

# EMANUEL CHURCH

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2026 VOL. 4 ISSUE 3

101 14<sup>th</sup> St., Baraboo, WI 53913 • 608-356-8246 • office@emanuelchurch.net  
www.emanuelchurch.net

### FROM PASTOR RON

*Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? ~ John Wesley*

“We are a Bible believing church.” “I want to attend a Bible believing church.” These are words we hear in the church repeatedly and, often times, militantly. But take a step back for a moment. There are plenty of churches that are “Bible believing churches” but have differing interpretations of scripture. Catholics, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Baptists (Southern, American, etc.), and Methodists all believing the Bible . . . all believing that they have a firm grip on interpreting the Bible.

John Wesley himself warns, “Most controversies which have disturbed the church have arisen from people’s wanting to be wise above what is written, not contented with what God has plainly revealed there.” And ever since the first apostles went into the world at Jesus’ command, throughout the centuries has had various interpretations; causing rift, schism, and violence.

Suffice it to say that, as we’ve delved into in our early Discipleship Course of Study, there are “essentials” of Christianity and “non-essentials.” It is the non-essentials that define the various denominations. Even so, understanding— What we believe and why we believe it, is important to the unity of the church. The Apostle Paul reminds us that when we gather, we should gather in unity of thought.

On Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> we will begin the 10-week class— “Wesleyan Theology” (What We Believe & Why We Believe it). While other denominations have differing views, as Methodists we are called to love the same even though we may not think the same. But in all of human history, no group of people has peacefully survived when there is conflict of thought and teachings.

For 150 years, since its inception, Emanuel has held to its Wesleyan Theological heritage. I pray you’ll join me in this journey of understanding.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FROM DANI

#### **Nursery Volunteers Needed!**

We’re on the hunt for cheerful volunteers to spread some love to our nursery kiddos during the 10:30a Sunday worship services. Bring a friend and dive into the fun of shaping Emanuel’s future leaders! Sign up in the narthex.

#### **Lent at Emanuel**

Swing by on Wednesdays during Lent for a bowl of heartwarming soup and soul-stirring stories!  
5:15p: Free soup dinner  
6-6:45p: Get inspired by testimonies in the sanctuary

Lend a hand if you can, sign-up sheet in the narthex.

#### **Easter Worship**

Come celebrate the risen King with us on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>! Choose between our 8a or 10:30a worship services. Plus, snap a pic at the photo op in the narthex!

#### **Schedule Update**

No programming at Emanuel on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> (includes studies, youth group and Fun in the Son).

Sunday School will not meet on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, Happy Easter.

#### **Save the Date**

VBS 2026 is just around the corner! VBS will take place Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Come along for the ride as we kick off plans for Vacation Bible School at Emanuel! We’re taking a leap to the lush hills of Ireland and diving into Psalm 23. We’re on the hunt for crafty creators and kitchen maestros. Pop in if you want to join the fun squad! March 3<sup>rd</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup> or May 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. See bulletin board display in youth hallway.

## BE THE WELCOME

### Registration closes Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>

#### Women's Mini Retreat: Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

There's still time to register! Information flyers are on the table in the narthex. The \$10 fee covers a light breakfast and beverages.

You are welcome to pay cash or check in the church office or online by scanning the QR code below.



## YOUTH GROUP FROM MICHELLE & JOSH

Hello Emanuel Family! We survived Fort Wilderness and managed to return with exactly the same number of kids we left with!! Whew 😊 It was an amazing, powerful, bitterly cold weekend but the youth group had zero complaints. Our theme was Light...we talked about what it meant to share our darkness and bring it into the light, follow on his lighted path and most of all how to share and be the light for others. The kids were so willing to share and discuss different things in their own lives. It's amazing to see them let their guard down and really take it all in without the distractions of life, school, sports, and social media. Thank you all for your support and love to these kids. We are so thankful for our Church Family.

## FROM THE TREASURER – GREG RUFVOLD

### Church Finance: General Fund: 2025

January Offering	\$25,690
January Budget	<u>\$27,670</u>
Excess(Shortage)	(\$1,980)

### New Ministry - Freedom from Food

A new ministry, Freedom from Food, will meet weekly on Thursday evenings at 6:30p. This God-centered program has been created to support anyone who struggles with challenges related to food, body image, or unhealthy eating patterns, offering encouragement, understanding, and hope in a compassionate environment.

For more information, contact Jenny Gramer at 608-495-1052 or [jljahnke@live.com](mailto:jljahnke@live.com)

Are you looking to get involved but not sure where to serve? We have a wonderful opportunity for you!

We are in need of two volunteers for the 8:00a service. This is a wonderful opportunity for a couple, two friends, or even two individuals serving together.

You've seen our greeters in action each week. A warm welcome at the door makes such a difference and helps everyone feel at home as they enter worship. This simple but meaningful ministry sets the tone for a welcoming and Christ-centered experience.

We would truly appreciate you saying, "I will," to this important ministry at Emanuel. If you feel called to serve or would like more information, please contact the church office.

At this time, we have two open dates: April 19<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>. The summer schedule (when we move to one service) has not yet been assigned.

We look forward to welcoming you to the team!

## UPCOMING WORSHIP

In March we continue with our overview of Paul's letters to the churches continuing in Philippians then into Colossians:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Faith Leads to Joy with Holy Communion	Phil 1:13b-26
8 <sup>th</sup>	Unity of Believers	Phil 3:7-14
15 <sup>th</sup>	Lord Over All Adult Choir Anthem	Col 1:15-20
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fullness of Christ	Col 2:9-14
29 <sup>th</sup>	Spiritual Maturity	Col 3:15-17

## Lent Wednesday Soup, Worship & Testimony

Soup Supper at 5:15p & Worship at 6:00p

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
4 <sup>th</sup>	Dave Becraft
11 <sup>th</sup>	Darla Karasek
18 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Stearns
25 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Group Service