



EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE WELCOME! WE WORSHIP! WE WITNESS!

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

Friends in Christ,

Perhaps you have heard about some of the United Methodist Churches in our area that have been voting or discussing “disaffiliation.” For many years our denomination has been in turmoil regarding the issue welcoming (or not welcoming) LGBTQ persons. At last year’s Wisconsin Annual Conference meeting, a process was created for churches, who disagree with the prospect of welcoming LGBTQ persons, to leave the United Methodist Church. There have been a handful of churches voting in our area voting to do just that.

I wanted to reiterate the position of myself and our leadership at Emmanuel and St. James. We are committed to being a part of the United Methodist Church. While we may have much listening and learning to do in order to best welcome LGBTQ persons in our churches, I believe the UMC will be the best fit for us

theologically. Both churches have important missional relationships that we want to maintain and grow; at St. James we are grateful for the annual mission trip to Henderson Settlement. At Emmanuel Church we are grateful for the continued relationship for the United Methodist Church in Senegal.

Additionally, we have no intention of taking a vote of the entire congregation regarding the topic of disaffiliation. Regardless of how the votes turnout, several churches in our circuit are experiencing fallout and division due to this process. I continue to hear stories of harsh words exchanged between long time friends.. Youth and children that have left churches because they don’t feel welcome. Sad tales of people who say that their home church “doesn’t feel like home anymore.”

I believe our two churches, Emmanuel and St. James will serve an important role during this season. We may receive visitors looking for a new church who have experienced hurt and brokenness, leaving their long time church home and looking for new one because of hard feel-

ings. God will be calling us to be good listeners and offer warm hospitality to the stranger. We may receive friends in Christ who could offer us insight to a new way to love and serve our community.

We serve the one who makes all things new. May we enter this season with an openness to what God has for us so that we may truly live out “Open hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”

Blessings,

Pastor Ben

*open hearts
open minds
open doors*



OUR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship

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EASTER IS APRIL 9TH!

Easter Sunday is April 9th! Our celebration of the Risen Christ will begin with a Son-Rise service at 7:00 a.m. led by the Youth Group. A pancake breakfast will be served immediately

following the SonRise service.

We will not have our regular education/ Sunday School hour on Easter Sunday. During this time prior to the 10:00am worship ser-

vice, games will be offered in the Fireside Room. We received a wonderful response from the community last year, so the Youth will be offering more eggs at our Egg Hunt.

Games and the Egg Hunt will begin at 8:45

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

ELECTION BAKE SALE APRIL 4TH- RESULTS IN FOR FEBRUARY!

The results are in --- **our Feb. 21 bake sale raised \$415.15!** The United Women of Faith group cannot thank you enough for your generosity and amazing baked goods. While these are important elections to the community, we know persons look forward to their "reward" after voting (other groups within the church enjoy them too).

With that, we're doing it again! The next election will be another important event with a large turnout. Please mark your calendar for **Emmanuel's next Bake Sale fundraiser on Tuesday, April 4, held during the Spring Election!**

Proceeds

- All proceeds continue to benefit our mission ministries work in Senegal

What to Bake

- We'd love your help in baking anything you'd like

Packaging

1. All items in saran wrap or baggies
2. Pricing will be done for you; **please do not mark any items**

Bakery Drop Off – Main Hallway Tables

- Sunday, April 2 (8:30 - 11 a.m.)
- or**
- Monday, April 3 (8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

Questions?

- Call Tracy Laux @ (920) 733-0649 and leave a message
- or**
- E-mail: tracy.laux@amcor.com

Thank you for your support!



HOLY WEEK AT EMMANUEL

Emmanuel and St. James will offer worship services for Holy Week and Easter. We will also host a participate in an Ecumenical Good Friday Service with neighboring churches.

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 2nd
10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday (at St. James UMC)

Thursday, April 6th
7 p.m.

Ecumenical Good Friday

Friday, April 7th
Noon
Emmanuel

Easter SonRise Worship

Sunday, April 9th
7:00 a.m.
Pancake breakfast following
SonRise Service.

Games & Egg Hunt 8:45

Easter Worship
Sunday, April 16th
10 a.m.



HOLY WEEK

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT FROM WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

“What do you really want?”

March 2023

“He who loves money will not be satisfied with money . . .” Ecclesiastes 5:10

Many people will say that they want more money. But, the truth is that’s not what people really want. As far as I know, we still cannot eat money, make clothes from it, or build a house with it. If we were stranded on a deserted island, it would be practically useless to us.

