

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

As we start another New Year, it has become even more clear to me that the God of the entire universe wants to be in conversation with us! Can you even imagine that? It's amazing but true, friends!

Most of us would consider it the opportunity of a lifetime to meet or talk with our favorite movie star, professional athlete, or recording artist. We look up to these people. We are impressed and influenced and inspired by them. But how quickly and how often do we pass up the chance to talk God, who is infinitely more interesting and more important than any person we could ever revere.

The Lord God, after all, created it all – including the celebrities we admire so much. God created us specifically to have a relationship with us. And the only way I know of to have a relationship with anyone is to spend time talking to him or her. What more important relationship could you build? What better way could you spend your time than by getting to know God? God has all the answers!

The Master of the universe is waiting. Waiting on each of us. You may not know you need God, but God knows you, and God wants to hear from you. There is no risk. We have nothing to lose. Don't wait another second of this new year! Close your eyes and open your heart... God wants to talk to you today!

I think a great New Year's resolution, which you can start anytime in the year, would be to get to better know God the Creator. This might involve more times of intentional, daily prayer. Or perhaps it might involve doing some reading or joining a study group. Or maybe adopting a regimen of daily journaling... where you write down your thoughts and prayers each day?

However, you decide to live out the possibilities this New Year we hope you take advantage of the chance to re-open the communication channel between you and God! You'll always be glad you did!



*Pastor Jack Keating*

Becky and I want to thank you all for the wonderful gifts you showered upon us this holiday season! So many treats, delicious baking, and the extravagant gifts you presented to us on Christmas Eve! We are blessed to be here among you in Camillus and look forward to another great year of ministry work in 2022!

## INSIDE...

Youth/ Family News  
Ministries News

**OUTSIDE LIVE NATIVITY**

On December 4th the church's yard was transported back to the birth of our Savior. There was a stable, angels, shepherds and of course real animals! It was a magical evening and there were even a few snow flurries!

A heartfelt and sincere thank you is extended to the following people who helped tell the Christmas story and made it so special:

- Mary: **Madelyn Aupperle**
- Joseph: **Audra Ahl**
- Angel Gabriel: **Elodie Ahl**
- Shepherds: **Mason Ahl, Asa Kinsley & Brayden Short**
- Angels: **Avery Ahl, Charlotte Aupperle, Kaylee Blackledge, Harper Keating, Charlotte Kinsley & Kayla Short.**
- Narrator: **Pastor Jack**
- Rt 80 Stables: **Ollie the donkey & Razzle the mini horse.**
- Dan Fitts: **Two goats, two sheep, three ducks, a turkey and a "wandering" rooster!**

An event like this needs help from a number of behind-the-scenes people and my thanks to each and every one:

- Dave Stanton:** Bell Tower Ringer & set up stable
- Sam Paventi:** Refreshments
- Robin Polge:** Refreshments, Silent Night Song Sheet & candles.
- Mike & Julie DeOrdio:** Took down the stable
- Erin Paoli:** Facebook Advertisement
- Jerry Sabattis:** Church sign, set up stable, spot light & did just about anything that was needed.
- Parents & Grandparents:** Helped dress the children.

Thank you to all!  
Shelley Dawson Smith



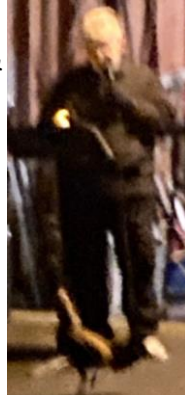
Harper



Mason, Elodie, Avery



Carly, Adie, Asa



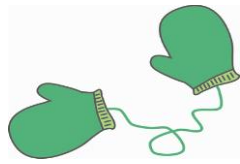
Pastor Jack and the rooster



Our rooster friend liked the view from on top of the stable!



