 5:13-6:5. In capture the flag, there are victors and vanquished – all in good fun, of course. There are obstacles to overcome (fast defenders, terrain) and teams must strategically balance offense and defense to gain final victory. In our Joshua passage, however, we learn that in our Christian lives, final victory comes when we follow God’s strategic plan and put ourselves on His team. Although we may want to do things our own way, we must realize that we are ultimately on God’s team and should adhere to His plan.



July will be a busy month for our Youth, too. Our next Youth Group event is on July 12 from 6:00–7:30 PM. We will be tie-dyeing Youth Group t-shirts. Please bring a pre-washed white cotton t-shirt and meet in the Youth Room. Sign up using the QR code here or on the flyers around the church. If you cannot make it but still want to have this “official” Youth Group shirt, you can drop off your pre-washed shirt with me or leave it in the office (labeled with your name) ahead of time.

July 12 Sign up here:



Also in July is the long-awaited Youth Mission Trip to Lake Traverse Reservation, South Dakota! Say a prayer for safe travels, meaningful experiences, and the growing of faith for our ten youth and four chaperones attending the trip. Thank you for all the support leading up to this trip, whether it be through monetary donations, attendance at the spaghetti dinner, or kind words of encouragement. All are appreciated!

Save the date for our next Youth Group event on August 9 from 6:00–7:30 PM. More details will be forthcoming. Also, if you have not filled out the family survey regarding Youth Group for next school year, please take a moment and do so here:



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

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

Church Carnival

It was a hot and sunny day for the second annual Church Carnival at ECUMC last month. We were truly blessed with a beautiful day, delicious food, and fun and games hosted by our ministry teams. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to welcome our guests, run a booth, bake cakes, and prepare and serve carnival food. We raised \$350 for our Habitat for Humanity mission and look forward to the 3rd Annual Church Carnival next year.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS (cont...)

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

ISS

The first of two Intergenerational Sunday School services was held on Sunday, June 14, in Celebration Hall. The theme is, "Come, Follow Me", piggybacking on Pastor Matt's summer sermon series about the disciples entitled, "Baker's Dozen." The focus was on the disciple John and his ability to trust and obey, leaving his job as a fisherman and following Jesus to fish for people. Our mission project was a great success! We decorated and blessed fifteen 2x4s for a Habitat for Humanity home. Thank you to the Mission Team and to everyone for your efforts!



VBS – August 17–19, 9:00AM to NOON

Vacation Bible School is fast approaching! Discovery on Adventure Island VBS invites children to arise and shine because the light of God's love has come and is shining on them! At Discovery on Adventure Island VBS, children will explore ways God shines great light in the world and learn how they can also shine God's light by reflecting what they've learned. Through stories in the Old and New Testaments, this program will show students how connection with God brings the invitation to shine God's light in a world that needs it now more than ever.

Use the QR code below to check out our website, sign up your child or children to attend, or to volunteer.



MISSIONS

Contact: Mary Klein; MaryKlein1@gmail.com

The Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser was a Huge Success

ECUMC members and friends are extremely generous! The Mission team is very appreciative of the money raised during the April and May fundraiser for Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity. During that time, \$7,876.00 was raised – greatly surpassing our goal.

A check for \$10,000.00 is being sent to Milwaukee Habitat which includes the \$7,876.00 plus a current balance in the Habitat Fund, money from the ECUMC Permanent Endowment Fund, and designated money from the Mission budget. Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone!

Rooted & Rising Food Center Hygiene bags

On July 12, 2026 at the Intergenerational Service, church members will again assemble Hygiene bags for R&R Food Center. These bags contain items that all clients take when they visit the Food Center and they include the following items: a roll of toilet paper, one toothbrush, a bar of soap (any size), toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant. When you come to the service in July, everything that goes in the bag will be supplied.

Because these wonderful bags are needed all year, you can donate items any time. There are a couple of bins in Fellowship Hall. Keep this in mind when you are on vacation, or in a hotel – small soaps, shampoos, conditioners, etc. are perfect. Just bring them to church and the Mission team will take them to R&R.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS...

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, cookbooks 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 taken to R&R.

COMMUNITY BANQUET

ECUMC will be cooking for the Community Banquet at St. James church in Lisbon on July 9. We need some helping hands in the kitchen to cook (at 2:30) and to serve the meal at 5:15. No experience is needed and the volunteer service comes with a free meal. If you have a few hours to volunteer with friends, let Anne Weiland know (aweiland5@gmail.com or 262.424.8480.)

Music Ministries

Billf@ec-umc.com

A big thank-you to the musicians who have provided us with special music throughout the summer thus far. We have had an assortment of styles and voicings to keep the musical addition to the worship experience meaningful and of high quality.

July brings another opportunity for Summer choir on Sunday, July 26. 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! Chancel, Men's and Women's Choirs will begin on Thursday, September 3 with Women's Choir at 6:00 PM, Men's Choir at 6:30 PM and Chancel at 7:00 PM. Mark your calendar with those start dates. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sing Every Day,
Bill Follmann

"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!!

Stewardship Moment – The Gift of Connection and Community

Jason Mahnke, Director of Programming & Campaign
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

One of the challenges of faith is learning where to look for God. Many of us grew up hearing stories of burning bushes, parted seas, miraculous healings and dramatic conversions. We read about manna falling from heaven and prophets calling down fire. If that's our expectation, we may assume that God's presence always arrives with flashing lights and unmistakable signs.

But most of life isn't lead in the extraordinary. Most of life happens in ordinary moments.

It happens in the exhausted joy of holding a newborn child for the first time. It happens in the quiet conversation shared over coffee with a friend who asks how you're really doing. It happens when a neighbor shovels a driveway, a teacher stays late to help a struggling student, or someone sends a card simply because they sensed another person needed encouragement.

