

# *Fifty Years of Family*



*Immanuel United Methodist Church of the Bells  
Celebrating 50 Years*



## *Welcome to our Golden Anniversary!*

*1967 to 1982 Leonard B. Whitney*

*1982 to 1990 Perley A Bertrand, Jr.*

*1990 to 1991 Gordon Williams*

*1991 Candice Lawrence*

*1991 to 1997 Wendy Rhodehamel*

*1997 to 2000 Karen Dimon*

*2000 to 2008 Craig French*

*2008 to 2014 Heather Williams*

*2014 to 2016 Nicholas Preuninger*

*2016 Russell Hall*

*2016 to present Jack Keating*

Program

Prelude.....“We Gather Together” .....Edward Kremser  
Joyce Bunce Arr. Robert Lau

Welcome & Charter Member Recognition.....Jeff Gribble

✠Hymn: The Church’s One Foundation.....#545

Memories Slide Show.....Nancy Whitney

Prayer of Thanksgiving.....Ted Topalian

Scripture Reading (Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16).....Steve Forward

Anthem: “With Glory, Honor, and Praise” ... Don Besig & Nancy Price  
Anniversary Choir under the direction of Sue Miller

Introduction of Pastors.....Mike Conway

A Note of Thanks.....Dorothy Williams

*Pastoral Reflections.....Candice Lawrence  
Wendy Rhodehamel  
Karen Dimon*

*Solo: "How Can I Keep From Singing".....Robert Wadsworth Lowry  
Julie Newell*

*Pastoral Reflections.....Craig French  
Russ Hall*

*✠ Hymn: How Great Thou Art.....#77*

*Pastoral Reflections .....Jack Keating*

*✠ Benediction.....Jack Keating*

*✠ Postlude..... "Toccata Perpetua" .....Lani Smith  
Joyce Bunce*

*A meal and a time of recognition in Fellowship Hall  
will follow the service.*

*✠ Please stand in body or spirit.*

## *The “Birth” of Immanuel*

*On August 26, 1967, members of Immanuel United Methodist Church, along with Bishop Ward, held a groundbreaking ceremony on this very spot. Today, fifty years later, we celebrate our heritage and look toward the future.*

*The church became a reality on May 19, 1968 as 338 members came to worship at the very first service held here. It had been four years since they had explored the very idea of finding a new church location with Reverend Webster Melcher, then pastor of the First Methodist Church of Camillus. At the time, Camillus township was booming – streets and houses appeared where there had once been farm lands. With the influx of new families, many with children, the need soon arose for new schools, shopping centers, and, of course, Sunday school space. Space for children in the basement of the First Methodist soon became inadequate, and members were faced with finding a viable solution. Because of the age of the existing church and lack of existing space, it seemed the wise choice to relocate.*

*A committee started exploring the neighborhood for available property on which to build. Some of the locations were the Prior Farm, where St. Joseph’s now stands, the corner of Windcrest Drive, a space on Onondaga Road, and a Kasson Road lot near the golf course. After due consideration, an option was taken on the Kasson Road site. Subsequently, it was purchased on June 21, 1964. The members contacted the bank for a mortgage for the church building; however, there were no families that could contribute a large enough amount to cover the loan. The bank, then, asked for a show of faith. On January 5, 1965 Royce Newell called 11 families to meet at the High School. The families agreed to pledge \$5 a week for four years. On this show of faith, the bank agreed to deed the land. This was recorded on July 8, 1965.*

On October 23, 1966 District Superintendent Donald Wright and Bishop W. Ralph Ward met with the congregation and a new church society was formed. The charter members of the new church are also listed in this book. A name had to be chosen for the church. Five suggested names were: St. John's, Grace, Immanuel, Church of the Bells, and Bethany Methodist. The members chose to use two of these. From that time on until the church was completed, the charter members shared the church in the village. Leonard B. Whitney (Eli) was to be the minister of the new church. The architect, Gordon Schopfer, was chosen and plans for a modern structure were approved. Because the charter members could not finance the church of their dreams, they needed to prioritize. They chose to invest in the future and build a Sunday school wing for the children, using an all-purpose room as their sanctuary.

After the groundbreaking ceremony on August 26, 1967, the church took shape quickly. Our beautiful church, Immanuel United Methodist Church of the Bells, was soon finished. The first service was on May 19, 1968, and our church was consecrated on June 2 in that same year.

The congregation continued to meet in Fellowship Hall and to prosper. On May 19, 1988 a mortgage burning ceremony was held. Once again, more space was needed and plans were made to build a "real" sanctuary. In 1993 a building committee was formed and a design selected. On July 20, 1995, District Superintendent

Robert Stoppert and Pastor Wendy Rhodehamel officiated at the groundbreaking ceremony. Construction was completed in time for Christmas Eve on December 24, 1995. The consecration with Bishop Hae-John Kim was January 7, 1996.

Building the new sanctuary spurred a growth spurt in the church's membership and worship attendance that continues to this day. By the grace of God, Immanuel has become one of the most active churches on the western edge of Syracuse and one of the leading United Methodist churches in the region.

