



PATHWAYS

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church



FEBRUARY 2025

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter

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

PRAYERS FROM THE HEART

Contact: Liz Cannon; LizC@ec-umc.com/262-370-7512

The Children's Ministry team invites you pray for the children and youth of ECUMC during the month of February. We will pair you with a child or youth to pray for and send postcards/cards to once a week during the month.



This is a special way to forge relationships across generations in the church, ensuring that we are all in community and ministry together.

Let's share the love of our

Lord with some of his youngest disciples through words and actions!

Liz will be available on Sunday, 2/2 to give you the contact information; contact her if you won't be worshipping in the building on that day.

FEBRUARY MISSIONS "EGG DRIVE"

Eggs-tra Help Needed:

The Food Center at Rooted and Rising rarely has eggs available for their clients. So our Missions Team decided to help. Since October, we've delivered about 75 dozen eggs each month, but we could use more. Between 240 and 300 families come to the Center for food each month.



Especially in light of the current high cost of this mealtime staple, there's a real need to expand our "Egg Ministry." We're designating February as "Egg Ministry Month."

Make a monetary donation to purchase eggs in bulk:

- There will be collection boxes in the hallways for your cash or check (write "Egg Ministry" in the memo.)

- Use the ECUMC online portal to donate online through the Rooted & Rising button - all February R&R donations will go to this ministry.
- Please donate your **empty** 12-count egg cartons. We can use them to package the eggs we buy in bulk from Costco.



SOUPER SUNDAY

Contact Richard.Kohlmann71@yahoo.com

Join the Kitchen Klub on Sunday, February 9 from 11:00 AM till 12:30 PM for our annual Souper Sunday fundraiser.

You'll have the choice of a dozen soups, submarine sandwiches, and cookies. Your freewill donation will not only subsidize the cost of the meal but also provide funds to Rooted & Rising toward the purchase of a much-needed freezer for their food center (\$7000+).

We'll also be collecting cans of soup to donate to the R&R food center.

If you're interested in contributing a few gallons of your special recipe soup, please contact Rick Kohlmann. Your soup may be voted "best in show!"



In this issue...

p. 2 Pastor's Letter

p. 3 Youth Ministries, Stewardship Message

p. 4 Children's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Community Banquet

p. 5 Coming this Lent

p. 6 February Calendar

Was the Marmota Monax on the Ark?

Be honest, did this article's title make you wonder what in the world a Marmota Monax is? Marmota means rodent, and Monax means digger. So, Marmota Monax means a rodent that digs or better yet a digging rodent. It is the official classification for a groundhog. I have not once seen a groundhog depicted in a Noah's Ark work of art, have you? What was there to dig on the Ark?

I have a question, when did we start looking to a digging rodent for weather prognostication? As with most celebrations, we can see an evolution of ancient ceremonies making their way into modern times. Here is what I found regarding the annual Punxsutawney gathering on February 2nd:

"The best-known Groundhog Day ceremony occurs each year in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. This annual festival traces its origin to 1887, when members of the local Elks Lodge first went to nearby Gobbler's Knob to consult a groundhog about the weather. The observance developed into an annual tongue-in-cheek ceremony at which the groundhog, given the name "Punxsutawney Phil" communicates his prediction to the "Inner Circle," a group of men wearing formal suits and top hats. (Library of Congress Blog)



Romans 8:25 reads, **"But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."** Groundhog Day can symbolize our ability to trust and wait patiently for what is to come. For those of us in Wisconsin, we must wait through the bitter cold and darkness of winter before we can once again see green grass, flowers and warmth.

In the big picture of life and faith, whether the rodent sees its shadows and declares six more weeks of winter, or it is cloudy, and the digger declares an early spring we know that winter eventually gives way to spring, and new life bursts forth. This truth is reflected in our spiritual lives as well.

Sometimes we experience seasons that feel cold and dark, where hope seems distant. Other times, we feel the warmth and light of God's presence in abundance. But no matter the season, we are never without hope because God is faithful through it all.

Whether you are in a time of waiting, seeking direction, or celebrating God's blessings, remember that God is with you in every step and season. Let Groundhog Day remind us that no matter what lies ahead, God's love and promises are unchanging.

