

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Happy New Year to the Saints at Camillus!

It's a New Year and a new day! No matter what you've gone through in the past, no matter how many setbacks you've suffered or who has tried to thwart your progress, today is a new day, and God wants to do a new thing in your life. God has great things in store for you. Don't let your past determine your future.

Maybe you've lived in an abusive situation where somebody mistreated you, somebody walked out on you, or somebody did you great harm. Please, don't inhibit the great future God has planned for you by dwelling on the pains in your past.

The Bible promises us that God will give us "a two-fold recompense for our former shame." That means that if we'll keep the right attitude, God will pay us back double for our trouble. God will add up all the injustice, all the hurt, all the pain that people have caused us, the abuse and embarrassment, and God will pay us back with twice as much joy, peace, and happiness. That is God's desire for us. But, I think, we need to do our part and start expecting good things. Keep your mind moving in the right direction. You can't have a victim mentality and expect to live in victory. We can't live in a perpetual pity party and then wonder why situations aren't improving in our lives.

But we know, and rejoice in the fact that our God is just. God knows when people might not be treating us right. God knows when we're doing the right thing, yet the wrong thing keeps happening to us. God knows when we're operating with integrity, and yet someone comes along and cheats us out of what should have been ours. God sees every time we're taken advantage of. And God also sees every time we turn our cheek and let an offense go by. God sees every time we forgive, or attempt to restore a broken relationship, even though it wasn't our fault. God sees all that... and God keeps a good record.

As 2019 begins here is the question for each of us.... Are we willing to change our thinking? Will we take the limits off what God can do in our lives? Will we start believing in God for even bigger and better things?

Change, my friends, starts right here. With us. I believe that if we will change our thinking, God can and will change our lives. Will you join me in committing to opening ourselves even farther to God's love, as God changes each of us into the beautiful people God created us to be? New Years are great times to do just that! But then again... so is a new day!

See you in Church!

Pastor Jack



INSIDE...

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Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a joyful Christmas celebration and are ready to jump right in to 2019. Here is what we have planned for the next couple of months:

JAM: It's all about the New Testament and Jesus in JAM for the next several months. The PREK/K class will be learning all about who Jesus is and how he came to teach us how to love one another. The 1st – 5th grade class will be talking about the miracles Jesus performed. And the JR/SR High class will continue to meet our ancestors from the New Testament.

Our mission project for January will be to collect boxes of tissues for East Hill Elementary School and in February, we will hold our annual book drive for Sophie's Giving Tree.

YOUTH: In addition to making lunches for the Rescue Mission, the youth will be spending the weekend of January 27th together. We will also be attending the 9th Annual World Interfaith Harmony Assembly in the beginning of February and "sleeping" overnight at church during February break.

CONFIRMATION: We have a couple of great activities planned for the confirmands during the next two months. In addition to our regular classes, we will be preparing and serving a meal at Brown Memorial in January. In February, the confirmands will also be attending the World Interfaith Harmony Assembly. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend this assembly, I highly recommend it. It is a gathering of different faith organizations and several of them will be giving presentations at the assembly. It will be a night of music, dance and prayers. The assembly will be held on Monday, February 4th at 6:30pm at the Southern Missionary Baptist Church on Midland Ave. Why don't you join us!

Be sure to mark May 19th on your calendars. It's Confirmation Sunday and we will be celebrating our confirmands and their journey at the 10am worship service.

Shalom,
Carol A. Doucette
Christian Education Director



CHILI & CHOWDER

⇒ COOK-OFF ⇐

Annual Chili Chowder Cook-off

January 13th immediately following 10am worship. Bring your best chili or chowder. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Come vote for your favorite.



Card Party Saturday, February 2 at 6:30pm

Join us on for a night of fun!



The 9th Annual World InterFaith Harmony Assembly

"We Are Family" Monday, February 4, 6:30-8:00 PM

Reception to Follow Southern Missionary Baptist Church 3143 Midland Ave, Syracuse, NY 13205 Plenty of Free Parking Available

Established in 2010 by the United Nations Assembly, the week of World Interfaith Harmony seeks to affirm that mutual understanding and interfaith dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace. In places where these dialogues occur, people witness greater community cohesion and develop better connections for addressing serious societal issues. Sponsored by InterFaith Works of Central New York and Women Transcending Boundaries.

There will be a sign up in the Narthex to carpool.

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**Thank you!**

Happy New Year Friends! This is just a quick note to thank you all for the wonderful holiday gifts which you provided to Becky and I. We are so blessed to be here at Immanuel and we appreciate both your gifts and your love! *Pastor Jack Keating*

# THANK YOU!

*"Thank you for all the wonderful donations and support we received for our bake sale in December. Through all your help we managed to raise over \$650 for the Children's Glaucoma Foundation!! This money will be a great help towards finding a cure and supporting families in need of treatment. Thank you!" ~ Chris Cuttler*



**Please note:** The church office will be closed on Monday, January 21.

thank you!

