

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Greetings to the Saints here in Camillus!

I will confess to you that I look forward to the months of November and December all year long. I love the festivities of the approaching holidays, the excitement in our ministry and look forward to all that these 2 months have to offer. But this usually only is true 3 of every 4 years! Because every 4th year we have this little ordeal called a national election to survive! And this year is certainly no exception. So, as I am sitting dreading the next few weeks and months in our national history, God directs me to read again these words from 1 Timothy...

“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all people, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.” (1 Timothy 2: 1-12 NASB)

I listen to the news. I read the papers. I hear what people are saying. Most reports about our elected officials are critical and negative. It doesn't take long to recognize the difficult position in which many of our public officials find themselves, especially as viewpoints grow diverse and naysayers become louder. We know that the loudest voices are not necessarily the wisest and that it is impossible to please everyone.

So, I have decided to pray for our leaders. I will pray that moral clarity and excellence will govern our elected leaders. As small interest groups become more vocal, I will pray that principle takes precedence over popularity. In today's media-driven political campaigns, I will pray that character is valued more than charisma. Today, more than ever, I believe we must pray for our political system and its leaders. Will you join me in my prayers?

My prayer is pretty simple.... **Guide our leaders, O Lord. Amen.**

I think that might be the only way I can once again begin to look forward to the holidays that feature a time to intentionally give thanks to God for all God's blessings and then prepare for and celebrate the birth of the Savior who came to teach us how to live and love.

Let's all be praying for our leaders and our nation! *Pastor Jack*



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THIS AND THAT CONTINUED....

THIS AND THAT FROM PASTOR JACK.....

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

- 1. OUR 2024 GENERAL FUND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM...** will be held during November this year. Our program, entitled TREASURES, will have us looking at what we identify as our treasures and where we accrue and invest these treasures. What is it that YOU treasure? Let's talk about that together during our November worship!
- 2. KIDZ CLUB...** is back and the kids have been having a great time! They raised over \$950 to support the important work of feeding the hungry in our community through CROP WALK. Great job kids! You continue to show us how important our ministry work really is.
- 3. AND SPEAKING OF FEEDING THE HUNGRY...** it was a mighty impressive offering of hot chocolate, fruit punch, baked beans and canned corn that was delivered to St. Joseph's food pantry on Tuesday, October 8th! Thanks for joining in the fun and helping out those who are food insecure in our Camillus area.
- 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. A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE... will be offered on November 24th.** We'll welcome some special musicians and spend a Sunday morning giving thanks and praise to God as we enter Thanksgiving week.. You will want to make sure you are here for this special time of worship at both our 8:30am and 10:00am worship services. AND... the added benefit is NO SERMON THAT DAY! Now that might just fill the house!!!

7. OUR ADVENT THEME IS... The Word Made Flesh! During Advent we will be reminded that Jesus came to us in the flesh and revealed his divine nature to us through the physical substances we experience on earth. John 1: 14 reminds us that "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth". We'll talk about bread, salt, rocks and light as we prepare our hearts for the arrival of the Christ child of Christmas. We will also offer an Advent scripture study and activities for families to use at home. So, this Advent join us for The Word Made Flesh, each week!

8. DON'T FORGET TO WEAR your church name tag! This way everyone can be called by their name here in the family of Immanuel. ~Pastor Jack



Kidz Klub is back in action on Sunday Mornings this Fall. We had our opening day where we enjoyed showing the congregation a part of our last Food Truck Party Vacation Bible School session. Since then we have been learning about Kings and how what is inside your heart is more important than outer appearances.

We made no sew blankets while others were out building beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. We raised money to help fight hunger by participating in the Syracuse area CROP walk. The weather was great!

With Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas just around the corner it will be an exciting time to be a part of Kidz Club and all the wonderful things we will do and learn together.

We are looking for youth ages 7th grade and up to hopefully create a group to meet once a month, as a start, for activities, mission work, learning and fun. If you know of any interested youth please let me know.

~Lorlie Wood, Faith Formation Leader

ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER

November 5 4-6pm

Drive Through only

\$15 Adults, \$7 Kids





Shed For Our Friend Hoss

The directions said it would take 2 people 6-8 hours to assemble the metal shed. Well... actually it took 4 people and about 16 hours over 3 days to assemble it!!! In our defense the directions weren't the easiest to follow (the pictures were so small that we had to enlarge them on a copier) but regardless there was no way this could be completed in the timeline stated in the instructions but IUMC "Got R Done".

Immanuel has helped Hoss, who lives on the Onondaga Nation, over the years and a friendship has grown especially with Mike Block who learned about Hoss wanting to build a shed when he brought Hoss a pumpkin pie (his favorite desert) for his birthday. Mike saw that Hoss, who has limited vision, had built the foundation for the shed with wood that was given to him or that he had on hand but Mike knew it would be very difficult for Hoss to construct a shed besides Hoss didn't have enough lumber. Mike approached the Mission team and asked for funds to purchase a metal shed for Hoss.

