



EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE WELCOME! WE WORSHIP! WE WITNESS!

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

“Why does your teacher that he eats with tax collectors and sinner?” Matthew 9:11

We are almost halfway through our Lenten worship series, *Meeting Jesus at the Table*. Already we have heard so much about the abundant grace Jesus has for us and calls us to share. In the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus provided more than enough in the breaking of the bread. But he called the people to sit in small groups, to see the face of God in one another as they passed the bread in circles.

The message of meeting Jesus and one another continues through the series. As we are called to meet Jesus, he invites us to meet our neighbor. Those who

we might expect to face, and those who we may not be prepared for. At the end of February we heard the call of Matthew the tax collector. That story did not just feature Matthew leaving his tax booth behind to follow Jesus; it gives us a dinner party. It was not a “planned” dinner party like the ones we have hosted or attended. Upon calling Matthew to follow him, Jesus basically invited himself over! “And while I’m coming, Matthew, invite some of your tax collector friends. All of those are on the fringe of society and don’t have a place. They will have a place around the table with us tonight.”

“Why does your teacher that he eats with tax collectors and sinner?” The answer Jesus gives is to offer a place around the table to those who don’t have one.

This is an important part of what it means to “Meet Jesus at the Table.”

I appreciate the author Cynthia Foy the author of *Meeting at the Table* Bible Study as she writes: “Hospitality transforms us all.”

Indeed we are transformed by the hospitality God offers us in Christ, and we continue to be transformed when we offer hospitality in Christ’s likeness.

Blessings,

Pastor Ben



OUR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship

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EASTER IS MARCH 31ST

Easter Sunday is March 31st! Our celebration of the Risen Christ will begin with a SonRise service at 7:00 a.m. led by the Youth Group. A pancake breakfast will be served immediately

following the SonRise service.

We will not have our regular education/Sunday School hour on Easter Sunday. During this time prior to the 10:00am wor-

ship service, games will be offered in the Fire-side Room. We received a wonderful response from the community last year, so the Youth will be offering more eggs at our Egg Hunt.

Games and the Egg Hunt will begin at 8:45

Please invite your friends and families to join us for a morning of fun and Easter worship at Emmanuel!

HOLY WEEK AT EMMANUEL

Emmanuel and St. James will offer worship services together for Holy Week and Easter. We will also participate in an Ecumenical Good Friday Service with neighboring churches.

Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 24th
10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday
(at St. James UMC)
Thursday, March 28th
7 p.m.

Ecumenical Good Friday
Friday, March 28th
Noon
Zion Lutheran Church
912 N Oneida Street

Emmanuel/St. James
Good Friday
Online

Easter SonRise Worship
Sunday, March 31st
7:00 a.m.
Pancake breakfast following
SonRise Service.
(Approximately 8:00)

Games & Egg Hunt 8:45

Easter Worship
With Communion
10 a.m.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS

Our next Election Bake Sale for Senegal is April 2nd . We need lots of goodies to have for sale, especially as our church was not a polling place in February.

Social Action Day is April 13th from 9 a.m. –Noon. This will be a virtual event. Please see Hazel Christo-

pher for registration forms. Judge Everett Mitchell and Peggy West-Schroder will be the presenters.

Our district retreat is April 27th at Peace United Methodist Church in Kaukauna. Pastor Jim Droste is the presenter, using Psalm 104—

”Praise the Lord, O my Soul.” as his theme. Deadline for registration is April 13th . Please contact Hazel for the registration forms. The offering at our district event will go towards the Loaves and Fishes Pantry.



VIRTUAL SOCIAL ACTION DAY IS APRIL 13TH

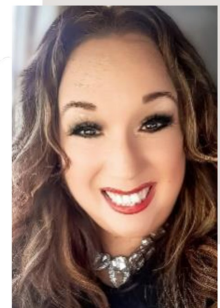
The United Women of Faith are excited to present two outstanding speakers for this year’s Virtual Social Action Day on April 13th. Honorable/ Reverend Everett Mitchell - Dane Co Circuit Court Judge and Senior Pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church and Peggy West-Schroder will be welcomed for this year’s theme: “Ending Mass Incarceration and Improving Treatment of Incarceration Impacted Women.”

