



# EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE WELCOME! WE WORSHIP! WE WITNESS!

NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10*

We are about halfway through our stewardship series based on the book by Adam Hamilton, "Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity."

In this second week we heard a message about "Understanding our purpose," and how that is important to sharing what we have.

We are invited to have this same calling as Jesus, to take part in same kingdom work of feeding the hungry, healing sick, and sharing the good news of God's love. That's our purpose.

Understanding our purpose

is central stewardship and sharing what we have.

We are beginning to hear that purpose more clearly as a church in some of our ministries, with our food pantry and Wednesday Dinner Church. God is providing us opportunities to serve and build relationships. Each one of us has a purpose with that to share our time, talents and gifts!

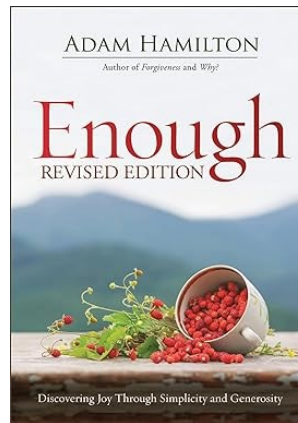
As our season of stewardship continues, I invite you to continue to pray about God's immense blessings and our purpose—how we have all been called to share them within our church, community, nation and world.

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Ben*

## OUR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship



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## CHARGE CONFERENCE IS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH

Our annual Charge Conference is Thursday, November 30th at 4 p.m. Emmanuel will again share its conference with St. James. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Park Hunter, will preside in person.

St. James will host the meeting at their church at 100 W Capitol Dr.

All members are invited to join us at the Charge Conference. We will celebrate what God has

done for us this past year and look forward to the future. We hope you can join us for this important day in the life of our church!



## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT FROM WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

**“Don’t Keep Silent”***November 2023*

I started preaching when I was just 18 years old. I was invited by my home pastor to preach, despite my age, because he knew I had a call to the ordained ministry. By the time I was 20, I had preached a whopping three sermons. With my call and this vast amount of experience behind me, I was invited to serve a small, rural congregation in South-eastern Wisconsin as their supply pastor — which basically meant I would visit the members in their homes and preach every Sunday. And so, in November of my junior year of college, I began to preach every Sunday for a congregation of 52 people. As I remember my first year there, I have fond memories of a group of faithful people who had to listen to, probably the worst sermons ever given

Despite my inexperience, the congregation was very supportive — often offering a tip or an encouraging word. Particularly, I remember one gentleman who came up to me to give me a pat on the back one Sunday morning. After a particularly difficult sermon he said that he truly enjoyed my messages. A little surprised, I responded by simply saying, “Really?” He continued by saying, “Oh yes. You know, you stand up every Sunday and try to tell us about God’s love and grace. But what I really like is the fact that, in the whole year you’ve been preaching, you’ve never mentioned money once.”

Considering that comment, I suppose it could be seen as a bit ironic that my ministry as a part of the Foundation is helping congregations and pastors learn how to comfortably talk about money in relation to our faith (maybe even excitedly). What I’ve discovered, however, is that talking about stewardship is about focusing love and grace. It is about helping people realize all the ways we are blessed by God, that God has given to us abundantly. God has given us so much, in fact, that we have enough to give generously in love for others.

I encourage you to speak about stewardship boldly. Talk about how you have experienced God’s love, grace, and abundance. Share how generosity has transformed your life. Talk about the blessings others have experienced in your church that are made possible by your community’s generosity.

*Rev. Jason Mahnke, Director of Programming & Campaigns, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation*

## THANKSGIVING SERVICE NOVEMBER 22ND AT APPLETON FIRST UMC

Our neighbors at Appleton First United Methodist Church will be hosting an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, November 22nd at 7 p.m.

Pastor Ben will be present with area clergy offering devotions about the importance of giving thanks

and ways we can do it during season. Join us for an evening of worship with our neighbors in Christ!



BISHOP HEE-SOO JUNG

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL FROM SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

“REVOLUTIONARY FORGIVENESS”

For us, as Christians, reconciliation is a deeply spiritual matter, for the Bible challenges us with ways of healing and being that often run contrary to the teachings of our culture. In Matthew 5:43-48, Jesus says, “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Jesus doesn’t leave any room for misinterpretation! We are to love and accept our enemies. We are to pray for the people who have hurt us. We are to treat others the way in which we want to be treated. We are to include every person as our neighbor.