It happens when we sit on the porch at the end of the day and watch the sun sink below the horizon. It happens around dinner tables, hospital bedsides, baseball fields, church potlucks and family reunions. These moments may not seem miraculous, but perhaps they are holy, nonetheless.

The Book of Esther offers an intriguing reminder of this truth. It tells the story of a young Jewish woman who becomes queen and through courage and wisdom, helps save her people from destruction. Yet there is something unusual about Esther. God is never mentioned by name. Not once. No booming voice from heaven. No angelic messenger. No spectacular miracle.

Instead, God seems to work quietly through ordinary people making courageous choices at precisely the right moments. Through faithfulness. Through relationships. Through wisdom. Through risk.

Mordecai says to Esther, "Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

Perhaps that is how God often works. Not only in grand displays of power, but through everyday people who choose kindness over indifference, courage over fear, generosity over selfishness, hope over despair.

Maybe the invitation of faith is not simply to ask, "Where are the miracles?" but to train our eyes to notice God's fingerprints already present in our daily lives. This summer, slow down enough to pay attention. Watch the sunset. Celebrate milestones. Notice unexpected kindness. Give thanks for ordinary blessings.

You just might discover that God has been closer than you realized all along.



July 2026

Get rid of your junk catalogs. Over 100 million trees are cut down annually to produce junk mail. You get waste, clutter, and deforestation. Opt out of unwanted catalogs through [Catalog Choice](#), a free service from [the Story of Stuff.org](#).

Let your lawn grow taller. Traditionally manicured lawns do not allow enough water to sink into the ground during peak rainfall events. Instead, the rain washes over the surface, carrying pollutants with it. Taller grass has deeper roots, which absorb rainwater, replenish groundwater, and keep streams alive during drought times.

Get rid of concrete, brick, and tile where you can. Replace it with soil and plants or with chipped wood for a pathway. Temperatures will drop, rainwater will soak in, and pollinators will find a home.

Retreat to renew. With your family, friends, or church group spend a day or more at a United Methodist camp or retreat center. Immerse yourselves in God's creation and community. Hike, paddle, explore, volunteer, and decompress in these "sacred places apart." Check with your church office to find a camp nearby.

Improve access to nature. Research has found that two hours a week in nature significantly improves health and wellbeing. Lower income neighborhoods, however, have much less access to greenspace. Speak up and dig down to advocate for parks and plant more trees.

Don't mix hot and plastic. Heat causes plastic to release microplastics and harmful chemicals, which harm human health. Don't microwave food in plastic. Don't drink hot coffee or tea in "paper" cups that are lined with plastic. Don't feed your baby with a plastic baby bottle. Use shatterproof glass or ceramic instead.

Shop farmers markets. Your purchases support pasture-raised meats and eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables, organic and regenerative farming practices. Additionally, because the produce is from the local area, transport emissions and costs are cut.

Wash your car without wasting water. Use a bucket and rag; don't let a hose run. Or take the car to a car wash that recycles water.

Reduce food waste is a climate action that's accessible to us all. Choosing appropriate portions or planning for leftovers, monitoring and using what's in the fridge, and composting are each actions that reduce wasted food and therefore methane, which harms the planet.

Conserve water. Set up a rain barrel, plant tea bags with your flowers and veggies to hold moisture longer, use leftover pet water on the plants. Inside, fix leaks, add a low-flush toilet, install a fine-spray shower head, take shorter showers, run the dishwasher only when full. Presoak silverware and dishes in a container rather than rinsing with running water.

SAVE THE DATES:

ECUMC SUMMER BOOK CLUB:

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



August 17–19, 9:00 AM to NOON



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.

Register Here!

DRIVING FOR CHANGE
Rooted & Rising Golf Scramble

Monday, Sept. 14th, 2026
11:00 a.m. Tee Time
THE RIVER CLUB OF MEQUON

Break out the clubs and join us for a great day in support of the amazing work and mission of Rooted & Rising. Register your foursome (\$500) or individually (\$125) today!
Not a golfer but still want in on the fun? Join us for dinner and programming from 5:00-7:00 p.m. (\$40)

For any questions or sponsorship inquiries, contact info@rootedandrising.org or 414-344-1519

CHURCH OFFICE

262-251-3830 Church@ec-umc.com
Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 AM – 1 PM

JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 8:30am - Worship (S) 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Book Club (FH) 1pm - Himong Alliance (CH)	29	30	1 10:30am - Safety Team (FH) 6pm - Boy Scouts (111) 6:30pm - Trustees (CL)	2	3 Office Closed	4 Happy 25th Birthday
5 8:30am - Worship (S) 10am - Worship (CH)	6 5:45pm - Children's Min. (FH) 6:30pm - Youth Council (YR)	7 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - Boy Scouts (111)	8 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - Boy Scouts (111)	9 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	10 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	11
12 8:30am - Worship (S) 10am - ISS (Intergenerational) 6pm - Youth Group (YR)	13 10am - Staff Meeting (off-site) 5:30pm - Stewardship (CL) 6:30pm - Mission Team (FH) 7pm - Finance (CL)	14 Pathways Deadline by Noon 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - Boy Scouts (111)	15 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - Boy Scouts (111)	16 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	17 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	18
19 8:30am - Worship (S) 10am - Worship (CH)	20 10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	21 10:30am - Spiritual Guidance 6:30pm - SPRC (CL)	22 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - Boy Scouts (111)	23 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	24 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	25 Youth Mission Trip
26 Youth Mission Trip 8:30am - Worship (S) 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Book Club (FH)	27 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 6:30pm - Green Team (CL)	28 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - Boy Scouts (111)	29 10am - Bible Study (FH) 6pm - Boy Scouts (111)	30 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	31 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	1