



# EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE WELCOME! WE WORSHIP! WE WITNESS!

## JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

*To every thing there is a season,  
and a time to every purpose  
under the heaven.  
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

July 12th was the date. We thought that was the plan. As pastor, I thought we had a date and a strong plan to reopen and return to worship in our building.

Our plan, however, was contingent upon the decline of cases in our state and nearby area. Our Emmanuel Church Leadership Board met on Tuesday, June 30th. Due to the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases, many on the Leadership Board did not feel ready to return to worship in our church building. Our current plan is to return to worship in our church building in September. We need to confirm schedules with musicians, but we are hopeful to maintain our current pattern of alternating drive-in and online services.

I do not feel that delaying our return to the building is

in any way a defeat or failure. Some folks in our leadership felt we could postpone a return to worship in our building because our drive-in services have been such a success and we have been able to see each other in worship! It is because of our talented members sharing their spiritual gifts in new ways that we can regroup and look towards the fall.

We have heard some feedback regarding the sound during the online services. This has been an ongoing journey to improve the quality and volume of what we have been doing. As we continue the online services through the summer, we will experiment with microphones for those speaking to be louder. I am grateful for those that shared what they saw and heard because we don't always hear the same

things, and we want to make it better for all! Don't be afraid to speak up! I want to hear you too! :)

To everything there is a season. This season has been a challenging one. But I trust that God will bring us through it together. There is a season ahead of us that will meet together face to face!

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Ben*



Carrie Korb leads worship with Matt Buchman and Ryan Korb on June 7th.



Pastor Ben preaches at our first drive-in service on June 7th.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

COTS MEAL DELIVERY	2
WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER	2
BISHOP'S CORNER	3
VIRTUAL VBS	4
ANNUAL CONFERENCE ONLINE IN OCTOBER	4
ONLINE GIVING	5
LAY LEADER THOUGHTS	5

## COTS MEAL DELIVERY JULY 13TH



Our meal ministry with the COTS transitional shelter continues over the summer! Audrey Lunday, Kathy Abel, and Marilyn Zylstra are planning to make meals for 20 men at the shelter on again on July 13th!

Help will be needed to deliver these meals at about 4:30 in the afternoon. This amazing team would also

welcome a dessert to go with the meals they are preparing. Please contact Marilyn Zylstra if you want to share your gifts with this ministry. We Witness!

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## WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER CONTINUES THROUGH SUMMER

Finding ways to be in fellowship and prayer have been so important during this season of COVID-19 and social distancing. About a dozen people were attending our Online Bible Study when it concluded on May 20th. We would close our time each week by sharing prayer requests and being in prayer together.

This time of sharing, fellowship and prayer is something we

want to continue as Emmanuel reopens through phases this summer. Beginning Wednesday, June 3rd, Pastor Ben will offer a service of Evening Prayer on Zoom at 7pm. Other members will be invited to help read Scripture and share music. Prayer requests are welcome and will be prayed over. Pastor Ben sends an order of service out each week by email and it is shared on Zoom.

The link for our Zoom Call is on Facebook and will be emailed out each week. Hope you can join us!

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## SENEGAL GOLF OUTING DELAYED UNTIL 2021

The Circuit Golf Outing for Senegal has become a favorite event among the UM churches in Fox Valley the last several years. Through the golf outing several thousands of dollars have been raised for the ministry of the Senegal United Methodist Church. Emmanuel was the

host church for the first time in 2019.

Unfortunately the Senegal Golf Outing has been cancelled for summer 2020. CDC recommendations advises against the types of gatherings that we would hold after the golf match to promote the ministry, such as the luncheon. Courses in our area are open, but are

not yet holding large outings and gatherings.

We will look towards 2021, hopeful that we can join together on the golf course. Thank you for your continued support of the ministry in the Senegal United Methodist Church!

## “Time for revolutionary change”

*Bishop's Corner June 1st*

*Listen, you that are deaf;  
and you that are blind, look up and see!  
Who is blind but my servant,  
or deaf like my messenger whom I send?  
Who is blind like my dedicated one,  
or blind like the servant of the Lord?  
He sees many things, but does\* not observe them;  
his ears are open, but he does not hear. (Isaiah 42:18-20)*



Good people of Jesus Christ, it is time for us to acknowledge and confront our racism and the systems and structures we have created that continue to perpetuate injustice, inequality, and violence. It is not enough for each individual to say, “my heart breaks for the families of victims of violence against black, brown, and Asian people.” This is a starting point, but it does nothing to bring about change. When we do this, we become God’s dedicated ones who are deaf and blind.

