

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Greetings Friends!

As we approach Lent 2019, I am thinking about folks who are traveling at this time of year. We've seen the news stories as storms rip across the country and strand travelers in airports and on highways waiting for clear travel.

Weary travelers. We've seen them – everything they own crammed into their luggage. Staggering through terminals of airports and hotel lobbies with overstuffed suitcases, trunks, duffels, and backpacks.

Backs ache. Feet burn. Eyelids droop. We've all see people like that. And at times, we are people like that – if not with our physical luggage, then at least with a spiritual load.

We all lug loads we were never intended to carry. Fear. Worry. Discontent. No wonder we all get so weary. We're worn out from carrying that excess baggage. Wouldn't it be nice to lose some of those bags?

That's the invitation of our Lenten study, **Because of This I Rejoice**. As we look at Paul's letter to the Philippians, we'll see how it is possible to release some of the burdens we were never intended to bear. You see, for too long Lent has been thought of as a season of self-sacrifice and discipline that intimidates many Christians. Sometimes Lent can feel like an endless list of spiritual chores and heavy baggage.

But using Paul's Letter to the Philippians we'll try to find **JOY** during Lent. In his writing, Paul describes spiritual practices that help him sense God's power and presence even in the midst of persecution and imprisonment.

The six week study offers a series of meditations about joyfully practicing spiritual disciplines. A passage from Philippians structures each weeks reading and together we'll look at practicing our Lenten joy together.

I hope you'll sign up for this study, which begins on Wednesday March 13th at 12:00noon and 7:00pm. The signup sheet is outside the Fireside Room and the books are here and only cost \$11 each.

This year, instead of thinking about giving something up for Lent... how about taking something on? **JOY???**

Blessed to Serve Here with you all!

Pastor Jack Keating



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Youth/Family

Here is a sampling of what our young people have been up to!



Our confirmation class made dinner for Brown UMC on January 13, 2019



Our youth had a sleepover on January 26, 2019



Our JAM class building a boat February 24, 2019



We've been learning about the miracles of Jesus



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6th.
We will worship at 12 noon and 7pm.
This year our Lenten theme is:

Living Lent As People of the Resurrection

Each week we'll be looking at a different word along our Lenten journey, based on the Gospel of Luke. The passion narratives of Christ take on a much more significant meaning for us when we see them through the lens of the empty tomb. Each service will help us see that we are always alive in Christ, who died and was raised. Here's our plans...

- Ash Wednesday, 3/6 - PONDER
- 1st Sunday of Lent 3/10 – PURPOSE
- 2nd Sunday in Lent 3/17 – PEOPLE
- 3rd Sunday in Lent 3/24 – PROCLAIM
- 4th Sunday in Lent 3/31 – PRAISE
- 5th Sunday in Lent 4/7 – PAIN
- Palm Sunday 4/14 – PALMS
- Maundy Thursday 4/18 – PRAYER
- Good Friday 4/19 – PASSION
- Easter – 4/21 – PARADISE

We hope you'll be here and join us each week as we journey toward the empty tomb of Easter. Because we live Lent differently knowing that Easter PARADISE awaits us all!

Share the Love FOOD DRIVE

Lenten Mission Project

Our Lenten mission project this year will support our community Food Pantry located at St. Joseph's Church and there are two ways that you can help.

The first way is to fill a red grocery bag (which Immanuel will provide) with nonperishable food items. You can return your red bag whenever it is full and then you can take another red bag to fill. Currently the food pantry is in need of condiments (especially ketchup and mustard), tomato soup, spaghetti sauce, cake and brownie mixes. But they appreciate anything that Immanuel can donate.

The other way that you can help would be to use small self-denial coin boxes so that you can make a financial gift to the Food Pantry.

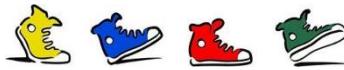
The red bags and the Lenten boxes will be available on Ash Wednesday.

Please pray about supporting this mission project which will benefit the efforts and clients of our local food pantry.

