

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Greetings to the Saints here in Camillus!



The soon-to-be completed summer has afforded me the chance to think and pray about our United Methodist Church and the repercussions of our last General Conference in April. Here are some of my thoughts for us today...

Ephesians 2:7 reminds us that God wants to pour out "God's far and beyond favor" on us. God wants this to be the best time of our lives. But if we are going to receive all this favor, I think we need to try to enlarge our vision and expectations. We just can't go around thinking negative, defeated, limiting thoughts. To experience God's immeasurable favor, we need to rid our minds of small, minded thinking and start expecting God's blessings. Our United Methodist Church, I believe, needs to learn to enlarge our vision, to see the future through eyes of faith, or we will be forever stuck in the mire that has brought us to this point in our history. God will just not pour fresh, new, creative ideas and blessings into old attitudes.

Centuries ago, wine was stored in leather skins rather than bottles. Animal skins were dried and cured until the leather could be shaped into containers to hold wine. When the wineskins were new, they were soft and pliable, but as they aged, they often lost their elasticity; they wouldn't give anymore. They would become hardened and set, and they couldn't expand. If a person poured new wine in an old wineskin, the container would burst, and the wine would be lost.

Interestingly, when Jesus wanted to encourage His followers to enlarge their visions, He reminded them, "You can't put new wine into old wineskins." (Matthew 9:17) I think Jesus was saying you cannot have a larger life with restricted attitudes. And that lesson is still relevant today for our denomination. We are often set in our ways, bound by our perspectives, and stuck in our thinking. God is trying to do something new... but unless the church is willing to change, unless we're willing to expand and enlarge our vision, the denomination will miss His opportunities for us.

I have faith that God is trying to do a new thing in our United Methodist Church and even here at Immanuel. And the more we can enlarge our ability to see God moving... the more blessings God will impart. God wants to show us God's incredible favor. God wants to fill our lives and our church with "new wine." So, let's put aside the old wineskins and begin thinking bigger as we enlarge our field of vision. Don't let anyone tell you the best days are behind us. Just watch as our United Methodist Church starts to get past those old mind-sets that threaten to hold us back. Because, as Scripture promises us... with God the best is still yet to come!

I can't wait to see you in Church!

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. **NEW MEMBERS CLASS...** I will be offering a New Members Orientation Class on Sunday, October 6th at 11:45am, following our morning worship service. We will meet for about 90 minutes and enjoy lunch and fellowship together as we discuss the many joys and a few of the responsibilities of church membership. Then... on Sunday, October 20th we will receive new members into the church family at each of our worship services! If you have been thinking about church membership or just have questions about it, please speak to me ASAP so that you can be included and invited to attend this time of learning together!

2. **OUR FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE** begins on Sunday, September 8th. On this day we return to worship at 8:30am in the Fireside Room and 10:00am in the Sanctuary. The Choir is also back on this day and Kidz Club restarts for the fall semester. Plan to make the change to our school year schedule on September 8th!

3. **KIDZ CLUB...** starts back up on Sunday, September 8 ... when we return to our fall worship schedule! Miss Lorie is looking forward to seeing all the kids when Kidz Club resumes!

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. **SAVING GRACE COURSE TO BE OFFERED...** Wespath Investments (our United Methodist financial advisors) have completed a 6-session course on financial management. Wealth is a constant theme in both the Old and New Testaments and some of John Wesley's most memorable sermons include the importance of how we earn, save and give money. Whether you are just starting out or already have a budgeting system in place, the goal of this study is for you to become grounded in a biblically based Spending Plan for your household. We want to help you manage your money, as opposed to your money managing you, so that you can experience a sense of grace, peace and contentment about your finances.

The course will be offered in a hybrid fashion each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm so that you can choose between attending in person or via ZOOM at the same session. No one will be required to provide or offer any personal reflections or financial information during this course. The only cost is the purchase of the Participant's Workbook for \$18.00, that can be paid for at the first session. The course sessions start on Wednesday night, September 25th at 7:00pm. Look for the sign-up sheet outside the Fireside Room on the whiteboard and join the group!

~Pastor Jack



At the time of writing this we are halfway through our Vacation Bible School program. We are meeting every Wednesday night at 6pm for a great time of food and fellowship followed by our "Food Truck Party" themed Vacation Bible School.

The kids are singing, dancing, playing games, crafting, learning science all while learning about being "On a **ROLL** with God". So far our daily specials have been "God is Great" and "God is Good" and our main course each week is "Give us this day our daily bread". We have a group of enthusiastic kids and helpers too! We are all having a great time. Take a look at some pictures of the fun and learning we are doing on the website at www.churchofthebells.org and click on News/Events.

In September we are looking forward to the start up again of Kidz Club every Sunday morning. This will begin on September 8th.

Also on September 14th, we will be making blankets while members from the congregation are working on building beds for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace project. All kids are welcome to help out with this, just let me know if they can be a part of this wonderful project.

Please contact me at any time if you would like to learn more.

Lorie Wood
Faith Formation Leader





ELECTION DAY TURKEY DINNER

It may seem early, but we are already planning for the annual Turkey Dinner. The question we have, is do we do it as a drive-thru or sit-down dinner. We have been very successful financially both ways. However, to go back to a sit-down dinner requires many more volunteers, particularly, on the day of the dinner. We can only go back to a sit-down dinner if we fill the sign-up sheets currently hanging up in the Narthex by September 10, 2024. Otherwise, we will revert back to the drive-thru format.

