



PATHWAYS

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church



APRIL 2025

Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter

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

LENT 2025

Lenten Food Drive: Bring your donations on Palm Sunday, 4/13

Wednesday evenings through April 9

6 PM Lenten Dinner of Soup and Bread (CH)

6:30 PM Pastor Matt's study *The Last Words of Christ*

The Message of Jesus: Thursdays through 4/10 @ 10 AM & 5 PM (FH)

Sunday Worship: *Last Words of Christ* @ 8:30 AM (S) & 10:00 AM (CH)

Maundy Thursday, 4/17: 7 PM Worship with Communion (S)

Good Friday, 4/18: 7 PM Worship (S)



EASTER WORSHIP, 4/20: 8:30 AM (S) & 10:00 AM (S)



EASTER FLOWERS

April 6 is the last Sunday to order Easter flowers. Order forms are in the bulletin or the church office.

The flowers can be picked up after the last Easter service or the week after Easter.



THE EARTH WEEK CHALLENGE

April 22 is Earth Day when we remember the importance of the earth for all forms of life. This year the Green Team would like to challenge our church's members and friends during Earth Week to take one new step of their choosing to care for this earth which God had given us. We will provide you with some ideas of steps you could take and then ask you to decide on a step you will take for a few weeks or, we hope, permanently.

If we each continue to take new steps to protect the earth, we can reduce some of the negative consequences of climate change happening around us, like more droughts, record high temperatures, and more frequent severe storms. Let's all do our part to care for God's creation for our benefit and



for our descendants. Watch for possible steps you can take during Earth Week.

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Many of you have been participating in our Lenten Food Drive, which ends on Palm Sunday, 4/13.

It's not too late to join the effort!

Use one of our Emmanuel Community reusable shopping bags to gather food, unload your donations onto a table, and then continue to help God's creation by using these bags in the future rather than throw-away bags.

The Green Team is grateful for your efforts and thanks the ECUMC Foundation for providing funding for the reusable shopping bags.



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A WORD FROM PASTOR MATT

Pastor Matt Hadley; MattH@ec-umc.com

Dear Emmanuel Family,

As I sit at my desk in the office to write this article, I am looking out my window at the remnant of snow that fell only days after it was 70 degrees outside. Welcome to springtime in Wisconsin! I love the season of spring as the beauty of God's creation, which has been dormant for months, suddenly give way to new life. Out of the cold and dark bursts light and life.



Easter morning breaks forth with the triumphant news: "He is risen!" After walking through the darkness of Holy Week, we arrive at the empty tomb to find that death does not have the final word—Christ has overcome! Easter is the foundation of our faith, the ultimate sign of God's power and love, and the promise that we, too, are made new in Him.

What a beautiful gift, then, that the week after Easter, we will gather to celebrate the Confirmation of this year's class. Just as the first disciples encountered the risen Christ and stepped forward in faith, these young people will stand before us to affirm their commitment to follow Jesus. They have studied, prayed, and wrestled with big questions. Now, they take the next step in their journey, claiming their faith as their own.

Easter is not just a day; it is the beginning of a new way of living. And in the same way, Confirmation is not the end of faith formation but a launching point into a lifelong walk with Christ. As a church, we surround these young disciples with our prayers, encouragement, and support, reminding them that they never walk alone.

I invite you to join us for these two powerful Sundays—first, to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and then to witness the renewing work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of our Confirmands. May this season fill us all with the hope, joy, and commitment to keep growing in faith.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Matt



CONFIRMATION NEWS

There are only a few meetings left for the year.

Here is the rest of the confirmation schedule:

Sunday April 6: Ministry Teams meet with confirmation class

Saturday, April 12, 9 AM - 12 PM: Mandatory Faith Statement Workshop and Confirmation Service orientation. Pastor Matt and Bill will guide the students and provide helpful tools as they write their faith statements for Confirmation Sunday. We will also walk through the service so the students are comfortable with what will happen on Confirmation Sunday.

