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The Messenger  
**JANUARY** 2025



FROM  
**PASTOR LEANNE**

## Call to Covenant and Community

As we stand at the beginning of a new year, the invitation to start anew with God's guidance is a profound opportunity. It is a time to reflect, realign, and renew our commitment to God's call in our lives. One powerful tradition for the new year is the **Covenant Prayer of John Wesley**, which encourages personal renewal and a deeper commitment to God's purpose.

The Covenant Prayer is a prayer of total surrender to God's will. It is a prayer rooted in the life and ministry of John Wesley, who believed that each new year provided a moment to reflect on our relationship with God and renew our commitment to live according to the call of Christ. Wesley's Covenant Prayer begins with a profound declaration: *"I am no longer my own, but yours."* This simple statement acknowledges the central truth of the Christian life: we are not our own. We belong to God, who created us, sustains us, and walks alongside us in every season of life.

While the Covenant Prayer is often prayed individually, its deep connection to community is undeniable. As Christians, we are not isolated in our journey of faith. We are part of the body of Christ, a community called to live in mutual love and service. When we pray this prayer, we do so not just for ourselves, but as part of the larger community of believers. The prayer's themes of surrender and submission speak not only to our individual lives, but to our life together as a church.

In community, we share in each other's joys and burdens. We encourage one another to walk in God's will and challenge each other to live out our faith more fully. The Covenant Prayer invites us to serve God together, as a body united in purpose, knowing that our individual commitments shape the collective life of the church and how we live in the world.

John Wesley's Covenant Prayer:

"I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,  
Exalted for you or brought low for you.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Creator, Savior, and Sustainer,  
You are mine, and I am yours. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

These words are a profound invitation to live with open hands before God, ready to follow where God leads—whether in times of abundance or lack, success or suffering. As we offer ourselves to God in this way, we remember that this surrender is not only personal but shared. Our commitment to God's will also means living out His love and grace in community, supporting one another, and growing together in faith.

In the new year, we are called not only to surrender ourselves to God's will but also to embrace our role in the community of believers. God's purpose for our lives is never isolated from the larger mission of the church. Each of us has a part to play in the body of Christ, whether through service, prayer, teaching, or simply being present for one another in times of joy and sorrow.

The new year provides us with an opportunity to reflect on how we can more fully live out our covenant with God in community. How can we encourage one another? How can we serve one another? How can we pray for one another and walk alongside each other as we seek to follow Christ? The Covenant Prayer challenges us to live not just for our own good, but for the good of the entire body of Christ.

As we begin this new year, let us remember that we are part of something larger than ourselves. We are part of a community that is called to live in love, to serve one another, and to seek God's will above all else. The Covenant Prayer reminds us that our commitment to God is also a commitment to each other. Let us walk forward into this new year, united in purpose and faith, trusting that God will lead us every step of the way.

Happy New Year, and may you experience God's peace and presence in every moment of the year ahead!

Pastor Leanne

## JANUARY SCHEDULE

**January 5**

**Luke 2:41-52**

*prayers for Mary Branson and  
Jessie & John Brinkmann*

HOLY COMMUNION

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

Monday: Open & Safe Community Conversation,  
5:30 PM

Tuesday: Bible Study at 10 AM      Wednesday:  
Mahjong at 1 PM

**January 12**

**Luke 3:1-22**

*prayers for*

*Laurie & Buck Buckett and M-F: Emmanuel delivers  
the Dousman Area Home Meals*

Monday: Trustees meeting,  
6 PM

Tuesday: Bible Study 10 AM; Ladies Fellowship  
meeting,  
1 PM

Wednesday: Mahjong at

1 PM; Newsletter deadline

Saturday: Kids' Storytime at 11:30 AM

**January 19**

**Isaiah 61:1-11 Luke 4:14-30**

*prayers for Michael Clark and Kris & Dick Davidson*

Council meeting after Worship

Tuesday: Bible Study 10 AM

Wednesday: Mahjong at  
1 PM

**January 26**

**Luke 5:1-11**

*prayers for Pat & Mike Doering and Mary Edwards*  
**Annual meeting of the congregation after Worship**



