

**PASTOR'S PONDERINGS**

Greetings to the Saints!

As we enter March and April, I am pausing to think a little bit about love. I think how we treat one another can, not only have a great impact on others, but on ourselves, as well. It also will directly relate to how many of God's blessings we will be able to experience in our lives. Are you good to people? Are you kind and considerate? Do you speak and act with love in your heart and regard each other person as valuable and special? I don't think we can treat other people poorly and expect to be blessed by God.

We read in 1 Thessalonians how we are to "aim to show kindness and seek to do good." In other words, we must be proactive. We should be on the lookout for opportunities to share God's mercy, kindness, and goodness with people. And maybe even more importantly, we need to be kind and do good to people even when somebody is unkind to us.

When someone doesn't treat you right, you have a golden opportunity to help heal a wounded heart. Doesn't it seem to you like people who are hurting often hurt other people as a result of their own pain? I have found if someone is rude or inconsiderate, there are almost always unresolved issues inside. And the last thing I need to do is to respond angrily.

Keep taking the high road and be kind and courteous. Walk in love and have a good attitude. God sees what you're doing, and God is our vindicator. God will make sure your good actions and attitude will overcome that evil. And if you'll keep doing the right thing, you will come out far ahead of where you would have been if you had fought fire with fire.

Remember what Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica.... "See that none of you repays another with evil for evil, but always aim to show kindness and seek to do good to one another and to everybody." (1 Thessalonians 5:15 AMP)

I am blessed to be in  
ministry with you all!  
*Pastor Jack Keating*



**INSIDE...**

Youth/ Family News  
Ministries News



### Kidz Club update:

This past month we held our Snowman Building Contest, and Laurine Campbell was our winner! She won a free driveway shovel by me, although, the snow wasn't coming down as hard as I expected it to!

Keep on the lookout for other activities and contests by the Kidz Club!

This Lenten Season we are picking up where we left off last year, and we are collecting food items/money for our local food banks! There are two ways to participate!

**Food:** Each week, collect one food item and set aside for the food bank, and we will let you know a good time to come drop it off! You can spice this up by having a theme for each week, for example, have one week be red foods! The next week could be favorite dessert items, just have fun with it!

**Money:** We have coin boxes available for you at the church office, and daily you can reflect on your God Sightings and put money in the box during lent!

This next few months we will be resuming our kidz videos, as well as having lesson plans for parents and guardians to do at their leisure with their kids, so be on the look out for those!

~Ashley Davis, Kidz Club Coordinator



### Connect with us!

We are worshipping in person on Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 10am. There is a limit of 50 persons for each service. Please wear a mask and sit in designated seats.

Worship with us live on our Facebook page at 10am on Sundays.

The recorded Facebook worship is available online at our website [www.churchofthebells.org](http://www.churchofthebells.org). There is a tab called "Online worship" at the top of the page that will take you to the current week and past weeks worship services. Or you can see it on our YouTube channel.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday Pastor Jack is emailing an encouraging message. If you would like to receive these and other church updates, please email the church at [churchofthebells@gmail.com](mailto:churchofthebells@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.

Our church office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-1pm. Please call as times may vary. Appointments are best to be sure you see who you want.

Pastor Jack is available by phone or email. If you leave a message on our church answering machine, he will give you a call back. His email is [pastorjackk@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjackk@gmail.com).



I'm crossing my fingers that things will be back to "normal" so start cleaning out your closets and basements and gathering up your treasures for the garage sale!

Remember no electronics of any kind (e.g., TVs, computers, air conditioners). Also no Christmas trees, skis, weight benches or exercise bikes.

Please ensure that all items are in working order.

Also please have clothing such as coats, dresses, shirts, slacks, etc. pre-hung on hangers. If you don't have hangers there will be a supply in the Narthex starting on Sunday April 11th.

The dates of the sale are April 29th & 30th and May 1st. Detailed information to follow as the date approaches.

