

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

You are not an accident. Your birth was no mistake or mishap, and your life is no fluke of nature. Your parents may not have planned you, but God did. God was not at all surprised by your birth. In fact, God expected it.

Long before you were conceived by your parents, you were conceived in the mind of God. God thought of you first. It is not fate, nor chance, nor luck, nor coincidence that you are breathing at this very moment. You are alive because God wanted to create you! The Bible says, *"The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me."* (Psalm 138 :8)

God prescribed every single detail of your body. God deliberately chose your race, the color of your skin, your hair, and every other feature. God custom-made your body just the way God wanted it. God also determined the natural talents you would possess and the uniqueness of your personality. And because God made you for a reason, God also decided when you would be born and how long you would live. God planned the days of your life in advance, choosing the exact time of your birth and death.

God also planned where you'd be born and where you'd live for God's purpose. Your race and nationality are no accident. God, in fact, left no detail to chance. God planned it all for God's purpose! That's why Scripture reminds us, *"From one man he made every nation... and he determined the times set for them and the exact places they should live."* (Acts 17:26) Nothing in your life is arbitrary. It's all for a purpose.

Friends, God made you for a reason and your life has profound meaning! But we can discover that meaning and purpose only when we make God the reference point of our lives. Eugene Peterson's The Message paraphrases Romans 12:2 in these words... *"The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what God does for us."*

And the very best way to understand God is to be present when we worship each week. The community of believers around you is such an important part of our spiritual journey! We hope to see you each week, either here in our Sanctuary or joining us on-line. Celebrate the fact that you are a part of the family of God and the family of Immanuel!

I can't wait to 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 calendar to attend...

1. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make our Lent/easter worship experiences so wonderful! Our musicians, flower arrangers, altar decorators, banner-hangers, and Sunday morning helpers all did great work to make the holiday so memorable. **Thanks again** to you all!
2. Our Lenten collection of non-perishable food items for the Brown Bag lunch program was a wonderful success! Our efforts will help to provide several thousand lunches for kids this summer through our friends at First UMC in Camillus! **Thank you** for all your donations and check out the picture of the donation table in this newsletter!
3. Our Spring Bible Study is underway! We meet each Monday afternoon at 1:00pm in the Fireside Room as we encounter An Invitation to the Old Testament! This 8-week video study is taking us on a tour of the Hebrew Scriptures as we seek to learn more about the foundations for our Christian faith! Join us on Monday afternoons!
4. **CONFIRMATION** will take place on Pentecost, June 5th at the 10:00am worship service! Make sure you are here to see 4 of our young people profess their faith and become confirmed members of Immanuel!
5. **CAMPING SUNDAY** is May 15th! On that day we will welcome Mr. David Weber, the Director at Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center. It'll be a great time to hear about our camping ministry here in the Upper NY Annual Conference and to get our young people re-energized about summer camping!
6. Our Annual Conference has been moved to a virtual meeting on October 6-8.
7. Don't forget to wear your name tag each Sunday morning! Everyone appreciates hearing their own name and by wearing your name tag you make this much easier. If you need a nametag, please put a note in Pam's mailbox across from the office. Thanks!

Pastor Jack



MY FALL PLANS

After consulting with our District Superintendent and Immanuel's Staff Parish Relations Committee and Administrative Council, I wanted to let you know that, after 25 years of ministry here in central New York, the time has come for me to take a step back from active ministry for a period of time.

Our United Methodist Church encourages a time of renewal and sabbatical for clergy members and I have decided it is time for me to embrace this experience.

I will be stepping away from the congregation beginning on Monday, September 26th. I will return to the pulpit on Sunday, November 27th, which is the First Sunday of Advent. During this 8-week period I will likely be away from the central New York area and your Staff Parish Relations Committee will be working on securing pastoral coverage and worship leadership while I am out of the area.

I know that this time apart will be a time of learning for all of us! I hope to return re-energized as we start Advent and as I move into the next years of ministry. You will hear more about my plans in the coming months... but I wanted to make sure you knew how excited I am for this time of renewal and battery re-charging! And I wanted to thank you all for all the support you show to your Pastor each day!

Pastor Jack

Camperships

Immanuel will again offer camperships to help offset the cost of summer camp. If your child will be attending camp and you would like a campership, please submit your child's name, dates and camp attending to the church office by June 1, 2022. If you have a greater financial need, please contact Pastor Jack.



