



EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE WELCOME! WE WORSHIP! WE WITNESS!

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

“A mystery wrapped inside an enigma”

My English teacher in high school pounded into me the importance of a thesis statement when writing a paper. “Without a thesis statement, you have nothing! Just a bunch of words rolled together on a page.”

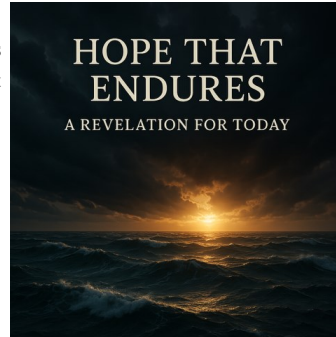
The book of Revelation kind of looks like a bunch of words rolled together on a page. It has thrones rooms and with living creatures that have the appearance of lions and calves. It has great red dragons; Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse! It has beasts with marks that have numbers we DARE not utter!

But Revelation is much more than a “bunch of words rolled together on a page.” It has an important statement about how our hope is in the Resurrected Jesus: “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One, and I was dead, and behold I am alive forevermore.”

Revelation 1:17-18

Underneath it all the strange visions of beasts and battles, Revelation is about the good news of the **Risen Christ who reigns now and forever**—a vision that re-centers us, strengthens us, and gives us courage to keep going. Thanks be to God! Amen! That is good news for us in any age.

I hope you’ll join us continue our worship series,



HOPE THAT ENDURES

A REVELATION FOR TODAY

Hope That Endures: A Revelation for Today, as we explore what it means to live as people of faith, perseverance, and bold hope in challenging times. Each week we’ll uncover how worship, witness, and trust in Christ shape our lives—in these interesting times

Blessings,
Pastor Ben

OUR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NEW VISION STATEMENT FROM COUNCIL OF BISHOPS	2
ST. JAMES RUMMAGE SALE	3
APRIL PHOTOS!	4
LAY LEADER THOUGHTS	5

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS MAY 18TH!

Our confirmation class will complete their journey during worship on Sunday, May 18th. Three terrific students (Morgan Arnoldussen, Bradyn Hill, and Julian Morris) have been working hard in their studies the last two years.

We are grateful to Janet McKee and Mike Pfahler who have served as teachers and have been working with the students.

Please join the students, teachers, families, and sponsors and we celebrate on May 18th!



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!



LAY LEADER THOUGHTS- JIM JUSTMAN

“In Gratitude for Pastor Ben

We thank you God; for all the prayers,
The special ways he shows he cares,
For kindness shown to all in need,
While leading us in Word and deed,
For grace and patience freely shared,
And knowing that he truly cared.
We offer up our thanks again,
Our lives are blessed, through Pastor Ben.

**“We thank our God
For every remembrance of you.”
(Philippians 1:3)**



ORDINATION CELEBRATION FOR PASTOR BEN- JUNE 1ST

Join the congregations of Emmanuel and St. James United Methodist Churches to celebrate the ordination of Pastor Ben Morris. The two congregations will have a joint worship service together at Emmanuel Church on Sunday, June 1st at 9 :30 a.m.

Join us for a brunch immediately following the service. Please RSVP for the brunch to any of the following:

Tom and Mary Schemm: 920-858-3579

Jim Justman: 920-915-9367

Marilyn Zylstra: 920-731-0845

The United Methodist Church Unveils New Guiding Vision Statement

CHICAGO, IL – The Council of Bishops, in conjunction with the Connectional Table, is pleased to announce the unveiling of a new vision statement for The United Methodist Church. This vision reflects the Church's deep commitment to embodying God's dream for the world.

The vision states:

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

This vision statement complements the Church's longstanding mission statement, inspired by Matthew 28:18-20: "The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

The vision encourages United Methodists to embody the following principles:

- **Love Boldly:** Passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender and walk of life.
Inspired by Matthew 22:37-39 and John 13:34-35
- **Serve Joyfully:** With a Christ-like heart, journey alongside the most vulnerable, offering care and compassion with joy.
• *Inspired by Psalm 100:1, Nehemiah 8:10, John 13:14-15 and 1 Peter 4:10*
- **Lead Courageously:** Follow Jesus' example by resisting and dismantling all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice and reconciliation.
• *Inspired by Joshua 1:9 and Ephesians 6:10*

"This is a Kairos moment in the life of The United Methodist Church. This new vision is not simply a statement or a plan, it is a catalyst for transformation," said Bishop Tracy Smith Malone, President of the Council of Bishops. "It is a vision that will help the Church embrace the divine opportunities before us, to follow where God is leading us, and to more fully engage in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

The Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table will work with our United Methodist General Agencies to create resources that inspire and equip disciples, leaders, and congregations to live into this vision. Resources will be shared at Annual Conference sessions and with leaders within local churches this summer, with lay member resources anticipated to follow in late 2025/early 2026.

