



# EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE WELCOME! WE WORSHIP! WE WITNESS!

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

## *New Year, Same God*

To begin the New Year, an article from the online edition of *Good Housekeeping* “65 Rewarding New Year’s Resolutions for a Healthy, Happy Life.” It noted that many were physical and fitness related, “but the best resolutions often enrich your emotional health and spirit.”

In fact the 2nd of these 65 resolutions was “mindfulness,” which the article defined as “means doing everything you can to be grateful for what you have in the moment, where you are in life, and who you are right now.”

God invites us to experience “mindfulness” in moments of prayer and devotion. As the new year begins I like to evaluate my practices and

consider new ones. If you have been contemplating a new mindfulness practice with God, its not too late to get 2023 off with the right start.

I like something that provides online reminders into my email, even though I typically pick up my trusty Bible to read from and feel the pages.

I use a website called “Bible Gateway” to send me a daily reading of Scripture. Over the past few years it has helped me keep on track to get through the New Testament in a Year, The Old Testament, or just have a Psalm of the day.

From year to year I also return to the devotions of Oswald Chambers, whose work is also available online at [utmost.org](http://utmost.org). You can receive something like this in your email each day to read and pray along .

Upper Room Devotionals are available online at [upperroom.org](http://upperroom.org), and there is an Upper Room App for your smartphone or tablet. We also have copies of the Upper Room Devotional each month in the Narthex. Large print copies are available. *The Daily Bread* devotional is also a free resource available in the Narthex.

God’s mercies abound and are new every morning. May you find a fresh way to pause this year and listen for God’s voice this year.

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Ben*

## OUR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship

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## “THE CHOSEN” VIDEO STUDY RESUMES JANUARY 8TH!

Last year many of us enjoyed a study of the video series “The Chosen.” It was a fresh way to hear the Gospel message and we had wonderful discussion and fellowship of the first two seasons.

Season 3 has started! On Sunday mornings our in-

person group will meet at 8:45 Sunday morning to watch the video. The video content is free online. If you are watching at home on TheChosen.TV (<https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen>), If you have a mobile device, such as an iPad or tablet, download the

TheChosen.TV App on your App Store.

Watch it with us on Sunday mornings or on your own, then join us Wednesday night at 6:15 (after the meal) for a time of fellowship and discussion!

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH END OF YEAR REPORT

This year, 2022 has ended and we are no longer United Methodist Women, we are United Women In Faith. New logo, new expectations, new programs. We are thankful for all the support from members and friends of Emmanuel in 2022. Most recently we raised \$952 in the Cookies, Fudge, and Soup Sale in December! We are grateful for your support.

We raised funds this year, as in the past to fulfill our commitment for our conference United Women In Faith pledge. The money is used to support international programs and national institutions. We also continue our independent support for the United Methodist Church Women's Sewing Center in Mbour, Senegal. Each year we also look forward to making contributions to organizations or programs in the local area. Some of our local financial support has been given to Harbor House, COTs for Women, Pillars, and other programs.

UWIF supports nearly 100 national institutions, among these are Northcott Neighborhood House (Milwaukee), Guam Moon program (San Francisco), and Henderson Settlement (Kentucky). International support includes assistance to many programs, including the work of women chicken farmers in Zimbabwe, Africa. This year a grant of \$250,000 was given to a program in the U.S. that helps women and girls impacted by the criminal legal system. There are many more.

Stop by the UWIF bulletin board to get more info about UWIF. The library has copies of *Response* magazine, where you can learn more about all the exciting things that UWIF is doing in our community and world.

*Gwen Gibson*

*Hazel Christopher*

*Co-Presidents, Emmanuel UWIF Chapter*



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH READING PROGRAM

All are welcome to participate in the UMW Reading program! Stop by the bulletin board by the office for more information. Books are available in five different categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. The Reading Program is a cherished United Women in Faith tradition that brings together members in mission as

they explore, share, and discuss the written word.

Books that are suitable for children or youth will be listed among the five categories; look for "Suitable for children" or "Suitable for youth" following book descriptions.

We encourage you to get books at your public library, from your favorite local bookstore or through an online retailer. Many of our members donate books to

the church library upon reading them, so that they can be shared with our church community.