No one really wants money. Instead, they want what they think it will provide for them. For some people, more, nicer, newer stuff; others want the sense of security or power they think it provides.

I would argue that, until we understand what motivates our desire for money, we won’t be at peace in our relationship with it.

This Lenten season, I would encourage you to take time to figure out your money motivation by taking this Money Motivation Quiz. As it notes, none of the motivations are inherently good or bad, but each does have a “dark side”. More than just allowing us to lean into the positive parts of our motivation and avoid the dark side, knowing that people may have different motivations regarding money than we do, will help us when we deal with money in our relationships.

Ultimately, we believe that loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves is our greatest priority. It is always easier to do so when we know ourselves well.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

MAKE PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN INGATHER AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023!

Each year at our Annual Conference, churches are asked to donate items for people in need or people suffering from disasters. This year the conference Mission Motivation Committee is again working with Midwest Mission Distribution Center to collect items for the Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits. Midwest Mission distributes the kits locally, nationally and internationally to those in need during times of crisis. All supplies are given free of charge regardless of gender, race or religion.

Kits and items that make up those kits, should be brought to **Annual Conference at the KI Center in Green Bay**. The Midwest Mission truck will be there for collection on June 9th & 10th. If you are not able to

make it to Green Bay this year you can bring donations to one of the **Ingathering 2023 drop off sites**. The drop off site for our district is Bethany UMC in Green Bay)

Monetary donations can be brought to Annual Conference or mailed to The Wisconsin Conference, 750 Windsor Street, Suite 104, Sun Prairie, WI 53590 - *please note Ingathering 2023 in the memo*. To process donations efficiently and get them where needed quickly, we ask for a list of the items donated. You can help the person who delivers the items -and save everyone some time-

by filling out the [Donation Form](#) ahead of time. All items should be NEW – and all kits should have only the items requested.

Thanks! [View kit details](#)

Volunteers are needed to check in and load donations at Annual Conference in Green Bay anytime during our drop off hours: Friday, June 9th 10am-4pm and Saturday, June 10th 8am-2pm. Contact bonnieclement05@gmail.com to help.

BISHOP'S "SOUL FOOD" FEBRUARY 19TH- "IMAGIO DEI LENTEN BIBLE STUDY"

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season, a time of 40 days (excluding Sundays) of personal reflection and growth. In preparation this Holy Season, I have studied Matthew 14:3-9,

While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, 'Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor.' And they rebuked her harshly. 'Leave her alone,' said Jesus. 'Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.'

The challenge for us is to examine our lives through the gift of Mary of Bethany. Mary is purposeful and intentional about her worship of Jesus. She engaged Jesus with complete adoration – breaking the jar and pouring the expensive nard over his head. In her actions, she was giving all that she had with no reservations, even knowing that others would not approve or fully understand.

My prayerful invitation during this Lenten Season is to strive to embody Mary of Bethany's praise and love of Jesus, to the point of extravagance – in generosity of our finances, love, and justice seeking. I am moved and excited, knowing that this Lenten season holds great potential for a deep dive into our faith.

One of the ways in which you are invited to an extravagant Lenten Season is by participating in the new, free Lenten resource from the General Commission on Religion and Race, *Imago Dei* Lenten Bible Study. This five-week study is about diversity, equity and inclusion written in the style of *Lectio Divina*, in which all participants are equal, all voices are invited to participate, and there are no wrong answers. The study is built to listen to the Holy Spirit and share by mutual invitation.

This is our Wisconsin Annual Conference's way of living into "Radical Inclusion and Racial Justice" by celebrating our diversity, equity and inclusion through the image of God. How extravagant!

(This Bible study is available on the Conference website, <https://www.wisconsinumc.org/post/soul-food-imago-dei-lenten-study-17303408>)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS JUNE 9-12

The 2023 Annual Conference is scheduled for Friday, June 9 - Monday, June 12 at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay. . The theme is "On Earth as it is in Heaven" – Engaging in Transformative Community Building." .

Registration is now open online at www.wisconsinumc.org Register by April 3rd for the early bird rate of \$160. Conference attendance will be available in-person and electronically. Pastor Ben and Mike Pfhaler will be attending on behalf of Emmanuel.



We welcomed four new members on February 12th! Elaine and Vernon Hicks, Vicki and Jim Justman.



It's been a snowy February at Emmanuel!

EMMANUEL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

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