

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

*Here are some thoughts for us from Psalm 78...*

*They said, "Can God really spread a table in the wilderness? True, he struck the rock and water gushed out, streams flowed abundantly, but can God also give us bread? Can God supply meat for God's people?" (Psalm 78: 19-20 NIV)*

*We can only diminish God in our own thinking. In reality, God is reality, filling all of heaven and earth (Jeremiah 23:24).*

*But our finite minds struggle with God's immensity, and our sin blinds us to God's awesome goodness and power. How often we resemble the ancient Israelites who whined about food and water so soon after the miraculous parting of the Red Sea.*

*Psalm 78 hits highlights (actually, lowlights) of the exodus. And today's scripture encapsulates the often schizophrenic way we humans view God: "True, he struck the rock, and water gushed out, streams flowed abundantly, but can God also give us bread? Can God supply meat for God's people?"*

*"Yes, buts" kill --- literally, in the case of the Israelites, who infuriated God with their complaining disbelief (Psalm 78: 21-31). They're spiritually dead to us.*

*The New Testament teaches us that when anyone asks of God, "you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord" (James 1:6-7 NIV).*

*Sometimes it seems to me we live in a society of "yes buts"! We hear and accept something as being true... but often we are slow to put our full faith into the endeavor. We receive a great blessing but we quickly look around to see and anticipate the other shoe dropping. We even become skeptical about the ability of others to deliver as they might have promised us.*

*But God always delivers on God's promises. God has promised through the scriptures to provide for us, love us, guide us, and send God's Son Jesus to show us the way to live, love and serve others. And it seems to me that our job is to try never to answer God's words with "yes buts"!*

*Hey... maybe that could be another part of our definition of the word FAITH...never saying or thinking "yes but" to God!*

*See you in worship!  
Pastor Jack Keating*

**GOD'S PROMISES**

## INSIDE...

Youth/ Family News  
Ministries News



**THIS AND THAT FROM PASTOR JACK...**

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

1. **MOTHER'S DAY** will be celebrated on May 10 th in our worship services. Plan to bring Mom to church as we celebrated the gift of our moms on this special day.
2. **OFFICE HOURS...** the office remains open Monday-Friday from about 9:15- 3:00pm with an hour closed for the lunch hour from 12:30-1:30pm. Emergency numbers are available of the answering machine for any pastoral emergencies that may arise.
3. **ARE YOU WEARING** your church name tag each week? It is so nice to hear our own names and be able to call others by their name as well. Thanks for taking the time to put your name tag on each week.
4. **KIDZ CLUB** continues each Sunday morning. Lorlie has a lot of fun and educational activities planned for the kids and we hope to see all the young people for KIDZ CLUB each week!
5. **ANNUAL CONFERENCE** takes place on May 28-30 at the OnCenter in Syracuse. Helen Forward, Pam Kelsey-Gossard and I will represent the people of Immanuel at this conference-wide gathering. Please pray for us and for the work of our annual conference.
6. **WE WELCOME REV. DR. RUSSELL HALL** who will be leading worship on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> while I am away. It will be wonderful to have Russ with us in worship once again!
7. **2026 CONFIRMATION PROGRAM** has begun and we will welcome several young people as church members through the Rite of Confirmation sat the 10:00am worship service on June 7<sup>th</sup>!
8. **CAMILLUS RIDGE AND SUMMERFIELD WORSHIP** will both be held the second Wednesday of the month. Camillus Ridge worship will be held at 11:00am, while Summerfield worship will begin at 1:30pm on that day. You are invited to join us at either worship time to celebrate with the residents.
9. **OUR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC** is planned for Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> following our 10:00am worship service. Look for another Car Wash offered by our young people and a good time of fellowship for all on this day!
11. **WE MOVE TO OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE** on June 21<sup>st</sup> through Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> We will gather for one worship service at 9:00am each of these weeks. ~Pastor Jack



Kidz Club News

The Kidz Club kids recently wrapped up their March mission project. They collected 431 pairs of socks to donate to In My Father's Kitchen. We want to thank all of the generous people at Immanuel for helping to make this project so successful. They enjoyed making their sock puppets and performing a short skit with them to "kick off" the sock drive. Hopefully the puppets will make another appearance soon during children's time.

Our next mission project will take place during the second annual Car Wash that will coincide with the Church Picnic once again this year.

We had 14 kids on a recent Sunday during Kidz Club and it is great to see them enjoy learning stories from the Bible.