Here is some food for thought:

- ⇒ If you could predict the arrival of a new season in your life, what season would you hope for right now?
- ⇒ In what ways can we trust God during "winter seasons" of life when things feel dark or uncertain?
- ⇒ How does your faith help you focus on the promise of spring (hope and renewal) rather than the shadow of winter (fear or doubt)?
- ⇒ What spiritual "spring" are you hoping for in your life or the life of the church this year?

Blessings, Pastor Matt

CHURCH OFFICE

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

YOUTH MINISTRIES

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

Big Thank-you to the chaperones, Frank Vetrovec, Patty Buchholz, and Pastor Matt Hadley and the students who participated in the **Winter Retreat** in January. Our church sent 12 youth and four chaperones on a weekend trip to Camp Lake Lucerne where we worshiped together with music lead by our very own 4:12 Singers, enjoyed the great outdoors, and had fun with games, cookie decorating and crafts.



Coming up on January 31 will be a **game / trivia night** with fabulous prizes to be won playing Bingo and other games. We will also have a devotion time as well as a baked potato bar. This is a great event to invite a friend to come as well! Please let me know if you are able to attend so I have the correct amount of supplies and food.

The **Confirmation Retreat** is scheduled for Friday, 2/28 - Saturday, 3/1 at Camp Lake Lucerne (overnight event). Please use the registration link to sign up for this retreat. It is a 10 point confirmation event and will go into detail about the Methodist church, its beginnings, structure, and future.

<https://wiumcamps.campbrainregistration.com/>

The **4:12 Singers** are finalizing a date to sing again for worship. It will be announced soon. We will continue to rehearse on Wednesday's at 6 PM in the music room.

March 7-8 are the dates planned for our **Annual Lock-in**. We will have a bunch of fun scheduled Friday night starting at 6:30 PM and will go into Saturday morning 8 AM – look for activities such as indoor 9-square, games, devotional time, movies, homemade pizza, and pancakes / sausage in morning!



We are looking to head to Madison in April to visit the **campus ministries** there and we schedule time with the trustees to assist with the annual **ECUMC clean-up morning**.

Also coming up in May will be an evening of **outdoor field games and grilling** happening.

We continue to announce these events in the weekly e-news, via e-mail from Bill, or in Community News in the bulletin and in upcoming Pathways articles. If there is another means of communication you would like, please contact Bill Follmann, Youth Director at BillF@ec-emc.com or Bill's cell 414-881-3023.

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Contact: Gary Wilkes; GEWilkes@outlook.com

Valentine's Day is just around the corner – a time to celebrate love. We often think of lines like, "How do I love thee, let me count the ways," or picture roses, cupids and hearts filling the store shelves.

But amidst the romance have we lost sight of love's deeper meaning?

Romantic love is everywhere, yet even that is often reduced to fleeting infatuation.

Many have forgotten the love that Jesus calls us to live out:

"Love your enemies" (Luke 6:27), "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39), and "The one who loves another has fulfilled the law" (Romans 13:8).

This love isn't about warm, fuzzy feelings. Christian love is about action. It's choosing to act kindly, even when our feelings fall short.

When someone cuts us off in traffic, we can respond with patience rather than anger.

When dealing with a difficult coworker, we can show genuine interest in their life rather than just tolerating their presence.

Often loving actions lead to loving feelings, not the other way around. Romantic love, for instance, grows deeper through small gestures like holding hands. Similarly, in other relationships, choosing to act with love can foster understanding and compassion over time.

This Valentine's Day, cherish romantic love but also take every opportunity to practice Christian love – through your actions toward neighbors, enemies and everyone you encounter.

It's in these moments that we reflect God's greatest commandment: "Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14).

(by Rev. Jason Mahnke, WI United Methodist Foundation)



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Contact: Liz Cannon; LizC@ec-umc.com/262-370-7512

What are we grateful for?

At the end of November 2024, we had the chance to share what we are thankful for.

Many folks anonymously filled out notes and posted them on the "Turkey" bulletin board located beside the AV/Tech Room.

