



EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE WELCOME! WE WORSHIP! WE WITNESS!

JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER

At our Wisconsin Annual Conference Meeting, a Resolution for Church Disaffiliation was approved. I reflected on this resolution during worship on Sunday, June 19th

Our denomination, the United Methodist Church has been in the news these past few years, regarding how we will choose or not choose to welcome LGBTQIA persons.

Since the General Conference in 2020, we have been in a very strange place. Clergy and lay members all over the world, and at that time our denomination affirmed the current language in our discipline that says "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching." Those churches who did not want to affirm or welcome LGBTQ persons decided to remain within the United Methodist Church. Resolutions were passed down to Annual Confer-

ences for disaffiliation for those churches who did not agree with the current stance of the denomination. Things have now turned, as it is the non-affirming, non-welcoming churches who have begun looking for those ways to leave the UMC.

At our Wisconsin Annual Conference, a Resolution for Disaffiliation was passed for a church to leave and keep its church property. It entails paying up its apportionments for the last two years. The process must begin by September 1st, by connecting with the District Superintendent, with several steps that conclude by January 2023.

I write to provide you this update, and my current feelings as your pastor. I speak only for myself, and not necessarily for all of the leadership for our church. At this time, I am not interested in disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church. This process of disaffiliation is currently written for those who

want to exit the church and do not want to find a path to welcome LGBTQ persons.

I know the church is not perfect. Our Wesleyan theology offers us the framework of sanctification. We are never perfect. But we can be perfected in God's Love. I believe that can also be true for the Church. That we are going on to perfection as the church. I choose to remain in the United Methodist Church, believing that we can go on to perfection together.

Blessings,

Pastor Ben

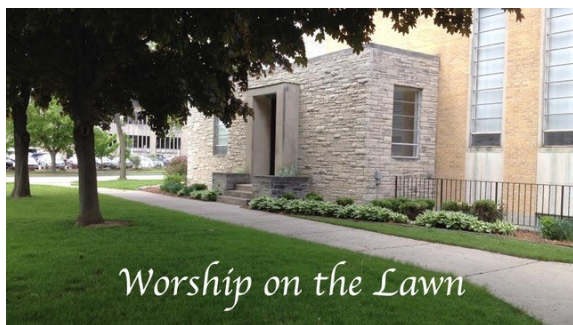
OUR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship

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WORSHIP ON THE LAWN— SUNDAY, JULY 17TH!



God gave Emmanuel Church a beautiful front lawn with lovely shade! Its been a great spot to worship outside the past few years with some wonderful music!

Our next Worship on the lawn will be July 17th at 10 a.m. Folding Chairs will be provided, or bring your favorite lawn chair!

Make outdoor worship a part of you plans and invite friends! See you on July 17th!

“MISSION U” COMING IN JULY, OFFERED IN-PERSON OR VIA ZOOM

Great news—COMMUNITY is God’s desire for us! Join Mission u 2022 as we reflect on the community that Jesus is calling us to be! This year, as we study Luke 13, we find ourselves in a period of disruption and uncertainty. In the midst of a devastating pandemic, divisive political climate, unaddressed systemic racism, ecological crises and economic turmoil, we turn to the stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities for two millennia. Our newly designed Mission

u 2022 is more flexible than ever. You may choose to do an in person class or a Zoom class. The text for the class, “Who Can We Be Together?”, will be available soon.

The in-person class will be July 28-30, 2022 at Christ Church Watertown. The Zoom Class will be four evening sessions, July 12, 14, 19, and 21. The registration form is available online at:

https://wisconsin-email.brtp.com/files/documents/enews/mission_u_2022_in_person_registration_form_2.pdf

Registration forms are also available on the UMW bulletin board at Emmanuel.



SUPPORT UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH LOCAL MISSION PROJECT

United Women of Faith (UMW) has a local mission project to make Hygiene Dignity Kits for Homeless Connections here in Appleton.

Each Hygiene Kit needs the following items:

- Hand Towel
- Wash Cloth
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste

You can support this project by purchasing the items and a 1 Gallon storage bag, or

donate \$7.50 and the United Women of Faith can do the shopping. We Witness!



SENEGAL GOLF OUTING RETURNS AUGUST 17!



For over ten years the Circuit Churches in the Fox Valley have been in relationship with the Senegal Mission Initiative of the United Methodist Church in Senegal, Africa. Our financial support of the ministry helps with support of Pastor salaries, church rent, and programming for church growth. The Mission also has staff which operates a clinic out of the church and feeds children through various nutrition sites. The ministry promotes women through a Women's Skill Center, where the women learn

to speak French, restaurant level cooking, sewing, and financial skills.

We are excited to connect for an Annual golf outing to support the ministry again this year! Join us Wednesday, August 17th beginning at 8:30 a.m. at High Cliff Golf Course. Registration is available on the back table of the sanctuary. Mark your calendars, golfers!

MCCI- What is it and where are we?

MCCI is a process through which churches evaluate their current season of life and be resourced for their future. Emmanuel was one of six church selected for the process by Bishop Jung in 2020.

What has happened so far?