Registration Opens March 1st. Please register by April 9, 2024

Questions? Contact Kathy Hartke at kdhartke@gmail.com

Hazel Christopher will also help answer questions and get people from Emmanuel registered for Social Action Day

Social Action Day



GUEST SPEAKERS

Honorable/Reverend Everett Mitchell & Peggy West-Schroder



STEWARDSHIP MOMENT FROM WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

“There Never Seems to Be Enough”

March 2024

Sometimes it flies, sometimes it crawls, but it always passes inexorably. We mark it, save it, waste it, bide it, race against it. We measure it incessantly with a passion for precision that borders on the obsessive. We are obsessed with it; we never seem to have enough of it; and yet scientists don't even know how to explain it. What is it? The answer is time.

We never seem to have enough time. A group of experts once got together to figure out how much time we should need to get everything done in one day. These experts got together and noted how much time was needed for exercise, hygiene, work, commuting, household chores, eating, entertainment, spiritual development, sleep, and family time. When these figures were all added together, the experts said that a human being needs 42 hours a day. That's not very encouraging.

Of course, those are the things we're supposed to be doing every day according to experts. In truth, we add to that list as well. Consider that every day in the United States:

- 74,000 of us move to a different home and 22,465 move to another state.
- 36 businesses go bankrupt while 13,700 new ones start up.
- Americans purchase 38,082 new automobiles and trucks and smash 16,438.
- 2,266 couples get divorced while 6,578 get married.
- Dogs bite 12,329 people including 15 mail carriers.
- We eat 75 acres of pizza, 53 million hotdogs, 167 million eggs, 3 million gallons of ice cream, and 3,000 tons of candy.

The Psalmist tells us that “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.” In other words, every moment of every second, and every second of every minute, and every minute of every hour, and every hour of every day is literally a gift from God. Unfortunately, in all of the hustle and bustle of our lives, we forget this. Instead, we are more often stressed out by this gift than thankful for it. Think about this: God gives to every one of us all the same amount of time in a day .

Sometimes it's just our perspective. What if we were to get up every morning and thank God and remember that “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.” It wouldn't give us any more time, but maybe our perspective each day would change and we'd appreciate the gift of time a little more.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation





Pastor Ben visits with a lively crowd during Sunday worship on February 4th.



"Food for Thought" Dinner Church celebrates their first birthday on February 28th!



The choir offered a reflective anthem on Ash Wednesday, February 14th.



Many thanks to the youth for filling the pantry on February 28th! Funds from the "Souper Bowl of Caring" made their trip to the store possible.

ELECTION BAKE SALE IS APRIL 2ND

Emmanuel's Next bake sale is during the election on April 2nd! Many hands and tasty treats are needed!

Proceeds

- All proceeds continue to benefit our mission ministries work in Senegal

What to Bake

- We'd love your help in baking anything you'd like

Packaging

1. All items in saran wrap or baggies
2. Pricing will be done for you; **please do not mark any items**

Bakery Drop Off – Main Hallway Tables

- Sunday, March 31st (8:30 - 11 a.m. in Fireside Room)

or

- Monday, April 1 (8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

Questions?

- Call Tracy Laux @ (920) 733-0649 and leave a message

or

E-mail: tracy.laux@amcor.com

Thank you for your support!



LAY LEADER THOUGHTS—”SPEAK LORD, YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING.”

In a recent sermon, Pastor Ben encouraged us to:

“Be in a state of listening...”

“Be in a state of hearing what God is doing.”

Here at Emmanuel, your leaders are thinking about our future.

They are hearing from others and listening to the needs of all of us as well. Please feel free to contact your leaders with your hopes and dreams for Emmanuel.

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Uphold these people in your prayers. Guide them with your ideas and concerns. Support them with your time, talents and treasures.

In Christ's Love+
Jim Justman

“We connect through listening.”
(Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen)



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WE WELCOME!
WE WORSHIP!
WE WITNESS!
