The Messenger

NOVEMBER 2026

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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FROM PASTOR LEANNE

Reclaiming the Heart of Time: A 7-Week Advent Season

> *"In Advent, we practice waiting with the prophets in the long dark times when they hoped against hope for a messiah. We understand their anticipation as a model for our own, as we wait in deep darkness for the second coming of Christ."* — Rev. Lauren (St. Mark's / Trinity)

Have you ever felt like Christmas arrives with a sudden, overwhelming rush? One day it is Halloween, the next day store shelves are filled with red and green, and before Thanksgiving turkey is even served, Christmas music is playing everywhere. In our fast-paced commercial world, we are pushed to sprint straight to Christmas Day. But inside the church, our calendar offers us a very different rhythm—one that invites us to slow down, breathe, and practice the sacred art of waiting.

Starting this year, our congregation is joining a growing number of churches returning to an ancient Christian tradition: observing a 7-week Advent season. Beginning the week after the Feast of All Saints (early November), we are extending our season of preparation from the modern 4-week practice back to its original 7-week ancient roots.

You are probably accustomed to a four-Sunday Advent beginning in late November, starting Advent in early November might sound unusual. But looking into church history shows that four weeks is actually a relatively recent custom!

Earliest historical records from the 5th century CE show that the Western Church observed a 40-day period of preparation starting November 12 (the day after the Feast of St. Martin of Tours) until Christmas Eve. Known as *St. Martin's Lent*, this season functioned like the 40-day fast leading up to Easter. It was not until the 12th or 13th century that Western churches shortened Advent down to four Sundays.

By reclaiming a 7-week Advent, we align our worship environment with where our Scripture readings (our lectionary) already lead us. Between All Saints Day and late November, our Sunday Scriptures naturally shift toward themes of hope, cosmic restoration, and anticipating Christ's return. A longer Advent simply aligns our sanctuary, prayers, and song with the trajectory the Bible sets before us.

Why extend the season? The movement behind a 7-week Advent is driven by a desire to reclaim Advent as more than just a commercialized countdown to Christmas Day.

The primary theological focus of ancient Advent was not merely anticipating the baby in the manger, but looking forward to Christ's second coming in glory, the realization of the kin-dom of God, and the full realization of God's Reign of peace and justice.

In a world filled with global conflict, economic worries, political friction, and environmental hardship, we need a season that anchors us in God's dream of a restored world. A 7-week Advent gives us time to name the shadows in our world squarely—and then practice the Christian virtue of unshakeable hope.

As we step into this expanded season together, you will notice a few intentional changes in our sanctuary space: Our Advent wreath will feature seven candles instead of four, lighting an additional candle each week as the light gradually expands in the darkness. We will dive deeper into rich Advent hymnody—singing beloved classics alongside beautiful new tunes and texts of longing and anticipation.

What will not change are your Sunday Bible readings, gathering in worship, prayers, and songs.

Advent reminds us that we do not live by the frantic calendar of modern society, but by the steady, life-giving rhythm of the Holy Spirit. As we light our first candle this November, may you find space to rest, hold onto hope, and prepare your heart for the coming of the Light into our world.

November 1: 1 Kings 3:4-9, (10-15), 16-28
prayers for the Stack-Vaughn family and Charlotte Voigt
ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE
HOLY COMMUNION / FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY
Advent prep after Worship
4-6 PM Game Day!
Tuesday: Bible Study at 10 AM
Wednesday: PFLAG at Emmanuel, 6:30 PM

November 8: 2 Kings 5:1-15a
prayers for Betsy & Bill Welch and Kathy Zebrowski
PLEDGE SUNDAY / LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP
FALL CLEAN-UP SUNDAY
Monday: 2 PM Trustees meeting; 6 PM Bible Study
Tuesday: Bible Study 10 AM; Fellowship Gathering 1 PM
Wednesday: Home-Brewed Faith Discussion, 7 PM

November 15: Micah [1:3-5] 5:3-5a; 6:6-8
prayers for Craig Berentsen & Michael Grant and Mary Branson
Council meeting after Worship
M-F: Emmanuel delivers the Dousman Area Home Meals
Tuesday: Bible Study 10 AM
Wednesday: Transgender Day of Remembrance Service, 6 PM
Saturday: Tools for a Hectic Season, 10 AM – 12 PM

November 22
10 AM Joint Worship at St. Mary's on 18 & 67
Monday: 6 PM Bible Study
Tuesday: Bible Study at 10 AM
Thursday: Thanksgiving Day

November 29: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 3:[3b-6], 17-19
First Sunday in Advent
prayers for Jessie & John Brinkmann and the Buckett family
Tuesday: Bible Study at 10 AM
Wednesday: PFLAG at Emmanuel, 6:30 PM

NOVEMBER TEAMS

CLEANING THE CHURCH: Carol Pfalz
NOVEMBER 8TH COFFEE HOUR....this is Pledge Sunday and Fall Clean-Up...Jenny Mickle, Corrine Mayer and the Stellings are on November's committee; however, in appreciation of Pledge Sunday, a light lunch will also be served...portable so you can do clean-up too!!

