

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



Greetings Saints!

Recently I read that some 50+ years ago, Sandy Koufax, a Jewish pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers, announced that he wouldn't play on the holiest day of his year, Yom Kippur. Koufax's manager pointed out that this was the day of the first game of the 1965 World Series. Couldn't he pitch just a little? "No," Koufax replied. But, he pitched a shut out in games five and seven, and the Dodgers won the series 4 games to 3.

In 1996, Eli Herring, a 340-pound offensive tackle, who sported a 3.5 grade-point average, was expected to be the top senior offensive tackle in the pro football draft. However, he turned down a possible multimillion-dollar deal with the then Oakland Raiders because he wouldn't play on his holy day, Sunday.

Do you think these men made foolish decisions? They would be likely to tell you that the exact opposite is true. God's commandments are designed to keep us on the path to happiness and well-being. They are designed to remind us of basic truths, such as the fact that fame and fortune are fleeting, but keeping our word and honoring our convictions add character to our lives – character that will serve us well in the storms of life.

Do you have solid convictions that guide you? It may be time to establish or reaffirm a strong foundation for your life. And we will learn to do that here in worship each week!

***"If you love me, you will obey what I command." (John 14:15)***

I have always believed that Lent is a great time to be reminded once again about the commands of God and our own human frailties in trying to follow them. I hope to have you joining us for this time of learning.

Speaking of Lent... our Lenten theme this year is "Amazing Grace". That great hymn was written 250 years ago this year! And all during Lent we will re-meet folks from our scriptures who only survived due to God's Amazing Grace! Come to worship and meet Paul, The Prodigal Son, The Woman at the Well, Peter, Mary Magdalene and others! And wait until you hear from them about God's Amazing Grace!

I can't wait to see you in worship!

Pastor Jack



INSIDE...

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Hello, from Alex Beavers, the Kidz Club Coordinator at Immanuel!

I am grateful to be working here and getting to know a good majority of you all and working with the children! I enjoy working with them and each of them brings a spark of joy to my day! I am blown away by how amazing they are in both art and music, and most importantly, how they have a connection with God and know his importance.

Spring and Easter are coming soon, and I have many plans for the future. I may encourage the children to do charitable acts, and I hope to get involved with institutions that would appreciate donations. A plan I have in mind is creating blankets for homeless people and/or elderly homes. This can be a family activity too! I will also consider making cards and tiny crafts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and the day before Memorial Day. Please let me know if you have any suggestions or ideas for donations. I would love to hear them!

I have a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in volunteering each Sunday. I hope to make Sunday school much safer by having two adults in the room, and to ensure that I am teaching to the best of my ability! All that I ask is for someone to watch the time for me and come with constructive criticism! I say that there is always room for improvement when it comes to teaching the gospel. Also, the more input, the better!

Please, feel free to reach out to me if you would like to discuss anything, whether about concerns or questions or if you would like to get to know me! My email is [kidzclub@churchofthebells.org](mailto:kidzclub@churchofthebells.org), or you can contact me via text (315-670-1069). If you are a parent who has not received a Registration Form for Kidz Club, please reach out to me, and I can give you a document or paper form of it. This is just to get information about your child(ren) for allergies, your contact information, and anything I need to know, and to add them to an attendance list.

Thank you all for having me! I feel welcomed and grateful to be a part of this community and hope to get to know you all more! Have a blessed Lent and Easter!



### THIS AND THAT FROM PASTOR JACK.....

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

1. **BLESSING BOXES...** During Lent this year we will use our Blessing Boxes to remind us of all the blessings we have received from God! I encourage you to use your own blessings box each day to do the same thing! And then, on easter Sunday, we will return the BLESSING BOXES and all of the funds given will be directed to support UMCOR's Earthquake Response in Turkey and Syria.
2. **AMAZING GRACE...** Did you know that this great hymn was written 250 years ago this year? It's been sung so many times, in so many different settings, by so many different artists. I've read that it just may be the most recorded song in history! And this year it is our theme for Lent! Each week in our worship we will be re-introduced to a character from our scriptures whose life was saved by God's Amazing Grace. Mary Magdalene, Peter, Paul, The Woman at the Well and others all relied on the Amazing Grace of our God to help them live their lives and survive in their world. Come to worship each week and hear all about it and meet them!
3. **Our Disaster Relief Team** is planning on a springtime mission trip to Buffalo to help with repairs following damage from the Christmas snowstorm emergency! The trip is planned for the week of April 17-21, 2023. Can you join the group for the week or a day or two?
4. **Beginning on March 12<sup>th</sup>** ... I will be offering a Service of Healing Prayers and Anointing in the Fireside Room. The service begins at 12:00noon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month and this will be a time of prayer, scripture, short meditation, and individual healing prayers. You should feel free to come with needs for physical, emotional, spiritual healing as well as healing of a relationship or difficult situation in your life. If you perceive such a need in your life... join us on March 12 th at 12:00noon in the Fireside Room!
5. 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, let Pam in the office know. Thanks!
6. Our kids are having a great time at KIDZ CLUB every week! Both the kids and Alex are having a great time and now we need to invite some more friends to join in the fun! Bring a friend to KIDZ CLUB!



April 17-21 Mission Trip

Immanuel is planning a Mission Trip to the Buffalo area April 17-21, 2023, to help restore homes that were damaged as a result of the devastating fall 2022 snowstorms in western New York. For more information or if you have questions, please call or email Mike Block (315-491-0497 or mrb2065@gmail.com).

There will be an organizational meeting at Immanuel Fireside Room on March 21st at 7PM. If you are interested in joining the Immanuel team on this mission trip or wish to find out more details before deciding, please plan to attend this meeting.

