

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Greetings to the Saints in Camillus...

As you are reading this, I am away providing care to Becky as we move through the process of Hospice Care here at home. But we are thinking of you and today I read these words from Psalm 32:10 "The Lord's love surrounds those who trust him." (Psalm 32:10)

You know, I find that if I look at a problem for too long, I'll probably get discouraged. When that happens, I pray that God will remind me to turn to Him. I don't want my thoughts to wander wherever they want to --- like ants going in lots of different directions. I want to keep turning my thoughts to God. I think everyone of us can identify with these sentiments.

Don't you find the longer you stare at that mountain the higher it seems to grow? Doesn't your family situation appear to move from bad to worse when you study it for too long? I am reminded of David who battles the giant Philistine Goliath in 1 Samuel 17. When questioned about his readiness to take on this giant, David replies..."You come at me with sword and spear but I come at you with the power of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel..." And we all know how that battle turned out, don't we???

And we have that same God available to us... to help us though all the really difficult days of our lives. And I am learning to more fully rely on Him for each and every day. I pray that this summer, as you worship with Pastor Candace Lawrence, you will re-learn that lesson as well. Open your hearts and rely fully on God!

Praying for you all until
we are together again soon!

Pastor Jack Keating



INSIDE...

Youth/ Family News
Ministries News



Congratulations to our Gordon Williams Scholarship Recipients

Kelly J. and Sophia P. are both graduating from West Genesee High School and are recipients of our Gordon Williams Scholarship. This scholarship named in memory of our previous pastor, Gordon Williams, assists with graduating seniors who are members of Immanuel and are pursuing higher education.

Kelly will be attending James Madison University and Sophia will be attending Nazareth College in the fall. We wish them both well as we know God has great plans in store for them.



Joan, Sophia, Kelly



Pastor Jack, Sophia, Kelly, Joan

In Kelly's words

Kelly J. prepared the following to share with the congregation in response to being awarded her scholarship

"I'd first like to thank everyone within the church community for your examples and support throughout my childhood. I began attending this church when I was 3 years old and have years of memories from participating in this community. Some of my favorites are attending and leading years of Vacation Bible School in which I learned the power of songs in worship and how being surrounded by others who also love God can fill a heart with joy, the church sleepovers during confirmation where we bonded over our faith, and Casowasco where I became close to many other kids with the same view as me.

I have had the best mentors to guide me through my relationship with Jesus. Mr. Paoli made Sunday School lessons fun and interactive, took us on outings and showed us how to be cool and love God. Carol Doucette, the former director of Christian education made me want to come to church every week because of her fun spirit, and brought the Bible stories to life. Still today she is a friend of mine.

This church gave me the opportunity to perform acts of service. I've served at Turkey Dinners, the Samaritan Center and meals at the Children's Hospital in remembrance of Sophie as well as being in the bell choir, singing Christmas carols and raking leaves for church members.

I am graduating from West Genesee High School and in the fall will be attending James Madison University in Virginia to study finance for the next four years. I will carry the memories I've made from Immanuel United Methodist Church with me into the future. Thank you!"



Kelly, Mr. Paoli (Confirmation day)



Sophia, Carol D., Kelly

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR CHURCH STAFF???

Our fun-loving and energetic church staff has 2 positions we are ready to fill!

We are in need of a **Kidz Club Coordinator**. Kidz Club is Immanuel's Sunday morning education program. We are also looking for a **Faith Formation Coordinator**. This position involves developing and overseeing our educational and faith-building programs with all of our young people. This staff position will have a chance to develop the job description as we look to new and innovative ways to help young people grow in their relationship with God. Our church staff is dedicated to enabling all members of Immanuel to live into the call God places on each of our lives. If you'd like to join us in that work please apply today!

Click this link [job information](#) for more details and to apply.

thank you

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 & Rescue Mission, straightened tables during the sale, was a cashier, donated items and even purchased items) we made \$5,760.65.

Shelley Dawson Smith



News from our Staff Parish Relations Committee

SPRC has been busy with recent staff changes. Lisa Miller has stepped down as choir director. Dan Miller has retired as our accompanist, but he isn't going far as he is now the choir director! With Dan retired from the piano/organ, we welcome our new accompanist Michael Passarelli beginning June 25th.

We have two staff openings for Christian Education. With Alex heading off to Fredonia to study Music Therapy, we are once again looking for someone to fill the role of Kids Club Coordinator. Do you know someone who might like this Sunday morning role? Is it you?

We are also looking for someone to fill a newly created position of "Faith Formation Leader". This position is working with the older youth. Do you have a passion to work with the youth of our church and community? Maybe this position is what you have been waiting for! There are more details on the church website and in a separate article in this newsletter.

~Julie Bills, SPRC chairperson



Save the date!

Our annual Mini Golf Tournament will be Saturday, August 5, 2023. Stay tuned for more details.

Mission opportunity

We are looking for skilled or not so skilled folks to help build and install a wheelchair ramp in Camillus on July 6, 7 and 8. Any day or amount of time will help this great project. Any questions, please contact Shelley Dawson Smith or Mike Block. We will even feed you too! (This is a project that we are working on with the Camillus Police Department.)



On June 4, our Fellowship Team organized a church picnic. Fun was had by all.



Cornhole Tournament winners Larry McConnelee and Janet Robinson.

For more picnic pictures click here: [church picnic 2023](#)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 335
Camillus NY 13031
Electronic Service Requested
Our Mission
*"To make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world."*

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 and request removal.



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Summer Worship	9am In Person or Facebook Live 9am
Office Hours	Monday-Friday, by appointment
Handicapped accessible	

Please join us!