	USHERS	SCRIPTURE READERS
1	Donna Newland	Jenny Mickle, Kris Davidson, Steve Thompson, Blue Thiele, Ann Carpenter
8	Kristen Voskuil	Lorna Marheine, Blue Thiele, Barbara Phelan, Heather Cathey, Jeannie Phelan, Peter St. Martin
15	Stellings	Steve Thompson, Peter St. Martin, Heather Cathey, Congregation
22	Shirlene Hazelberg	
29	Laurie Buckett	



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Olivia Obenberger	11	Sue Stelling	22
Nora Smith	17	Fran Pike	23
Tom Stelling	19	Betsy Welch	27
Marie Mayer	21	Buck Buckett	28

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Craig Berentsen & Michael Grant 9

ANNIVERSARIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Will Plautz	4	2025	1 year
Christy & John Lui	5,	2000	26 years
Connie Motelet	7,	1993	33 years
Corrine Mayer	8,	1987	39 years
Ann & Bill Carpenter	11,	1990	36 years
Renee & Jay Obenberger	14,	2010	16 years
Kristen Voskuil	14,	2004	22 years
Rev. Leanne Rose	17,	2021	5 years
Sue & Tom Stelling	18,	2001	25 years

On Sunday, November 1, during our 9:30 AM Worship Service we will have our Service of All Saints as we prepare to remember those loved ones who have passed away in this last year.

If you have loved ones you would like included in our remembrance, please contact Donna in the office, 262-965-4022 or office@seeyouonsunday.org.





Have you signed up to make a batch of chili and have you told your friends about this fun event?? The sign-ups are on the easel in the Gathering Area.

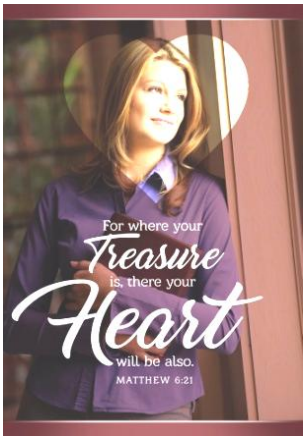
"Spicing things up one bowl at a time."
"May the best bean win."
"A little bit of spice, a whole lot of nice."
WINNER BRINGS HOME THE TROPHY and BRAGGING RIGHTS!



The first Sunday of each month is designated as Food Pantry Sunday. Non-perishable 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. You may also give a monetary donation to the Pantry. Special envelopes for this purpose are located next to the offering plate in the Sanctuary.

Pledging for 2027

Matthew 6:21 "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."



We treasure our family and friends. We show this by spending time with them and loving them. We treasure our church family. We support them and join them in activities that exemplify God's love. Serving on boards, cleaning and decorating the church, hosting coffee hour and providing music and technical assistance or reading scripture on Sunday are activities that show our love for our church family. Working at the rummage sale, donating items, delivering meals and working on finances are additional ways we show that we treasure Emmanuel.

Family Promise, Hope Center, Chosen (supplies for foster families), the food pantry, Lake Country Free Clinic, animal shelters and Milwaukee Homeless Veterans as well as programs supported by the greater U.C.C. church have all benefited from our donations.

We want to continue to be the church that makes a difference in people's lives. To accomplish this, we need you to continue to give of your time and talents in 2027. We also need your monetary pledge for 2027. With your pledge, Emmanuel will be able to be a viable church that supports our community; you would show what you treasure. Know that your involvement in Emmanuel's programs and missions and the sharing of your resources reflects what truly claims your heart.

The Board of Stewards/ Social Concerns would like your pledge card before November 8 and thanks you for your support. You are invited to a light lunch after church on November 8.



Social Concerns & Stewards

Hope Center

The Hope Center in Waukesha's Mission is to Reduce the risks of poverty by helping people in Waukesha County meet basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing through direct services, and partnerships. In October, we collected toiletries and towels for the homeless who use their showers and families that use their Clothing Center. All are given free of charge. So far, we have raised about $50 and 35 items!