Sunday, April 13: No confirmation since we just met on Saturday, 4/12

Sunday, April 20: No Confirmation (Easter Sunday)

Monday, April 21: Faith Statements due to Bill via e-mail @ Billf@ec-umc.com

MENOMONEE AVENUE ROAD CLOSURE

COMING SOON, per the Village of Menomonee Falls
From late March until mid-November 2025:
Menomonee Avenue will be ONE-WAY only
westbound (travel allowed from Appleton Ave. to
Town Hall Rd.)

To come to church from the west:

- One alternative is to take Ann Ave., paralleling Menomonee Ave. one block north, to Theodore St. which crosses directly into the church driveway. Pick up Ann Ave. from Town Hall Rd. (with a left jog on Sunset Ridge) or from Shady Lane.
- The Village's official detour is Main St. to Appleton Ave.

To leave church and travel east:

- Go across Menomonee Ave. onto Theodore St. which dead ends onto Jacobson Dr. A right turn on Jacobson will take you to Appleton Ave.

Menomonee Falls Road Construction

Late March 2025 to Mid-November 2025



CHURCH OFFICE

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

WOMEN'S MINISTRY "SPA EVENT"

The Women's Ministry Team is hosting a
"Pampering for a Purpose: a Spa Event" at ECUMC
on Saturday, April 5, from 9:30-11:30 AM.

If you can't make the event but would like to
support "period poverty," write a check to ECUMC
with "Women's Ministry" in the
memo.

Donations will be divided
between *Days for Girls*



(www.daysforgirls.org) to support international
menstrual education and supplies and Rooted &
Rising which distributes feminine products to the
girls and women they serve.

Forgot to RSVP? Email Karen Norz to see if there's
still room for you: knorz@wi.rr.com

ECUMC SAFETY TEAM

There's a new team in town. (Really just at
Emmanuel.) We are calling ourselves the Safety
Team. Members include our Head of Trustees, Gary
Morgan, Norine Janzen, Barb O'Connell, and Liz
Cannon.

Our goal is to keep our
building and its occupants
prepared for emergencies
large and small and safe from
harm.



The first action we have taken is to post emergency
routes in every room. Please note that near each
door there are instructions indicating what exit
route to take if there is a fire or where to take
shelter if there is a tornado.

We have also updated our First Aid kits and placed
them throughout the building. There are also three
medical response kits located in the Narthex,
outside of Celebration Hall, and in the Kitchen. (The
medical response kits have more extensive
resources.)

We have a plan in place to periodically monitor our
AED machine and equipment, First Aid kits, and
medical response kits to maintain their efficacy at all
times.

If you use any of these resources,
there are Incident Reports that should
be completed and turned into the
Church Office. It is important that we
document any incidents as well as
maintain our supplies.



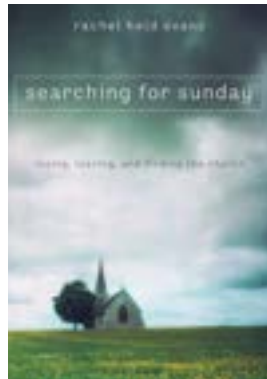
SEARCHING FOR SUNDAY STUDY

Contact: Karen Norz; knorz@wi.rr.com

Join Women's Ministry on Wednesday nights, April 23 – May 28 for a 6-week study of *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans.

Like many of her millennial peers, Rachel Held Evans didn't want to go to church anymore. The hypocrisy, the politics, the huge budgets, the scandals - church culture seemed far removed from Jesus. Yet, despite her cynicism, something kept drawing her back to Church. She set out on a journey to understand Church and to find her place in it.

The book can be found at Amazon or other book retailers. Sign up on the board across from the church office or through the online link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A8AE23A4FC1-55819785-searching>



A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE: Give Willingly

Contact: Gary Wilkes; GEWilkes@outlook.com

"Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." -Matthew 22:21

Tax season is upon us. The average tax refund in the U.S. is \$4,264.

How will we spend our tax refunds? Some taxpayers do not receive a refund. But of those who do, how do they spend it?

The most popular answers are: 1) Pay off debt; 2) Have fun – do or buy something special; and 3) Save it.

On most lists of ideas the thought of giving it away to a favorite charity is either last on the list or never makes the list.

If we're going to "give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God," what are we called to give away?

