

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Greetings Friends!

As you read this, we are continuing the journey toward health and healing in Buffalo at the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. We will be providing updates for you all on the journey and the exciting things God is doing in cancer research and treatment but I thought I would use this space to pause and remind each of us about our role as the church of Jesus Christ.

A great way to do that, I think, is with a quote from D.T. Niles, a leader in the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka in the first half of the twentieth century. "Evangelism is witness. It is one beggar telling another beggar where to get food. Christians do not offer out of our bounty. We have no bounty. We, too, are simply guests at their Master's table and, as evangelists, we call others to the table, as well." Using Niles' thoughts then, the primary task of the church universal is this: spiritual beggars sharing the gospel food with other spiritual beggars. The mission of the church will be fulfilled then, when we and other followers of Jesus Christ, share an opening course of that gospel feast with inquirers seeking God.

As we set about doing that we seek to invite men and women in our community into a living relationship with Jesus, by sharing our basic beliefs and our Christian faith from within our congregation. We must continue to be about the business of fulfilling the Great Commission given us by Jesus: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28: 19-20a). And friends, the task is great... but as we share the good news, we do so with the confidence that Jesus Christ participates in our ministry.

Because Jesus said, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20b). And Jesus also offers us the assurance that the kingdom of God has already been established among us and nothing can prevent its ultimate fulfillment. In other words, Jesus Christ is with us on this journey of outreach... all the way to the end.

Knowing the great company surrounding us and the loving Lord directing us, the future only looks bright for our ministry together... as long as we remain focused on the goal. For truly with God... the best is still yet to come!

Looking forward to being back
with you soon!

Pastor Jack Keating



I WILL BE
with you ALWAYS
UNTIL THE
end of
time.

INSIDE...

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Calendar

I have had the pleasure of being the Christian Education Coordinator here at Immanuel for the past nine years. During that time, we've had many volunteers help with various aspects of the ministry. I want to thank all of you who shared your faith with our children. However, over those nine years, despite my best efforts, the number of available volunteers has steadily diminished. As a result, I found myself filling in the gaps so that the existing programs could continue to be offered.

We find ourselves at a crossroads. If we are unable to fill the empty slots that we have, we may be forced to cancel some of our programming. Currently, we are in need of **two** teachers for the 2019-2020 school year; one for the K-3rd grade class and one for the 4th-6th grade class. We are also in need of a **two** leaders for the JR/SRHIGH Youth program as well as a **co-director** for our Summer Fun in the Sun Week scheduled for August.

How are you being called to minister to our families? What is God putting on our heart? I guarantee that we have a spot for you! I will be holding a listening session on **Sunday, June 2nd** after the 10am worship service to better explain what the expectations of our volunteers are. Please be in prayer with me as we ask God to bring the volunteers we need to the forefront so that we can continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

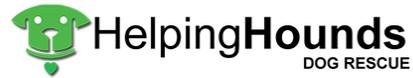
- May 5 JR/SR HI Youth Group - Spring Field Trip to The Wild Animal Park
Confirmation Class @ 5pm
- May 19 Confirmation Sunday – Service at 10am (No JAM)
- May 26 No JAM
- June 9 Children's Day (last day of JAM)
- June 23 JAM Lunches

Shalom,

~Carol Doucette



We are pleased to welcome back Rev. Dr. Russ Hall and his wife, Irene. They will be with us during the 6 weeks that Pastor Jack is away for Family Medical Leave.



THANK YOU SO MUCH for all the donations we made to the McMahon/Ryan Center. We collected \$250.00 for the center! During the month of May, the JAM classes will be collecting items for **Helping Hounds**. Wish list items include grain-free dry dog food, canned dog food, Frontline or Advantage flea & tick collars, Martingale/No-slip collars, 6' leashes, paper towels, liquid laundry detergent and bleach.



Applications for the 2019 Gordon Williams Scholarship may be picked up from the church office or from Joan Archambeau. Completed applications must be turned in no later than May 29, 2019. Awards will be made on Children's Day, June 9.