## Charter Members

As Of: October 23, 1966

Thomas & Mary Ann Adams	Edward & Betty Gravius & Family
Carl & June Ast*	Robert & Loretta Gray & Family
Edward & Mary Bailey & Family*	Alvin & Barbara Gribble & Family
Donald & Shirley Baker*	James & Thelma Hamilton & Family
Linda Barfoot	Hank & Connie Hankinson & Family*
Alvin and Elizabeth Barnes	Shirley Hastedt
Robert & Elizabeth Beers & Family	Bonnie Hastings
William and Donna Beittel & Family	Donald & Janet Haynes
Dale & Florence Block & Family*	Clair & Thelma Henry
William & Lois Brooks & Family	Floyd & Beverly House
Alvin & Dorothy Carlson & Family	Charles & Virginia Howles & Family
Don & Julia Caskey & Family	Harlan & Esther Hudson & Family
Kenneth & Mary Clifford & Family	Anne Humphrey
Judy Close	Floyd and Eleanor Jones
Susie Cobb	James & Sharon Kearns
Curtis & Shirley Cooper & Family	Ruth Kearns*
Howard and Lucille Craner	Robert & Mary Ann Kemmerer
Jean Dammers	Oliver & Dorothy Kenyon
William & Brenda Dresser	Richard & Frances Kogler
Eugene & Nancy Field	Joseph & Eileen Kolya
Summer & Edith Forward & Family	Diane Kotz
Judith Foster	Fred and Jeanette Kroog*
Daniel & Eva Frasier	Jerry and Marlene Lashuk
Glen & Gwen Gerhard	
Clarence & Elizabeth Gillmore & Family	



Ernest Leal  
Howard and Eleanor Lehr  
Keith Li Greci  
Constance Lighton & Family  
Robert & Barbara Longwell  
& Family  
Lloyd & Hazel MacArthur & Family  
Gloria MacCallum  
Merrillee McClaskey  
Alton & Mabel Marsh  
Gerald & Beverly Martin  
Richard & Yvonne Meek  
Royce & Caroline Newell & Family\*  
Winton & Ruth Nichols  
Alice Olin  
Miles & Nola Potter  
Richard & Marcia Ramsden  
Georgianna Rebhahn  
Edward & Marian Rice & Family  
John & Alta Richardson  
Bernice Ritter & Family  
Parker & Eloise Rockwood  
Avard & Patricia Rogers

Ruby Romas  
John & Margaret Roudebush  
& Family  
Charles & Canna Russel  
Clarence & Kathryn Ruth  
Wilson & Marian Ryan  
Walt & Vera Sasman\*  
Mary Shephard  
Wilfred & Margaret Smith  
& Family  
James & Marie Snyder  
William & Joyce Taylor  
Franklin & Mary Thames  
Merton & Bianca Ulshafer  
& Family  
Paul Walton  
George & Joan Wharry  
Gilbert & Patricia Whitehouse  
Benjamin & Jeanette Whitemore  
& Family  
Roger & Naomi Wilkins & Family  
John & Lois Wilson

*\*charter members who signed for the original loan*

## Story of the Bells

Our second name "Church of the Bells" became a reality in June 1966 when the very first bell was obtained from Italy Valley Methodist Church. It was cast by the Rumsey Company of Seneca Falls. It was another whole year before the second bell was obtained from the Sterling Baptist Centennial Church.

The bell that once graced the roof over the entrance to the church, and rung by MANY enthusiastic children through the years, was a gift of the Royce Newell family in June 1967. It came from Venice Center and weighed about 200 lbs.

The next two bells were also obtained in June 1967. One came from Morgan Road Methodist Church and another from South Columbia Methodist Church. They each weighed approximately 1500 lbs. and were of steel alloy.

Dedication of the Bell Tower was held in June of 1972 in memory of Paul Walton. Then later in 1972 three more bells were added. One came from the Freeman Avenue Methodist Church in Solvay, the second from Westminster Presbyterian Church of Syracuse, and the third from the First Ward Methodist Church of Syracuse.

In May 1973 a bell was obtained from the First M.E. Church in Pulaski. It was purchased by their congregation in 1884. The tenth bell was from St. Andrews Episcopal Church at Deys Landing. Then, in the spring of 1977 the last bell was acquired from Wiscoy Methodist Church in Portageville through the efforts of Rev. Dean Richardson.

All of the bells were obtained through the inspiration and tremendous dedication of Rev. L.B. (Eli) Whitney and especially of Royce, Caroline, William and Julie Newell. Many hilarious tales were told of their experiences with the rickety bell tower ladders, cobwebs and cupolas inhabited for years by pigeons. Recognition must also be given for help by Mike Tambroni with his wrecker, Floyd House for being a willing helper, Earl Hudson for lending special equipment and the use of Harlan Hudson's barn to store the bells until we had a Bell Tower, and Robert Scudder for obtaining, through the telephone company, all of the supporting poles for the tower.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL 2017

Chairperson: *Jeff Gribble*

Recording Secretary: *Beth Barner*

UMW Chair: *Ellie Dibble*

Memorial Chair: *Janet Williams*

Trustees Chair: *Dick Ramsden*

Finance Chair: *Keith Cuttler*

Membership Chair: *Barb Merckel*

Hospitality Chair: *Joyce Hart*

SPRC Chair: *Gary Merckel*

Youth representative: *Elizabeth Kelsey-Gossard*

Lay Leader: *Steve Forward*

Lay Member to AC: *Helen Druce*

Mission Chair/3M Treasurer: *Shelley Dawson Smith*

General Fund Treasurer: *Pam Kelsey-Gossard*

Trustee Treasurer: *Dick Aupperle*

Christian Education: *Carol Doucette*

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Chair: *Nancy Whitney*

*Barb Brigham*

*Jackie Campbell*

*Jeff Gribble*

Catering: *Sam Paventi*

