

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Here is a devotional I read recently in my daily reading time...

Some things break my heart too. --- GOD

Trevor was an average eleven-year-old when he saw a television special on Philadelphia's homeless population. As he watched men and women huddling in alleys and under bridges, he felt compelled to do something. But what could a boy his age do? Finally, he convinced his parents to drive him from their well-to-do suburb into the heart of the city and let him give away his own pillow and blanket.

As they drove the streets of the downtown area, Trevor spotted an older man camped on top of a subway grate. Trevor got out of the car and approached the man, offering his pillow and blanket. Amazed, the man looked into Trevor's eyes, smiled, and said, "God bless you."

That day, Trevor created a mission for himself. Soon, he and his father were on the streets again, this time with one of Trevor's mother's old coats. He returned again and again with clothing and hot food. When his own family ran out of clothing to give, Trevor canvassed his neighborhood. Word of his mission soon reached local television stations, and the flow of gifts quickly became a flood.

The Bible teaches that God has great compassion for suffering humanity. When you respond with kindness to someone less fortunate, you can be sure that God sees and rejoices in your actions.

"If you spend yourselves in the behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will shine in the darkness, and your night will become like noonday." (Isaiah 58:10)

(From the GodSpeaks devotional)

Many times we are persuaded into thinking that our small, inadequate efforts to help others are just that... too small and too inadequate. But as Trevor's story reminds us... God can take even our inadequate efforts and bless them so that a mighty work can be accomplished. And God continues to demonstrate that to us time and time again.

We did a mighty work helping our community food pantry with our Lenten **GOD SIGHTINGS** offerings. While we may think that what we put into our boxes doesn't seem to be enough to address hunger needs in Camillus, we were able to send the pantry a check for \$ 1,352....because God blessed your efforts! Never, ever, underestimate the power of God to take our efforts and produce a miracle, friends! And don't ever let anyone tell you that God is no longer in the miracle business! We serve a God who loves so graciously that our efforts to help others are blessed beyond our wildest dreams! Thanks be to God!

Pastor Jack Keating

INSIDE...

Youth/ Family News
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Kidz Club update:

Not much has been happening in the Kidz Club, we had a successful Easter drop off! Children's time is back in person! You can watch the children's time sermon in person at the 10 AM service, or during the Church live stream on Facebook, or later on the church YouTube channel.

We are planning on an in person VBS this summer, so please stay tuned for more information about that when it comes!

Blessings,
Ashley
Kidz Club Coordinator



Registration is now open for overnight camp at Casowasco this summer!

Register Online @ www.casowasco.org

While we are still waiting for specific guidance from New York State, we are optimistic that we will be able to welcome back campers this summer! Since things are still uncertain, we are offering Worry-Free Registration. If we are forced to cancel overnight summer camp programs due to COVID-19, all money collected will be refunded by July 1.

For this summer, we have decided to build and improve on one of Casowasco's most successful and popular summer programs, You Can't Do That At Camp! After 25 incredible years of You Can't, it will lay the foundation for our new classic camp experience "Lakeside"!

Lakeside will offer many of the wacky, crazy, exciting traditions You Can't has been known for such as Ice Cream for Breakfast, Carnival, Slime Time, and more; as well as new surprises and traditions we know you'll love!

Lakeside will also introduce a new model for intentional discipleship at Casowasco, as groups of 16 campers will spend the week together in an intentional family group (by age); having meals together, playing together, learning together, and growing together. The whole camp will still gather together to start each day with Morning Watch, for special events and activities, and to worship together in Chapel each night.

Register early as space is limited!



Registration is also open for Day Camp

Casowasco is excited to announce its 75th year in ministry! Join us for Casowasco Day Camp for children 6-13 years old. Our Day Camp experience will include swimming, hiking, boating, archery, arts & crafts, worship, and a welcoming Christian community.

Day Camp will run from the following weeks: June 28 - July 2; July 5 - 9; July 12 - July 16; July 19 - 23; July 26 - 30; August 2 - 6; August 9 - 13; & August 16 - 20, 2021. Within our schedule, both breakfast and lunch will be included. There is a daily schedule online, but check in begins at 7:30am and pick up begins at 5:15pm. If there is enough interest, we could organize carpooling from church. Please let the office know if you are interested in this option.