Whether or not you filled out a heart shaped note, wouldn't you like to hear what everyone said?



Here's a list of the results:

- Almost 36% of the respondents listed FAMILY
- 9% of folks said FOOD, WATER, & SHELTER
- 9% were thankful for their FRIENDS
- 7% were grateful for the STAFF
- 6% mentioned JESUS & GOD
- 6% of people were grateful for their HEALTH
- 6% listed SPORTS, VIDEO GAMES, and TV

The other 21% or so shared gratitude for the Rooted & Rising Team, ECUMC's music groups, church family, fellowship, and the ability to worship freely. Additionally, the Tech Team, holidays, spouses, and the Youth Room with the "big pillow" were noted.

What a wonderful thing to share our gratitude! Here's hoping we can be mindful of our gifts and thankful for them throughout 2025!

Sunday School Recap

Advent flew by and Lent is fast approaching. The children have asked lots of pertinent questions in Sunday School.



- What color was Moses' skin?
- Why is the JOY Advent candle pink?
- Why in our Bible stories do we go from Jesus' birth to him being an adolescent?

All great questions which go beyond the curriculum. What are the answers? Here's what Google said:

- The Bible doesn't describe Moses' skin color; interpretations of his skin color vary depending on the source.
- The pink candle represents the joy of anticipation for Christmas and the joy felt at the birth of Jesus. (It was **not** because Mary wanted a girl-Pastor Matt, the children are listening!)
- The Bible stories primarily focus on Jesus' birth

and then jump to his age 12 including only a few key events from his childhood, particularly the presentation at the Temple at age 12, and focusing more on his adult ministry and teachings, and leaving the intervening years largely undocumented; this is likely due to the authors' intention to highlight Jesus' mission and significance as an adult rather than detailing his childhood day-to-day life.

Every Sunday with the children of ECUMC is an adventure and an opportunity to look at the world from children's perspectives. They are bright and inquisitive, as well as sweet and endearing.

Join in the fun and volunteer to teach!

The Art Room

Special thanks go out to Stacy and Todd Velie, as well as their lovely children Anaka, Noah, and Liam, for getting the ball rolling cleaning and reorganizing the Art Room.

Thank you to Angie Schneider, Paul and Tricia Gequillana, and Gary Morgan for continuing the process and eradicating a big mess and potential health hazards.

My heart is filled with gratitude for all of your time and effort making this happen!

Please contact Liz Cannon with questions or to volunteer. You are needed!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Women's Book Brunch is postponed until Saturday, March 8, to avoid a conflict with our ECUMC Community Breakfast on 2/22. Stay tuned and keep reading The Measure, by Nikki Erlick.

COMMUNITY BANQUET VOLUNTEERS

ECUMC is scheduled to provide desserts and help set-up for the Community Banquet on Thursday, February 13.

Help with baking is very much appreciated. Desserts should be delivered to St. James by 4:30 PM on that day.



The Community Banquet is a free meal program hosted at St. James Church, W220 N6588 Town Line Rd. Area churches take turns with the various hosting responsibilities.

Please let Karen Gravenkamp know (JGravenkamp@att.net) if you are willing to provide some desserts.

LENT 2025

40 Days from Ash Wednesday to Easter

By the end of this month, we will be winding down a nice long Epiphany season and ready to start our Lenten journey. Ash Wednesday is March 5 and Easter is April 20.

We at Emmanuel want to offer ways for our church family to prepare our hearts for the death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Take advantage of these opportunities during this holy season.



Ash Wednesday, March 5

We will begin with a communal meal at 6 PM prior to our 7 PM Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary. This service will include both the imposition of ash and Holy Communion.

Drive through imposition of ash will be offered under our carport from 5:00-6:00 PM that evening.

Sunday Worship: "Famous Last Words"

Seven "words" are recorded in the Gospels, sentences which Jesus spoke as he was dying on the cross. What do these final words say about Jesus? What is their message for us?



Other Wednesdays during Lent

On Wednesday nights throughout Lent, we will gather in Celebration Hall for a shared meal at 6 PM and a study with Pastor Matt at 6:30 PM. In conjunction with the Sunday sermons, we'll go a little deeper into Jesus' final words from the cross. All are welcome.

