



EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE WELCOME! WE WORSHIP! WE WITNESS!

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

“How many times is it in the Bible?!”

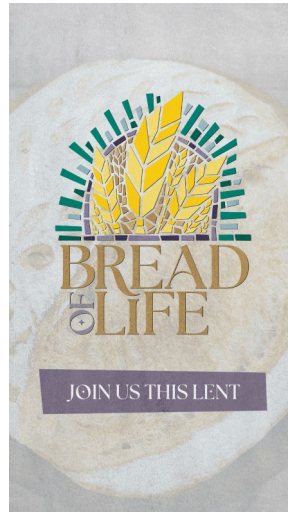
Bread is mentioned in the Bible over 300 times. It varies greatly, depending upon the translation of Scripture. The New International Version has approximately 433 mentions of the word bread. Bread has a recurring place in the ministry of Jesus; it is broken and shared. Bread reminds the people for the many things of which they are grateful. Bread brings people together.

Often Jesus uses bread to illustrate a significant element in his ministry; to symbolize sustenance, for teaching, and sacrifice. He used words like “Not by bread alone; Take and eat this bread and remember me. I am the bread of life.”

Our Lenten worship series *Bread of Life*, will help us to listen for these many messages that Jesus has for us in the gift of bread. In addition to the Sunday sermons Lenten Studies will be offered each week. Join Pastor Ben Tuesday evenings on Zoom at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday afternoons at St. James at 2 p.m. or Wednesday evening at Emmanuel following Dinner Church.

I look forward to listening for these things with you during this Lent; breaking bread, giving thanks, and hearing the good news of God’s love for us in Christ, The “Bread of Life.”

Blessings,
Pastor Ben



OUR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

BISHOP DAN LETTER	2
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS	3
FEBRUARY PHOTOS!	4
LAY LEADER THOUGHTS	5

ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 5TH

Our journey through Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday March 5th. Dinner will be offered at 5:30 p.m. followed by 7 p.m. worship.

Can't make our evening events? Stop by the Emmanuel ramp from 12:30-1:30 for “Ashes To Go” and join the livestream for worship!



**Ash Wednesday
March 5th**

**Ashes to Go
12:30- 1:30 p.m**

**Community Dinner
5:30 p.m.**

Evening Worship 7 p.m

Emmanuel UMC
740 East College Avenue
Appleton W 54911
www.emmanuel-umc.org

Conspiracy of Silence– Bishop Dan Schwerin

Romans 12:9: “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.”

“There is a conspiracy of silence about hatred, its function and its meaning.”
–Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, p.65.

We are a love your neighbor religion. Scripture calls us to welcome the stranger thirty-five times. United Methodists ground their lives in grace that is offered expansively for all—to save and to heal and to grease our growth in love. And yet there is a culture of silence about the othering being done by powerful monied interests at work in the federal government.

In his book *Jesus and the Disinherited*, Howard Thurman has written an entire chapter on hate. Many who have counseled me to be silent for the benefit of the unity of the church, do not seem to be troubled by the ways in which silence supports a clear weaponization of the other. For example, seeds have been planted in the national discourse to displace millions of Palestinians. While some believe that only felons and bad actors are being rounded up in immigration raids, that is not true. Raids have been indiscriminate. I have read in more than one credible source that Indigenous persons have been rounded up in the raids, some in the government have even called for removal of their citizenship. We all know there is a battle in the courts over birthright citizenship guaranteed by the 14th amendment. Persons who identify as LGTBT, especially trans persons are also losing rights and access to medical treatment. The war on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion means women and persons with disabling conditions also face losing their rights. Are these actions unrelated? Episodic?

Are we ready to call this evil and abhor what is evil? If these actions constitute hatred, we must ask how is such hatred functioning—to return to Thurman’s premise? What else is going on while the nation is being divided in this way? How does the silence of Christians help the harm continue? And what does this mean for the church? What would it look like to let love be genuine?

I will encourage us to break the conspiracy of silence about hatred by:

- Creating circles for conversation about hard topics in your community of faith.
- Creating a forum to discuss the Sunday sermon following services of worship.
- Engaging in small talk with anyone as a step toward bridging life together.
- Being in mission to express your witness to the love of Jesus.
- Contribute in ways that strengthen the church’s voice.
- Make relationships with persons who are different from you. Learn.

