



EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE WELCOME! WE WORSHIP! WE WITNESS!

MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER

MCCI Express Day is July 27

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**. 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!

OUR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship

OUR WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

- 5:30 Free Community Meal
- 6:15 Adult Study
- 6:30 Youth Group
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal

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

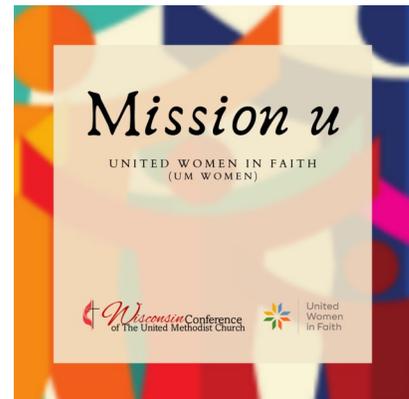
Great news—COMMUNITY is God’s desire for us! Join Mission u 2022 as we reflect on the community that Jesus is calling us to be! This year, as we study Luke 13, we find ourselves in a period of disruption and uncertainty. In the midst of a devastating pandemic, divisive political climate, unaddressed 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.brtpapp.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.



INGATHERING FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

Each year at our Annual Conference, gathering churches are asked to donate items for people in need or people suffering from disasters. This year the conference Mission Motivation committee is working with Midwest Distribution Center to collect items for the Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits. Midwest Distribution Center 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.

Midwest Mission is one of eight cooperating depots in the United Methodist Committee

on Relief (UMCOR) Supply Network. Midwest Mission distributes UMCOR supplies in response to disasters within the United States.

The Ingathering for 2022 is underway. Annual Conference, June 10 – 13, 2022 will be In-Person at the KI Convention Center, 333 Main Street, Green Bay, WI. There is the option of attending via Online Webinar. We ask those of you attending In-Person to bring your kits to the Ingathering truck at WI Annual Conference 2022

which will be located on Elm Street behind the KI Convention Center.

Volunteers will be on hand to load supplies: Friday, June 10th (10am-4pm) & Saturday, June 11th (8am-2pm).

For those of you NOT headed to Green Bay for Annual Conference, several churches have agreed to be drop-off sites. Gathered **supplies should be dropped off by June 8th at a drop site** in your district.

Our District Drop off site is St. James UMC in Appleton.

Emmanuel’s Bake Sale Results from April 5 Voting Election



You did it again... Your bakery donations were in such demand, we sold out by the early afternoon!

Proceeds totaled **\$276.40** and will benefit our mission ministries work in Senegal.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

April Photos!



The Youth Group did an amazing job leading us in worship at the Easter SonRise service!



Pastor Ben spent time with the children during worship on Sunday, April 24th.



The Youth Group did an awesome job preparing Pancakes on Easter Sunday, with varying levels of enthusiasm!

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT FROM WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

“Good”

May 2022

“Life is good.” You may disagree, but “Life is Good” is a registered and trademarked expression by the “Life is Good” people for whom, life is good. The “Life is Good” logo is a stick figure named Jake who wears a black beret, beatnik sunglasses, and flashes a giant grin. Jake is often posed in any number of activities that bring simple pleasures to life — hiking, surfing, flying a kite, walking the dog.

“Life is Good” started inauspiciously as brothers Bert and John Jacobs hawked homemade novelty T-shirts in the Boston streets and door-to-door through the college dorms. They were literally living in their van down by the river. They found their key to success when they printed 48 shirts of Jake over the saying, “Life is Good” for a 1994 street fair in Cambridge. The shirts sold out by noon. People were crazy for the simple and sunny philosophy. So much so, that the sincere and optimistic slogan has grown into an \$80 million-a-year merchandise line sold by 5,000 distributors in 14 countries.

One key to the success of “Life is Good” merchandise lies in the interpretation of those who own the products. Someone wearing the kayaking Jake shirt announces both his hobby and the simple pleasure that makes his life good. But cancer sufferers and survivors have also flocked to the merchandise line due to its simple, clear worldview. “Life is Good” is the hopeful battle cry of the cancer afflicted and the celebration song of cancer survivors.

There’s an implicit sense of truthfulness to the slogan which preserves its widespread appeal. The Jacobses are quick to note the humility of the assertion — life isn’t perfect or great, but it’s good. They know there’s plenty of bad in the world but find it better to focus on what’s good. John claims that the slogan is an affirmation of the here and now. “Don’t determine that you’re going to be happy when you get the new car or the big promotion or when you meet that special person. You can decide that you’re going to be happy today.”

In the church, we have a similar saying, but I don’t think that it’s trademarked. “God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.” This is more than an observation, however. Among other things, it’s a promise that our good God is with us and is active in our lives when we are struggling and in the valleys of life and when our hearts are full of the many blessings we have received and we are filled with joy. Yes, life may be good, but if it is, it’s because “God is good . . . all the time.”

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



MAY LAY LEADER THOUGHTS– MIKE PFAHLER

April showers bring May flowers. What do May flowers bring? **PILGRIMS**. Silly joke but fits into our 150-year **HISTORY** celebration. We still haven't filled our picture bulletin board in the fireside room by the children's area. I have been bothering Shelby Felton for several weeks to bring in pictures of her and Jim's wedding, not the first in this church, but the first among remaining members. If I am wrong about that, you brides that I missed let me know and bring in your pictures. Please note that the beautiful Shelby and handsome Jim are standing at the altar which is further south than now with pews for the choir where the pulpit is today. Where are the baptism photos? Please fill up our bulletin board.

If you are expecting to read about Mother's Day, you'll have to go back to last year's newsletter. This month I'll talk about Heritage Sunday, Aldersgate, and Christ's ascension into heaven.

Heritage Day, now the same day as Aldersgate, is celebrated on the 22nd this year. When I started looking into Heritage, I expected to find many events in the nearly 300 years that it is celebrating. Disappointed to find that the Heritage was only to celebrate the founding of the **UNITED** Methodist Church in 1968. That is why they moved the date to coincide with Aldersgate Day the Sunday of or immediately before May 24th. Aldersgate references the suburb of London, where Wesley, a Church of England priest, while visiting a Moravian church, was "strangely warmed" and shortly thereafter began preaching in the street and "riding" into the countryside. This change in the Wesley brothers, eventually brought us Methodism. Songwriter Shirley Erena Murray wrote "How small a spark" about the event for the 250th anniversary. For Heritage Sunday, I recommend Hymns 710 – Faith of Our Fathers, and 117- O God, Our Help in Ages Past.

Ascension Day, this year on May 26th, will be celebrated on the 29th. Wow, 5 Sunday's this month. Its importance follows Luke's gospel and again in the 1st chapter of Acts, informing us that Jesus was with the disciples off and on for 40 days after his death and Resurrection. On this day, he persuaded the apostles to follow him into the countryside near Bethany, said his good-byes, and instructed them to remain in Jerusalem until the Holy Ghost came to tell them what to do next. More on that next month. In full view, Jesus was lifted slowly into heaven into the clouds until, although they strained, the apostles could no longer see him. No parlor trick, no puff of smoke, a slow and glorious raising of our Lord into heaven. We celebrate this event with many hymns, but my favorite is All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name.

Your Lay Leader,

Mike Pfahler

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METHODIST CHURCH

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