On October 18, we also made about 100 sandwiches during Sunday Service that were taken to The Hope Center for their Monday lunch. The Hope Center is very appreciative of our help.

World Central Kitchen (WCK)

For the month of November, our Singing Bowl collection will be for a great organization, World Central Kitchen. WCK is first to the frontlines, providing fresh meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises.

- Founded: In 2010 by Chef José Andrés and Patricia Andrés following the earthquake in Haiti.
- Mission: Rapidly deliver fresh, nourishing meals to the frontlines of natural disasters, climate crises, and armed conflicts.
- Approach: Partners with local restaurants, food trucks, and community groups, buying ingredients locally to support regional economies while feeding survivors.

They are a highly rated charity and have fed rescue workers and victims in war and disasters such as in Puerto Rico, Ukraine, Gaza, and many other places in USA and the world. Wherever WCK teams go—over and over again, WCK sees the best of humanity show up in the worst of times.

Homeless Veterans

In November-December, we will again be collecting items and gift cards for homeless Veterans in our area. Lists of requested items will be made available soon. Thanks as always to a compassionate congregation.

home-brewed faith

HomeBrewed Faith has been rescheduled from October 28th to November 11th so we do not interfere with the World Series. After this session, the program will be on hiatus until after Easter next year.

Prayer Retreat: Tools for a Hectic Season–November 21 10-12pm

Before the official beginning of the season (but in the middle of the 7 week Advent!), we'll be gathering to center ourselves and pray in words and in creating.



November 18 6pm Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resistance.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Every year we gather to honor, remember, and support the Transgender and non-binary community who continue to be bullied, harmed, and even killed for being who they are. We gather to remember and advocate for a world where we don't need a service of remembrance and all can live in their fullness.



Our own Sandy Jarrett will have a booth there selling her beautiful cards, small gift boxes, and gift card holders.



Frieda Goetsch wishes to thank everyone who sent her get well wishes following her recent cancer surgery. She is doing quite well

Looking to December

Tues	Each	Bible Study, 10 AM
Wed	2	PFLAG meets at Emmanuel, 6:30 PM.
Sun	6	Holy Communion / Food Pantry Sunday / 4 PM Game Day
Tues	8	Fellowship Christmas Potluck & Party, NOON
Sun	13	Congregational Budget meeting after Worship Coffee Hour after Worship
M-F	14-18	Emmanuel delivers the Dousman Area Home meals
Sun	20	Special offering for The Christmas Fund Council meeting after Worship
Thurs	24	Christmas Eve Worship, 5 PM
Fri	25	Christmas Day
Thurs	31	New Year's Eve

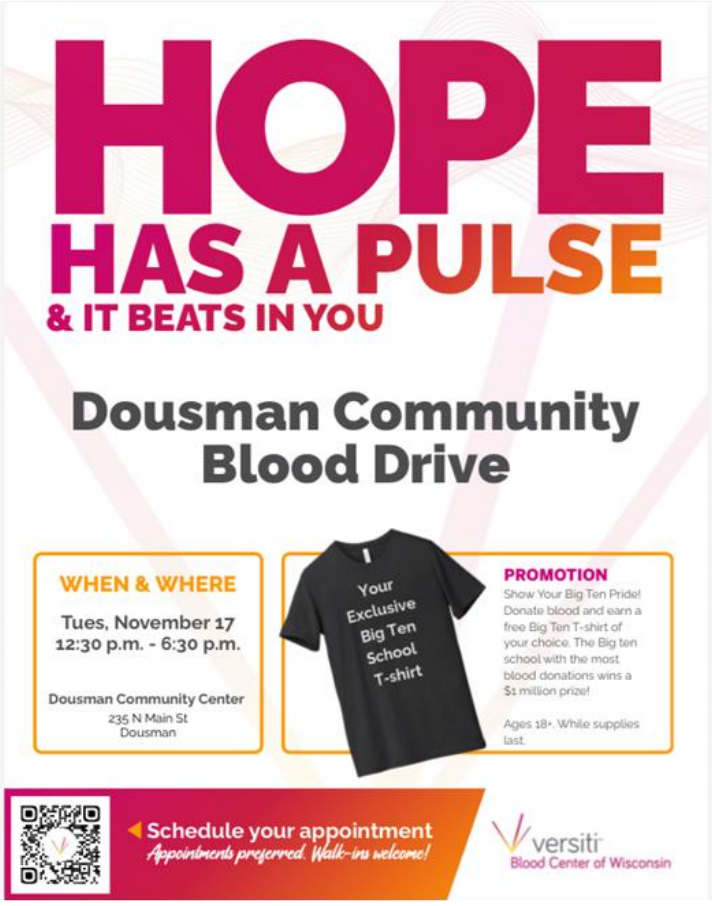


We are FAMILY!

