

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

From our United Methodist Book of Worship...

"Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word, 'lencten' which means 'spring'. The season is a time of preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. The Great Three Days – sometimes called the 'Triduum' or 'Pasch' – from sunset on Holy Thursday through sunset Easter Day, are the climax of Lent (and the whole Christian year) and a bridge to the Easter season. During these days the community journeys with Jesus from the upper room, to the cross, to the tomb, and to the garden. These services should be seen as one great unified service beginning with the service of Holy Communion on Holy Thursday and concluding with the services of Easter Day."

So, first of all, many people are not even aware that we have a United Methodist Book of Worship, since it is not a "pew-edition", used every Sunday during worship. Our book is a resource tool used by worship planners and leaders to design services of worship. There are however, lots of other resource tools available to help worship planners to do the very same thing.

Immanuel's Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday worship at both 11:00am at Camillus Ridge Terrace and 7:00pm here in our Sanctuary. We continue our preparation for Easter each week as we worship here. And preparation is always a good thing for a full celebration of the Resurrection! Just like Advent preparation leads to a joyful Christmas... so Lenten preparation leads to a celebratory Easter!

What does your time of preparation or penance look like this year? How are you preparing yourself for the glories of Easter morning? Maybe you'd like to join us in preparing by trying to address hunger in our community? Or taking on some other special Lenten-discipline to help you more fully prepare for the celebration of the Resurrection? How about a special time of daily prayer or study or reading? Maybe a book study about Simon Peter? Or a dedicated time of intentional prayer for our church and her leaders?

Maybe a time of reaching out to others, from the comfort of your own home, with a short note or phone call? Or joining the choir for a season? Or filling a Lenten grocery bag or gratitude box? Or helping with an event here at church? Maybe this year you would join me in intentionally taking something on.... rather than giving something up? The opportunities are endless and are limited only by our inability to see all that God has placed before us!

Join us this Lent and prepare to be the people God has called each of us to be! See you in worship!

Pastor Jack

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The Jr/Sr. High kids went on the SOLID Youth Retreat in January, and took home the 3rd place trophy overall for the Game-a-poloosa events, and 2nd place in the annual Stre-ball tournament! We had a great time playing games and learning about having a SOLID faith.

It is officially the start of Lent, and so the Kidz Club is full of plans to learn all about the stories of Holy Week. We have multiple mission projects planned if you would all like to participate along with us!

We will be filling red bags for the food pantry with nonperishable foods from a different fun theme every week!

March 1st - Red foods (such as pasta sauce, red beans, etc.)

March 8th - Dessert foods (brownies, cake mix, frosting, etc.)

March 15th - Noodles/Rice (so many different kinds!)

March 22nd - Soup (so many kinds, bring your favorite!)

March 29th - International Foods (Mexican, Asian, etc.)

April 5th - Snack foods (bring in your favorite food to snack on)

On March 8th we will be selling cookies for our coin boxes. The coin boxes are going to help alleviate student lunch debt in the West Genesee District.

There will be no Kidz Club on Easter Sunday, April 12th.

Blessings,
Ashley Davis
Kidz Club Coordinator



I would like to thank everyone who reached out to me during my dad's passing. The cards, emails, texts and phone calls were deeply appreciated. I am blessed to be a part of such a caring church family. Love to you all, Carol Doucette

Good News from our SPRC

The SPRC is happy to inform you that our prayers have been answered in regard to choir leadership here at Immanuel.

The SPRC had recently been charged with the duty of filling the music director position after Sue Miller suddenly resigned in mid December. Pastor Jack has been providing choir leadership since then, thank you Pastor Jack.

We examined the needs of the church and concluded that we needed a choir director at this time. We updated the job description and then advertised the position.

We interviewed and have been blessed with not only a talented and gifted person to fill this role but also one that is very qualified and experienced.

I am happy to announce that Lisa Miller has accepted the position. Lisa has a doctorate in Voice from the Jacobs School of Music.

Dan Miller, who has a DMA (doctor of musical arts) in Applied Music from Michigan University will continue to bless us as our Accompanist.

We are now working on assessing the needs of Faith Formation in our church.

We appreciate thoughts from the congregation. Blessings and happiness for all,
Anita Joy Hall



Covered dish meal

Join us after the 10 am worship service on March 22, for a time of good food and fun! Please sign up on the Narthex easel so we know how many to expect. Drinks will be provided. Hosted by your fellowship team. Questions? Ask Barb Merckel, Barb Blanchard or Denise Sabattis.



Card Party!March 286:30-8:30pm

This is great team fun, and easy to play. We will teach you. Please sign up at Narthex easel, so we can arrange an accurate number of card tables. Please bring one snack or dessert per family, and one dollar store item per participant. (So everyone goes home with a prize.) Feel free to bring a friend to experience IUMC friendly fellowship, food and fun. Sponsored by your IUMC fellowship team.



Easter plant orders will begin

March 8. We will be offering mums to order in memory or in honor of a loved one(s). The cost will be \$10 per plant. Please see Phyllis Girvan after worship to place an order. Orders will be taken until March 22nd. There is an order form attached for your use.