If you have any questions ask Robin Polge or Shelley Dawson Smith.

Ministries

Shoe Ministry



Immanuel supports the a 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 he then 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 17,327 pairs of shoes in 2018! Ralph donates his time and the supplies however he will accept cash to help defray the cost of the supplies. Immanuel donated 101 pairs of shoes in 2018 and 46 pairs so far in 2019. Let's continue to help Ralph and the Rescue Mission! The donation box is in the Narthex across from the church office. Any questions ask Shelley Dawson Smith 315- 727-0671.



We are planning on supporting a team of Skilled, Semi-Skilled and those wishing to become Skilled to work on Home Rebuilding Projects. The team is made up of General Contractors, Very Skilled Home owners and those who have never raised a hammer before. Every person will be paired up with someone who knows about the assigned task. No one will be asked to do anything they do not want to do nor is unsafe.

The work week is April 22nd to the 27th, 2019
Trip Details and Questions - Mike Block (315) 491-0497 C, (315) 579-4014 Fax, or mblock@wwdb.org



UMCOR Sunday is March 31, 2019
Gifts to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday lay the foundation for all UMCOR work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered.

Garage Sale

Mark your calendars for May 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Detailed information to follow as the date approaches.



3M Update

Did you know that the money given to 3M not only goes towards paying the church's mortgage but it also funds church maintenance work and supports many mission projects?

Mission projects such as:

Samaritan Center Meals

Eastern Farm Workers

St. Joseph's Food Pantry

Camillus 1st UMC Summer Lunch Program

St. Paul's Food Pantry at Brown Memorial

ACTS

Brown Memorial Camperships

Vera House

Camillus PBA Thanksgiving Food Baskets

West Genesee After the Senior Ball Party

Brown Memorial Backpack Program

Brown Memorial Sunday Dinners. Ask the confirmation class about the meal that they recently served at Brown Memorial.

Unfortunately donations to 3M have declined over the past several years so there may need to be reductions to some of the mission projects going forward . The chart below shows the trend:

	Total 3M Donations	Mortgage Payment	Mission Team Distribution	Trustees Maintenance
2016	\$53,148.74	\$30,087.24	\$11,570.75	\$11,570.75
2017	\$50,140.87	\$30,583.14	\$9,778.87	\$9,778.87
2018	\$43,528.00	\$30,682.32	\$6,427.84	\$6,427.84

We will be having a 3M fund drive in June however pledges or donations can be made at any time. Please contact Shelley Dawson Smith if you have any questions.



ATTN: Dessert Lovers! The Fellowship Team invites you to a TOAD (Totally Outrageous Awesome Dessert) Fest on **Saturday, March 2nd** at 6:30 pm here at Immanuel. Bring your most decadent dessert to share (or just come to sample them).....but be prepared to vote for your favorites! Sign-up sheet is on the whiteboard outside the Fireside Room. Bring a friend (or two)!

Thank you!

"I would like to thank those who sent cards, prayers and thoughts my way in response to the passing of my step-father in January.

It is such a loss for our family, and I really appreciate your thinking of me during this difficult time." -Sharon Beney

Electronic Service Requested

Our Mission

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



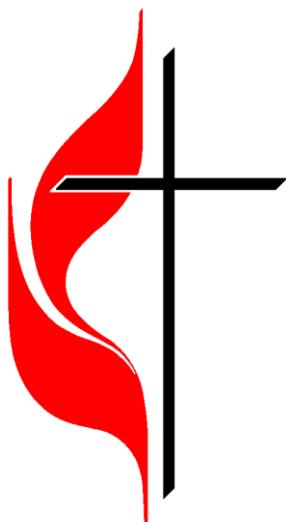
THIS IS THE DAY
THE LORD HAS MADE.
LET US REJOICE AND
BE GLAD IN IT.

Psalm 118:24

March/ April 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 and request removal.

Newsletter mailing updates will be made in 2019.



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