Pricing for a week of Day Camp is \$195 with a \$50 deposit due at registration. If you have any further questions, please call (315) 364-8756 ext: 303 or, to register, click the link below.

<http://casowasco.campbrainregistration.com>

Casowasco offers Family Camp

Casowasco's Family Camp is the perfect opportunity for families to take a break from their busy lives and spend some time focusing on each other and their faith journey. Families of all kinds, from nuclear to chosen, are welcome. The beauty of Family Camp is that it is flexible. There is time to relax and enjoy planned activities such as swimming and boating, tubing, archery, wagon rides, and hiking. Each evening will also be filled with exciting activities such as nightly worship, family game nights, root beer floats, and more!

Gather the whole family and spend time with one another outdoors this summer!

Pricing for Family Camp

Ages 0-2 are free.

Ages 3-100:

Sunday - Friday is \$275/person or \$1100 for a family of four.

Sunday - Wednesday is \$165/person

Ages 101 and over are free.

If you have any further questions, please call (315) 364-8756 ext: 303 or, to register, click the link below.

<http://casowasco.campbrainregistration.com>



Camperships

Immanuel will again offer camperships to help offset the cost of both overnight and day summer camp. If your child will be attending camp and you would like a campership, please submit your child's name, dates and camp attending to the church office by May 15, 2021. If you have a greater financial need, please contact Pastor Jack.



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. 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. It is also available 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 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.

Gordon Williams Scholarship

Applications for the 2021 Gordon Williams Scholarship may be downloaded from our website www.churchofthebells.org. Completed applications must be turned in to the church no later than May 21, 2021.



Peace with Justice Sunday

One of six special church wide collections, gifts on Peace with Justice Sunday fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the United States and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God's children globally.

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. There will be special giving envelopes available in the narthex.

Thank you for giving generously!



PENTECOST WORSHIP SERIES "WHEN THE SPIRIT MOVES"

A group of despondent believers huddle together in a room uncertain, afraid, oppressed, and perhaps ready to give up. The weight of living in this broken world is too much, too much for anyone to handle. But then something happens. Everything changes. The world was ending becomes a new beginning. The followers who were disheartened, in fear of their lives, now begin to pour out their lives in a cause greater than themselves. The little band centered on a city in the Middle East, over time becomes a worldwide phenomenon.

Defining that "something" is difficult. Even Luke struggles to tell the story, falling back on metaphors and suggestions. The book that contains this story is called "the Acts of the Apostles," and that is what it is. It is the story of those frightened followers who became so much more than they imagined. But it could just as easily have been titled "the Acts of the Spirit," because that is the power that brings about this change.

When the Spirit moves, amazing things happen. But they happen through the people who allow that Spirit to motivate them, to guide them and direct them, to empower them for the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This isn't just a small thing, not just a personal, in-house thing. This is a transforming the world thing! And all would agree that this world needs transformation.

This sermon series, being offered from Pentecost on May 23rd through Sunday, June 30th, is about what can happen when a people submit to the Spirit. It is, I hope, a journey that will help us see and understand how to be a Spirit-filled people of God. After all, we are equipped to be a community of faith who are ready to go when the Spirit moves. I hope to you will be able to be with us, either in-person, or virtually for this exciting time of worship and Word.

~Pastor Jack

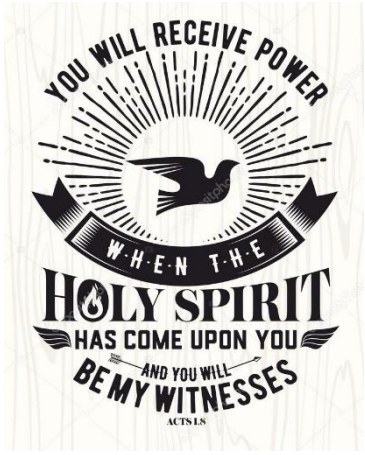


Thank you to our church family for all their prayers and cards while we attend to health issues. We are still in Florida, hoping to return possibly in June.

Our wonderful family are taking turns staying with us while I battle cancer of the appendix and Dick has had his knee replacement surgery postponed a few times. We miss you all and sincerely thank you for your prayers and support.

~Dick & Bonnie Aupperle

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 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 and request removal.



Pastor	Pastor Jack Keating
Phone	(315) 487-1171
Email	churchofthebells@gmail.com
Website	www.churchofthebells.org
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!