Give Us This Day... A Lenten Food Drive

In observance of Lent, many people choose to "give up" something they enjoy as they enter a period of reflection. The Green Team invites us to "give out" instead.

You or your family will have opportunity to take a recyclable shopping bag and put something into it each week between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday.



Each of the six weeks will have a different suggested donation theme (hygiene items, snacks, soups, cleaning products, etc.)

More details will follow, but plan to pick up your bag and instructions on Sunday, 3/2, or on Ash Wednesday, 3/5.

Traditionally, food pantries do not receive many donations during the winter/spring months, so our efforts to restock the shelves at Rooted & Rising will be much appreciated.

Lenten Study: *The Message of Jesus - Words That Changed the World*

More than 3 billion people claim to follow Jesus, but how many actually know what he taught? In fact, much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said.

In this study, Adam Hamilton explores the most important themes in Jesus' teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. From Jesus' initial "sermon" to the commissions he gave after his resurrection, Jesus' message is not only life-changing, but world-changing.

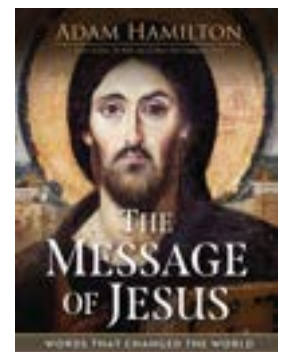
The Kingdom of God has Come Near
Jesus Spoke to Them in Parables
Final Words

The World's Most Important Sermon
Who Do YOU Say that I Am?
The Resurrection and the Life

Choose the morning or afternoon session on Thursdays, whichever is more convenient: 9-10 AM or 5-6 PM, both in Fellowship Hall.

We'll meet on March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3, 10.

Study books are available in the church office for the discounted price of \$5.



February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 8:45am - Adult Study (CL) 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Confirmation Class 11am - Fear of Other (FH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	27 10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	28 6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)	29 10am - Bible Study (FH) 5:30pm - Youth Singers (MR) 7pm - Women's Study (FH)	30 6pm - Women's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	31 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z) 5:30pm - All Church Bingo	1 1pm - Rental (CH)
2 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Adult Study (FH) 11am - Confirmation Class 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	3 9:30am - Sew and Sews (112) 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 6:30pm - All Ministry Term	4 5:45pm - Children's Ministry	5 10am - Bible Study (FH) 5:30pm - Youth Singers (MR) 6:30pm - Trustees (CL) 7pm - Women's Study (FH)	6 6pm - Men's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Women's Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	7 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	8
9 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Confirmation Class 11am - Souper Sunday (CH) 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	10 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 5:30pm - Stewardship (CL) 7pm - Finance (CL)	11 10am - Bible Study (FH) 5:30pm - Youth Singers (MR) 7pm - Women's Study (FH)	12 10am - Bible Study (FH) 5:30pm - Youth Singers (MR) 7pm - Women's Study (FH)	13 6pm - Women's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	14 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	15 Pathways Deadline by Noon 8am - Club Scout Banquet 9am - Craft Morning (FH)
16 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Adult Study (FH) 11am - Confirmation Class 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	17 10am - Staff Meeting (FH) 7pm - Church Council (CL)	18 9:30am - Community Care 11:30am - YAHAS (CH) 6:30pm - SPRC (CL)	19 10am - Bible Study (FH) 5:30pm - Youth Singers (MR) 7pm - Women's Study (FH)	20 6pm - Men's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Women's Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	21 Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z) 1pm - Books Between Bites 7pm - Game Night (FH)	22 8am - Community Breakfast
23 8:30am - Worship (S) 8:30am - Sunday School (V) 10am - Worship (CH) 11am - Adult Study (FH) 11am - Confirmation Class 1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)	24 10am - Staff Meeting (FH)	25	26 10am - Bible Study (FH) 5:30pm - Youth Singers (MR) 7pm - Women's Study (FH)	27 6pm - Women's Choir (MR) 6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR) 7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)	28 Camp Lake Lecerne Retreat Office Closed 10am - Bible Study (Z)	1