



EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE WELCOME! WE WORSHIP! WE WITNESS!

SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

ESTHER WORSHIP SERIES BEGINS SEPTEMBER 8TH

“I can’t explain it. I just know God’s hand was in what was happening.”

We have those moments in our life that we can’t quite put our finger on. That in the midst of absolute chaos, we know that God is still with us. That all of the sin and death that surrounds us, God somehow works it for good.

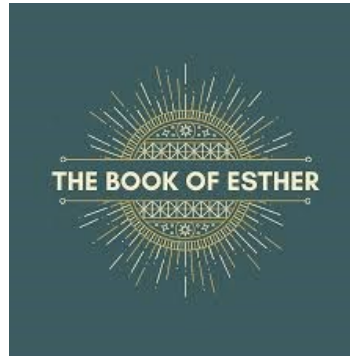
We will explore these themes and more during our worship series on the book of Esther beginning September 8th. In the midst of her people being conquered, exiled and far from home, Esther still finds family. Still finds connection. And still

finds a way to serve God and God’s people.

Esther: “God’s Providence in Everyday Life” will be a six week series starting on September 8th. A Bible Study following the series will be offered at St. James on Wednesday afternoons at 2 p.m. starting September 11th. I hope you can join us for this series as we listen for how the God of the Resurrection continues to offer us life in the most unlikely of places.

Blessings

Pastor Ben



OUR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship

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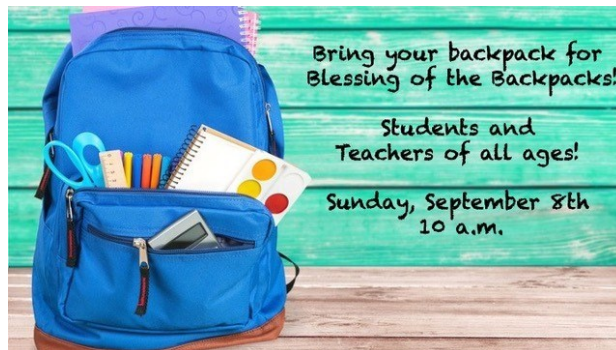
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KICKOFF SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 8TH!

Kickoff Sunday is September 8th! Sunday School for all ages returns at 8:45 a.m!

Part of this Sunday will be Blessing of the Backpacks! Students, teachers, and

staff of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks for a special time of prayer as this new school year begins!



“THE CHOSEN” SEASON 4 STUDY BEGINS THIS FALL!

For the past few years Emmanuel has offered a study of the video series “The Chosen.” It has been a unique and powerful way to hear the story of Jesus and his disciples.

Season 4 of “The Chosen” came out earlier this year! We are excited to resume our weekly study at Emmanuel this fall.

You can watch the video with us each week Sunday mornings with us starting Sunday, September 8th at 8:45 in the Library. The videos are also available online many places, including “The Chosen” app.

Our time of discussion will be Wednesday nights each week following the

meal at approximately 6:15 in the Fireside Room. A Zoom room will be offered for those who want to join our discussion online. The discussion will not start until September 18th, when our meals return. Hope you can join us for this study and discussion!



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS— A BUSY SEPTEMBER!

We have a busy September. On Friday, September 6, the Outagamie County Chapter Church Women United will meet at Emmanuel, beginning 9:30 am. We’ll meet downstairs in Fellowship Hall with coffee and refreshments. Kiara West from Leaven will be our main speaker.

Also that day, we’ll be collecting personal hygiene products of: shampoo, deodorant, bar soap, toothpaste, etc.

On Tuesday, September 17, we’ll once again meet downstairs in Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m. to work on quilts for Project Linus. Barb Alt from First UMC of Neenah will bring the necessary supplies. A snack, beverage, and dessert will also be provided. If possible, we’d like at least three persons able to work on this project. Please let Hazel know if you’re available to join us.

On Saturday, September 21, our district meeting will be held at Algoma Boulevard UMC in Oshkosh. Registration is from 8:30-9 a.m. However, the deadline to pre-register is Tuesday, September 10. Please contact Hazel if you’d like to attend and she’ll provide you with the registration form.

The offering at our district meeting will go toward the Oshkosh Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Shelter. At the memorial service, Emmanuel’s Marlene Hansen will be lifted up in memory as a United Women in Faith member.

Our annual UWF Day is Sunday, September 22. The ladies will be hosting our church service through duties of: greeters, ushers, worship leader, and coffee fellowship. Please bring a “goodie” to share that morning held in the first floor Lounge following the service. This will be our meeting for September.

The State Church Women United will meet Saturday, September 28 in Milwaukee from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. The pre-registration deadline is Friday, September 20. Please contact Hazel for the registration form. The program will focus on Proverbs 4:23 scripture.

Please Note: Due to the great need, we’ll continue to collect items for CASA through the fall season.

The list of needed items is posted on the bright color collection box in the main hallway.



STEWARDSHIP MOMENT FROM WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

The Church's Need to Receive or the Giver's Need to Give?*September 2024*

When I was first learning about stewardship early in my ministry, I heard someone say, “Good stewardship practices focus on the giver’s need to give, rather than the church’s need for money.” At the time, I didn’t buy it. To my cynical ears, it sounded like a line. Today (many years later), I can say that I was wrong. This study, which is an updating of a similar study conducted in 2011, underscores that empathy is not predetermined; it is a fluid trait that can grow or shrink, depending on one’s experiences.