Vacation Bible school will once again take place on the four Wednesday evenings of August. Spread the word - registration will begin in a little over a month. Also please let me know if you would like to volunteer and join in on the fun with us.

~Lorlie Wood, Faith Formation Leader



**2026 Gordon Williams Scholarships** are available for members of Immanuel for post high school education. See Jerry Holbrook for more information. Applications are available by contacting the church office.

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**Prayers for Peace**

**A Gathering for Reflection and Stillness**

Are you concerned about the growing tension around the world, our country, our communities, or even the growing tension within yourself?

You are invited to join us for a time of communal prayer and quiet reflection as we raise our voices together. We will gather to seek peace through the reading of the Psalms, the lighting of candles and reflective meditation.

**When:** Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 6:30 pm (about 30 minutes)  
**Where:** The Fireside Room  
**What to Bring:** Nothing but yourself and an open heart.



Shalom Aleichem to you and your families –  
Carol Doucette **page 2**



**Music Notes**

As the days grow longer and signs of new life begin to bloom around us, spring offers a natural invitation to renew and refresh our spirits. One of the most meaningful ways we do that in our church is through music—lifting our voices together in worship and praise.

Our choir has long been a vital part of our services, helping to lead and enrich our shared worship experience. Like many choirs, however, we’ve seen our numbers dwindle in recent years. With that in mind, I’d like to extend a warm and open invitation to anyone who has ever considered singing with us—this is a wonderful time to join!

The commitment is intentionally manageable: the choir sings just twice a month (on the first and third Sundays) and rehearses for one hour on Thursday evenings. Whether you’re an experienced singer or someone who simply enjoys making music in community, there is a place for you. You don’t need to read music or have formal training—just a willingness to participate and a desire to be part of something joyful and meaningful. Choir is not only about the music we create, but also the fellowship we build and the spirit we share.

If you’ve been looking for a way to get more involved or simply try something new this spring, I encourage you to consider joining us. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or to let me know you’re interested.

~Let’s make a joyful noise together!  
Colin Keating, Music Director/Accompanist



**M2 Report**

February 2026 Donations

Total Donated	\$1,521.00	
Missions	\$507.00	33.33%
Maintenance/Trustees	\$1,014.00	66.66%

March 2026 Donations

Total Donated	\$3,087.00	
Missions	\$1,029.00	33.33%
Maintenance/Trustees	\$2,058.00	66.66%

Any questions ask Shelley Dawson Smith

**LENT MISSION PROJECT .....WOW!!!**

This year we helped support Camillus First UMC with their summer brown bag lunch program. There were samples of the needed items in the Narthex as well as Lenten coin boxes. The bins to hold the donated items were filled to overflowing and many coin boxes were filled. Our friends at Camillus 1st UMC said that it was "...a double gift as your church family did all the shopping and paid for four carloads of food." Our friends also said "Your continued support and belief in our mission is a blessing to us and enables us to meet the needs of those experiencing food insecurity during the summer school recess." Thank you to all who donated food items and also to the people who filled their coin boxes for a total of \$775.50!

~Shelley Dawson Smith, Mission Team Chairperson



**GARAGE SALE**

Dates of the garage sale are:

Thurs. April 30th	9:00am - 6:00pm
Fri. May 1st	9:00am - 6:00pm
Sat. May 2nd	9:00am - 12 Noon

\$5.00 bag sale

***–“If able” we ask that when you bring in your items that you put them in the designated area(s).***

- Please do not bring in any items on Wed. May April 29th.
- Please do not bring in electronics of ANY kind (i.e. No computers, No TVs, No air conditioners) or exercise bikes, weight benches or Christmas trees or skis.
- Please ensure that all items are clean and in working order.
- Please have all clothing such as coats, shirts, dresses, etc. pre-hung on hangers. We have hangers if you need them.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**

Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex or ask Shelley Dawson Smith how you can help 315-727-0671. Many thanks to all who make this annual tradition happen.



**Annual Cornell CCE Master Gardner Plant sale** held in church fellowship hall. Saturday May 16th from 9am-11am. Large variety of perennials, herbs, ferns and native plants. All grown locally. Any questions contact Julie DeOrdio 315-481-6623.

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."*

*Lenten Collection*



**May/June 2026**

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.



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Worship

Sundays at 8:30 am & 10 am

\*Facebook Live during 10 am

Kidz Club

During 10 am service

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9 am – 3 pm

Handicapped accessible

*Please join us!*