

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

You know, why God loves us is sometimes a mystery to me. And often it seems like one we will never solve. But the good news is we don't have to understand why... God just does! The Bible says that God's love is a gift – pure and simple. It's not something we have earned. We haven't charmed our way into God's heart. We haven't impressed God with our selfless acts or great charitable contributions. God loves us because God chooses to!

So why do we struggle so hard to receive it and why do so many people pass through this life without ever feeling the warmth of God's loving smile? Perhaps it's because we are so busy working to make ourselves worthy of God's love that we somehow miss the simple truth of it.

You will never be good enough, cute enough, bright enough, accomplished enough, or rich enough to earn God's love. Nor will you ever be able to fully understand it. But receiving it is so easy. All you have to do is reach out and take it.

Open the door to your heart today. Look up into God's loving face and smile at this blessing. Then close your eyes and just imagine God smiling back at you! Because God loves you! And God reminds us of that in these words from the prophet Jeremiah...

"I have loved you with an everlasting love, I have drawn you with loving-kindness." (Jeremiah31:3)

As we get ready to move toward the end of another school year and as all the hustle and bustle of May and June are upon us I invite you to remember how much it is that God loves YOU. As a popular Christian comedian has reminded us... "God loves you so much your picture is on God's refrigerator door!"

Celebrate that love, take time to dwell in and learn more about that love and enjoy the beauty of God's creation as it springs back to life all around you. Watch the buds appear on the trees, the grass and flowers begin to grow, and the days grow longer and longer. And remember that all of this is a present for YOU from the God who loves you more than any other ever could.

See YOU in worship!
Pastor Jack



INSIDE...

Youth/ Family News
Ministries News



THIS AND THAT FROM PASTOR JACK.....

1. Are you wearing your name tag each week? It is really so helpful to let others know your name when they say HELLO! If you need a name tag, please speak to Pam in the church office and we'll get one ordered for you.

2. Coming up on our May and June calendars:

- May 5th ... CAMPING SUNDAY
- May 12th ... Mother's Day
- May 19th ... Pentecost Sunday
- May 26th ... Our Peace with Justice Sunday
- June 9th ... Children's Sunday and Church Picnic
- June 16th ... Music Sunday as we celebrate our Musicians
- June 23rd ... Worship changes to 9:00am for the summer!



1. The United Methodists of Upper New York will gather for our Annual Conference at Onondaga Community College on May 30, 31, and June 1. Please pray for all the attendees, especially Helen Forward, Pam Kelsey Gossard and me as we represent Immanuel at this important gathering.
2. I will be riding my bike in the annual Ride For Roswell being held in Buffalo on June 22nd! I will be on the 20-mile route, riding with Becky's oncologist! Look for the Ride display in the Narthex in mid-May!
3. Thanks for the wonderful support of our Lenten mission project of supporting the feeding ministries at our sister congregation, University United Methodist Church in Syracuse. We delivered a carload of personal care items and over \$1,600 to help feed hungry people right here in central NY. And I give thanks for the generosity of our congregation!
4. Parents... if your kids are planning on attending church camp this summer don't forget that Immanuel provides partial scholarships for our young people! And you'll hear more about that on Camping Sunday, May 5th!
5. I am getting excited for a return to our Vacation Bible School program in August! We will gather on the 4 Wednesday nights for a dinner and program for kids of all ages! Mark your calendar to join us each Wednesday in August!



Kidz club on Sunday Morning is full of energy and eagerness to learn!

We had our planting event in March. The plants are growing each and every week and we are taking care of them hoping to have flowers for Pentecost that we can then plant outside in the planter we have adopted. During lent we learned about parables and enjoyed making crafts related to what we learned each week.

Camping Sunday will be on Sunday May 5th and we will have staff from Camp Casowasco with us during the service and Kidz Club that day so kids- bring your friends !!!

Plans for our Vacation Bible School this summer are in the works! The theme is "Food Truck Party". We are looking forward to this every Wednesday evening in the month of August. Please save the dates and watch for more information to come. We will be looking for helpers, so expect Lorie to ask! Pick your favorite area now before it gets taken by someone else!! Just let Lorie know and she will be glad to save your spot.