Thanks to Mike Block, Reese Block, Jerry Sabattis & Bill Dawson for giving of their time and talents. Hoss wasn't able to help due to the pain in his eyes but he did give us some advise due to his prior career as a roofer. And thanks to everyone who supported the craft shows, miniature golf tournaments or purchased a door spray because a portion of those funds were used to purchase the shed.

Shelley Dawson Smith, Mission Team Chairperson

To my Church family, *thank you*

Thank you for the cards, the calls, the texts, the words of encouragement, and most important – the prayers you’ve said on my behalf.

My journey dealing with ovarian cancer began June 10. As I walked to my car that day, I said a prayer for our Lord’s guidance. Immediately, a feeling of peace washed over me. I have felt that peace with every step along the way. I have one more chemo treatment left on Oct. 31. The end is in sight! Praise the Lord.

Please know how much I appreciate your continuing love and support as I move forward.

~Joan Archambeau

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

On 9/14/24 the parking lot of our church was transformed into a build site to make 40 beds for children in the greater Syracuse area. There were so many people who wanted to help we had two shifts with a total of 58 people; some people even worked both shifts which helped us exceed our goal so we built 62 beds!! SHP is a national organization whose mission is “No Kid Sleeps On the Floor In Our Town!”; the Syracuse chapter was founded 6 years ago. While it is sad that so many children need beds, it is heartwarming to see the community come together for this project; there were many people from Immanuel plus we were joined by neighbors and friends of the church. There were jobs for everyone; some of our younger members made no-sew blankets with Lorie Wood. Chef Sam Paventi and his helpers prepared a tasty lunch for both shifts and also made sure that all workers had enough water to drink.

There were some generous surprise donations on the day of the build. A woman who was visiting family in our neighborhood saw our sign and went to the store and bought some bedding! Our friends at Camillus 1st UMC delivered several boxes of bedding as well as \$500..00.

The cost to Immanuel to build these beds was \$10,000 and not only included the cost of the wood but included the cost of the mattresses, bedding and pillows so that when the beds are delivered the children are able to sleep “peacefully” that night. The money raised for this mission came from the 2 craft shows, miniature gold tournament and the fresh pine door swags, so thank you for supporting them.

Kevin from the Conference Center was at our build and if you want to see the video he prepared go to <https://vimeo.com/1011054131> or look on our church website. And yes the plan is to do this again next September.

Shelley Dawson Smith, Mission Team Chairperson

Knitting/Crochet/Sewing/Socialize

All are invited to join us to knit; crochet; sew; or just socialize with us on Mondays. We meet between 10am and noon on Mondays in the Fireside Room (except on holidays). We make prayer shawls, lap robes, hats or whatever you want to work on. Or come and join the conversation.



We would love to see you!



SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee)

SPRC is the committee of the church that oversees Human Resources/Staff. One of our responsibilities is to encourage, strengthen, nurture, support and respect the pastor, staff and their families. We are to confer regularly about the personnel conditions and issues that affect the congregation’s total ministry, including a healthy life-work balance.

As committee members we meet regularly with the staff to make sure there is open communication between the committee and the staff. To help create a healthy work life balance, we encourage them to take their allotted vacation as well as engage in opportunities/workshops/classes that will support and encourage them in their given position.

We are blessed here at Immanuel to have a congregation that supports our staff and all the ministries we offer. If at any time you have an issue with a staff member, please speak to a member of the SPRC committee and that person will bring it to the attention of the committee for discussion. We will only address concerns that are directly brought to our attention.

SPRC committee members: Julie Bills (chairperson), Shirl Cruickshank, Jeff Gribble, Pat Linehan, Ruth Mcconnelee, Jim Vannelli, Helen Forward (Lay Member), Steve Forward (Lay Leader)



M2 Report

July 2024 M2 Donations

Total donated	\$1,882.53	
Missions	\$627.51	33.33%
Maintenance/Trustees	\$1,255.02	66.66%

August 2024 M2 Donations

Total donated	\$1,510.00	
Missions	\$503.33	33.33%
Maintenance/Trustees	\$1,006.67	66.66%

September 2024 M2 donations

Total donated	\$7,427.29	
Missions	\$2,475.76	33.33%
Maintenance/Trustees	\$4,951.53	66.66%

M2 report continued...

Due to the congregation’s generosity, M2 money was recently given to the following organizations:

- \$2,000 Camillus 1st UMC Summer Lunch Program
- \$400 Samaritan Center
- \$2,000 Bellevue Heights UMC Blessings in a Backpack program
- \$325 Erin’s Angels
- \$750 West Side Food Center Pantry
- \$500 St. Joseph’s Food Pantry
- \$250 Eastern Farm Workers

Any questions please ask Shelley Dawson Smith.

