

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

This month my thoughts are on how we, as individuals, do our mission. Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Our mission – introducing people to God – is one of the great purposes of our lives. There are a number of reasons why we need to take this mission seriously. Jesus commands us to continue his mission. The Great Commission was not given to just pastors... but to every follower of Jesus. You might be the only Christian some people will ever know, and your mission is to share Jesus with them. Your mission is a great privilege. And although this is a profound responsibility, it is also an incredible honor to be used by God.

Your mission is the greatest thing you can do for someone. We have the greatest news in the world and sharing it is the greatest kindness you can show anyone. Your mission also has eternal significance. Nothing else you will ever do will ever matter as much as helping people establish an eternal relationship with God. And your mission gives your life meaning. If just one person will be in heaven because of you, your life cannot be considered a failure. God's timetable for history's conclusion is connected to the completion of the commission we've been given. Jesus will not return until everyone he wants to hear the Good News has heard it.

Completing our mission will bring glory to God. The night before he was crucified Jesus reported to his Father, "I have brought you glory on earth in completing the work you gave me to do" (John 17:4). Will we be able to say that at the end of our lives? I believe God blesses the life dedicated to his kingdom. The secret of being blessed by God is to participate in his agenda for the world, to be a part of what God is accomplishing here on earth.

In 2025, as we live even more fully into our mission as a church, let's all look for ways to change the world one person at a time. And then we too will be living out our mission for God!

See you in worship!
Pastor Jack Keating



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THIS AND THAT FROM PASTOR JACK.....

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

1. LENT BEGINS.... We gather for our Ash Wednesday worship service, marking the start of Lent, on Wednesday March 5th at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. We will offer the Imposition of Ashes at this beautiful and meaningful worship service.

2. OUR THEME FOR LENT is “Savior, Servant, Friend” and looks at the many roles Jesus performs in our lives when we choose to follow him. Maybe you experience Jesus as a listener, or a forgiver, or a comforter. These are just a few of the roles Jesus offers each of us. Join us in worship each week as we look at these different roles. We’ll have an assortment of take-home materials for each family to use throughout the Lenten journey to the cross!

3. LENTEN BIBLE STUDY begins on Monday, March 3rd at 12:00noon in the Fireside Room. We’ll gather each Monday, bring our lunches and enjoy a bowl of hot soup together as we study. Sign up outside the Fireside Room and join us on March 3rdat 12:00noon.

4. WE CONTINUE TO DELIVER a meal once each month to our shut-ins and those who could use reminding that their church loves and cares about them. If you know of someone who could use a meal delivery and visit, please talk to the church office!

5. 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.

6. DON’T FORGET TO WEAR your church name tag! This way everyone can be called by their name here in the family of Immanuel.



THIS AND THAT CONTINUED...



7. OUR SECOND SUNDAY LUNCHEON in March is being held on Sunday, March 9th! We’ll enjoy a delicious Roast Pork Dinner but we need to make sure you sign up so we plan accordingly for the food. Thanks to Sam and our Fellowship Team for these delicious fellowship meals!

Pastor Jack

We are an excited and active group of kids in **Kidz Club!**



The kids we found out are also very artistic. Stop up in the entry way of the Kasson Rd doors and see what a great job the kids did painting a mural and without any hands on help. Mr. Gribble was there to offer any assistance, but these kids did this on their own! Thanks so much Mr. Gribble for your help!

Next items on our agenda (besides our weekly Sunday morning learning) is another planting Sunday in March and a mission project.

Stay tuned !

Lorlie Wood,

Faith Formation Leader



Music Ministry

The music ministry program is dodging the winter weather and working hard to praise God through song! While some of our members are enjoying warming climates our choir numbers have taken their annual dip. We continue to rehearse on Thursday nights at 6:30 and specifically are in need of some sopranos and altos in our choir. Please reach out to Colin if you have any interest in getting involved with the choir or as a musician offering special music at church.

~Colin Keating, Music Director

Annual Garage Sale

May 1-3

Stay tuned for more details.

See Shelley Dawson Smith to help.



Rejoice!

