



# EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE WELCOME! WE WORSHIP! WE WITNESS!

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

*But when you give a banquet,  
invite the poor, the crippled,  
the lame, the blind, and you  
will be blessed.*

We continue our “Bread of Life” worship series this Lent. All of our scriptures have some connection to bread; Jesus talking about bread, breaking bread, or sharing it.

As we ended March our Scripture from the 14th chapter of Luke didn’t explicitly mention the word bread. Instead these two parables from Jesus invite us to think about who we might break bread with, and who may not have a place at the table among us.

One of the incredible movements of God we continue to see in our Wednesday Night Dinner Church ministry is people inviting their friends family

to share bread break bread with us. Whether it is the physical need of food, the emotional need to be in community, or the spiritual need to hear word from God, people who do not call Emmanuel their home are inviting their friends and family to the feast. It’s a powerful witness. I wonder how we might step out in that same boldness— inviting others to the feast; whether that is at our table or to join us in worship. Can we be like Jesus and notice who is not around our table?

The Good News of Easter is that because of Christ, God invites us all to the feast. Thanks be to God! Amen!

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Ben*



## OUR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship

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## EASTER IS APRIL 20TH!

Easter Sunday is April 20th! Our celebration of the Risen Christ will begin with a Coffee and Donuts at 8:45 a.m.

Easter Egg hunt will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. followed by crafts in the Fireside Room.

Easter Worship with Communion will be offered at 10 a.m.

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



# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE— MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP TOGETHER

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, April 13th  
10 a.m.

### **Maundy Thursday (at St. James UMC)**

Thursday, April 17th  
7 p.m.

### **Ecumenical Good Friday**

Friday, March 28th

Noon

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2600 Phillip Lan

### **Emmanuel/St. James Good Friday**

5 p.m.

Posted on Facebook and

Emmanuel website



## THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ELECTION BAKE SALE!

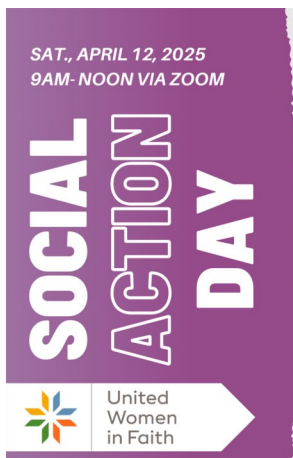
Thank you for sharing your time, talent, and gifts for another successful election bake sale on April 1st! \$466 was raised for missions! Our tables were empty by noon of election day!

People who come to Emmanuel as voters always look forward to the tasty treats on sale. Thank you to those who

baked and were friendly faces running the sale. Thank you for making Emmanuel a welcoming place on these busy election days, and sharing your gifts to raise funds for missions!



## UWIF SOCIAL ACTION DAY IS APRIL 12TH!



### GUEST SPEAKERS



Reverend Dr. Israel (Izzy) Alvaran



Dr. Sherry Warren

This year's **Social Action Day** will take place on **Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 9:00 AM to Noon.**

This year's theme is *"FOR LOVE AND GRACE-RESISTING OPPRESSION AND HATE"* Opening our Doors to ALL God's Children"

Guest speakers for the day will be Rev. Dr. Israel Alvaran from the Cal-Pac Conference and

Dr. Sherry Warren, Director of the School of Applied Social Sciences at case Western Reserve.

[Click here](#) for more information about this Zoom Action Day event, which includes watch parties (there are 4 in our North East district) including sites in Green bay and Oshkosh.



## Lenten Message for Council of Bishops

Beloved of God,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we enter this holy season of Lent, we do so amid a world filled with turmoil. The weight of division, injustice, war and uncertainty presses upon us. Our communities bear deep wounds, the future feels uncertain, and suffering lingers heavily in our hearts. Many are weary—carrying the burdens of fear, frustration, or grief. Yet even now, we are called to trust in God. Jesus offers us this invitation: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* — Matthew 11:28.