🎵 News from the Choir Loft 🎵

With Christmas just around the corner, the Choir plans to have a Lessons and Carols type service on December 22nd that will involve the Choir and our wonderful church musicians that provide special music for our services. Christmas poems, especially those by Rev. Howard Thurman, an American author, philosopher, theologian, Christian mystic, educator, and civil rights leader, will offer a fresh perspective on the meaning of Advent and Christmas.

Can’t sing with the choir on a regular basis but would like to sing during Advent and Christmas, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!! Choir Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 6:30PM to 7:20PM!! Invite your friends!!!! Please reach out and let me know if you’re interested in participating!!!! ~Dan Miller, Choir Director



Chair Yoga Class Tuesdays at 9:30-10:30am

Our weekly Chair Yoga Class will continue through the fall with Barb returning to lead it. Many thanks to class members (Ursula Snow with help from Carol Irving) who kept the class going while Barb recovered from surgery.

The class focuses on building **strength, balance and flexibility** through gentle stretching, mostly done from a seated position, with some standing. We end with some bone building weight resistance exercises using hand weights.

Barb starts class with prayer, and a short discussion on a different, healthy food each week.

Wear comfortable clothing, bring a set of hand weights and water, and be ready to enjoy getting our bodies into better condition!

All are welcome to join the class. Church membership is not required, so feel free to bring a friend or neighbor to share a healthy promoting hour together. Cost? No charge.

Ministries News



All Saints Day

On Sunday, November 3, 2024, we will remember those of our church family who have returned to God in the last year. We will read their names and light a candle during the 10am worship hour. If there is someone you would like to remember that has been gone for longer than a year, then you are invited to bring a candle to church. During communion, you will be invited to bring your candle forward and light it in remembrance of your loved one.

Advent Mission Opportunities



Mitten Tree:

The mitten tree for our friends in need will be put up Nov 10th thru Dec 8th in the Narthex. Please bring in new gloves, scarves, hats, mittens and socks and also gently used children's coats, snow pants, and children's boots. Any questions please see Shelley Dawson Smith.



Angel Tree

The Mission Team invites you to share God's love for children by taking a gift tag from the Angel tree and purchasing a gift in the amount of \$15-\$20. The gifts will be given to children in the Syracuse City School District registered in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program and the Hillside Family of Agencies. We will start Nov. 10th.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters gifts will be on BLUE tags. These tags will say boy age 8-12 or girl age 8-12. The gift choice is up to you, though there will be suggestions if you need them. Please **DO NOT** wrap this gift, just attach the angel tag when you bring it back to church.

Hillside gifts will be on WHITE tags and will state a specific gift desired. These gifts **should be wrapped** and returned with the angel tag attached.

Please sign up on the sign-up sheet with your name, phone number and angel tag number.

All gifts need to be returned to church **NO LATER THAN Sunday, December 1.**

Any questions or concerns contact Angela Keida
315-378-6494.



Caroling

We will spread some Christmas joy with our friends at Summerfield Village on Sunday, December 15 at 1pm.



Heifer Project

It's the most wonderful time of the year! We are back raising funds for Heifer International. Heifer International works in countries around the world providing support to farmers and their communities that changes lives. You can help by giving a monetary gift. We even have gift cards so you can get some Christmas shopping done while attending church. Every donation, no matter how small, makes a difference. To make a donation, please see Helen or Sara Forward beginning on Sunday, November 24th, and each through December 15th. Donations can be made in cash or check form. If paying by check, please make the check payable to Immanuel UMC and write Heifer in the memo line. Thank you in advance for your continued support.



Door sprays

It's that time of year again! Please support the Mission Team by buying a beautiful door spray for \$20.00. Orders will be taken Nov. 10th and 17th in the Narthex. However, if you are attending church service via social media and would like a door spray please call me and we can figure something out.

We will be making the door sprays on Saturday, Nov. 23rd starting at 9:00am and any help would be appreciated even if you can only help for an hour. Any questions please see or call Shelley Dawson Smith at 315-727-0671



Poinsettias

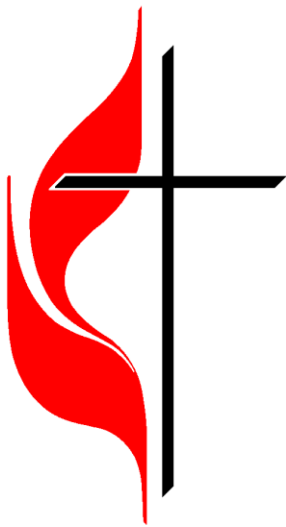
We will be offering poinsettia plants to purchase in memory or in honor of a loved one. These plants will adorn our altar for Christmas Eve and will be ready for you take home after worship. You may also choose to purchase a plant and donate it to be delivered to a shut in. Orders will be taken after worship on Dec. 1st, 8th, and 15th. Cost will be \$10 per plant

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."



November
December
2024

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	Sept. 8 @ 8:30 & 10am *Facebook Live during 9am/10am
Kidz Club	Starts Sept. 8, 10am service
Office Hours	Monday-Friday 9am – 3pm
Handicapped accessible	

Please join us!