2022 Gordon Williams Scholarship is available for graduating members of Immanuel. The application may be downloaded from our website by clicking here <https://www.churchofthebells.org/resources/taking-applications-for-2022-gordon-williams-scholarship>. Completed applications must be turned in to the church **no later than May 26, 2022.**



A heartfelt thank you to the Amazing Grace from our Immanuel family. All who attended our sister Barb's funeral, sent cards, shared thoughts and prayers helped to ease the sadness. ~Carole Henry, David Henry, Becky Henry, Paula Brunelle **page 2**



Peace with Justice Sunday

One of six special church wide collections, gifts on Peace with Justice Sunday fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the United States and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God's children globally. Checks can be made out to "Immanuel UMC" with the special Sunday written in the Memo. Thank you for giving generously!

3M Donations

February 2022 3M Donations

Total Collected	\$1,695.00
Mortgage Payment	\$2,564.46
Shortage	\$(869.46) *

March 2022 3M Donations

Total Collected	\$2,155.00
Mortgage Payment	\$2,564.46
Shortage	\$(409.46) *

*The funds collected in February and March were insufficient to make the full mortgage payment nor make distributions to the Trustees or Missions. The shortage in the mortgage payment was temporarily advanced from Mission team funds. Any questions please ask Shelley Dawson Smith 315-727-0671.



GOOD NEWS!!!

Our Mortgage will be paid off next month (Yea!) but the church's commitment to our friends in the community and the never-ending maintenance work that is needed to our beautiful church building continues. At the April meetings of both the Finance Committee and the Administrative Council the members voted unanimously to continue the support of the church's Mission work and the Maintenance work to our facility as overseen by the trustees. So, after many years 3M will be retired but it's successor will be called M² (squared).

Stay tuned for more information when this will be presented to the congregation in May. Shelley Dawson Smith & Gary Merckel Co-chairs Finance Committee



Have a sweet tooth and want to help the people of Ukraine?

Join us after both worship services on May 22nd for a bake sale to support Ukraine. One of our confirmands, Adie Kinsley, is organizing this event.

There are two ways to help:

1. Donate homemade baked goods or
2. Just bring your wallet!

There will be a sign up in the Narthex if you would like to help.



TURKEY DINNER



LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE OVER THE ORGANIZATION OF THE TURKEY DINNER. ALSO LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO OVERSEE THE KITCHEN OPERATION FOR PREPARATIONS.

REPLY: bevdave925@gmail.com Subject: Turkey Dinner, call(315)569-0953 leave name and number or contact the Church Office with your name. All responses will be answered.



NEW CLASS—Exercise and Nutrition for Healthy Living Join Barb Merckel in a new two part class. Part One- gentle movement for flexibility, balance and strength

Part Two- Nutrition for Healthy Living discussion Dates- May 10- June 28

When: Tuesdays 10:00-11:30 am

Where: IUMC nursery

To join, call Barb Merckel at (315) 256-7501 Class size is limited to 10 people. Sign up early!

Cost: no charge

What you need to bring: a yoga mat or towel, and a strap or old neck tie.



Lenten Food Collection To benefit Camillus First UMC Summer Brown Bag Lunch program. Many thanks to all!

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."



May/June 2022

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 8:30 AND 10am In Person or Facebook Live
Kidz Club	Sundays at 10am
Office Hours	Monday-Friday, by appointment
Handicapped accessible	

Please join us!



Cancer doesn't care. It doesn't care about age. It doesn't care about your family or friends. It doesn't care about what it takes from us -- or who it leaves behind.

But I care. I care about making a difference in the future of cancer research and bringing an end to this devastating disease. That's why I am participating in the 2022 Ride for Roswell in our local ride on June 18th!

Please help me raise critically needed funds to support the thousands of patients, just like Becky, who turn to Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center for hope each year. Your donation provides funding that researchers need in order to investigate new treatment options that could save lives in our community and around the world. For every dollar donated, Roswell Park can leverage an additional \$13 in new grant funding!

Please consider making a donation today to help find cures. Together, we can make a difference.

You can donate online at:

give.roswellpark.org (and then search for Jack Keating under "Riders")

We will be collecting donations after worship on Sundays, May 22-June 12. Please make checks out to "Roswell Park Cancer Center" and put "Becky's Blessings" in the memo. Pastor Jack will be turning these in on June 25th!



Thank you for your support
of team Becky's Blessings!