I could say that recent events have raised our awareness, but the recent incidents with Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor are just the most recent in decades and centuries in this country. The pandemic has taken an inordinate toll on black and brown communities, because our systems foster continued poverty and marginalization of racial ethnic minorities. We cannot simply voice regret and concern; the time has come for The United Methodist Church to work together for justice for our black family members – all children of God.

Black Lives Matter became a slogan that “those people” used to voice their anger, hurt, and displeasure. No, the truth of black lives matter emerged because story after story, incident after incident showed that it is not safe to be a black person in our twenty-first century reality. No one should have to worry that they will be stopped due to the color of his or her skin. No one should worry that they will be beaten, attacked, or killed because they “fit a profile.” Young black people should not have to be told “not to run, not to make eye contact, not to approach white people,” and their parents should not have to live in fear whenever their children leave home.

This is not the will of God! This is not acceptable to people who have been baptized into the spiritual community committed to building God’s Holy realm on the earth. We need to work for justice. We need to crusade for peace. We need to speak up, speak out, and stand with our black brothers and sisters. We need to embrace our brown brothers and sisters as members of our family. We need to reassure our Asian siblings that they belong. We need to welcome those of every hue and color as acceptable, beloved, gifted and blessed. This cannot simply be a nice concept and a good intention. The day has come to commit our mission work to the peace and justice work of our General Board of Church and Society. It is now time to communicate to our state and federal leaders that racial justice is our highest need, our highest priority.

We must divorce racial justice from a misguided sense that this is a “political” issue, and that we should not be involved. This is a human rights issue. Moreover, it is a Christian witness for the world. We must open ourselves to be the prophetic voice of God, to allow God’s message of mercy, justice, humility, peace, and unity to be heard loud and clear. In this time of pandemic anxiety, we should do nothing to contribute to people’s pain and suffering, but should do all in our power to offer healing and hope.

If you cannot walk in peaceful protest, you can still write letters, make phone calls, send emails, and vote. When possible, we should rally around our ethnic communities and work to clean up, restore, and rebuild in solidarity and partnership. It is time to make our heartfelt passion concrete. We are not called to sit by and watch God’s children be abused and killed. The time has come for revolutionary change. Our core values as Christians include the affirmation of all life, the glory and goodness of God’s creation, and the very real truth that God is love. As we live into our future, we will transcend our vision to confront “institutional racism,” so that together we might eliminate not only the outward and visible signs, but might allow the healing Spirit of God to transform the inward and spiritual sickness.

Grace and Peace,  
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

## COMPASSION CAMP VBS– JOIN US ONLINE!

Emmanuel Church is excited to invite you to our free virtual VBS beginning July 13th! Join us at Compassion Camp! Together in song, Scriptures, and activities we will cultivate compassion for each other, ourselves, and the world.



Compassion Camp has so many amazing ways to participate. Instead of a traditional daily format with everything all in one week, Compassion Camp at Emmanuel will be spread out over the course of 5 weeks. We will connect together through some pre-recorded video and a few Zoom Calls during our time together. A Facebook Group has been created for us to share photos and resources together. In this extended 5 week format, Virtual Compassion Camp will offer materials and programming for approximately 3-5 hours each week. Sign up on our Emmanuel Church Website!

[Emmanuel-umc.org](http://Emmanuel-umc.org)

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE WILL BE VIRTUAL EVENT- OCTOBER 23-24

To my beautiful Wisconsin people,

I offer my greetings and want to announce that our 2020 session of Annual Conference, October 23-24, will now be a virtual conference. After prayerful discernment and consideration, consulting with the cabinet and our Conference Program and Arrangements leadership, I have determined that the safest, most conscientious course for our life together is to do our conference work electronically, online. Until we are confident that face-to-face large gatherings will not threaten or compromise the health of our members, we will engage in electronic/virtual alternatives.