M2 Report

December 2024 Donations

| | | |
|----------------------|------------|--------|
| Total Donated | \$2,961.00 | |
| Missions | \$987.00 | 33.33% |
| Maintenance/Trustees | \$1,974.00 | 66.66% |

January 2025 Donations

| | | |
|----------------------|------------|--------|
| Total Donated | \$1,803.00 | |
| Missions | \$601.00 | 33.33% |
| Maintenance/Trustees | \$1,202.00 | 66.66% |

Any questions please ask Shelley Dawson Smith.



SOUP-ER BOWL

The congregation got in to the spirit of the Super Bowl by predicting the winner of the game. During both the 8:30 and 10:00 services those in attendance placed a can of soup in the bin representing the team they hope will win. There were also giant soup bowls where monetary donations could be placed. If Immanuel is right, the overwhelming winner will be the Eagles. Out of 123 cans collected, 88 were for the Eagles while only 35 were donated for the Chiefs. And out of \$292.18 collected, \$235.18 was for the Eagles and \$57.00 was donated for the Chiefs. Regardless of the outcome of the game (I'm writing this before the start of the game) our friends at the food pantries at St. Joseph Church and Brown memorial Church will share 50/50 in both the soup and the monetary donations.

Thanks to everyone for their donations and to Lisa Miller for singing "Dropkick Me, Jesus" as the congregation brought their donations to the front of the sanctuary. ~Shelley Dawson Smith



LENTEN MISSION OPPORTUNITY

During this Lenten show, our annual Lenten Self Denial offerings will go to support the work of our friends at Sleep In Heavenly Peace. Look for your Lenten coin box to practice denying self and helping others! All funds collected will help to purchase bedding so that we can help Sleep in Heavenly Peace move one step closer to their mission... No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in our Town! Check out the special display in the Narthex to be a part of this exciting mission work!



EASTER FLOWERS

We will be taking orders for mums to decorate our altar on Easter from Sunday, March 30 to Sunday, April 13.

Please leave your order and payment in the marked container. If you wish to be a volunteer, please call or text Julie DeOrdio at 315-481-6623.



Annual Spring Craft Show

Friday, April 4 4pm-8pm

Saturday, April 5 9am-3pm

This is a crafters only show and proceeds will benefit mission outreach here at Immanuel. Please contact Betty Block to see how you can help. Invite your family and friends to attend, it is always a great event!



Mission Trip to Hardwick, VT May 18th to 24th, 2025

We are planning on supporting a team of Skilled, Semi-Skilled and those wishing to become Skilled to work on Home Rebuilding Projects. Most likely our assignment will be in a re-construction project or following another team in a quest of putting a home(s) back together.

There will be a meeting at Immanuel UMC on April 14th at 7PM if you are interested. Any questions regarding this trip please contact the persons named below.

Trip Details and Questions - Mike Block (315) 491-0497 or mrb2065@gmail.com

Fund Raising Guidance – Betty Jane Block (315) 491-8256 or bblock4938@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."

March/April 2025



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 | Sundays at 8:30 & 10am *Facebook Live during 10am |
| Kidz Club | During 10am service |
| Office Hours | Monday-Friday 9am – 3pm |
| Handicapped accessible | |

Please join us!



Lenten Opportunities

Ash Wednesday Worship

March 5 at 7pm

We will offer the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at this meaningful worship, as we start our Lenten journey.

Lenten Bible Study

“Savior, Servant, Friend”

Mondays at 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room, March 3 through April 7. Bring your lunch and we will share a delicious pot of soup, as well! See Pastor Jack for books, which are free for this study! Sign up outside of the Fireside Room.

Lenten Mission Outreach

Our **Lenten Self Denial offerings** this year will be used to support the ministry of our friends at Sleep in Heavenly Peace. You will find Lenten coin boxes in the Narthex for your use, we will collect new twin bedding and pillows, and we also hope to have a Sleep in Heavenly Peace display in the Narthex, as well.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Palm Sunday, April 13 8:30 am and 10 am

We will worship with the waving of palms as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday, April 17 7pm

We will remember the night of Jesus' last supper with his disciples by sharing in the Sacrament of Holy Communion during this special worship service.

Good Friday, April 18 12-3 pm

Our sanctuary will be open for silent prayer and reflection as we remember the day that Jesus was crucified.

Resurrection Sunday, April 20 8:30 am and 10 am

Celebrate the risen Christ with us as we sing Alleluia! We will have beautiful mums on the altar and will share in the Lord's supper.



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 April 13th.

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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