The Lenten journey does not require us to turn away from the pain and struggles of the present. Instead, it invites us to bring them before God, whose faithfulness never wavers. Lent reminds us that we are a people rooted in faith. I am reminded of the words of the prophet Isaiah: *“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.”*

— Isaiah 40:28-29

Beloved, we do not journey through these forty days in despair, but in hope. The ashes on our foreheads do not just remind us of our mortality, but they also proclaim that we belong to a God who is greater than the chaos of any given moment. In the face of all that seems uncertain, we are invited to pause, to breathe, and to trust God’s justice and mercy.

Lent is a season of returning—returning to prayer, to God’s word, to simplicity, to the assurance that God is working even when the path ahead remain unclear. This is not a call to passivity but to profound trust—trust that God’s justice surpasses human injustice, that God’s mercy exceeds human failure, and that God’s love sustains us, even in our weakness.

So, in these next 40 days, I invite you to lean into the rhythms of God’s grace. I invite you to breathe. To pause. To trust. Not with passive resignation, but with deep faith. Let us fast from hopelessness and fear, and feast on faith and the assurance that God is at work. Let us step away from the noise and listen for the Spirit, making space for silence, for prayer and acts of love and justice. And as we do, may we find renewed strength for the journey ahead.

The cross stands before us—not as a symbol of defeat, but as a promise that death, destruction, and despair do not have the final word. Resurrection is coming. Even now, God is moving among us and in the world. Until then, may we have the courage to walk together in faith and hope, and to trust and believe that God’s justice will prevail.

Let us pray...

God of the unknown,

In this season of Lent, we find ourselves in the wilderness—a place of questions, of waiting, of uncertainty. We confess our desire for clarity, for control, for answers, yet You call us instead to trust.

Teach us to rest in the mystery of Your presence. Help us to surrender not in despair, but in faith—believing that You are at work even when we cannot see the way forward.

When fear rises within us, remind us: we do not walk this path alone. When we are tempted to grasp for certainty, whisper to us: *“Be still, and know that I am God.”* (Psalm 46:10)

Strip away our illusions of self-sufficiency, so that we may lean fully into Your grace.

Break open our hearts, that we may be vessels of love.

Free us from the need to be in control, so that we might finally be free in You.

Christ walked through the wilderness before us, through uncertainty, through surrender, through death itself—and into resurrection.

Give us the courage to follow, trusting that even in the unknown, You are already making all things new.

We rest in You, O God,

our refuge, our strength, our only certainty.

*(Prayer inspired by words from Richard Rohr)*

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Tracy S. Malone

President, Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church

Bev Stan adds a few finishing touches to a dish for Wednesday Night Dinner Church.



Ryan Korb leads the Emmanuel Choir in rehearsal on Wednesday evening in preparation for Holy Week.

Busy Kitchen! Marilyn Zylstra, Bev Stan, Denise Linstedt and Paula Mikkelson prepare the meal for Wednesday Night Dinner Church.



## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT FROM THE WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

*It's an Experience*

I love the way Pastor Rick Calhoun has talks about Easter and the resurrection. He writes: But there is another part. Yes, God loves us just as we are, but He also loves us too much to let us stay where we are. God's desire for us is to grow in all ways to become more like Jesus.

"The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead was never 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 very passionate about their testimonies. Many were to be martyred in defense of their convictions. But ultimately the resurrection is to be experienced not proved. The most convincing evidence of the Resurrection of Christ is the transformation of the people who know Jesus and believe in Him. I decided long ago, the only proof of Easter I will ever need is memory. 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." through all the means at our disposal.

Christ living within us does make all the difference. And so we come this Easter Sunday to celebrate the love and grace we have experienced all because Jesus Christ is alive!

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



## LAY LEADER THOUGHTS- JIM JUSTMAN

**"Bread of Life"**

On Ash Wednesday Pastor Ben reminded us: "that we do not live by bread alone" and instead live "by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

God's Word is reliable and true.

As John's Gospel reminds us: "The Word (Jesus) became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14)

And so we dwell on and in the Word of God.

We pray, sing and ponder over its meaning for our lives.

Not because we have to.

Not because it brings magic cures.

Because it feeds us with hope, courage, faith and everlasting life.

*"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet*

*And a light unto my path."*

(Psalm 119:105)



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