As people of faith, we may wish to consider giving a tithe (10%) or some portion of our tax return to the church to say thank you to God for the jobs we have and the earnings we receive.

Consider tithing. If the average refund is \$4,264 and 20 people tithe at \$426 each, the total giving to our church would increase by \$8,520. That would pay for



a big part of the church heating bill for the winter or do something new and creative for Vacation Bible School or buy a new freezer and a whole lot of eggstra for the Rooted & Rising mission.

What is God calling you to give?

(adapted from Rev. Mahnke, WI United Methodist Foundation)

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead was not meant to be proved but experienced. As a matter of fact, it cannot be proved, as no one of us was there. We have to take the word of others who were. Those early witnesses were passionate about their testimonies. Many were martyred in defense of their convictions.

The most convincing evidence of the Resurrection of Christ is the transformation of the people who know Jesus and believe in Him.

I remember what my life was like before I met the living Christ and I know what my life is now, as I share it with Him. I would not stand here and tell you I am always the man I should be.

But thanks to the living Christ, I am not the man I used to be either.

The risen Jesus Christ has made all the difference!
UMC Pastor Rick Calhoun

YOUTH EVENTS

Thank-you to those who

participated in making items including baking banana bread for the Children's Market Place.

It was a great success!!

Other Youth News

- We will go to Madison on Saturday, April 5, to visit the campus ministries there. Look for a separate email coming to parents with more info.
- We will schedule time with the Trustees to assist with the annual Emmanuel clean-up morning.
- Also coming up in May will be an evening of field games outside and some grilling.

We continue to announce these events in the weekly e-news, via e-mail from Bill, in the weekly opportunities in the bulletin, and in upcoming *Pathways* articles. If there is another communication method you'd like, contact Bill Follmann, Youth Director at BillF@ec-emc.com or 414-881-3023.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

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

Club 4/5

After hibernating in January, Club 4/5 has been busy!

February seems so long ago, but at the end of the month the children went ice skating at the Petit National Ice Center.

They also sent greeting cards out to 18 of ECUMC's Community Care members. Thank you to the Germana Family for organizing the get-together!

The Schlotthauer Family hosted the March event at Menomonee Park. Children and parents hiked the trails and picked up trash along the way.

What a wonderful way to commune with nature and actively engage in stewardship of our community!

Children's Choir

The Children's Choir sang on March 2 in both the Sanctuary and Celebration Hall. For the early service they donned their robes and looked adorable!

Thank you to our Children's Choir Director, Laura Hohl, for her commitment to making them shine!

(Don't worry if you missed them; they will be singing again on Easter Sunday and Mother's Day.)



Children's Marketplace

The Children's Marketplace was a great success on March 16 raising \$754 toward our mission. There were over 30 items to choose from made by more than 2 dozen children.

Once all of the supplies are purchased, the children and youth will assemble "Birthday Bags" for our friends at the Falls Area Food Pantry.

Because of your generosity, we will be able to meet or exceed our goal of putting together 50 bags that will make birthdays a little brighter for our neighbors.

Thank you to everyone that participated, volunteered their time, and those that purchased our wares!

Easter Egg Hunt

The Children's Ministry Team is having an Egg Hunt at ECUMC on Easter Saturday, April 20, at 10 AM. The plan is to play some games, hunt for eggs, and have a little fellowship time. The Kitchen Klub will be serving a light snack afterwards.

Please sign up using the QR Code. Come with a spring in your step and your Easter basket!



Sunday School

In Sunday School, our elementary students started the Celebrate Wonder Spring Curriculum at the end of March. Our Faith Word for April is "Remember." Lent is a time to remember the lessons of Jesus and the sacrifices He made for us. We hope to do just that, learning about the days that led up to the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Youth are also engaged in a special Lenten study from the SpiceRack curriculum.

Thank you to all of the Sunday School teachers who support our children!

Coming this Summer

ECUMC's Church Carnival, Intergenerational Sunday School, and VBS!



