

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Saints,

*"God, I'm worn out,* you pray as the hours tick by. You know your alarm is set to go off in just a few hours, but you haven't had any sleep. You feel too overwhelmed to relax your shoulders and breathe deeply. You may be facing a personal, heartbreaking crisis right now — and don't know how to deal with the pain. You may feel that at the end of each day you got nothing accomplished, even though you skipped lunch and didn't sit down until 10 p.m. Maybe you committed to something that you now realize was way too big for you to handle, and you feel frazzled and fearful.

Whatever the circumstance, you're now wrestling late into the night with the heavy burden of feeling inundated by life's demands. You're carrying more than you're able, but you fear if you let go, **everything will come toppling down.**

Fellow traveler, listen to the words of the psalmist in Psalm 142:3 (NLT). He said, *When I am overwhelmed, You alone know the way I should turn.* Do you know the way you should turn when you are feeling overwhelmed in life? Don't search yourself for a hidden reserve of strength. Don't think, *If I just can give a little bit more tomorrow, I'll feel better. No, dear friend.* The answer is not in you; it's in the Lord.

Cry to Him — if you don't have it all figured out, it's okay God doesn't ask us to be spic and span when we fall before His throne. In Psalm 61:2 (NKJV), the psalmist said he cries to the Lord when he is overwhelmed.

*From the end of the earth I will cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*

God can lead you to a higher place — out of the suffocating circumstances that are clamoring for your attention, your time, your energy, your heart. Not only can He lead you there, but He will carry your burden for you. No longer do you need to feel overloaded and overrun.

**Hand it over to God. Tell Him how exhausted you feel. He won't be disappointed in you.**

"Tonight, turn to Him. Run into the arms of your Father; He is full of mercy, love, and grace. Breathe deeply, child. The Lord is fighting for you. You don't need to stumble under the weight of exhaustion anymore. You can emerge, energized by the goodness of God."

(from *God's Peace When You Can't Sleep*, Christina Vinson)

I read this daily devotion recently and thought about my own life. I needed to be reminded that I am not the One in control! Sometimes we forget that as we journey through these hectic lives we lead.

As we complete Lent and arrive at the tomb on Easter morning try to keep it all in perspective. God has it all under control!

See you in Church!

*Pastor Jack*



## INSIDE...

Youth/ Family News  
Ministries News  
Calendar

**JAM:** Things are rolling right along in our Sunday Morning JAM sessions. The K6 JAM class has completed their unit on the Terrific Twelve and have moved on to SUPER MAN! You know him as **Jesus!** We will spend three weeks talking about the Sermon on the Mount, specifically the Beatitudes. After that, we will be parading through the Parables.

The JR/SR JAM class will continue its lessons on our Ancestors of the New Testament (i.e., Simon Peter, Sadducees & Pharisees, Mary & Martha, Judas Iscariot and Pontius Pilate, just to name a few). The PREK JAM will be learning about the Good Samaritan, the healing of the blind man and the widow's giving.

Our mission project for Lent will be to collect new books for Sophie's Giving Tree. Sophie Kawejrza, whom the foundation is named after, was part of our church family. Sophie passed away six years ago from a rare brain tumor. All the books we collect will be given to the children staying at the Golisano Children's Hospital in Syracuse.

**YOUTH:** We had seven youth attend the SOLID Retreat at Casowasco in January. The focus for the weekend was how to build and maintain a SOLID faith in Jesus. We attended four awesome worship services, had several small group discussions, cooked smores on an open fire, and played STREEBALL (our motto was "No One Scores; not even us"). On Saturday night, we attended a beach party where each youth group had to create and \_\_\_\_\_ a dance routine. You should see Joey Paoli do the limbo (he came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of 100 kids!) The apple doesn't fall too far from the tree because you should see Chris Paoli do the worm! We had a blast. The next time you see one of the youth, be sure to ask them what a **COGPOW** is.

The youth continue to support the Rescue Mission by preparing lunches for them once a month. We have a couple of youth who are considering attending the GROUP Mission Work Camp that is coming to Camillus in June. The camp will be located at West Genesee High School and the projects will be done right here in the Syracuse area.

I would like to thank all of you that have taken time to give us feedback on our new Sunday Morning JAM Sessions format. We are getting wonderful affirmations so we know that God is at work.

Shalom,  
~Carol  
Carol A. Doucette  
Christian Education Coordinator



We are excited to announce that registration for Summer Camp 2018 at Casowasco is now open! Check it out at [campsandretreats.org/summer-camp-2018](http://campsandretreats.org/summer-camp-2018). If you register before May 1, there is a discount. There is also discounts for siblings and refer a friend. Immanuel has awarded camperships to young people from church to assist with the cost of camp. In the last few years, we have been blessed to be able to award \$200 per camper, per summer. This is a wonderful opportunity for young people to experience God in a fun setting!

