



# EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE WELCOME! WE WORSHIP! WE WITNESS!

JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER

Friends in Christ,

It was announced at the end of our in-person worship on Sunday, May 18th that I have been appointed to First United Methodist Church of Oshkosh effective July 1st, 2025

I receive this news with mixed emotions. It will be a tremendous blessing to be in ministry in the same community where my family already lives and our children go to school.

But I am truly grateful for my years here at Emmanuel. This will always be my first appointment. This will

always be the church that welcomed me while I was still in seminary and supported me through that journey. The church who was with our family welcoming our little girl into this world, and supporting us with her health scare years later. This will always be the church from whom I have learned so much.

Thank you for your support through these many years. Thank you for sharing in the ministry that God called us in together. Thank you for giving me so much to remember. My heart is full, and you will always be in my prayers.

*Pastor Ben*



## OUR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship

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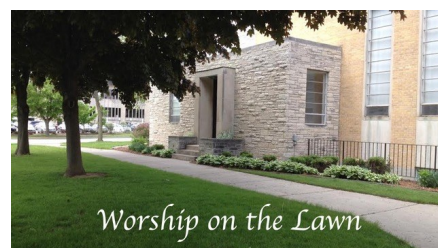
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## JAZZ WORSHIP IS SUNDAY JUNE 22ND!

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

Our first Worship on the lawn will be June 22nd 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 June 22nd!



## ST. JAMES RUMMAGE SALE & BRAT FRY JUNE 6-7

Our neighbors at St. James UMC are holding a Rummage Sale and Brat Fry Friday June 6th from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, June 7th 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Donations are welcome for the sale if you are doing your spring cleaning! The St. James church office is open Monday-

Wednesday 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. for any donations.

Stop by and visit our friends at St. James on June 7th and 8th and see what goodies the Rummage Sale may have for you!



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT IS ON THE MOVE! JOIN US THIS SUMMER!



Our Emmanuel team hard at work!

God has been working in amazing ways this past year creating relationships through our Wednesday

Night Dinner Church Ministry. Typically our ministry ends in May, so that our amazing team can take a break for the summer.

We may have had our last meal for the school year but not our friends at St James! They will be continuing the ministry once again this summer with a meal on Wednesday evenings beginning on June 11th. Consider joining us for dinner this summer at St. James! Some of the most important ministry is be-

ing around the table with someone in fellowship. We Witness!



## JOIN MISSION U THIS SUMMER VIA ZOOM OR IN-PERSON!

**What is Mission u?** Mission u is a transformative educational experience designed to recharge and refocus your faith. Reenergize your relationship with God using biblically grounded curricula. **Anyone** is welcome to attend Mission u – clergy or laity, youth or adult.

The theme for Mission U this summer is *Practicing Hope Together*; this theme will explore the hope that emerged within a small community of followers after the resurrection of Jesus that changed the world. Out of so much confusion and fear following the crucifixion of Jesus, grew a “Resurrection People” steeped in hope who began living out their faith in powerful ways.

Mission U will be offered via Zoom this summer on June 17, 19, 24, and 26 from 6:30-9 p.m.

The in-person program will be offered on July 12 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Wausau: Wesley UMC.

Registration forms for both sessions are available online at [www.wisconsinumw.org/mission-u.html](http://www.wisconsinumw.org/mission-u.html)



## United Methodists Bishops issue four letters on justice and peace

To The Beloved People of The United Methodist Church,

We write to you at a moment when our world is confronted by profound suffering, deep division, and urgent calls for justice and compassion. We do so with humility, aware of the fragility of some of our communities and the diversity of perspectives within our beloved connection.

