

Dear Saints at Immanuel,

As we enter these last 2 months of 2020 we do so unsure about the immediate future.

Much has changed in our world over the last 7 months. We have seen changes in businesses around us, families that are restricting activities and finally churches that are taking small, tentative steps in ministry. And none of this is territory we have ever been through before (or at least since 1918!).

So today I want to try to encourage you that, no matter what happens in our day to day existence, God accompanies us through these days! Right now I'm not fully sure what November and December ministry looks like. We've made substantial changes to offer a Turkey Dinner, we've altered the way we are worshipping, and we have had to scale back on some ministry programs because we just can't do things the way we've always done them! And sometimes we might feel frustrated by these changes.

But we have also been able to use the creativity and ingenuity of our staff to worship safely since June 14th ! God provided beautiful weather each and every Sunday as we worshipped outside, our Trustees worked hard to develop a safe way to re-open our building, and just this week we've seen Westside Nursery School re-open in a reduced enrollment situation. And God has surely guided each of these steps.

And I believe that God will continue to guide and direct us in the months ahead! As we ponder holiday worship planning, think about Advent study, and conduct our annual Charge Conference we will be serving a wonderful and benevolent God. And remembering that will help us navigate the changes that will be necessary to keep everyone safe and healthy in these days ahead.

So my last request is that we each do our part to help God keep our people healthy. Please... get your flu shot, wear your face mask, wash your hands, and maintain physical distancing guidelines. If you feel under the weather... stay home and recuperate before going out. BE SAFE... we don't want to lose anyone of our church family to this virus.

You continue to be in my prayers and I hope I am in yours!

Pastor Jack Keating

Kidz Club update:

Over the last couple of weeks Ashley Davis has contacted families in our Kidz Club program to try to find out their comfort level with starting up Kidz Club in September. Based on the results of Ashley's work, and the concern parents are expressing about having their kids in group settings, we are recommending that Kidz Club start up be delayed.

So through Ashley's work we will continue:

1. A weekly Children's Message during our on-line worship service.
2. A weekly email of curriculum ideas to parents for their home use.
3. A monthly delivery of craft and program materials to the kids houses.



ADVENT PLANS

I know it's hard to believe but Advent begins on Sunday, November 29th this year! Our Advent theme in 2020 is "Coming Home" and we will be looking each week at how the birth of Jesus helps God's people to be able to really "Come Home". In the US, Christmastime and thoughts of home just seem to go together. "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays" are two of the most popular holiday songs, year after year. Christmas movies and television shows regularly feature stories of people going to their family home over the holidays. But Advent and Christmas are about another kind of homecoming as well. That's the homecoming of Christ to redeem and renew us, this earth, and all creation till "heaven and nature sing" with joy eternally. So each week's service will invite us to "unwrap" something that leads us toward making our hearts, our lives, our families, our communities, and our world more like the home where Christ's ultimate homecoming will make it.

Our weekly themes and scriptures are:

Sunday 11/29 "Come Down Home" Isaiah 64: 1-9

Sunday 12/6 "Home Is Where We Meet" Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

Sunday 12/13 "Joy Is Our True Home" 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Sunday 12/20 "God Makes This World a Home" (part 1) Luke 1: 46-55

Christmas Eve 12/24 "God Makes This World a Home" (part 2) Luke 2: 1-20

Sunday 12/27 "Going Home Again" Luke 2: 22-40

Some of our plans are still in the "formulation stage" as we continue to adjust to the "new normal" constraints of worshipping life in these pandemic times. These will also be the themes of our on-line worship each week via our church website. However you choose to worship, be

ready to make your life a home for Christ this Christmas!

Recorded weekly worship is available online at our website www.churchofthebells.org. There is a tab called "Online worship" at the top of the page that will take you to the current week and past weeks worship services. Our children's message will be part of the worship service for the summer.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday Pastor Jack is emailing an encouraging message. If you would like to receive these and other church updates, please email the church at churchofthebells@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

Our **Justice Bible/Book study** continues on Mondays at 7pm. The study group meets on Zoom. We will be reading "So You Want to Talk About Race". We will resume on November 9th. This study group is led by Ashley Davis. Please join in! Email Pastor Jack to be included.

Pastors Jack and Pam are available by phone or email. If you leave a message on our church answering machine, one of us will give you a call back. We are available by email at the addresses above.



Coming soon.... Barb Merckel will be leading a new class entitled Building an Effective Immune System Through Nutrition. Topics will include:

- Your immune system, what it is, How it works
- How nutrition affects immunity to viruses and bacterial illness
- Foods that strengthen our immune system
- Foods that depress our immune system
- And again, some healthy recipes!





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 on Nov 8th and Nov 15th in the Narthex. However, if you feel uncomfortable attending church but 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 9:00a.m. 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.

Garage Sale

Sometimes last minute ideas are good and some are a little crazy and this was a little of both! So on 8/28 and 8/29 with only 2 days notice we sold about 25% of the items that were stored in the "garage sale" room that had been bursting at the seams!