"Silent Night, Holy Night"



**Mitten Tree**

On behalf of the Mission Team a heartfelt thank you is extended to everyone who donated to this project. Every branch of our tree was covered with socks, mittens, hats, scarves and gloves. And under the tree were gently used boots and coats. The children and the community of the Onondaga Nation will be warmer this winter because of your generosity. Our goal was 100 items and this year 179 items were donated!

~Shelley Dawson Smith



**Door Sprays**

- >Thanks to Dan Martini owner of Syracuse Christmas Tree Farm in Syracuse for donating greens.
- >Thanks to Mike & Julie DeOrdio, Jerry Sabattis, Dave Russell, Gary Merckel and Warren Robinson for cutting the greens.
- >Thanks to Jerry & Denise Sabattis who helped set up the tables in Fellowship Hall.
- >Thanks to Denise Sabattis, Ed Owens & Mike DeOrdio who helped assemble the door sprays.
- >Thanks to Joan Archambeau, Betty Block, Julie DeOrdio, Barb Merckel, Judy Owens, Sherri Molatch, Shirl Cruickshank, Ruth McConnelllee, Janet Robinson, Denise Sabattis, Kate & Madelyn Aupperle who did an outstanding job decorating the sprays.
- >Thanks to the people who purchased door sprays.
- >Through this cooperative effort we made 40 door sprays and as everything is donated we were able to contribute \$800 to the Mission Team for Disaster Recovery.

~Shelley Dawson Smith



**Shoe Ministry**

Immanuel supports the shoe ministry that was started by "Ralph the Shoe Guy" owner of Discount Shoe Repair in downtown Syracuse. Ralph refurbishes the shoes which may involve some polish or replacing the laces or putting on new soles and then he gives the shoes to the Rescue Mission. Ralph started this ministry in 2010 with a donation of 65 pairs of shoes and it has grown to 37,370 pairs of shoes in 2021! Ralph donates his time and the supplies, however he also accepts cash to help defray the cost of the supplies. Immanuel donated 89 pairs of shoes in 2021. Let's continue to help Ralph and the Rescue Mission! The donation box is in the Narthex under the coat hangers.

Any questions ask Shelley Dawson Smith 315-727-0671.

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**3M Update:**

**October 3M donations:**

Total Collected	\$10,311.00
Mortgage Payment	\$2,564.46
Trustees	\$3,873.27*
Missions	\$3,873.27*

\*Due to shortages in June through September totaling \$1,138.42 only \$2,734.85 will be distribute to each the Trustees and Missions.

**November 3M donations:**

Total Collected	\$1,392.00
Mortgage Payment	\$2,564.46
Shortage	(\$1,172.46)*

\*In order to pay the mortgage, the funds will be temporarily advanced from the Mission Team funds. Any questions please call Shelley Dawson Smith @ 315-487-1290.



The wreath over our main entrance was donated by Emma McHugh in loving memory of her husband Terry.

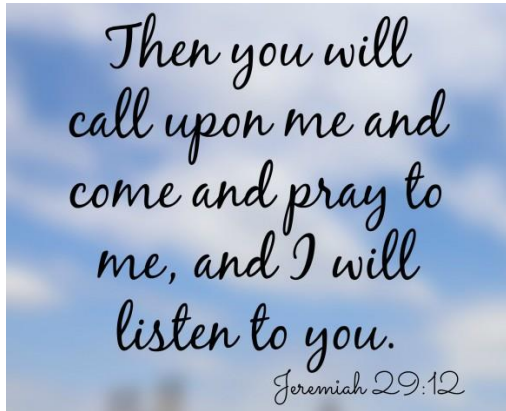
The door sprays on either side of the main entrance were donated in memory of Carolyn & Ted Topalian and in honor of June Lawrence.



Thanks to everyone's generous giving, we were able to collect \$1,315 in donations to Heifer International. Your support is helping families around the world. Thank you.

~Helen and Sara Forward

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."



## January/February 2022

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	Sundays 8:30 AND 10am In Person or Facebook Live
Kidz Club	Sundays at 10am
Office Hours	Monday-Friday, by appointment
Handicapped accessible	

*Please join us!*