We also write with a relentless hope grounded in Christ's resurrection. As Easter people, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, to love boldly, to serve joyfully, and to lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

The United Methodist Church stands unwavering in its commitment to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We affirm, as our Book of Discipline and Social Principles declare, that every person is of sacred worth, deserving of justice, dignity, and protection, regardless of nationality, race, gender, or identity. Our calling as United Methodists is to love as Christ loved, to serve as Christ served, and to lead as Christ led-resisting evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

During our recent meeting, the Council of Bishops engaged in reflective conversations and offers four pastoral letters for your prayerful dialogue, discernment and witness:

- A Call for Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo: We grieve the violence and humanitarian crisis in Congo, standing with our siblings in their plea for peace and restoration.
- A Plea for Ceasefire and Justice in Palestine and Israel: We lament the suffering of Palestinians and Israelis, urging an immediate ceasefire, the protection of all civilians, and a just peace rooted in dignity for all.
- A Call to Reject Violence Against Transgender Persons: We denounce all forms of violence and discrimination against transgender people, affirming their sacred worth and calling the church to deeper compassion and understanding.
- A Stand Against the Dismantling of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policies: We reject efforts to erase the progress made toward justice and inclusion, affirming that every person's story and history are valuable and matter to God and to us all.

Each letter is rooted in our Wesleyan tradition, proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and inviting us to live out our baptismal vows: to resist evil, to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8).

We know that statements alone do not change hearts-stories do. We encourage you to listen, to share, and to bear witness to the stories of those most affected by violence, injustice, and exclusion.

We acknowledge that these letters may challenge, comfort, or unsettle you. Yet, as a worldwide church, we are called to holy conversation - to wrestle together, to learn from one another, and to seek the Spirit's guidance in community. The common thread through all these letters is God's unwavering love for humanity and the sacred dignity of every person.

Let us journey together as disciples-loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously. May we be a church that listens deeply, acts justly, and grows in grace....moving towards God's vision for Beloved Community.

With gratitude and hope,

Bishop Tracy S. Malone  
President, Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church

Links to these four letters from the Council of Bishops can be found online at [unitedmethodistbishops.org](https://unitedmethodistbishops.org)



Pastor Ben invites the confirmands (Morgan Arnoldussen, Brayden Hill, and Julian Morris) forward as the ceremony begins.



The choir and youth sang together on Confirmation Sunday directed by Ryan Korb.

All smiles! The confirmands celebrate and are welcomed by the congregation on Sunday, May 18th.



## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT FROM THE WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

*A Little Jiggle*

David tells the story of a time he saw a car stalled at an intersection. The hood was up, and a young man waved him down for help. "I can't get it started," he said, "but if you jiggle the wire on the battery, I think it'll work."

David grabbed the positive battery cable—and it came off in his hand. The cable was clearly too loose. "The terminal needs to be tightened," David told him. "I can fix it if you have some tools."

"My dad says to just jiggle the wire," the young man replied. "It always works. Why don't you just try that?"

David paused, sarcastically wondering why the young man's dad didn't ride around town with him, ready to jiggle the wire whenever needed. Then he said, "If I jiggle the wire, you're going to need someone to do it every time you shut the engine off. But if you give me two minutes and a wrench, we can solve the problem—and you can forget about it."

Reluctantly, the young man fumbled under the front seat, then handed David a crescent wrench through the window of the old car.

As David tightened the terminal, he thought about how many times he'd asked God for a "quick fix" in his own life. "I have this problem, Lord, and if you'll just jiggle the wire, things will be okay. I'm in a hurry—just get me going again as fast as possible."

But God doesn't want to just jiggle wires, does He?

God wants to take the time to deal with the real issue—to actually fix the problem. A lasting solution to the struggles in our lives requires full surren-

der and a willingness to move forward on God's terms. We must cooperate with God—whatever it takes, for as long as it takes.

As the young man drove away with his tightened terminal, David paused and asked the Lord to say "No" the next time he was tempted to ask for a quick fix.

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

## LAY LEADER THOUGHTS—JIM JUSTMAN

As we say our "Good-Byes" to Pastor Ben, Ann, Julian and Margaret, this beautiful song from Michael W. Smith came to mind. It is called; "Friends."

*Packing up the dreams God planted  
In the fertile soil of you  
I can't believe the hopes He's granted  
Means a chapter of your life is through  
But we'll keep you close as always  
It won't even seem you've gone  
'Cause our hearts in big and small ways  
Will keep the love that keeps us strong  
And friends are friends forever, If the Lord's the Lord of them  
And a friend will not say never, 'Cause the welcome will not end  
Tho it's hard to let you go, In the Father's love we know  
That a lifetime's not too long... To live as friends.*



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