# GARAGE SALE

## ANNUAL GARAGE SALE INFO. 2018

Dates of garage sale are:  
Thurs. May 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00am - 6:00pm  
Fri. May 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00am - 6:00pm  
Sat. May 12<sup>th</sup> 9:00am - 12 Noon \$5.00 bag sale

Dates to bring in clean, saleable items:  
Sun. May 6<sup>th</sup> 9:00am - 7:00pm  
Mon. May 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00am - 7:00pm  
Tues. May 8<sup>th</sup> 9:00am - 7:00pm

**Please DO NOT bring in any items on Wed. May 9**

**Please DO NOT bring in electronics of ANY kind (ie. No computers, no TVs, no air conditioners)**

If you have items to be picked up and brought to the church, we will be glad to help you. However, we would prefer to schedule these pickups on Tues. May 8<sup>th</sup> as this is when the Tues. morning gentlemen are at your service. Please call John Henderson at 315-468-2996 before May 2<sup>nd</sup> to schedule pick up.

### VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex or ask Shelley Dawson Smith how you can help 315-487-1290. Someone is especially needed to coordinate the Rescue Mission pick up of unsold items.

## Ministries

### News from the Trustees

Imagine you have just been asked to step into the biggest shoes you have ever seen knowing that if you try to walk in those shoes, you are likely to trip and stumble. That's how I feel taking over as Chairman of the Trustees for Dick Ramsden, a man whose experience, knowledge and love for this church is unsurpassed. Thank God Dick has agreed to stay on as Trustee emeritus so he can continue to make sure that the Trustee Chairman duties continue to get executed without getting messed up by his successor and to teach me what I need to know to do the job effectively.

Besides learning what is entailed in being the Chairman of the Trustees, I have been studying what it means to be a Trustee. A Trustee guideline book I am reading states that Trustees are responsible for, "managing the property, equipment, and investments God has entrusted to our ministry." We are a church family and our home of worship is located at 303 Kasson Road, Camillus. Those who founded this church over 50 years ago entrusted all of us to be good stewards of this wonderful piece of property and to utilize its resources to serve God and to seek to invite others to come share our home of worship and join us in our journey to follow in Christ's footsteps (talk about stepping into big shoes!)

I am pleased to have a wonderful group of fellow Trustees to work with. I enjoy a good feeling of respect and support from the other Trustees and I encourage candor and open communications. They can teach me a lot of background that I need to know and they all are eager to step up and help where needed.

I want everyone to understand that all Trustees are approachable and we want to foster good communications so that no one will hesitate to bring an issue affecting the church property to our attention. I also hope to make sure we have reasonable transparency in the actions we take so you will be aware of some of the major repairs and improvements that are planned or underway rather than see or hear about some activity that leaves you guessing and confused.

The big project on our plate right now is the installation of remote control door security systems for the main church entrance and the

nursery wing main entrance. I don't think I need to go into detail to explain the risks we face these days. Having controlled entrances with cameras that monitor these entryways will go a longways to ensure the safety of our members and staff and the staff, parents and young people frequenting the West Side Nursery School. Some of you will feel that there is some added inconvenience associated with this measure but I hope you will also appreciate that such steps have become critically important.

Most importantly I ask that you pray for the church trustees and for all leaders of this church as we endeavor to make important decisions.

While I'm reluctant to promise articles all the time, I will try to keep you all informed, if not in the newsletter, at least input updates into Pastor Jack's weekly Chimings.

Jerry Sabattis  
Trustees Chairman



Lenten Self Denial Offering Boxes are available in the Narthex. Please place a coin in the box each day during Lent and on Easter Sunday you will be invited to come forward and place the offering on the altar. The offering will be donated to St. Joseph's food pantry. Any questions see Shelley Dawson Smith



### 2018 Spring Craft Show

**Barb's Bistro** Homemade Lunch Menu Available

Friday April 13<sup>th</sup> 4:00-8:00pm

Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00-3:00pm

### Wonderful "Handcrafted" Gifts

Birthdays, Baby Showers,

Mothers Day, Graduations & More

Please support our Disaster Recovery work.

Call/Text Betty: 315/491-8256

\*Please keep our Disaster Recovery Team in prayer as they travel to Clendenin West Virginia the week of April 22-28, 2018.\*

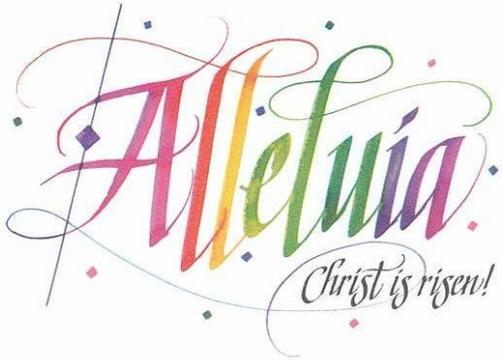


**Our choir needs you to join us for Easter!** Limited time engagement, all skill levels welcome! We practice on Wednesdays at 7pm! **page 3**

Return Service Requested

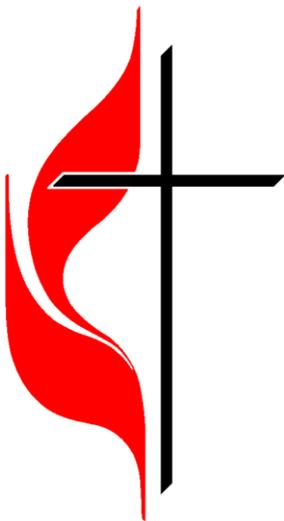
*Our Mission*

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



March/April 2018

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

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Worship

8:30 and 10 am

Sunday School

During worship

Handicapped accessible

*Please join us!*