We love our churches. We want them to thrive and succeed. They are near and dear to our hearts. So when the churches faces financial challenges, we want to plead with people how important it is to keep the ministries of our beloved church going. We need to pay the bills. Throw in the anxiety that surrounds any financial topic, we may want to push the point.

The truth is the church’s mission isn’t to keep existing. In fact, we love our churches because of the ways God has touched our lives through them —ceremonies and rituals, helping us grow in faith and connection. Likewise, a church’s teaching about faithful stewardship should be centered on helping people learn about the place of money in a Christian’s walk of faith. It’s about discipleship and partnering with God to make a positive difference in the world — whether people do that by being generous with the church or other organizations. (Note: I do believe people who are generous as a part of their faith include the church in their generosity if the church is faithfully living out its mission.)

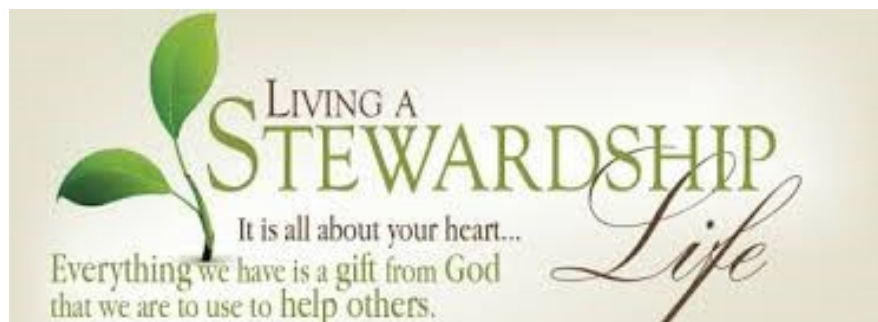
Tithing benefits the giver as much as it strengthens the mission and ministry of the church — especially in the midst of our materialistic and consumerist society. We are immersed in a culture that feeds the appetite for more and bigger and that fosters that self-worth is found in material wealth and happiness comes by possession. As one person once said, “We buy things we don’t even need with money we don’t even have to impress people we don’t even know!”

At the root, these are spiritual problems, leading to continued discontent, discouragement, and unhappiness. We can never earn enough to be happy. In fact, studies have shown that people believe all they need is more money to be happy, when in reality, an academic study concluded that money can only boost happiness up to a certain point (at about \$75,000 in annual income).

Practices like embracing gratitude do lead to more contentment. For instance, consider making a list of the things in your life for which you are grateful. It doesn’t have to be long or take much time. Taking time to focus on what you have rather than concentrating on what you don’t can be transformative.

Beyond embracing gratitude, consider the following questions: • How does living generously help you see the world through God’s eyes? • How is your own perspective shaped by materialism, acquisition, and the desire to possess? How is it shaped by the wisdom of God? How do you resolve tensions?

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





Bill Gibson offers a update on the Senegal Mission after the Golf outing on August 14th.

A great crowd from our circuit churches enjoy fellowship and receive an update on the Senegal Ministry at the Golf outing on August 14th. The outing raised approximately \$5,000 for Senegal this year!



Pastor Tony Fuller from Neenah First UMC provides an update from Senegal during the lunch.

BISHOP JUNG CELEBRATED DURING JULY FAREWELL

The weekend of July 27-28, 2024, was filled with celebrations as we bid farewell to Bishop Jung and Rev. Im Jung. Two celebrations were held: one at St. Paul's UMC in Stevens Point and the other at Sun Prairie United Methodist Church. Various music groups from around the conference participated in the worship services. The Conference Board of Laity, led by Ben Brancel, led the service in Stevens Point, while Gail Burgess, the Episcopal Committee Chair, led the service in Sun Prairie. The churches provided wonderful hospitality following the services. It was a meaningful and blessed way for the Wisconsin Conference to say farewell to Bishop Jung and Rev. Im Jung, and to bless them in their ministry here and

in Bishop Jung's future assignment in the Ohio Episcopal Area. A big thank you to Rev. Jenny Arneson and Rev. Tim O'Brien for helping lead worship. Thank you also to their amazing staff and volunteers for putting on beautiful celebrations.



LAY LEADER THOUGHTS

In a recent sermon Pastor Ben reminded us that followers of Jesus

were and are given *“the tools of humility, gentleness and patience.”*

I see these tools at work here at Emmanuel.

-In the volunteers who prepare our community meals.

-In the mentors and teachers who guide our young.

-In the talents of singers, leaders and musicians leading worship.

-In the gifts and efforts of those who stock and serve our food pantry.

-In the delicious treats set out for us each Sunday after worship.

-In our leaders who guide our ministries behind the scenes.

I give thanks for the gifts that are at work here in our congregation.

If you have a gift to share, please know it would be valued as well.

Send me an email at jjustman15@gmail.com and I will be in touch.

“Humility, gentleness, and patience”

Help us “grow in the love of Jesus”

(Pastor Ben)



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