~Lorie Wood, Faith Formation Leader



Scholarship

Gordon Williams Scholarship

Many thanks to Joan Archambeau who has faithfully led our scholarship process for at least 20 years. With gratefulness, she passes the baton on to Jerry Holbrook. To contact Jerry with questions or concerns, you can call 315-345-1081 or email at opahoby@twcny.rr.com

Applications for the 2024 Gordon Williams scholarship are available in the church office or on our website.

This scholarship named in memory of a former pastor of Immanuel provides aid for post high school higher education (including trade schools). Applicants must be a member of Immanuel UMC with plans for post high school education. Previous winners are not eligible.

Completed applications must be returned to the church office NO LATER THAN May 23.



CAMPERSHIPS

It's time to register for summer camp. Immanuel has been able to help with the cost by paying for @50% of the week's tuition. If you would like a campership, please give your camper's name, the dates and camp attending to the church office NO LATER THAN June 2. See Pastor Jack with any questions.



M2 Update

January 2024 Donations

Total donated	\$1,272.00	
Missions	\$424.00	33.33%
Maintenance/Trustees	\$848.00	66.66%

February 2024 Donations

Total donated	\$1,172.00	
Missions	\$390.67	33.33%
Maintenance/Trustees	\$781.33	66.66%

March 2024 Donations

Total donated	\$6,831.00	
Missions	\$2,277.00	33.33%
Maintenance/Trustees	\$4,554.00	66.66%

Due to the generosity of so many people the Trustees are able to maintain our beautiful church and the Mission team is able to help our friends in the community.

Any questions, please ask Shelley Dawson Smith.
Thank you!

Sunday, May 26 is Peace with Justice Sunday.

This is one of 6 church wide offerings each year. Gifts on Peace with Justice Sunday fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the US and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God’s children globally. There will be special collection envelopes available. When writing a check, please make it out to “Immanuel UMC” and write “Peace with Justice” in the memo. Thank you!



SPRC News

In March we officially welcomed Colin Keating as our new accompanist! What a blessing it is having Colin play the piano and organ, enhancing our worship experience on Sunday mornings. As of April 1 st, we welcomed Dan Miller back as our choir director! This is an answer to many prayers, and we are grateful for Dan’s recovery and that he can once again be a part of the staff at Immanuel. ~ Julie Bills, SPRC chair

GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale Set Up

Help is needed on Saturday, April 27th at 11am 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 an hour would be greatly appreciated. Sign up sheet will be in the Narthex or just show up.



Annual Garage Sale Dates

Dates of the garage sale are:

Thurs. May 2 nd	9:00am-6:00pm
Fri. May 3 rd	9:00am-6:00pm
Sat. May 4 th	9:00 am-12 Noon \$5 bag sale

Dates to bring in clean, saleable items:

Sun. Apr. 28 th	11:00am-4:00pm
Mon. Apr. 29 th	9:00am-6:00pm
Tues. Apr. 30 th	9:00am-6:00pm

- Please do not bring in any items on Wed. May 1st.
- Please do not bring in electronics of ANY kind (i.e.. no computers, No TVs, No air conditioners or exercise bikes, weight benches, Christmas trees or skis.
- Please ensure 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 14th.



Volunteers Needed

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



Free Upright Piano in good condition needs tuning. Must be able to pick it up. Laurine C 315-546-5554.



MAINTENANCE DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Finally the winter is behind us and spring has sprung, thanks be to God! However, along with spring comes the clean-up that winter left behind and that's why we have an annual Spring Maintenance Day for Immanuel. This year it will be on Saturday, May 18 from noon to 3:30 p.m. We changed our time this year to accommodate the plant sale that takes place in the morning. We'll gather at noon, and here's the best part, have our traditional mouth-watering pizza lunch first, and then go to work. (A rain date will be determined at a later date).