If you have questions about the reading program, please contact Wanda Gustafson.

## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT FROM WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

*“I Like Floormats”*

January 2023

*This story is from “I Like Giving” by Brad Formsma. His book and corresponding website, [www.ilikegiving.com](http://www.ilikegiving.com), are full of stories and videos about the power of generosity.*

It is hard to characterize my brother-in-law, James. He’s not a guy who draws a lot of attention to himself, and he’s not a guy with great wealth. In fact, James is, well, quite average, but when it comes to generosity, James is one of the most above-average people I’ve ever met.

For instance, if James needed to borrow your car, he would likely return it with a full tank of fuel or maybe a new set of tires. Or maybe it would have been detailed. And unless you happened to notice, he wouldn’t draw any attention to it.

Which is exactly what happened with the floor mats in our Honda Accord. They were worn-out. I mean, they’re floor mats. They are one of those things you think about replacing when you vacuum the car and say to yourself, “Wow, these look terrible. I need to replace them.” You finish vacuuming, put the mats back, and never give them another thought until the next time you clean your car.

However, this particular time I did notice them. They were new. I immediately asked my wife if she’d bought the new car mats. She said she thought I had. Immediately we knew it was James. I could not think of when he might have done it. I went back in the house, called him, and asked if he was responsible. As I suspected, he was.

“When did you put new mats in the car?” I asked since we hadn’t seen him in weeks. “About three months ago,” he sheepishly replied. I couldn’t believe I’d been so unobservant, but I wasn’t the least bit surprised by James thoughtful act of generosity. It’s a lifestyle with him. I truly can’t think of anything he enjoys doing more than giving, and I can’t think of anyone who has more fun finding unique ways to give. I mean, who would ever think of replacing someone’s floor mats?

*Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation*





The Sanctuary looked beautiful on Christmas Eve!



Thank you for the many gifts to our Adopt-a-family program this year! Gifts were delivered to our neighbors at Edison on December 16th.

## JANUARY LAY LEADER THOUGHTS— MIKE PFAHLER

January 2023, another year already. This is my last newsletter as your Lay Leader. This year we elected Josh Hill as our Lay Leader. Josh has volunteered for many jobs in the last several years. Lately, he has been Emmanuel's representative at Annual Conference, to listen to, vote on, and report matters effecting our church and the Wisconsin Conference. He was the lead singer at our recent Christmas Pageant. He has been a great addition to our choir recently. In year's past he taught our junior and senior high students at Sunday School. Ask him and he'll be a greeter, an usher, communion steward, and take a turn at the projection board. Josh should be a vast improvement as your Lay Leader. His credentials as a professional teacher, administrator, and counselor at a local school are just the traits needed in the job.

As your Lay Leader the past 3 years, I couldn't have made it through without the great help from so many of you willing to volunteer your time, talents, and contributions to our church and its programs. Special recognitions go to Nancy Prue's daughters Paula and Linda Mikkelson. Numerous times they have purchased and restocked our pantry shelves, helped Nancy fold bulletins, and lately Paula has helped out for Wednesday night dinner. Also included here are Vernon and Elaine Hicks. They have taken over the back row of the right-side pew (from the minister and choir view). They have from the fall start-up of our Wednesday night dinner taken over all the dishwashing and clean-up tasks. So many more of you do great service and help in volunteer jobs for our church, that I'd run out of space just trying to list them. I will grant 2 lifetime achievement awards to Nancy Huolihan and Shelby Felton for their many years' service for our church. Although they help in many tasks, mostly for record keeping and communion is this award given.

Because Christmas and New Years both fell on Sunday's this winter, it seems the Wise Men (three kings) were able to arrive in Bethlehem earlier this year (modern travel may have helped). We celebrate their arrival on January 1<sup>st</sup> this year, a little ahead of the 12 days the church calendar normally allows. I hope you'll join us for the Epiphany and all the other Sunday's coming in January (we get an extra 5<sup>th</sup> one this year). Hymns 249, 251, and of course 254, song in the air, a star in the sky; go tell it on the mountain...there shown a holy light; we three kings...O star of wonder.

Happy New Year to everyone

Mike Pfahler

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