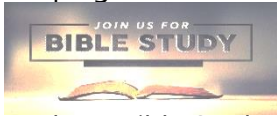
Thank you  
Shelley Dawson Smith



**GOD SIGHTINGS**

Throughout Lent we are keeping our eyes open for GOD SIGHTINGS at Immanuel! Where is God working in your life and in the lives of those around you? What blessings are you enjoying, as a follower of Jesus? How is God changing you for the better this Lent?

Many of us are using Gratitude Boxes to make an offering to God to show our gratitude for all God's blessings. We will return the boxes, filled with our gifts, on Easter Sunday and all the proceeds of this project will be used to support the important work of our community Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Church. Hunger is as near as our own neighborhoods and your gifts of gratitude will help to feed many of our neighbors. THANKS for helping to feed others here in Camillus!



**BIBLE STUDY**

We have now completed our Bible Study of the Gospel according to John. A dedicated group of folks met weekly to read John's Gospel account and learn what the messages of John's Gospel are. Thanks to all who participated in this ZOOM study group!

Shortly you will be hearing about a new study starting up. We'll be reading and learning about the Letter to the Hebrews. This letter asks us to re-examine the pre-eminence of Christianity over Judaism. Written to a struggling group about to give up their Christian faith and return to their Jewish beliefs and practices, there is lots of good information for all of us to consider in this letter.

We'll let you know our schedule for the study soon! Keep checking our announcements, our Website and Facebook page for more information.



**MEAL MINISTRY**

Every month our very own Sam Paventi prepares a delicious hot meal to be delivered to our shut in friends. Volunteer drivers deliver the meals. If you are a current driver, please contact Marilynn Vannelli and let her know if you are still able to drive. If you would like to spread God's love by delivering a meal, please contact Marilynn and let her know your availability. Please email Marilynn at [mvannpo@aol.com](mailto:mvannpo@aol.com), put "Meal Ministry" in the subject line and let her know the best way to reach you. Meals are usually at the church on Saturday evening, so they can be picked up for delivery after either Sunday service. The recipients are so grateful to be remembered by their church family. Sign up today!



**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Here are our current plans\*\* for worship during Holy Week...

- March 28<sup>th</sup> – Palm/Passion Sunday worship at 8:30am and 10:00am
- April 1<sup>st</sup> – Maundy Thursday worship at 7:00pm.
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sanctuary open from 12:00noon – 3:00pm for private devotions.
- April 4<sup>th</sup> – Resurrection Day Worship at 8:30am and 10:00am.

Our 10:00am Sunday worship services as well as Maundy Thursday worship will be "live streamed" on the church's Facebook page!

\*\* Plans may need to be adjusted based on pandemic situations!

***++ Reservations will also be needed for Palm Sunday and Easter worship and we'll have more information about that in the next couple of weeks!***



**Church wide Special Sundays**

"United Methodism's six church wide Special Sunday offerings are an example of a critical web of interactive relationships. When we add our dollar to the dollar of another, the gift is multiplied. It is that gift of abundance that makes a difference and serves as a beautiful witness to the world and to the gift of the gospel." Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey

**UMCOR Sunday is March 14.** Gifts to this day lay the foundation for all United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered.

**Native American Sunday is April 18.** This offering supports Native American outreach within annual conferences, provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans, and strengthens, develops and equips Native American rural, urban and reservation congregations, ministries and communities.

Checks can be made out to "Immanuel UMC" with the special Sunday written in the Memo. Checks can be put in the offering plate on Sunday or mailed to or dropped off at the church. If mailing, please use "PO Box 335, Camillus NY 13031" as the address.

Thank you for giving generously! **page 3**



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."*



*March/April 2021*

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.



Pastor

Pastor Jack Keating

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Worship

Sundays 8:30 and 10am

online on our website

Kidz Club

via email and website

Office Hours

Tues., Wed., Fri. 9-1

Handicapped accessible

*Please join us!*