We sang "Hosanna!" and waved the palms on Palm Sunday, April 13th! Music Director Ryan Korb and the choir led the procession and singing.



The church was decorated beautifully for Easter Sunday, April 20th! Many thanks to those who donated flowers for the sanctuary.

All Aboard! Paul Sagers and Pastor Ben ride a bus to Lambeau Field to volunteer at the Brat Stand during the NFL Draft on April 24th.



 STEWARDSHIP MOMENT FROM THE WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

A Chicken or an Eagle

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ~Romans 12:2

Once upon a time, a man found the egg of an eagle. It had been abandoned for some reason by its mother, but as it was still warm, the man took it and placed it in the nest of one of his backyard chickens, along with the other eggs already being brooded.

After a time, the eaglet hatched. Along with the other chicks from the nest, he began to roam the backyard, doing

what the others did. He scratched at the earth for worms and insects. He pecked at the corn the man scattered across the yard. He clucked and cackled as best he could, and as he grew, he would flap his wings and fly a few feet into the air—just like the other chickens.

Years passed, and the eagle grew old. One day, he saw a magnificent bird high above him in the cloudless sky. It glided gracefully through the powerful wind currents, soaring and swooping, scarcely beating its long, golden wings. The old eagle watched in awe and asked, “What is that?”
“That is the eagle—the king of

birds,” one of his neighbors replied. “He belongs to the sky and the high places. We belong to the earth. We are chickens.”

The old eagle believed it was true. And so, he lived and died as a chicken—because that’s what he thought he was. Very often in life, our perspective determines our reality. By experiencing the transforming power of God’s love and grace, we begin to see the world, the ministry of the church as a whole, our shared ministry as United Methodists, and even our individual lives in a new and extraordinary way. Instead of being

held back by “what ifs,” fears of failure, or the challenges in front of us, we are able to soar—sustained and lifted by the same grace that has already transformed us.

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



 ORDINATION “Q&A” WITH PASTOR BEN

Pastor Ben will be ordained as an Elder on June 7th in Middleton, Wisconsin. Here are some commonly asked questions answered by Pastor Ben.

You have been our pastor for quite some time. What does this Ordination mean? I first started serving Emmanuel as a local pastor; I was assigned to this church on an annual basis and because I had yet to complete any formal theological education, my credentials as a clergy person were reviewed every year. My sacramental authority was confined to this congregation/community.

In part, this ordination as an Elder recognizes my formal education being completed, which I finished in seminary in 2016. I will be a member of our Wisconsin Annual Conference as an ordained elder.

What did you have to do to prepare for Ordination?

For the past three years I was part of a group of pastors that would meet monthly for prayer and support, sometimes at Pine Lake Camp or on Zoom calls. I had to write extensive papers about our doctrinal beliefs as a church, as well as a Bible Study and a Discipleship Project. The process also required psychological testing and a report from my physician. Letters of recommendation were required from other clergy in our Wisconsin Conference. There were also some references and letters of recommendation submitted by members from Emmanuel and St. James, from whom I am very grateful!

How does the Methodist Church define the role of Elder?

The Methodist Church defines the role of Elder as one who is called to Word, Sacrament, Order and Service.

Does this change your work with us in any way?

On the most basic levels, it does not change our ministry together at the local church. I felt the call to pursue ordination as an Elder in the church to help “order” or shape what the future of the Church will look like; how we reach new people and tell them about Jesus. I will continue to be called upon to serve on MCCI teams with other churches. Other churches have heard about our Dinner Church Ministry and I have been asked to share our story. I may be asked to serve on other Conference Committees.

EMMANUEL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

740 East College Avenue
Appleton WI 54911

Phone: 920-731-3288
E-mail: emmanuelumc.appleton@gmail.com
Like us on Facebook!

EMMANUEL-UMC.ORG

WE WELCOME!
WE WORSHIP!
WE WITNESS!