**Mitten Tree Thanks**

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 of the Onondaga Indian Nation will be warmer this winter because of your generosity. Our goal was 100 items and this year an amazing 177 items were donated!

~Shelley Dawson Smith

**Door Spray Thanks**

- > Thanks to Bruce and Gerrie Yaw owners of Big Tree Farm in Moravia for donating the greens.
- > Thanks to Mike & Julie DeOrdio, Jerry Sabattis, Bob Marsh and Warren Robinson for cutting and picking up the greens.
- > Thanks to Jerry & Denise Sabattis who helped set up the tables in the fellowship hall.
- > Thanks to Ed Owens, Denise Sabattis and Peg Webster who helped assemble the door sprays.
- > Thanks to Joan Archambeau, Angie Keida, Julie Deordio, Sherry Molatch, Peg Webster, Tamma Goldner, Janet Robinson, Barb Blanchard, Judy Owens and Denise Sabattis who did a wonderful job decorating the sprays.
- > Thanks to the people who purchased the door sprays.
- > Through this cooperative effort we made 50 door sprays and as everything is donated we were able to contribute \$1,000.00 to the Mission Team for Disaster Recovery.

~Shelley Dawson Smith

**Thank you**

Thank you to everyone who supported Heifer International. Together we were able to donate \$1,000 to help families around the world.

~ Helen and Sara Forward

**Human Relations Day** January 20, 2019

The Human Relations day offering supports neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy in the U.S. and Puerto Rico through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. Special offering envelopes will be available in the bulletin. Please give generously.

**Celebrate the UNY Mission Central HUB's one-year anniversary on Jan. 12, 2019**

This a one-year anniversary to celebrate one year of success and hard work at the Upper New York Mission Central HUB. All are invited to attend.

The event will take place from 1- 4 p.m. at the Mission Central HUB, located in the Upper New York United Methodist Center at 7481 Henry Clay Blvd., in Liverpool, NY.

There will be fun activities for the whole family, like UMCOR kit assembly contests, basic construction contests for youth and adults, and there will be an array of carnival-like games for all age levels. Exciting prizes will be awarded to the contest winners. There will be face-painting for the kids and crafts as well.

At 1:30 p.m., there will be a plaque dedication to Earlville UMC. When Earlville UMC closed its church in 2017, they donated enough funds to cover the salary of a UNY Mission Central HUB Director for at least two years. They also gifted a 1.2 million dollar trust to help with operations well into the future.

At the HUB Homecoming, there will be plenty of appetizers and snacks as well as a delicious celebration cake!



**Emergency Early Response (ERT) Training**

Saturday, January 19, 2019 at the United Methodist Conference Center, 7481 Henry Clay Blvd in Liverpool, from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

UMCOR Early Response Teams (ERT) provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of disaster. The training equips you to help individuals clean up their homes and yards. ERTs travel to communities impacted by floods, fire, hurricane, tornadoes, etc. to carry out damage assessment, debris removal, tarp placement, and to help prevent further damage. Team members should be in good physical health.

This training credentials you to enter disaster zones. An ERT badge is issued by UMCOR to persons over the age of 18 after successful completion of the course and a background check. Badges are valid for 3 years. Contact Mike Block, Director of Missional Engagement at [mikeblock@unyumc.org](mailto:mikeblock@unyumc.org) for registration information.

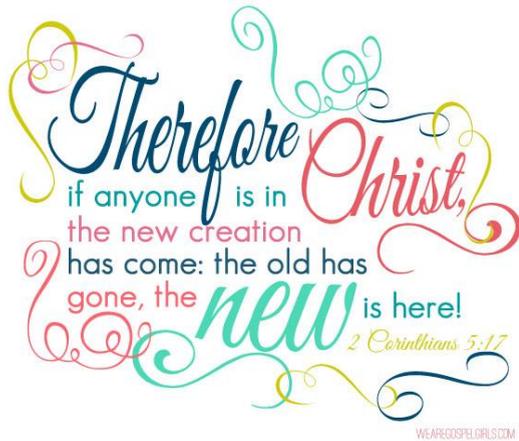
Many thanks for the generous Christmas gift and all of the Christmas gifts I received. I appreciate each and every one of you and feel so blessed to be here!

~In Christ's love, *Pastor Pam*

Electronic Service Requested

*Our Mission*

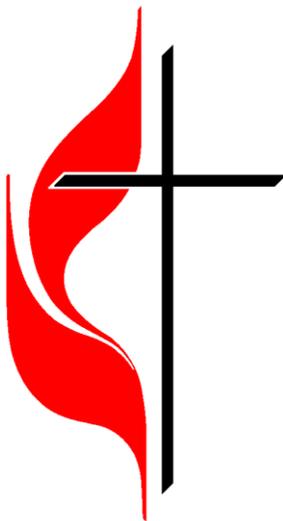
*"To make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world."*



## JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

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.

**Newsletter mailing updates will be made in 2019.**



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Worship

8:30 am and 10 am

JAM

During 10 am worship, Sept. - June

Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 9am-12:30

or by appointment

Handicapped accessible

*Please join us!*