In *The 2020/2024 Book of Discipline*, among the disciplines by which bishops are encouraged to lead the church is: “a prophetic commitment for the transformation of the world” (403.1d). The subparagraph continues: “the role of the Bishop, is to be a prophetic voice for justice...and alleviation of human suffering.” Yes, we are to lead the whole flock of Christ, with all its gifts and differences. My hope is to offer a prophetic reminder that God’s relentless love is among us to reduce human suffering.

While these considerations are tearing at the hearts of all spiritual leaders, I would call us to our practices. I have been praying more. I have engaged in bible study with laity and clergy. I would call us all to the assembly of the faithful for worship and service.

I would also call us to our neighbors. Make them. Learn from them. Expand your definition of neighbor.

Know that I am praying for you.
Thank you.

Peace,
Bishop Dan Schwerin

REGISTER FOR WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE JUNE 5-8

The 2025 Wisconsin Annual Conference will take place June 5-8 at the Madison Marriott Convention Center in Middleton, WI.

Early bird registration is available through March 12—register now to take advantage!

[Click here to visit the Annual Conference website](#) for event details and important information. Be sure to read all the links before submitting your registration.

Once registered, you'll receive a confirmation email. If you don't receive one, your submission may not have gone through.

Need help? Contact your pastor or call Angela at 608-837-7328, ext. 2227.



THANK YOU FOR THE FEBRUARY BAKE SALE, NEXT IS APRIL 1ST

Thank you for sharing your gifts of time and talent during the February election bake sale.

\$315.08 was raised for missions!

Emmanuel's Next bake sale is during the election on April 1st and you can help!

Proceeds

- All proceeds go to missions.

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, March 30th (8:30 - 11 a.m. in Fellowship Lounge)

or

- Monday, March 31st (8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

Questions?

- Call Tracy Laux @ (920) 733-0649 and leave a message

or

E-mail: tracy.ann.laux@gmail.com



Vernon Hicks holds court during coffee fellowship on Sunday, February 23rd.



Bev Stan and Chuck help hand out nametags during Dinner Church on a chilly Wednesday in February.

Smiles all around! Carrie Korb and Karen Olson visit during coffee fellowship on February 23rd.



STEWARDSHIP MOMENT FROM THE WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

One of the things I love most about the Good News is its message that God loves us just as we are, right where we are. That is the most fundamental message of grace — that “God loved us while we were yet sinners” (Romans 5:8). God sent His Son into the midst of a world that would ultimately put Him to death. And God continues to reach out to those who are the least, the last, and the lost. Without that message of Good News, it wouldn’t be the Gospel.

But there is another part. Yes, God loves us just as we are, but He also loves us too much to let us stay where we are. God’s desire for us is to grow in all ways to become more like Jesus.

So, how do we become more like Jesus? By growing as disciples —through devotion, prayer, generosity, following Jesus’ teachings, and being open to where God might lead us. Grace is free, but holiness

and godliness require discipline — the spiritual work to which we are called as disciples. In fact, the word “disciple” shares its root with “discipline.” Those who seek to grow in faith and spiritual maturity respond to the Good News of God’s love by committing to prayer, study, worship, and service.

This Lenten season, let’s renew our commitment to

make room in our lives for God through all the means at our disposal.

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



LAY LEADER THOUGHTS– JIM JUSTMAN

“Who Is My Neighbor?”

This question was asked of Jesus over two thousand years ago. In the Gospel of Luke he shares the amazing story of *The Good Samaritan* to answer this question.

(Luke 10:30-37) (Please read that again for yourself today.)

In his walk on earth Jesus reached out to any and all who were in need.

He even tried to reach out to those who hated him and planned to kill him.

Jesus modeled for us that *our neighbor is anyone we meet*.

Find *the neighbor* in your life again this week.

- Smile and speak tenderly to someone you have never met.
- Visit someone that may be homebound or lonely.
- Listen carefully to someone who wants to share their story.
- Call someone you have not spoken to for quite some time.
- Thank a public servant for what they do.
- Talk peaceably with someone who has a different point of view.
- Sit with one of our Wednesday Meal visitors and chat with them.

Look for the Neighbor who is but a heartbeat away.

“Strangers are just friends I haven’t met yet.”

-Will Rogers-



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