Pastor Ben went through a year long training process with other clergy and shared this resourcing with other leaders in our church. The Breakthrough Prayer has been a foundational piece of the MCCI process. Rev. Scott Carlson, District Superintendent of the Southwest District, came in February for a “Resource, Refocus” event to help remind us of the MCCI opportunity.

Where are we in the process now?

The next step in our MCCI Process is called an “Express Consultation Day.” Emmanuel will receive a visit from a team of pastors, many of whom have gone through this process themselves. Rev. Scott Carlson who joined us for the Refocus Day will also be present, along with Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey who created the MCCI process in West Ohio Conference. The consult team is coming to learn about what God has been doing here at Emmanuel. **Our Express Consultation day is Wednesday, July 27th.**

How can I help?

The participation of our entire church will be important on **July 27th at 6:30 p.m.** The consult team will interview some of our leaders during the day, but the day concludes in all church session in which we learn more about the MCCI opportunity. It will be a time that everyone in the church can share what God has been doing at Emmanuel and listen for our hopes in the future. Please put Wednesday, July 27th on your calendar for this important day in the life of our church! Pastor Ben and other leaders of Emmanuel will be sharing more about it in worship as we get closer!

SCRIP FOR ALL YOUR SUMMER ADVENTURES!

Gas to get around. Groceries for a quick meal to grill out. A run to Target for a summer birthday party. Dinner at Culvers or Jimmy Johns on the way home from church.

You can do all of these things **AND contribute to Emmanuel Church at the same time** through the SCRIP program. Through the SCRIP program you purchase a gift card (at church for face value) to your favorite retailer, gas station, and grocery store.

Use these gift cards in your daily doings as you normally would. Meanwhile, these retailers are returning a portion to Emmanuel!

We are grateful for all of the work of Paul Sagers and his ministry through Scrip. Paul is at the Scrip table following worship every week and would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Email Paul at paulsagers@msn.com to place your order ahead of time or even get a delivery! Shop with Scrip and give to Emmanuel Church!



Groceries, Gas, Shopping and more...

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT FROM WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

“A Matter of Perspective”

July 2022

Some things are simply a matter of perspective. We can be reminded often how words can be used to skew the truth. For instance, an interoffice softball game was held every year between the marketing department and support staff of one company. The day of the game, as hard as the marketers tried, the support staff whipped the marketing department soundly.

In its best tradition, the marketing department decided to find the best “spin” they could on the dismal result. They showed how they earn their keep by posting this memo on the bulletin board after the game: “The marketing department is pleased to announce that for the recently completed softball season, we came in second place, having lost but one game all year.

The support department, however, had a rather dismal season, as they won only one game all year.” On the other hand, hidden beauty can also be found by looking at a situation in a different way. A little girl named Lauren (age 5) reports, “I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.”

I think Lauren is on to something. Our entire lives can be shaped by perspective. How would I approach money, “stuff,” and giving if I knew that God had already given me everything I need, rather than seeing all of the things I “need” in the store windows? How would I treat others if I focused on the ways I could serve, rather than making sure everyone respected my rights? How would my marriage change if it were based on being one another’s servant rather than a struggle for power? What would my attitude be toward work be if I saw it as my God-given vocation rather than someplace I had to go to earn a paycheck? What if I saw Sunday as a true Sabbath . . . a time for connecting with God and family and rest . . . rather than a day to run the kids to more activities and the last day I have to get things done at home before I go to work?

Sometimes we need God to help us see the world differently before we can live differently in it.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



JULY LAY LEADER THOUGHTS– MIKE PFAHLER

Can't believe it's July already. There are five (5) Sunday's this month, an extra day for us to come together and worship God.

The first Sunday, we'll have a guest speaker from St. James, Tom Schemm. He'll speak on Love. Come celebrate the birth of our country, in addition to God's love. Favorite hymn is the Gift of Love #408.

The second Sunday, everyone will be back. Pastor Ben, Carrie & Ryan Korb, and Nell Buchman. In Luke, the reading might be of the Good Samaritan. May we all learn to be kind to those in need around us.

July 17th, we will be outdoors for a service with guest musicians that Ryan can bring in. Luke brings us the story of Mary and Martha, Lazarus's sisters. In Genesis, Abraham and Sarah hear from Angels that they will have a child, even at Sarah's advanced age.

The fourth Sunday, we're back inside, with Luke telling us we only need to Ask, and God will give it to us, Knock and He will open the door. Also in the same reading, Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray with the Lord's Prayer. Favorite hymn would have to be #270.

Before the fifth Sunday, we'll have a bonus day, Wednesday July 27th. We'll have a nice dinner at the church and have an all church meeting in the evening. We are meeting the MCCI team to tell them about our hopes for the churches' future as we celebrate our first 150 years in October. Your attendance for this event will be greatly appreciated.

Now the fifth Sunday, July 31st. Luke gives us the parable of the foolish rich man, who wants to hoard his money, but will die tomorrow. Colossians tells us that since we are Christians, we should leave bad thoughts and actions behind us. Genesis shows why that is important, as Abraham talks God down from 50 good people to 10, in attempt to save the city of Sodom to no avail.

Remember July 27th! Be There!

Your lay leader

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WE WORSHIP!
WE WITNESS!