As with prior maintenance days, we have many projects planned including landscaping, painting, organizing, general cleaning and various general maintenance jobs. We even have a couple indoor projects on our list. We need lots of helpers – many hands make for light work. You don't need any special skills and a majority of the chores are suitable for all ages and talents – even the kids can help! Or bring a friend so they can share the fellowship for a good cause. We can match your talents to a suitable task. All materials and tools will be supplied, we just need some ambitious workers. We're really anxious to get our to-do list done, so sign up – it'll be a fun and rewarding day!

A Spring Church Maintenance Day sign-up list will be available in the church narthex for those who are able to sign up after church service. If you can't sign up directly, or have any questions or suggestions for a maintenance project, please send an email to either Lois Sadowski at lsadowski@twcny.rr.com or call 315-488-6230 or Laurine Campbell at tlacampb@aol.com or call 315-546-5554.

Looking forward to seeing you on May 18th!

Lois Sadowski, Trustee Secretary



The Trustees would like to thank everyone who has donated to the purchase of our new electronic sign. As of the middle of April we have raised over \$15,000.00, that is 61% of our goal. When you are reading this, hopefully we will have raised at least 70% or more of our final goal.

The sign is in the hands of the Installers, they have to make adjustments for proper installation.

We have had to make a few adjustments around the sign for proper installation. A special thanks to Mike D., Ed O, & Tom H for extra work in getting the final preparations on our site for the sign.

We are still accepting donations, (make checks out with the word SIGN on the memo line), put cash in the church under the FUNDRAISER SIGN.

Thanks again for all your donations and when the sign is up, we can all take pride in knowing we all helped to bring this ministry forward and made it happen.

~Trustees



"Adopt-A-Pot"

Trustees are excited to welcome a new group – Kidz Club will be digging dirt soon led by faith formation leader Lorlie Wood. And welcome back to our stalwart gardeners who put smiles on our faces every year.

~Sandra Van Epps, Trustee



Don't miss the upcoming Cornell Co-op extension Master Gardener plant sale, held right in our own "Fellowship Hall"! Saturday May 18 from 9am-noon. Large variety of perennials, herbs, ferns, hostas, and native plants. All locally grown, starting at \$3. Come early, sells out early. Questions contact Julie DeOrdio.



FOR YOUR CALENDARS

June 9

Last day of Kidz Club for the summer
Children's Sunday – we will recognize our graduates, hand out Bibles, thank our volunteers and celebrate our children's ministry during 10am worship service.

June 9

All church picnic after 10am worship. Stay tuned for details and sign up sheets for a wonderful time of fellowship and food.

June 16

We will celebrate our choir's music ministry during 10am worship this day as they prepare to take a hiatus for the summer.

Speaking of choir's hiatus, if you would like to provide special music during our worship service this summer, please see Dan Miller.

June 23

We will begin worshipping at ONE service this Sunday at 9am. We will continue with one service until Sunday, September 1. Sunday, Sept. 8 we will resume worship for 2 services at 8:30 and 10am.



Join us on Saturday, June 8 for the **DASH FOR DELAWARE fun walk/run!**

Enjoy a scenic one-mile fun walk/run around Woodland Reservoir while supporting the Bellevue Heights UMC **Blessings in a Backpack** weekend feeding program at **Delaware Primary School**.

Proceeds provide healthy food throughout the school year so no child leaves school uncertain if they will have enough to eat over the weekend.

Program information, registration and sponsor opportunities forms are available at www.bellevueheights.org



United Women in Faith's Spiritual Gathering
"The Power of Women to Change the Community"

Speaker: Doreen Jacobs

Saturday, May 4, 2004

9am-12 (Reservations not necessary)

Liverpool UMC

604 Oswego St. Liverpool NY



Our Second Sunday lunch was moved from Sunday, April 14 to Sunday, April 21. We enjoyed a delicious brunch and fun was had by all.



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."*

May/June
2024



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

office@churchofthebells.org

Website

www.churchofthebells.org

Worship

8:30 & 10am

*In Person or Facebook Live during 10am worship

Kidz Club

during 10am worship

Office Hours

Monday-Friday, by appointment

Handicapped accessible

Please join us!