This was radical teaching – and it remains radical, today! Consider the implications: loving those we would never want to befriend, much less spend time with or even break bread with! Loving the person who has preyed on the vulnerable? Forgive those who have hurt us?

The answer is a resounding “YES!” This is an opportunity for us to witness to the power of Jesus Christ in our individual lives and communal body. This ability to love as Jesus teaches us, speaks to the conviction of our faith, the living faith.

- We are called not only to who or what is easy to love – like a puppy or kitten. This is a transformative love that dwells within us from Christ, and flows to all, even the most challenging to love.
- This love is not naïve, blithely suspending reality. It is a love that chooses to act in the revolutionary ways of love, even as it fully recognizes that: harm that has been committed; the pain and anguish are real; and that alienation has occurred. Jesus beckons us to a state of love that forges into the future, and releases us into the newness of life in Christ.

Friends, we have a choice to make. We may choose to focus on a path that is led by our own efforts or those of God. We may focus on how you and I may love our enemies or how Jesus loved his. We may choose to be a forgiving and reconciled people.

*Prayer: Jesus, O Jesus, forgive us for not being a people of revolutionary forgiveness grounded in your love. We ask that our minds and hearts be receptive to the call of love, forgiveness and being one in you. Amen.*





Mike Pfahler hits a home run with his baseball memorabilia while handing out candy at Trunk or Treat on October 29th!



Miranda Madson hands out candy to some excited trick-or-treaters!



The Morris Family tries to "Shake it Off" with their Taylor Swift themed Trunk!



Olivia Mckee bundles up for her "Pajama" Trunk while handing out candy on October 29th.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS

We met on October 22 with 13 present. Our program was our pledge service presented by Nancy Huolihan, our treasurer.

On November 17, Tracy Laux will present our World Thank Offering program and an offering will be taken. This is one of our 5 areas of Undesignated Giving.

In December, our cookies, fudge, and soup sale will be on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be a signup sheet in the hallway for needs and ways to participate.



SCRIP FOR YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

What will you need this busy holiday season with Thanksgiving just around the corner? Groceries for cooking and holiday baking. Gas for travelling to see family. Maybe a run to Target to start your holiday shopping? And Scrip Gift Cards make great holiday gifts!

You can do all of these things **AND contribute to Emmanuel Church at the same time** through the SCRIP program. Through the SCRIP program you purchase a gift card (at church for face value) to your favorite retailer, gas station, and grocery store. Use these gift cards in your daily doings as you normally would. Mean-

while, these retailers are returning a portion to Emmanuel!

We are grateful for all of the ministry that Paul Sagers and Barb Steele offer through Scrip program. Stop and see Paul at the Scrip table after worship on Sundays!

If you are worshipping online, Paul delivers! Contact him by email ([paulsagers@msn.com](mailto:paulsagers@msn.com)) with your order and he can bring your Scrip

order to you. Thank you for supporting Emmanuel through this ministry!



ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES- “AN UNLIKELY ADVENT”

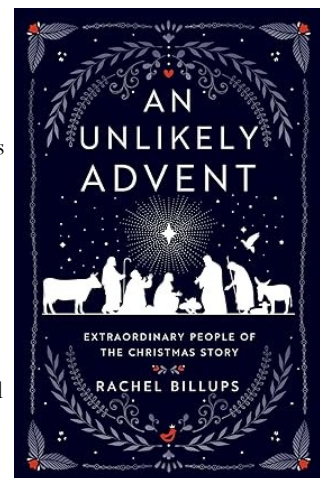
Our Advent Worship series will be “An Unlikely Advent,” utilizing a new book by Pastor and Author Rachel Billups.

This four-week Advent study focuses on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the Nativity story. During this Advent season, Pastor Billups guides readers

through the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas.

Study times will be offered at Emmanuel Church on Wednesday evenings following

the meal at approximately 6:15 and Sunday morning at 8:45 before worship. Our neighbors at St. James will also offer a study time on Wednesday afternoons at 2 p.m. Our series will start on Sunday, November 26th. Find a time be in fellowship as we listen further to the “Unlikely” story of God’s grace for all of us!



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