**CLEANING THE CHURCH:** Corrine Mayer

**COFFEE HOUR COMMITTEE FOR JANUARY 12**  
Julia Starbuck & Corrine Mayer

	USHERS	SCRIPTURE READERS
5	Laurie Buckett	Heather Cathey
12	Connie Motelet	Lorna Marheine
19	Lorna & Jere Marheine	
26	Debbie Morgan	



### BIRTHDAYS

Jere Marheine	5	Bill Welch	13
Sherri Krantz	6	Gregg Jarrett	17
Pat Doering	13	Cas Thiele	29

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Carole & Dan Milos      19

### ANNIVERSARIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Vera Ortmann	3,	1971	54 years
Shirlene Hazelberg	27,	2008	17 years
Sherri & Bob Krantz	27,	2008	17 years
Melissa & Rick Rivera	27,	2008	17 years
Charlotte Voigt	27,	2008	17 years

## Lamenting the Church: Steps in Healing January 12, 5pm

There are many who, for one reason or another, haven't always "fit" into the church. Some have been told explicitly or passively that they need to be something other than they are. Maybe a sexual history, a child or an abortion that led to shame from members or leaders of a church. Maybe it was one's gender expression, sexuality, attraction, or lack of attraction that made some to say they don't belong.

At Emmanuel UCC, we say all are welcome, no matter. And we believe that the fullness of who you are, and all the parts of you, contribute to who you are with us, they are even gifts you bring when you bring your whole self!

Lamenting the Church: Steps in Healing is for those who have been hurt, are hurt, and are still seeking some connection with the Divine. There will be reflection and ritual, movement and silence, poems and songs. Participate as much or as little as you wish.

Let us move toward healing.



**HomeBrewed Faith is a monthly discussion in cooperation with St. Mary's Episcopal with widely varying topics. We meet at Johnny's Pizzas & Pastaria (in the former Rosati's location in Oconomowoc) from 7-8 PM on the last Wednesday of the month...**

**JOIN US!**

Jan 29: Ecuminism—How do we interact with other Christian communities? What is the difference between Christian denominations? What about other faiths?

Feb 26: Forgiveness  
No HBF March for Lent.



### UCC Disaster Relief Fund

For January, the Singing Bowl donations will continue to be collected for the UCC Disaster Relief Fund. Some of the areas our donations will be used is for support

of needs such as:

**Hawaii Wildfires** – Bridges gaps in existing resources for long-term community revitalization

**Ukraine** – Provides shelter, food and other care to refugees living in Ukraine.

**Middle East Support** – Call for humanitarian aid, safe places, for shelter, and diplomatic efforts to call for a cease-fire.

**USA Weather Emergencies/Hurricane Relief --**

Supporting communities long term as they recover from disasters, even as their plight disappears from the headlines.

### Holiday Giving Successes

We supported four families this season with our **Angel Tree**. Over 30 gifts and gift cards were purchased and delivered. Also, the gift cards ordered with our church Scrip program benefited our Church as a fundraiser.

We also filled 23 **Veterans Bags** for our Homeless Vets that were delivered to Milwaukee and Madison Veteran facilities. They were filled to the brim with needed toiletries, socks, snacks, laundry supplies, scarves, and gloves. A special thank you to Kristen, Kathy and Sandie for delivering them.

Thank you for your generosity!!

*Thank yous have been received from Lake Country Caring for our Singing Bowl donations and from Madison area Veterans Hospital for our donation of Vet Bags for their homeless vets.*



As of December, the results of our 2025 Pledge Drive are:

\$121,830 for the General Fund

\$4,470 for OCWM

Thank you church family...your generosity is amazing. Through your support, we can continue to provide a place of worship, fellowship and spiritual growth.

Your Board of Stewards,

Steve Thompson, Francine Langlais, Charlotte Voigt and Sue Stelling



The Emergency Overflow Center in Waukesha which offers essential overnight shelter for individuals and families at risk of homelessness during the winter months was

severely damaged by a broken water pipe leak recently. Family Promise was prepared to provide food and shelter for these families starting the middle of December. At this time, the plan to open is being pushed back until the new year. Accommodations have been made to house everyone during the cold weather.

