



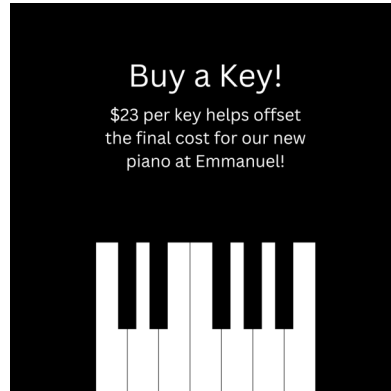
EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE WELCOME! WE WORSHIP! WE WITNESS!

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

HELP EMMANUEL BY SPONSORING A PIANO KEY!

We are truly blessed to have this new (to us) Steinway piano. Our insurance settlement and a very generous gift from the Felton family provided most of the capital needed to acquire the instrument. Because of other factors (humidity system, bench, piano dolly, moving, tunings), we are still short of the total amount needed to fund all the piano costs. We are hoping to get each of the 88 keys sponsored by members of our congregation by the beginning of the choir season on September 8th. \$23 sponsors 1 key. Feel free to sponsor as many keys as you desire. We are grateful for your support.



Sponsoring a key is easy:

- Decide how many keys you would like to sponsor.
- Write a check to Emmanuel with PIANO in the memo line.
- Enjoy knowing that you helped support the music program here at Emmanuel. your purchases benefit Emmanuel

OUR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 Worship

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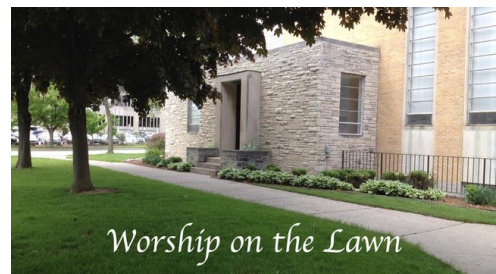
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OUTDOOR JAZZ WORSHIP IS JUNE 30TH!

God gave Emmanuel Church a beautiful front lawn with lovely shade! It has been a great spot to worship outside the past few years with some wonderful music!

Our first Jazz Worship on the lawn will be June 30th at 10 a.m. Folding Chairs will be provided, or you are welcome to bring your favorite lawn chair!

Make outdoor worship a part of you plans and invite friends! See you on June 30th!



ST. JAMES RUMMAGE SALE & BRAT FRY JUNE 7-8

Our neighbors at St. James UMC are holding a Rummage Sale and Brat Fry Friday June 7th from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, June 8th 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!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS

We will be meeting June 9th after our morning worship service. Please grab a snack and come to the Fireside Room. Wanda Gustafson will apprise us of ways we can participate in the Reading Program and Marlene Peterson will give brief reviews of books she has read.

We have some possible local mission projects that we will

be discussing. Your input will be appreciated as we devise a plan for implementation.

On June 11th at 1pm, we will meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall to work on blankets for Project Linus. Everyone is invited to participate. All supplies will be provided. Hazel and Nancy

met with Miriam Circle at First United Methodist Church in Neenah and participated in finishing the blankets.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT IS ON THE MOVE! JOIN US THIS SUMMER!

God has been working in amazing ways this past year creating relationships through our Wednesday Night



A busy kitchen! Many hands at work at Emmanuel on May 15th.

Dinner Church Ministry. Typically our ministry ends in May, so that our amazing team can take a break for the summer.

We may have had our last meal for the school year but not our friends at St James! They will be starting a summer Wednesday Evening Meal Ministry on June 12th. Consider joining us for dinner this summer at St. James! Some of the most important ministry is being around the table with someone in fellowship. We Witness!

SAVE THE DATE FOR SENEGAL GOLF OUTING AUGUST 14TH!

For over ten years the Circuit Churches in the Fox Valley have been in relationship with the Senegal Mission Initiative of the United Methodist Church in Senegal, Africa. Our financial support of the ministry helps with support of Pastor salaries, church rent, and programming for church growth. The Mission also has staff which operates a clinic out of the church and feeds children through various nutrition sites. The ministry promotes women through a Women's Skill Center, where the women learn to speak

French, restaurant level cooking, sewing, and financial skills. Last year \$6,000 was raised from our Circuit Churches for the ministry in Senegal!

We are excited to connect for an Annual golf outing to support the ministry again this year! Join us Wednesday, August 14th beginning at 8:30 a.m. at High Cliff Golf Course. Registration information will quickly follow. Mark your calendars, golfers!