We have camperships available for the youth of Immanuel to attend summer camp. Please give your camper's name, the camp he/she is attending and the dates attending to Pam in the church office **NO LATER THAN June 9**. If you have a greater financial need, please let Pastor Jack know and we will work with you.



Plant a salt pot! Our salt pots are in need of flowers for the year. Please see Sandra VanEpps or contact the church office if you would like to reserve a salt pot to plant. We would like to have them all planted by Memorial Day weekend.

Summer Worship:

We will have our lawn chair worship again this summer at 8:30 am starting in July and ending Labor Day Weekend. We will continue worshipping at 10am as well.



Ministries

Lent Offering Thank You

Because of your generosity there were 139 red bags filled with nonperishable food items plus there was an amazing \$688.54 donated in the Gift of Gratitude boxes that will be given to our friends at St. Josephs Food Pantry.



~Robin Polge & Shelley Dawson Smith



April 22-27, Immanuel sent a team to Clenendin West VA for Disaster Recovery work. While they were there, we received the following email with picture: "Here's an amazing coincidence for Church of the Bells team Giterdone. The name of the

homeowner where we are working is Roger Church. He lives on Trinity Lane. In his back yard he has this huge bell where we posed for this photo. Peace, Jerry Sabattis"

Peace with Justice Sunday is June 16. Gifts on this day fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the US and around the world. Special envelopes will be in the bulletins.



Our next opportunity to serve a meal at the **Samaritan Center is Saturday, June 29 at 12.** We will need donations of desserts and volunteers to prepare and serve the meal. Please see Ed Owens for more information and please sign up in the Narthex.



Our 3M pledge campaign will end on Sunday, May 12 with the opportunity to turn pledge cards in during both worship services. Please see the enclosed letter and pledge card and prayerfully consider how you might support this important ministry of our church. Please see Steve Forward or Shelley Dawson Smith with any questions.

Thank You

I need to take a few moments to express to you my overwhelming gratefulness for your generous support to Jack and I!

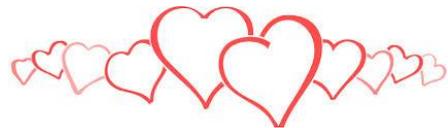
Please know that although my voice is often not "loud" my heart is! All of your love and support the last 18 months has been greatly appreciated! Your caring compassion has not gone unnoticed!

You are all in my daily prayers and I thank Jesus for each and every one of you!

God is good all the time!
Love,
Becky Keating



Thank you so much for all your cards, calls and support on the sudden and untimely death of my son Jeffrey S Wells. You are such a supportive and caring church family.
Doris and John Henderson



Many, many thanks from my whole family for the outpouring of cards, love and prayers in the passing of my Step Mother and Mother in Law. We are so blessed by this church family. ~ Pastor Pam



One of our custodians, Ed Slowik, had knee replacement surgery in April so we took a meal from our Meal Ministry to he and Pam. We received the following from them: "Thank you so much for thinking of us and bringing the ham dinners. We enjoyed them so much. Love, Pam and Ed."

NOTE: If you are interested in participating in our Meal Ministry, please see Sam Paventi or Pastor Pam.



A great big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our annual garage sale a huge success!! Whether you gave a little or a lot, we appreciate all you do.

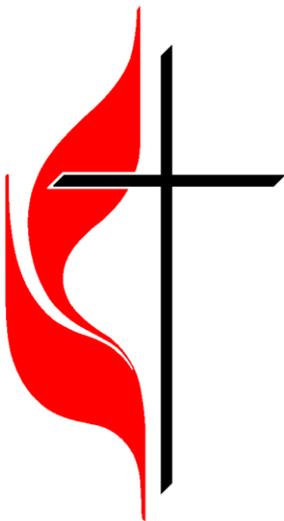
Electronic Service Requested
Our Mission
"To make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world."



May/June 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!