## Continuing Opportunities...

### TUESDAY MORNINGS

Bible Study 10-11 AM in the library

Each week the Scripture for the following Sunday is discussed.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> TUESDAYS

Ladies Fellowship meets for coffee, dessert & lively conversation!

### 4<sup>th</sup> TUESDAYS

Poetry/Writers Group, 6:30 PM

### WEDNESDAYS

Mahjong games at 1 PM

### 1<sup>st</sup> THURSDAYS

Peer-to-Peer Disabilities & Chronic Illness Group, 5:30 PM

### 3<sup>rd</sup> SATURDAYS

Kid's Storytime AT 11:30 AM



We appreciate your ongoing support. Donations may be sent to our P.O. Box address: Emmanuel UCC, P.O. Box 216, Dousman 53118...OR scan our Paypal QR code if you prefer.



THANK YOU for donating your aluminum cans to our Precious Metals project. Monies received from recycling the cans and other metals benefits Emmanuel's operating budget. During the winter months, please place your bags of cans to the left of the garage service door so they do not get plowed away when the snows come!



Join Melissa Rivera, Mary Branson and Heather Cathey on the Tech Team...learn to operate the camera system and the computer that controls our streamed services!



The first Sunday of each month is designated as Food Pantry Sunday. Donations may be placed in the labeled bin in the foyer. Please remember to check expiration dates...anything with a date within 6 months must be discarded! Donations are normally given to the Kettle Moraine Food Pantry located just south of Wales.



## We are FAMILY!

- ♥ Erika, Blue, Ann and Peter St. Martin for performing a beautiful Advent Carol on December 15<sup>th</sup>!!
- ♥ John Pfalz for joining Erika with his trumpet music to enhance our Christmas Eve service.
- ♥ Our December Coffee Hour Committee...Corine Mayer, Julia Starbuck, Molly Mayer, Sandy Jarrett and Donna Newland.
- ♥ Carol Pfalz for de-cluttering the kitchen & pantry!!
- ♥ Everyone who helped put up and decorate the Christmas trees!
- ♥ Ann & Bill Carpenter for assembling the creche and nativity scene.
- ♥ Our Advent Candle Lighters: Carol Pfalz, Molly Mayer, Julia Starbuck and Corine Mayer.
- ♥ Heather Cathey & Melissa Rivera for running the video system during Worship.
- ♥ Jeannie Phelan and Erika Weiss for helping Pastor Leanne select hymns for our Sunday worship.
- ♥ Our December Meals drivers: Julia Starbuck, Kris Davidson, Kathy Bleecker-Piirto, Shirlene Hazelberg, Nansi Hawkins, Kathy Zebrowski, Laurie Buckett, Barb & John Wood, Jo Quaden and Sue Stelling.
- ♥ December Ushers: Carol Pfalz, Sue & Tom Stelling, Donna Newland, Kristen Voskuil and Shirlene Hazelberg.
- ♥ December Scripture Readers: Heather Cathey, Lorna Marheine, Mary Branson, Steve Thompson, Jeannie Phelan and Ann Carpenter.
- ♥ Ann Carpenter and Blue Cathey-Thiele for leading worship singing.
- ♥ Lorna Marheine for sending in our Sentry receipts so that we get our rebate!!
- ♥ John Lui for supplying dispenser water.



- ♥ Dick Hawkins
- ♥ Blue Thiele
- ♥ Jeannie Phelan.
- ♥ Michael Clark
- ♥ Fran Pike and her sister, Frieda.
- ♥ Gregg Jarrett
- ♥ All of our dear shut-ins including Nancy Edwards, Vera Ortmann and Betsy & Bill Welch.