BISHOP'S "SOUL FOOD" REFLECTING ON GENERAL CONFERENCE

The postponed and much anticipated 2020 General Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina has concluded. It was an amazing experience – filled with powerful worship and inspiring missional reports all grounded and surrounded in prayer.

There were many areas in which petitions were submitted and approved. There was intentionality about the constitutional amendment that creates the regionalization of the United States, this being an equal partner with all other “central” conferences (those previously designated that are outside the U.S.). This legislation will need to be ratified by each Annual Conference requiring a 2/3 majority vote of all conferences.

After years of intensive and prayerful debate, the General Conference delegates from all over the world have discerned to remove language that prohibited United Methodist clergy from performing weddings for same-gender couples. There are still some important things about this decision that I want laity and clergy to know.

First, pastors, as chief administrator of the church, and with responsibility to lead the congregations, make the decision about officiating at a wedding. This decision is based on several factors including the couples’ preparation for the marriage covenant. The change in the Book of Discipline does not change the pastoral authority in making the decision about officiating at a wedding. There is no mechanism in Conference leadership nor desire on my part as bishop to determine pastoral authority as it pertains to marriage.

Second, churches will continue to determine what weddings are held in their church buildings. Further, the desires of all clergy are to be honored and not judged by others. We know that different people have different opinions on these matters and our churches are in different contexts within the bounds of the Conference and it is my expectation that the diversity of everyone’s opinion and everyone’s context is to be honored.

Third, is the removal of the prohibitions that prevented a Board of Ordained Ministry from recommending a LGBTQIA+ person for ordination. Qualified LGBTQIA+ persons approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry would now be licensed, commissioned, and ordained. As the bishop, the Cabinet will continue to work with churches and clergy to ensure we have the best match possible when making appointments. We will honor the gifts of pastors and congregation’s traditions. We want everyone to have a vital ministry rather than one defined by conflict. Our continued goal is to enhance ministry through theological and missional compatibility. All will be accepted, so that ministry can thrive. Integrity will be a matter for all God’s people and every church will be focused to grow into the vital ministry in this changing season. Your Bishop and Cabinet will carry the faithful works of supervision and service to all churches.

The United Methodist Church truly is an international global church. We are sensitive to and honor regional and cultural attitudes toward contentious issues. We celebrate the ways these recent decisions reinforce the primacy of God’s love in our lives and the world. I also recognize how they will add complexity to our life together as United Methodists.

I have been diligent in practicing my lived-out faith within our community of believers, which is diverse and inclusive. It has been intentional that our Conference lives into “Beloved Community,” which affirms the unity and oneness in God, “for by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free, and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Through this lens of oneness in Christ, we are invited to examine and fully embrace the “beloved community, ” in which we welcome all and include all. It is our time to set aside political labels and societal aspirations and practice our faith in hospitality, grace, and compassion. We are now at a point of avenues for focused ministry with global intention.

As we begin to move into understanding the implications of these decisions, I once again remind us of a quote by one of the founders of Methodism, John Wesley, “Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.”

May God make it so.

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



Music Director Ryan Korb leads the choir in “A Prayer for Love” on Sunday, May 12.

Mike Pfahler prepares to hand out name-tags and welcome people to Dinner Church on Wednesday, May 15th.



Paula Mikkelson and Hazel Christopher prepare pans for delivery to the COTS transitional shelter on Wednesday, May 15th.

BISHOP JUNG FARWELL CELEBRATION JULY 27-28

Please mark your calendars for Bishop Jung’s Farewell Celebration. Following twelve years of dedicated service to the Wisconsin Conference, Bishop Jung will soon begin a new chapter, extending his ministry to another Conference. **The dates are Saturday, July 27 from 1-4PM at Stevens Point: St. Paul’s UMC and Sunday, July 28 from 1-4PM at Sun Prairie UMC.** More information soon!



LAY LEADER THOUGHTS

God’s At Work In Us

On Pentecost Sunday Pastor Ben reminded us: *“that God works... with real people...to work on God’s behalf”* in the world.

Do you have a gift to share???

Our community shines when our gifts are shared.

Listeners, organizers, prayers, musicians, cooks, teachers, givers,

encouragers, mentors, visitors, volunteers....All these gifts and more

bring blessings to others in God’s world.

If you have a gift to share please reach out to Pastor Ben, me or any of our leaders. Your gifts will make a difference in the lives of all!

“Every generous act of giving is from God above.”

(James 1:17)



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METHODIST CHURCH

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