In coming weeks, you will be receiving information about the platform we will use, how to register, what our agenda and schedule will be, how to vote, how to engage in discussion and debate, and how we will conduct the whole business of this year's Annual Conference. I want to assure you that we will provide a foundation for "worshipful work" and authentic "Christian Conference." We have business we must attend to, but as always, we will do so as United Methodist spiritual community. For churches lacking internet access, we will be working in each district to provide regional gathering centers that allow for safe social distancing while participating in Annual Conference.

In the coming weeks, we will be communicating plans for virtual clergy and laity sessions.

I know this is less than ideal and that we will miss the warm fellowship and renewed connection that Annual Conference usually brings. Yet, I also know that the faithful laity and clergy members of this Annual Conference are deeply committed to gathering under John Wesley's General Rules: Do No Harm, Do All the Good We Can, and Attend to the Ordinances of God. Brothers, sisters, beloved siblings, we are One in the Spirit, One in the Lord – whether together or apart. Let us rejoice as we engage in this new Annual Conference experience together.

Blessings in Christ,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

## ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE ON OUR CHURCH WEBSITE

We are grateful for the ways everyone continues to contribute to Emmanuel Church. We are receiving many financial gifts through the mail and our mailbox is being checked several times a week.

Emmanuel also offers online giving on our website, [emmanuel-umc.org](http://emmanuel-umc.org)! We have partnered with Vanco Systems to offer a secure giving program where you can use your checking account number or credit card. (We are using the same company that offered the electronic giving several

years ago.) Through the online system you can give one-time or setup recurring giving.

An app is also available! Use the Give Plus+ app from Vanco to setup or manage your giving! Download the app to your smartphone on search for Emmanuel by our zip code (54911) We are the first church listed in our area!

**We have made some updates to our online giving so that you can give specifically to some of our important minis-**

**tries. Including the General Offering, you can give towards our Building Fund, the Little Food Pantry Ministry, or to the ministry of the Senegal United Methodist Church.**

Thank you for all of the ways you give to Emmanuel!



## THOUGHTS FROM OUR LAY LEADER MIKE PFAHLER

Worship in the sanctuary is set for September 6, 2020 at a start time still to be determined. The rules that I wrote about have not changed at this time. Limited to 50 people in the sanctuary, masks required, ushers to sit parishioners in designated rows promoting social distancing, no choir or group singing, and fellowship outside only. Please keep these rules at this time. In the present time we will try to have drive in church every other week and virtual worship every week.

Our district superintendent, the bishop's leader of his COVID – 19 Task Team, offers the following as of June 17th. Don't gather physically if at all possible, if you must in the smallest groups possible. Outside preferred and if not DEFINITELY wear masks, physically distanced on lawn chairs. Keep the meeting time short and avoid singing, chanting, or eating. Start with lower risk groups who agree to follow the safety rules, and keep track of attendees to assist contact tracing.

Let this be a time of thanksgiving and understanding that some are still concerned of the harm that meeting together may cause. We can still be excited from the words of the great hymn. "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing. Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine. Let thy congregation escape tribulation, thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!"

Pastor Ben read from Nehemiah on the 21st about the walls and gates of the city of Jerusalem being rebuilt in the 20th year of the reign of the king of Persia. A great accomplishment and concession of the king who in his first year consented to the temple of Jerusalem being rebuilt. This show of priorities should be an example of today, when the church should lead us out of despair. Probably didn't hurt that Esther was queen after his 3rd year.

No need any longer to SAVE THE DATE August 14 or August 15. The church will be cancelling pictures to be used in a new church directory, until next year. Our last directory was done in 2010. I will let you know later for the new date with the photographer.

I did get some responses to a father song, which I asked about in my last mailing. Faith of our fathers, was a favorite and in a more biblical sense, This is my Father's world.

Mike Pfahler

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- July 4th Happy Independence Day!!
- July 5th Drive-in Worship 10 a.m. with Communion!
- July 12th Online Worship
- July 13 Compassion Camp Online VBS Begins!
- July 13th COTS Meal Delivery!
- July 19th Drive-in Worship
- July 20th Compassion Camp VBS Week 2
- July 26 Online Worship
- July 27th Compassion Camp VBS Week 3