

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Greeting to the Saints,

After a very short respite period after the Christmas and Epiphany season we now find ourselves fully immersed in our Lenten journey to the cross with Jesus. Each week we are looking at a way in which we are "Guided to the Cross" to be fully present with Jesus on Resurrection Day. But, as we make this journey, maybe like me you are aware of that old adage about the "hurrier I go... the behinder I get"? Life just seems to be whizzing by!

There are times when I feel like I am being swallowed up by quicksand. Our emotions are overwhelming, threatening to drag us under. Or maybe things are just changing so rapidly around you that you might just need something solid to grab onto.

Have you ever heard the phrase, "hard as a rock" or heard of a person being referred to as "the rock of Gibraltar"? Well, during Lent I am becoming more fully aware that God wants to be our rock. Tougher than the hardest diamond and unmoved by any circumstance, God stands firm and solid... someone we can surely hold onto. Or if you just need to take a break and rest awhile, God is there for you as a rock of refuge, protected from the storms of life as you shelter inside God's strength. And who among us hasn't needed that strength from time to time?

This Lent, as you find the need to stand strong and navigate the winds of change blowing all around you or you just need someone to hold onto... join me in praying... ***Be my rock, O God!***

Join us for these last weeks of Lent and into Holy week and Resurrection Day to fully understand and appreciate all that Jesus did for each of us. I can't wait to see you in Church,

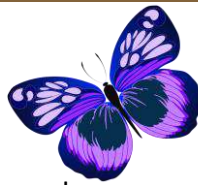
Pastor Jack Keating

INSIDE...

Youth/ Family News
Ministries News



THIS AND THAT FROM PASTOR JACK.....



Here are some things to think about and maybe even mark your calendar to attend...

- 1. NAME TAGS...** Please remember to wear your name tag each Sunday when you enter the Sanctuary. Everyone appreciates hearing their own name and by wearing your name tag you make this so much easier. If you need a name tag, please put a note in Pam’s mailbox across from the office. Thanks!
- 2. KIDZ CLUB...** Our kids are having a great time at KIDZ CLUB every week! Thanks to all those who have stepped in to help keep this vital ministry going!
- 3. During Holy Week** we will worship on Palm Sunday at our normal 8:30am and 10:00am worship times and then gather for a “Service of Nails” on Maundy Thursday, March 28th at 7:00pm. Make plans now to be here as we complete the journey to the cross of Jesus during Holy Week.
- 4. Resurrection Day worship** is at 8:30am and 10:00am!
- Our **Second Sunday Lunch** program continues to grow each month! Thanks to our Fellowship Team we have this great opportunity to share a meal together each month. We hope to see you at a Second Sunday Lunch meal on March 10th!
- Did you know we have a great group of dedicated folks here who serve as **FAITHFUL FRIENDS?** These wonderful people maintain contact with their assigned “friends” each month and are so important to help keep all our congregation connected. If you’d like to become a FAITHFUL FRIEND speak with Pastor Jack today.
- Don’t forget that we **push our clocks AHEAD** one hour on Sunday, March 10th! Spring gets ever closer, friends!

Pastor Jack



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Palm Sunday worship

March 24 8:30am & 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday worship

March 28 at 7pm

Easter Resurrection Sunday

March 31 8:30am & 10:00am



Easter plant orders

We will be taking orders for Easter plants in honor of or in memory of your loved ones. The plants will decorate our altar for Easter Sunday. Orders will be taken on Sundays, March 10, 17 and 24 after both worship services. Orders can also be mailed to or left in the church office. There is an order form in this newsletter for your convenience.



Kidz Club

We have been having fun at Kidz Club learning on Sunday mornings. We have been listening to a story from the Bible followed by a lesson related craft and/or a short game.

During lent the kids are planning to read from their Lenten devotion books and “earn” a paper link to create an Easter “chain”.

We are also planning a special Spring project- so stay tuned!!

~Lorlie , Faith Formation Director

ELECTRONIC SIGN UPDATE



The Trustees would like to thank everyone who has donated to the purchase of our new electronic sign. As of the middle of February we have raised over \$5000.00, that is 22% of our goal. When you are reading this, hopefully we will have raised at least 50% or more of our final goal.

The sign is supposed to be delivered to the installers by the beginning of March, depending on the weather and their schedule we should have the sign installed by the end of March or middle of April.

We are still accepting donations, (make checks out with the word SIGN on the memo line), put cash in the church under the FUNDRAISING SIGN.

Thanks again for all your donations and when the sign is up we can all take pride in knowing we all helped to bring this ministry forward and made it happen. ~TRUSTEES



Friday, April 12 4:00pm-8:00pm
 Saturday, April 13 9:00am-3:00pm

Bring your family and friends to find that special, one of a kind, handmade gift. Donations of non-perishable food and/or cash will enter you in a crafters raffle. All donations will be given to a local food pantry.

Help needed:

We will be setting up the tables, etc. on Thursday, April 11 at 9:00 am. Any and all help is appreciated.

Barb's Bistro will be open and will need food donations and volunteers to work. There will be sign up sheets in the Narthex.

All proceeds will benefit our Mission outreach.



UMCOR Sunday is March 10th. This is a special church wide collection that lays the foundation for all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the costs of doing business. This means that all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100 percent to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered.

Native American Sunday is April 14th. This special church wide offering supports Native American outreach within annual conferences, provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans and strengthens, develops and equips Native American rural, urban and reservation congregations, ministries and communities.

There will be special giving envelopes available in the Narthex for each collection. Please give generously.

GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale Set Up

Help is needed on Saturday, April 27th at 11am moving items that have been stored in the garage sale room to the Fellowship Hall. The members of Immanuel have been very busy cleaning out their closets this past year and these donations have caused the garage sale room to burst at the seams! Any help even for an hour would be greatly appreciated. Sign up sheet will be in the Narthex or just show up.



Annual Garage Sale Dates

Dates of the garage sale are:

Thurs. May 2 nd	9:00am-6:00pm
Fri. May 3 rd	9:00am-6:00pm
Sat. May 4 th	9:00 am-12 Noon \$5 bag sale

Dates to bring in clean, saleable items:

Sun. Apr. 28 th	11:00am-4:00pm
Mon. Apr. 29 th	9:00am-6:00pm
Tues. Apr. 30 th	9:00am-6:00pm

- Please do not bring in any items on Wed. May 1st.
- Please do not bring in electronics of ANY kind (i.e.. no computers, No TVs, No air conditioners or exercise bikes, weight benches, Christmas trees or skis.
- Please ensure all items are clean and in working order.
- Please have all clothing such as coats, shirts, dresses, etc. pre-hung on hangers. If you don't have hangers, there will be a supply in the Narthex starting on April 14th.

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. April 30th as this is when the Tuesday morning gentleman are at your service. Please call Shelley Dawson Smith at 315-727-0671 **BEFORE April 22nd** to schedule pick up.



Volunteers Needed

Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex or ask Shelley Dawson Smith how you can help.

315-727-0671



Music Ministry

Throughout the month of March, we will be blessed by the talents of our youth. What a privilege it is for our congregation to be able to witness the growth of these individuals in their musical journeys.

The grand piano in the sanctuary will have some needed repairs done during the month of March. We are grateful that this can happen without the disruption of our Sunday morning services.

The choir is always looking for new members! Who out in the congregation would like to join us? The choir is a fun, talented group of many ages..., but all young at heart! We rehearse on Thursday nights at 6:30pm and Sunday mornings at 9:30am before we sing at the 10:00am service. We have the attitude of "the more the merrier"!

See Julie Bills, interim Choir Director for more information.



SPRC Spring update

SPRC has started our formal staff evaluation process for the year. This involves each staff member doing a self-assessment as well as a formal discussion including the staff member, the SPRC liaison and chairperson. We have a great staff at Immanuel, and we look forward to each of the meetings!

We have taken a bit of a break in our search for a Sunday morning Kidz Club person as our new Faith Formation Leader, Lorie, has enjoyed getting to know the kids who currently attend by doing the teaching on Sunday mornings. We will once again begin our search for that position to hopefully have someone by September.

As always, please feel free to share concerns and your kudos regarding our staff to any SPRC member! We have members at both Sunday morning services. Who is on the committee? Julie Bills, Shirley Cruickshank, Helen Forward, Jeff Gribble, Pat Linehan and Jim Vanelli.

We would really appreciate your feedback as that is how we learn and grow!

~Julie Bills, SPRC Chairperson



From our Accompanist

We are excited about the improvements being made to the piano in the sanctuary. The improvements will make the piano much more comfortable to play and improve sound quality. During the month of March, the choir and I will be rehearsing Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 in the Sanctuary unless a rehearsal should be rescheduled. Please feel free to join us in worshipping through this fun ensemble. We sing traditional hymns as well as contemporary selections from composers like Marcus Miller. Special music rehearsals also take place before or after choir rehearsals-we are always looking for new members of the congregation to take initiative and special music is a great way to do it.

During the next coming weeks, I will be looking to take on some new piano and saxophone students! I have flexibility when it comes to teaching so if you or someone you know is interested, arrangements usually can be made. Many of my students receive opportunities to perform in public, receive news about performing arts camps, attend clinics, and socialize with peers while building a community with other kids having similar interests.

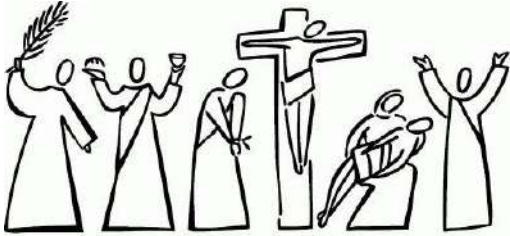
I am also excited to announce that my Quartet-- "The Michael Passarelli Quartet" will be performing March 21st at the GreenGate Inn in Camillus NY. This is Camillus New York's primary music venue and now of the primary Jazz Venues in Central New York. It is a very welcoming place to connect with people and the food is great! Some of our church members have come to shows in the past and have loved it and I hope to connect with more Church members there on the 21st!

I often come to Church to practice or rehearse so if you would like to connect about special music at Immanuel, or anything for that matter, you can always shoot me an email!

~Michael Passarelli, Accompanist
michaeljamespassarelli@gmail.com



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."*



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

office@churchofthebells.org

Website

www.churchofthebells.org

Worship

8:30 & 10am

*In Person or Facebook Live during 10am worship

Kidz Club

during 10am worship

Office Hours

Monday-Friday, by appointment

Handicapped accessible

Please join us!



Easter Plant Orders

Chrysanthemums will be available for the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The cost per plant is \$10.

Please fill out the form below and give your order, along with payment, after worship to our volunteer. **(Make checks payable to “Immanuel UMC” with “Easter plant” in memo)** The form can also be left in the office. Orders will be taken until March 24th.

Please indicate how many plants you wish and include your phone number in case there is a question concerning your request.

**I would like to order _____ Chrysanthemums
(Please limit one or two persons per plant. If more than this, please use “My Family” or “Loved Ones”)**

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Other Message: _____

Given By: _____ Phone: _____

I will take my plant. I wish to donate my plant to a shut-in.

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