

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Saints,

Life is all about love.

Because God is love, the most important lesson God wants you to learn on earth is how to love. It is in loving that we are most like God, because love is the foundation of every command God has given us: *"The whole Law can be summed up in this one command: 'Love others as you love yourself.'"*

But learning to love unselfishly is not an easy task. It runs counter to our self-centered nature. That's why we're given a lifetime to learn it. Of course, God wants us to love everyone, but God is *particularly* concerned that we learn to love others in God's family. Peter tells us, *"Show special love for God's people."* Paul echoes this sentiment: *"When we have an opportunity to help anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers."*

Why does God insist that we give special love and attention to other believers? Why do they get priority loving? Because God wants God's family to be known for its love more than anything else. Jesus said our love *for each other* --- not our doctrinal beliefs -- is our greatest witness to the world. He said, *"Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*

In heaven we will enjoy God's family forever, but first we have some tough work to do here on the earth to prepare ourselves for an eternity of loving. God trains us by giving us "family responsibilities," and the foremost of these is to practice loving one another.

God wants us to be in regular, close fellowship with other believers so we can develop the skill of loving. Love cannot be learned in isolation! You have to have people around --- irritating, imperfect, frustrating people.

I hope this summer you get the chance to relearn once again the joy of truly loving another of God's precious children. Yes... I know it's often a tall order... but God calls us to always be people who love!

God's love to you all!

*Pastor Jack*



INSIDE...

Youth/ Family News  
Ministries News

As we wrap up this school year’s Kidz Club, we will not be holding Kidz Club over the summer! However, we will have activities available for your child during the 9 am worship service for the summer!

We are bringing back our VBS August Programming, so be on the lookout for information as it comes out, and we cannot wait to have all that summer fun in the sun with your youths!

~Ashley Davis, Kidz Club Coordinator

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**Congratulations to our Confirmands!  
June 5, 2022**



Pastor Jack, Sammi, Joey, Addie, Madelyn  
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**Congratulations to our High School Graduates!**

God has great plans for you, Julia Turton, Sarah Grahame, & Adrianna Gill!



A big shoutout to all the singers and instrumentalists that supported our music program at Immanuel United Methodist Church these past months by giving freely of their time and talent! While we are transitioning to a Summer schedule of one Sunday service, the Chancel Choir can expect to be back the Sunday after Labor Day to provide meaningful anthems designed to enhance our worship experience. Until then, enjoy the wonderful lineup of vocal and instrumental soloists throughout the Summer months. "God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good."  
~Lisa and Dan Miller

**THIS AND THAT FROM PASTOR JACK.....**

Here are some things to think about and maybe even mark your calendar to attend...

1. Our summer worship schedule continues through Labor Day weekend. We gather at 9:00am each Sunday morning for one worship service!
2. Thanks to all who were a part of our Confirmation Sunday event. These 4 young people are living into their faith in great ways! We are blessed to have them among us and to have so many who helped to support them through the confirmation process.
3. We just completed our Invitation to the Old Testament Bible Study! In the fall we will be following this study up with an Invitation to the New Testament! Listen for announcements about this new study beginning!
4. We are proud to support 12 of our young people as they attend summer camp this summer! Hopefully in the fall we'll hear all about what they learned about Jesus at church camp this summer!
5. After cancelling our in-person Annual Conference gathering due to Covid concerns, the 2022 session of the Upper New York Annual Conference will be held REMOTELY on October 6,7, & 8. Immanuel is represented by Lay Member Helen Forward and Helen will have a report following the Annual Conference gathering.
6. Don't forget to wear your name tag each Sunday morning! Everyone appreciates hearing their own name and by wearing your name tag you make this much easier. If you need a nametag, please put a note in Pam's mailbox across from the office. Thanks!
7. We are wondering if there is anyone interested in coordinating a return to "fellowship time" after worship on Sunday mornings starting in September? We have heard that people would like to see a return to this gathering, but we need someone to coordinate the efforts of our volunteers. Might God be speaking to you about this task? Speak to Pastor Jack if you have questions.
8. Planning for our August Vacation Bible School evenings is underway! Listen for announcements about our exciting plans!



TURKEY DINNER



LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE OVER THE ORGANIZATION OF THE TURKEY DINNER. ALSO LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO OVERSEE THE KITCHEN OPERATION FOR PREPARATIONS.

REPLY: bev-dave925@gmail.com Subject: Turkey Dinner, call(315)569-0953 leave name and number or contact the Church Office with your name. All responses will be answered.



Garage Sale

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Immanuel's Annual Garage Sale and because of all the help (set up & take down tables, picked up items at people's home & delivered them to the church, priced items, packed up unsold items, delivered unsold items to Goodwill, straightened tables during the sale, was a cashier, donated items and even purchased items) we made \$5,672.25.

~Shelley Dawson Smith

Garage Sale is not all work.....there's play too!



Phyllis Girvan



Warren Robinson

Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples.

Knit-n-Stitch

The Knitting Group will not meet during the months of July and August, but will begin meeting again on Monday, September 12 at 10am.



Trustees Activities – Summer 2022

The Trustees have been busy completing and planning a number of projects and activities this year. Here is a summary of recent church enhancements and work projected over the coming months.

New windows were installed in May along the west side of the fellowship hall and the kitchen. With the successful completion of the west side windows, the Trustees just issued a contract to replace the windows on the east side of the fellowship hall. Work targeted to be completed in September.

The main church entrance doors were recently upgraded with a new hinge system. The old original hinges were failing and causing the doors to bind.

A contract to paint the board and batten siding covering all exterior walls of the church was approved at the Trustees June 8 meeting. In conjunction with the painting, repairs to rotted bottom sections of the siding will be completed this summer.

The Trustees are planning to get the parking lot resealed and restriped in August. The parking lot was last sealed 4 years ago so resealing is needed. Parking will be disrupted for a couple days so a notice to the congregation will be issued in advance of the work.

At the June 8 meeting the Trustees approved an IUMC Memorial Fund Policy developed by Sandy Van Epps. This new policy is planned to be viewable on the church website where church members can familiarize with the guidelines for donating Memorial Gifts and the procedures that Trustees will follow in administering Memorial Funds.

Trustees are once again sponsoring a church maintenance day. Fall 2022 Maintenance Day is tentatively planned for September 17. More details will be forthcoming as the date approaches.

If anyone has any questions concerning the above listed activities, please do not hesitate to look me up or see one of the other Trustees.

Jerry Sabattis  
Trustee Chair



Immanuel United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 335  
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Electronic Service Requested  
*Our Mission*  
"To make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world."



## July/August 2022

We wish to be good stewards of both financial and environmental resources. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please email us at [churchofthebells@gmail.com](mailto:churchofthebells@gmail.com) and request removal.



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Worship

Summer Sundays at 9am

In Person or Facebook Live

Office Hours

Monday-Friday, by appointment

Handicapped accessible

*Please join us!*