April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>8:30am - Worship (S)</p> <p>8:30am - Sunday School (V)</p> <p>8:45am - Adult Study (CL)</p> <p>10am - Worship (CH)</p> <p>1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</p>	<p>10am - Staff Meeting (FH)</p>	<p>5:45pm - Children's Ministry</p> <p>6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)</p>	<p>10am - Bible Study (FH)</p> <p>6pm - 4:12 Singers (MR)</p> <p>6pm - Soup & Study (CH)</p> <p>6:30pm - Trustees (CL)</p>	<p>10am - Lenten Study (FH)</p> <p>4pm - Scout Troop 107 (CH)</p> <p>5pm - Lenten Study (FH)</p> <p>6pm - Men's Choir (MR)</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Choir</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>10am - Bible Study (Z)</p> <p>3pm - Women Ministry Setup</p>	<p>8am - Spa Day (FH, CCR, 102, 10am - HS to Madison)</p>
<p>8:30am - Worship (S)</p> <p>8:30am - Sunday School (V)</p> <p>8:45am - Adult Study (CL)</p> <p>10am - Worship (CH)</p> <p>11am - Confirmation Class</p> <p>1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</p>	<p>9:30am - Sew and Sews (112)</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting (FH)</p> <p>6:30pm - Green Team (CL)</p> <p>6:30pm - Mission Team (FH)</p>	<p>11:45am - & 5:00 p.m. Food</p> <p>6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)</p>	<p>10am - Bible Study (FH)</p> <p>6pm - 4:12 Singers (MR)</p> <p>6pm - Soup & Study (CH)</p>	<p>10am - Lenten Study (FH)</p> <p>11:45am - & 5pm Food</p> <p>5pm - Lenten Study (FH)</p> <p>6pm - Women's Choir (MR)</p> <p>6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR)</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>10am - Bible Study (Z)</p>	<p>9am - Confirmation</p> <p>12pm - WFBUMC (FH)</p>
<p>8:30am - Worship (S)</p> <p>8:30am - Sunday School (V)</p> <p>8:45am - Adult Study (CL)</p> <p>10am - Worship (CH)</p> <p>1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</p>	<p>10am - Staff Meeting (FH)</p> <p>5:30pm - Stewardship (CL)</p> <p>7pm - Finance (CL)</p>	<p>Pathways Deadline by Noon</p> <p>9:30am - Comm Care (FH)</p> <p>11:30am - YAHAS (CH)</p> <p>6:30pm - SPRC (CL)</p> <p>6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)</p>	<p>10am - Bible Study (FH)</p> <p>6pm - 4:12 Singers (MR)</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday</p> <p>7pm - Worship (S)</p> <p>8pm - Chancel Choir (MR)</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>10am - Bible Study (Z)</p> <p>7pm - Worship (S)</p>	<p>9am - Craft Morning (FH)</p> <p>9am - Rehearsal (S)</p> <p>10am - Easter Egg Hunt</p>
<p>Easter Sunday</p> <p>8:30am - Worship (S)</p> <p>8:45am - Adult Study (CL)</p> <p>10am - Worship (CH)</p> <p>1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</p>	<p>10am - Staff Meeting (FH)</p>	<p>6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)</p>	<p>10am - Bible Study (FH)</p> <p>6pm - 4:12 Singers (MR)</p> <p>7pm - Women's Study (FH)</p>	<p>6pm - Women's Choir (MR)</p> <p>6:30pm - Men's Choir (MR)</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>10am - Bible Study (Z)</p>	<p>8am - Comm Breakfast (CH)</p>
<p>8:30am - Worship (S)</p> <p>8:30am - Sunday School (V)</p> <p>8:45am - Adult Study (CL)</p> <p>10am - Worship (CH)</p> <p>1pm - Hmong Alliance (CH)</p>	<p>10am - Staff Meeting (FH)</p>	<p>6:30pm - Spirit Ringers (MR)</p>	<p>10am - Bible Study (FH)</p> <p>6pm - 4:12 Singers (MR)</p> <p>6pm - Troop 67 Council (CH)</p> <p>7pm - Women's Study (FH)</p>	<p>6pm - Men's Choir (MR)</p> <p>6:30pm - Women's Choir</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir (MR)</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>10am - Bible Study (Z)</p>	