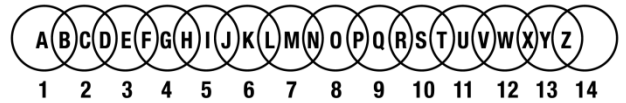


Sun	2	Holy Communion Food Pantry Sunday
Tues	Each	Bible Study, 10 AM.
Wed	Each	Mahjong, 1 PM in fellowship hall
Sun	9	Coffee Hour after Worship
Mon	10	Trustees meeting 6 PM
M-F	10-14	Emmanuel delivers the Dousman Area Home Meals
Tues	11	Ladies Fellowship 1-3 PM
Sun	16	Council meeting after Worship

# Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10'

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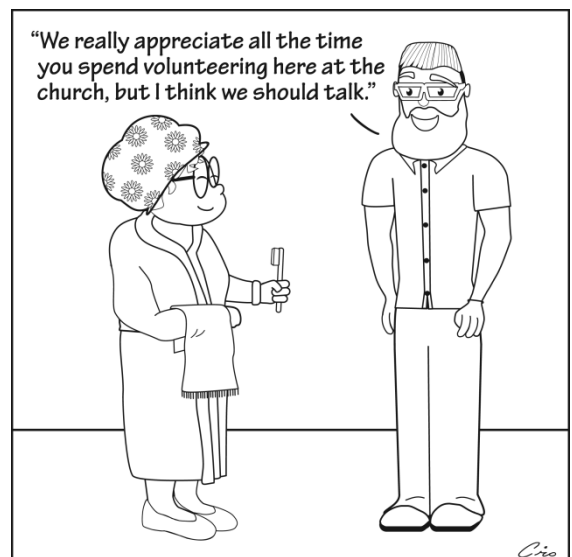
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EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV





## Treasurer's Report for November 2024

### PLEDGED Income received

(November 2024)	\$6,659.01
(November 2023)	\$8,600.00
Difference	<b>-\$1,940.99</b>

### NON-PLEDGES & PLATE Income Received

(November 2024)	\$6,446.75
(November 2023)	\$1,371.25
Difference	<b>\$5,075.50</b>

Total INCOME for (November 2024) *	\$14,152.42
Total INCOME for (November 2023)	\$11,126.15
Difference	<b>\$3,026.27</b>

Total EXPENSE for (November 2024)	\$14,441.27
Total EXPENSE for (November 2023)	\$17,166.44
Difference	<b>-\$2,725.17</b>

Checking Account Balance as of November 30, 2024	\$955.02
Checking Account Balance as of November 30, 2023	\$113.26
Difference	<b>\$841.76</b>

\*TOTAL INCOME includes funds received for:

Singing Bowl	\$159.66
WI Conference offering income (OCWM, Christmas Fund, etc)	\$530.00
SCRIP sales	--
Fund Raiser	\$357.00

RBC Investment Account Growth for November 2024	\$9,807.72
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Please direct questions or comments to Kathy Zebrowski (262) 646-8882 or Jeannie Phelan (414-940-4464).

*Fun was had by all at the December 10<sup>th</sup> Adult Fellowship Christmas Party!*





**9:30 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
(live-streamed on Facebook)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																				
<div>December 2024</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<div>February 2025</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			<b>1</b>  	<b>2</b> 5:30 PM Peer-to-Peer Disabilities & Chronic Illness Group	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
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<b>5</b> Holy Communion  Food Pantry Sunday  Game Night 6 PM	<b>6</b> 5:30 PM Conversation Cafe	<b>7</b> 10 AM Bible Study 1:30-6:30 PM Blood Drive at the Dousman Community Center	<b>8</b> 1 PM Mahjong	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>																																																																																				
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<b>12</b> Coffee Hour  5 PM Healing Church Trauma	<b>13</b> 6 PM Trustees meeting	<b>14</b> 10 AM Bible Study  1 PM Ladies Fellowship	<b>15</b> 1 PM Mahjong  Newsletter Deadline	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 11:30 AM Kids' Storytime																																																																																				
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<b>26</b> Annual Meeting of the Congregation after Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10 AM Bible Study  6:30 PM Poetry/Writers Group	<b>29</b> 1 PM Mahjong  7-8 PM Home Brewed Faith Discussion at Johnny's Pizzas & Pastaria (in the former Rosati's location in Oconomowoc)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>																																																																																					