Certain forms must be submitted by all participants. You can obtain copies of these forms at the March 21st meeting or contact Mike Block. All forms must be submitted (mail to Immanuel UMC, PO Box 335, Camillus, NY 13031) before April 3.

We look forward to having another successful mission trip. It has been more than 3 years since Immanuel sponsored an out-of-town disaster recovery mission trip due to COVID 19 restrictions so, we hope many who have participated in the past or newcomers will get involved in this important mission.



Music Ministry News

As we begin the season of Lent, we hope that those who have sung with the Chancel Choir in the past and those who might want to join us for the first time will sing with us as part of our journey to the cross. Many meaningful anthems are planned for the season and if you can't join us for Lent, consider singing with us or playing handbells on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Choir rehearsals are each Thursday at 6:30 pm. There will also be an opportunity for our youth to play Ring and Sing handbells. Contact Lisa Miller after a worship service for more information.

Hope to see you Thursday at 6:30!

Lisa Miller, Choir Director



LENTEN STUDY GROUP



Our Lenten Study group is gathering on Thursday afternoons at 1:00pm and reading together the new book, Finding Jesus in the Psalms by Barb Roose. It's not too late to join us, if you'd like! See Pastor Jack or Pam for a copy of the book!



UMCOR Sunday is March 19. Gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the basic costs of doing business. This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs. Special envelopes will be available in the Narthex. Please give generously.

Holy Week Schedule:



April 2 Passion/Palm Sunday

We will worship at 8:30 and 10AM. There will be palms for everyone and we will celebrate Holy Communion. We will also be delivering meals to our shut-in friends, complete with palms.

April 6 Holy Thursday Worship 7PM

April 7 Good Friday TBD

April 9 Easter Sunday 8:30 and 10AM

We will celebrate Holy Communion at both services. Kidz Club will not meet this day so that young people can join in our celebratory worship time.

12pm will be a service of Healing prayer and Anointing.



Native American Sunday is April 23. 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. There will be special giving envelopes available in the Narthex.



**2023 Annual SPRING Craft Show**

Friday March 24<sup>th</sup> Doors Open 4:00pm-8:00pm  
Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> Doors Open 9:00am-3:00pm

Set up begins Friday at 1:00pm, Completed by 3:30pm Agreement to NOT Dismantle before 3:00pm

This is a "CRAFTERS ONLY" Show ..... there will be NO Vendor Items / DS or DS Information Permitted

50+ CRAFTERS ... Leather Work, Wood Craft, Honey Products, Soaps, Lotions, Stained Glass, Fabric Bags, Paintings, Wreaths, Pillows, Crochet Items, Jewelry, Stenciled Items, Alpaca Items, Beef Jerky, Candles, Resin Items, Alcohol Ink Items, Fairy houses, Original Matted Photos, Walnut Jewelry, Books by Local Writers, Handicap Accessible, Bistro Open to Purchase Food, Plenty of Parking, Afghan's, Hand Painted Glass

\*Bring a Non-Perishable Food Item or Monetary Donation to be Entered into Our CRAFTERS Drawing\*



**GARAGE SALE SET UP**

Help is needed on Saturday April 29th at 11:00am moving items that have been stored in the garage sale room to the fellowship hall. The members of Immanuel have been very busy cleaning out their closets this past year and these donations have caused the garage sale room to burst at the seams! Any help even for even an hour would be greatly appreciated.

Sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex or just show up.



**ANNUAL GARAGE SALE**

*Dates of the garage sale are:*

Thurs. May 4th 9:00am - 6:00pm  
Fri. May 5th 9:00am - 6:00pm  
Sat. May 6th 9:00am - 12 Noon \$5.00 bag sale

*Dates to bring in clean, saleable items:*

Sun. April 30th 9:00am - 4:00pm  
Mon. May 1st 9:00am - 6:00pm  
Tues. May 2nd 9:00am - 6:00pm

**-Please do not bring in any items on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**-Please do not bring in electronics of ANY kind (i.e. No computers, No TVs, No air conditioners) or exercise bikes, weight benches or Christmas trees or skis.**

**-Please ensure that all items are clean and in working order.**

**-Please have all clothing such as coats, shirts, dresses, etc. pre-hung on hangers. If you don't have hangers, there will be a supply in the Narthex starting on April 16th.**

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. May 2<sup>nd</sup> as this is when the Tues, morning gentlemen are at your service. Please call Shelley Dawson Smith at 315-727-0671 before **April 25th** to schedule pick up.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**

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



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](mailto:churchofthebells@gmail.com) and request removal.



Pastor	Pastor Jack Keating
Phone	(315) 487-1171
Email	<a href="mailto:office@churchofthebells.org">office@churchofthebells.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.churchofthebells.org">www.churchofthebells.org</a>
Worship	8:30am and 10am In Person or Facebook Live 10am Kidz Club during 10am worship
Office Hours	Monday-Friday, by appointment
Handicapped accessible	

*Please join us!*



Easter Plant Orders

Chrysanthemums will be available for the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The cost per plant is \$10.

Please fill out the form below and give your order, along with payment, to Phyllis Girvan. **(Make checks payable to “Immanuel UMC” with “Easter plant” in memo)** The form can also be left in the office. Orders will be taken until April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Please indicate how many plants you wish and include your phone number in case there is a question concerning your request.

**I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ Chrysanthemums  
(Please limit one or two persons per plant. If more than this, please use “My Family” or “Loved Ones”)**

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Message: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I will take my plant.  I wish to donate my plant to a shut-in.

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