Thank you to all the people that helped: Chis, Erin & Ben Paoli, Warren Robinson, Denise Sabattis, Ed & Judy Owens and Betty Block.

Special thanks to: Tom Hart, Joan Archambeau, Barb & Gary Merckel and Jerry Sabattis.

With everyone's help we made \$805.00 and recently a few more items sold so we may reach \$1,000.00.

Thank you.

Shelley Dawson Smith

Our meal ministry is starting back up!

Once a month, we provide a home cooked meal to our shut in friends. If you would like to receive a meal or would like to help deliver meals, please contact the church office at churchofthebells@gmail.com or 315 487-1171.



3M Report

August 3M Donations

Total Collected	\$5,833.00
Mortgage Payment	\$2,556.86
Trustees	\$1,634.27*
Missions	\$1,634.27*

*Actual distribution was \$342.62 as there were shortages in March through June.

September 3M Donations

Total Collected	\$10,631.57
Mortgage Payment	\$2,556.86
Trustees	\$4,033.56
Missions	\$4,033.56.

MITTEN TREE

The mitten tree for our friends in need will be out up on November 21st thru December 13th 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. Last year, through your generosity, we collected 290 items! Any questions, please call Shelley Dawson Smith.

DONATE TO IMMANUEL UMC

We sincerely appreciate the financial support that allows Immanuel to continue its ministries in our community and beyond!

There are 4 ways to give:

1. Mail your check payable to IUMC Mail to:
Immanuel UMC
PO BOX 335
Camillus, NY 13031



2. Automated Electronic Transfer. If you would like to have electronic withdrawals made from your checking or savings account, you can use a hard copy authorization form that can be found at the church in the mailboxes across from the office in the slot labeled "AUTOMATED DONATION FORM" or can be downloaded by clicking on the Donate button on our website www.churchofthebells.org. You will find a place to click for a form to print and can mail the completed & signed form to:

Immanuel UMC
PO BOX 335
Camillus, NY 13031



3. Online Giving. If you would like to have electronic withdrawals made on your credit card, debit card, or from a checking or saving account, you can visit our website at www.churchofthebells.org and



click on the Donate button.

Follow the prompts. There is also an APP for your phone. Find more information on our website.

4. Bring your donation to worship on Sunday morning. While we will not be passing the offering plate on Sundays, there is a plate available for you to leave your donation in.

Thanks to the great generosity of this congregation, we have been able to pay all of our regular operating bills, including our staff salaries and are up to date on our Shared Ministries obligations. Thanks be to God!



The Tuesday Maintenance Group would like to thank John Henderson for his many dedicated years of service mowing the church property. You are greatly appreciated. Enjoy your retirement!!!

Thanks to Ashley, who has been editing our online worship services for us! Also, many thanks to Tom Turton for final editing, posting and keeping our website up to date! These services are even more important as we have had to rely on our online opportunities during the pandemic.



Pastor Pam has special training in providing individual Spiritual Direction. This is an opportunity to meet one on one to grow your personal relationship with God, make a discernment, and grow your faith. Usually meetings are once a month for about an hour. These can be held in person or virtually. If you would like more information or to set up an appointment, contact Pastor Pam at churchofthebells@gmail.com or call the church office at 315-487-1171.

TURKEY DINNER

This year has been a challenge for everyone, constant changes, but one thing we can count on is that the Election Day Turkey Dinner is still being planned and will take place on Nov 3, 2020. The difference this year is that it will be takeout only. NO INSIDE SEATING.. The menu will be the same. We will still need volunteers to help on Tuesday. Contact me via e-mail bevdave925@gmail.com or call me (315) 5690953. I will get back to you. Subject line, Turkey Dinner.

Please keep Tuesday Nov 3 open for the Election Day Turkey Dinner.

David Stanton



I'm writing to you all to let you know about what's going on with music at Immanuel! These past several months have been challenging for all of us, especially those of us who rely on church choir for emotional, social, and spiritual needs! While we are not able to gather as a group to sing there are other musical activities we can do!

I would like to re-start Immanuel's handbell choir. We will begin rehearsal on Thursday, September 10 at 6:45PM for set-up with rehearsal beginning at 7PM. Dan and I are working on some Ring-and-Sing hymns we can all perform (no music reading required), but I also would like to try some SIMPLE songs with notated music (minimal music reading needed).

You do NOT need to be a choir member to participate! All are welcome!

Here is what I need to know:

Who is interested in playing handbells? Contact info (email/phone)

Are you able to read music?

Do you only want to participate in Ring-and-Sing?
Do you want to learn to play music from notation?

Hope you're all staying safe and healthy! Dan

and Lisa Miller



Electronic Service Requested

Our Mission

*"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for
the transformation of the world."*



November/December 2020

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 churchofthebells@gmail.com

Website www.churchofthebells.org

Worship online Kidz Club via email
and website Office Hours Tues/Fri 10-12:30;
Wed. 9-1 Handicapped accessible

Please join us!