

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Hi Friends!

I saw this story and it made me think of Immanuel and the joy of celebrating of our 50 years of ministry here...

Members of a small church in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains built a new sanctuary on land donated by one of their members. A month before the church was to open, the local building inspector informed them that their parking lot was too small. Unless they doubled the amount of spaces they would not be allowed to open.

The problem was that they had used every part of their property except the land behind the church building and it had a huge hill, almost a mountain on it. The pastor announced the next Sunday morning they would have a special prayer meeting that night to ask God to somehow make a way for them to open their new church.

Twenty-four of the members showed up and they began to pray. After an hour, the pastor announced, "God has never let us down before and God won't let us down this time. We will open as scheduled."

The next morning there was a knock on his door. It was a rough-looking construction foreman. He said, "Excuse me, Reverend, we're building a shopping center in the next county and we need some fill dirt. If you'll sell us the dirt on that mountain behind your church we'll not only pay you for the dirt but we'll also pave all the areas we dig up."

They got their parking lot for free and moved into their building as scheduled.

When we pray God-sized prayers, God will show up in a big way. Throughout the 50 years of Immanuel's existence I bet there were plenty of times when God-sized prayers were needed. Times of uncertainty, times of concern, times of frustration and times of worry. But through it all, and only because of God's grace, and the commitment of her members...Immanuel survived. The congregation has weathered the storms of ministry, cried the tears of failure, and then tasted the sweet taste of success. And while we might have the occasion to sometimes think we did it... it helps to remember that GOD DID IT!

When we gather on May 20th and celebrate once again our 50 years together I want to challenge us to also consider the next 50 years of Immanuel's history. What will our congregation look like in 2067? Don't succumb to the temptation to either dwell ONLY in the past or the present... accept with joy the challenge of **looking into the future!**

What a great event to celebrate and build on for the next 50 years.... The celebration of 50 years of praying and living by God-sized prayers!

I'm excited to be here in ministry with you... as together we re-commit to always looking to God to do great things here in Camillus!

Pastor Jack Keating

Celebrating 50 years of ministry

INSIDE...

Youth/ Family News
Missions/Ministry News
Calendar

Youth/Family

On May 21st, seven of our youth will have the opportunity to say YES to Jesus. They are **Tyriq Block, Christopher Cuttler, Amanda Demmerle, Nancy Gonzales, Ben Paoli, Alexa Paventi and Jack Yeates**. These seven youth have spent the last five months together, under the guidance of their teacher, Chris Paoli. Each of the confirmands also has a mentor that is walking with them through this process. With our new curriculum, CONFIRM, the youth have talked about what our Methodist theology is, what our history is, what it means to have a relationship with Christ, and how to live out their faith.

It hasn't been all academics though. We spent an overnight at church in March and played soccer in the cold and zero temperature. We visited the Beth Sholom – Chevra Shas Congregation in Jamesville and attended a Friday night service. Rabbi Pepperstone graciously answered all of our questions, showed us the torahs and even let us touch the scroll of Esther. Did you know it takes a scribe about one year to completely copy over a torah? We had a scavenger hunt. I think the boys won. We attended mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with Father Peter Worn. We had quite a discussion about the fact that not all churches have an open communion table. We helped served a meal at the Samaritan Center, assembled flood buckets for UMCOR and helped Shelley Dawson-Smith set up for the garage sale. We also had the opportunity to talk with Brian Bush at Bushes Funeral Home to see how they minister to our community. Pastor Jack led a discussion with the youth on death and resurrection after our visit.

But this is not the end; we believe it's the beginning of a life-long journey with Christ. Please worship with us on May 21st and congratulate these young people as they embark on the next leg of their faith journey.

UPCOMING OF EVENTS:

- May 2nd Listening Sessions with David Black from 6:30 to 8pm
- May 3rd Listening Sessions with David Black from 6:30 to 8pm
- May 9th Listening Sessions with David Black from 6:30 to 8pm
- May 21st Confirmation Sunday at 10am worship service
- June 4th Children's Sunday at 10am worship

Shalom,
Carol A. Doucette
Christian Education Coordinator



Sign up for Electronic giving on Sunday, May 7 following worship and receive a free gift!!

Volunteers will be on hand to answer your questions and help fill out the form.

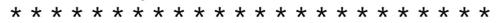


We have camperships available for the youth of Immanuel to attend summer camp. Please give your camper's name, the camp he/she is attending and the dates attending to Pam in the church office NO LATER THAN June 4. No scholarships will be awarded after that date. One check for all camperships will be sent to Casowasco. If you have a greater financial need, please let Pastor Jack know and we will work with you.



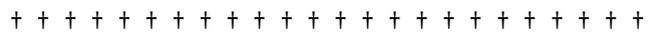
2017 WILLIAMS SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

Applications for the 2017 Gordon Williams Scholarship may be picked up from the church office or from Joan Archambeau beginning April 30th. Completed applications must be turned in no later than May 25, 2017.



4th Annual Spike It for a Scholarship Volleyball Tournament is Sat. June 3 at 10am-6pm.

It is held at the Bridge Street Tavern in Solvay. This tournament was started in memory of Andrew Guelfi, member of Immanuel. Proceeds benefit a scholarship in Andrew's name. They are seeking 4 person teams to play in the tournament, \$100 per team. They are also inviting patrons to attend the fundraiser, which will feature food, drinks, raffles, games, and music. Check it out on Facebook or contact Robin Polge at 315-673-3555.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Summer **Fun in the Son Week** (f/k/a Vacation Bible School) will be held the week of August 7th. Our theme for the week is Cave Quest: Following Jesus the Light of the World. Fun in the Son Week is open to all children ages 4 yrs. thru 5th grade. The cost is \$10 per child, a family of three or more only \$25. Join us as we worship together, make crafts, eat snacks, act out bible stories, play games and engage in cool science experiments.



Our salt pots are looking for church family to fill them with beautiful flowers. If you and/or your family/friends would like to fill a pot, please let Pam in the church office know. We would like the pots to be filled before Memorial Day weekend.



Return Service Requested

Our Mission

*"To make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world."*

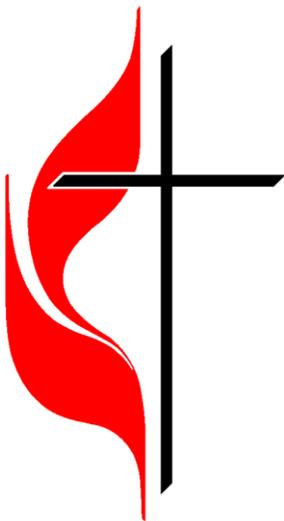
M
A
Y

J
U
N
E

2017



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

Sunday School

During 10 am worship

Handicapped accessible

Please join us!