Ministries

Lenten Mission Project: We have two ways to show love to our neighbors this Lenten season. We will once again be collecting food for a local food pantry. This year our donations will bless St. Cecilia's Food Pantry in Solvay. All you need you do is take home one of our red grocery bags, fill it up with non-perishable food items, and return it to church the following Sunday. The mission team will take care of transporting the food to the food pantry. We also will be collecting loose change in the Lenten Gratitude boxes. The money collected will be given to needy families at West Genesee High School. The money will be used to payoff delinquent lunch accounts. I will be working with the social workers at the school to determine which families are in the greatest need. Both the red grocery bags and Gratitude boxes are located in the narthex leading into the sanctuary. These mission projects will continue through the season of Lent, right up to Easter Sunday. Please join me in showing our love for God by loving our neighbors.

~Carol Doucette
Mission Team Coordinator



UMCOR Sunday is March 22. This is one of six special Sunday collections during the year. Gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100 percent to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered. There will be special envelopes available for contributions.



Mission Trip We are organizing a team to go to the Mohawk valley which was devastated by flooding on Halloween last year. The work week is April 6-10. Since it is close by, we will be able to accommodate persons who are available for one or more days as well as for the whole week. You can contact Jerry Sabattis at 315-243-4336 or jsabatti@twcny.rr.com for more information. **Forms are due by Mid-March.**

We are offering a **Lenten Book Study** on Adam Hamilton's book, "**Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple**". Books cost \$12 and you can **sign-up outside the Fireside Room and order your book there.** Two identical studies will be offered each Thursday.... from 12:00noon - 1:30pm and then again at 5:30pm - 7:00pm. We're planning a meal of Soup and Bread for each session and we'd love it if you'd sign-up to bring a pot of soup or loaf of bread, as well! We start on Thursday 2/27 and conclude on Thursday 4/2. We need a minimum of 6 people for each study to meet.



ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Dates of the garage sale are;

Thurs. April 30th 9:00am - 6:00pm

Fri. May 1st 9:00am - 6:00pm

Sat. May 2nd 9:00am - 12 Noon \$5.00 bag sale

Dates to bring in clean, saleable items:

Sun. April 26th 9:00am - 4:00pm

Mon. April 27th 9:00am - 6:00pm

Tues. April 28th 9:00am - 6:00pm

Please do not bring in any items on Wed. April 29. Please do not bring in electronics of ANY kind (i.e. No computers, No TVs, No air conditioner, No dehumidifiers) or exercise bikes, weight benches or Christmas trees or skis.

All items must be in workable condition.

If you have items to be picked up and brought to the church, we will be glad to help you. However, we would prefer to schedule these pickups on Tues. April 28th as this is when the Tues, morning gentlemen are at your service. Please call Shelley Dawson Smith at 315-727-0671 before April 10th to schedule pick up.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex starting in early April or ask Shelley Dawson Smith how you can help 315-727-0671. Thank you.





Holy Week Worship

April 5 Palm/Passion Sunday

Join us as we remember Jesus' last week before his resurrection. We will celebrate Holy Communion at our 8:30 service. At our 10am service, our choir will tell the story of Jesus' last week in song with a choral cantata. We will have palms to wave at both services.

April 9 Maundy Thursday

We will worship at 7pm remembering Jesus' last supper with his disciples. We will celebrate Holy Communion and have special music as we observe this Holy night.

April 10 Good Friday

It is church tradition to observe silence from 12noon until 3pm on Good Friday. This is a day to reflect upon Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross for us all. We invite you to spend some time in prayer reflecting on how much Jesus loves us to make this sacrifice.

April 12 Resurrection Sunday

We will worship at 8:30 and 10am.

Join with us and millions of Christians around the world as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! God reminds us that death is not the final answer but rather life everlasting with our Lord Jesus Christ is. We will offer the Sacrament of Holy Communion at both worship services.



"Note from God"

This experience actually happened recently, and its' power prompted me to suggest we offer an outlet for those who would like to share their personal "Note from God". The outlet could be our Newsletter, Chiming's, weekly bulletin or something new.

Here's mine:

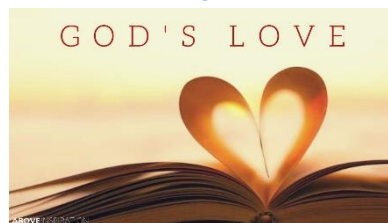
Lately, God's been hearing me express how lonely being alone is. As I was searching through Bibles for a document, I became emotional as God revealed His message: "Prayer for Those Living Alone".

"Prayer for Those Living Alone"

"I live alone dear Lord,
stay by my side,
In all my daily meals,
be Thou my guide.
Grant me good health,
for that I pray
To carry
on my work from day to day.
Keep pure my thoughts,
my every deed,
Let me be kind and unselfish,
in my neighbor's needs.
Spare me from fire, from floods,
malicious tongues,
From thieves,
from fear and evil ones.
If sickness or an accident
befall me,
Then humbly, Lord,
I pray hear Thou my call.
And when I am feeling low
or in despair,
Lift up my heart
and help me in my prayer
I live alone, dear Lord,
yet have no fear
Because I feel
Your presence ever near."

Submitted by Sandra Van Epps

Do you have a "note from God" or a time when you felt God near that you would like to share? Please send your experience to Pastor Pam at churchofthebells@gmail.com .



Electronic Service Requested
Our Mission
"To make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world."



March / April 2020

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.



Pastor	Pastor Jack Keating
Phone	(315) 487-1171
Email	churchofthebells@gmail.com
Website	www.churchofthebells.org
Worship	8:30 am and 10 am
Kidz Club	During 10 am worship, Sept. - June
Office Hours	Mon.– Fri. 9am-12:30 or by appointment

Handicapped accessible

Please join us!