- ♥ Heather Cathey for running the video system during Worship.
- ♥ Tom Stelling and Rod Podszus for mowing the lawn.
- ♥ Our Meals drivers for October: Nansi Hawkins, Julia Starbuck, Shirlene Hazelberg, Kathy Bleecker-Piirto, Kristen Kramer, Barb & John Wood, Kris Davidson and Sue Stelling.
- ♥ October Ushers: Connie Motelet, Debbie Morgan, Carol Pfalz and Charlotte Voigt.
- ♥ October Scripture Readers: Peter St. Martin, Lorna Marheine, Jenny Mickle, Kris Davidson, Barbara Phelan, Jeannie Phelan, Ann Carpenter, Steve Thompson and Heather Cathey.
- ♥ Our October Coffee Hour Committee: Julia Starbuck, Sandy Jarrett, Corrine Mayer and Laurie Buckett.
- ♥ Ann Carpenter and Blue Cathey-Thiele for leading worship singing.
- ♥ Lorna Marheine for sending in our Sentry receipts so that we get our rebate!!



- ♥ Bill & Ann Carpenter
- ♥ Heather Cathey
- ♥ Jeannie Phelan
- ♥ Fran and Ken Pike.
- ♥ Barbara Phelan
- ♥ Blue and Cas Cathey-Thiele.
- ♥ All of our dear shut-ins including Nancy Edwards and Betsy Welch.



Treasurer's Report for September 2026

PLEDGED Income received

(September 2026)	$7,975.00
(September 2025)	$7,500.00
Difference	$475.00

NON-PLEDGES & PLATE Income Received

(September 2026)	$4,082.00
(September 2025)	$604.00
Difference	$3,478.00
Total INCOME for (September 2026) *	$12,512.76
Total INCOME for (September 2025)	$8,685.92
Difference	$3,826.84
Total EXPENSE for (September 2026)	$13,622.27
Total EXPENSE for (September 2025)	$23,340.37
Difference	-$9,718.10

Checking Account Balance as of September 30, 2026	$7,193.15
Checking Account Balance as of September 30, 2025	-$1,828.46
Difference	$9,021.61

*TOTAL INCOME includes funds received for:

Singing Bowl	$54.25
WI Conference offering income (OCWM, Christmas Fund, etc)	$230.00
SCRIP sales	$0.00
Fund Raiser	$171.51

RBC Investment Account Growth for September 2026	-$4,447.15

Please direct questions or comments to Kathy Zebrowski (262-646-8882) or Jeannie Phelan (414-940-4464)



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.

November

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints Service Holy Communion Food Pantry Sunday CHRISTMAS DECORATING AFTER WORSHIP 4-6 PM Game Day	**2**	**3** 10 AM Bible Study 	**4** 6:30 PM PFLAG meets at Emmanuel	**5**	**6** 5:30-7:30 PM 	**7** Oconomowoc Area Senior Center Craft Fair 9 AM – 2 PM
8 PLEDGE SUNDAY Coffee Hour/Lunch after Worship Mission Moment: Trustees FALL CLEAN-UP DAY PLEASE HELP!	**9** 2 PM Trustees meeting 6 PM Evening Bible Study	**10** 10 AM Bible Study 1 PM Fellowship gathering in fellowship hall	**11** 7 PM Home-Brewed Faith Discussion at Johnny's in Oconomowoc: Apocolypse	**12**	**13**	**14**
15 Council meeting after Worship 	**16**	**17** 10 AM Bible Study 12:30-6:30 PM Blood Drive at the Community Ctr.	**18** 6 PM Transgender Day of Remembrance	**19** CLEAN THE CHURCH	**20**	**21** 10 AM – 12 PM Prayer Retreat Preparing for a Hectic Season!
	EMMANUEL DELIVERS DOUSMAN AREA HOME MEALS					
22 10 am Joint Worship at St. Mary's (no service at Emmanuel)	**23** 6 PM Evening Bible Study	**24** 10 AM Bible Study	**25**	**26** 	**27**	**28** 9 AM – 1 PM at St. Mary's 
29	**30**					

October 2026

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



December 2026

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	28	31	31		