NOTE: Please only sign-up if you can make a firm commitment to help out on Election Day, November 5th. We cannot do the sit-down dinner if volunteers are not totally locked in to the date and their participation. Please give this your prayerful consideration.

I also want to advise that we will need to purchase new steno setups and five (5) new roasters to do the sit-down dinner. To help defray the cost of between \$900 and \$1,000 we would appreciate any donation you might be able to make.

Thanks,
Steve Forward, Head Turkey



Mark Your Calendars NOW for our **annual Fall Holiday Craft Show** to support Mission projects.

Friday, October 25 from 4-8pm

Saturday, October 26 from 9am-3pm

So many choices of handmade items for your fall and holiday shopping PLUS homemade food will be available as well.

If you would like more information or to find out how to help, contact Betty Block at 315-491-8256 or bblock@wwdb.org.



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Sept./Oct. 2024

Choir News

As we begin the Fall season, we hope that those who have sung with the Chancel Choir in the past and those who might want to join us for the first time will sing with us as we help lead the congregation through worship at the 10:00 a.m. service. Many meaningful anthems are planned for the season, and we encourage all who love to sing to come and join us! Members who can only participate for portions of the year are also welcome.

For those who like to plan ahead, be sure to take part in our Christmas Cantata! More information to come.

Choir rehearsal is on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and all are invited to join in "making a joyful noise"; unto the Lord!

Oh Come, let us sing to the LORD;

Let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation!

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;

Let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

Psalms 95:1-2

Dan Miller, Choir Director



Sleep In Heavenly Peace

On September 14th the parking lot of Immanuel will be transformed into a work site to build 40 beds for children in our community who do not have their own bed.

This year the signup needs to be done online. There are 2 sessions 9:30-11 am and 11:30-1pm and there are registration links for each session. There are slots for 35 people on each session, however it will continue to accept volunteers beyond 35/shift, but you will get a note that you are "wait listed". After you have registered you will get an email indicating that you have registered successfully. Send an email to me

at sacasmith@aol.com and I will send you the links.

Lunch prepared by Sam Paventi will be provided at the end of each session. Water and Gatorade will be provided throughout both sessions.

Children are welcome but there must be one-on-on supervision by an adult; there are a limited number of jobs for children to do. However, Lorlie Wood will have a blanket making project the day of the build for children so please let Lorlie know if your child would like to make blankets for SHP.

There will be jobs for people who need to sit; please let me know so I can ensure you have a job.

If you'd just like to come and provide support that would be wonderful; you do not need to register. You can also provide support by purchasing twin size sheets or comforter or pillows or make a monetary donation.

We hope the weather will cooperate, but we will have tents. Hope to see you on 9/14!

Any questions ask Shelley Dawson Smith

315-727-0671 **page 5**



15th Annual Mini Golf Tournament

August 11th was a perfect sunny day for the 15th annual Miniature Golf Tournament to support Disaster Recovery Mission. Thankfully, the heavy rains the day before didn't affect this fun event.

We were blessed to have 17 hole sponsors with signs spread throughout the course recognizing their support.

And what would a successful tournament be without golfers? There were 71 people including 19 children playing mini golf at beautiful Fairmount Glen.

And what would a Methodist event be without food? Thanks to Sam Paventi and his helpers for the delicious brunch.

A special thanks is extended to Tom Ness, owner of Fairmount Glen Miniature Golf for donating the course for this event and also to several church members who made cash donations.

There were a lot of smiles as everyone had a great time. Thank you to everyone involved for your support and because of all of you \$2,383.12 was raised!

~Shelley Dawson Smith, Mini Golf Chairperson

Outhouse Mission

The mission team's "Outhouse" project was very successful thanks to the generosity of the members of Immanuel. The outhouse was in the sanctuary for the month of July, and it was completely filled (dare I say overflowing) with tissues, toilet paper, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap and paper towels. The aforementioned products are not able to be purchased if a person is on SNAP (formerly known as food stamps). The products were delivered to St. Joseph's Food Pantry by some of the Tuesday morning "guys" and will then be given to our friends in need who live in Memphis, Camillus and Warners.

This mission was started several years ago by Pastor Joseph Folckemer at the Hillview Community Church in Baldwinsville. His wife told me that a woman came to his church and asked him for some toilet paper because the local food pantry only gave her one roll and this was not enough for her and her children. The rest they say is history. Sadly, Pastor Folckemer passed away in 2014 but his legacy lives on.

Thank you to Larry Mcconnelee and Mike Block for their help in getting the outhouse from Baldwinsville and then setting it up.

Any church or organization who has had the outhouse writes their name and the number of items collected on the wall inside the outhouse (I'll refrain from making a joke) and I'm pleased to say that our name and **1,438 items** has been added to the wall! Thank you everyone!

Shelley Dawson Smith, Mission Team Chairperson



Ministries News

Immanuel's Mission team purchased \$1,000 worth of items to be sent to Rome, NY following tornado damage in July.



A small team from Immanuel built a shed for Hoss on the Onondaga Nation in August.



Our Vacation Bible School was held on Wednesday evenings In August. A meal was shared, followed by games, songs, crafts, science projects. Fun was had by all!



DJ Cupcake and Master Chef Jeff started things off.



Daily Specials
 "God is Great!"
 "God is Good!"

"Let us Thank God for our Food."
 "By God's Hands We all are Fed!"



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."



September
October
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

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(315) 487-1171

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Website

www.churchofthebells.org

Worship

Sept. 1 @ 9am

Sept. 8 @ 8:30 & 10am

*Facebook Live during 9am/10am

Kidz Club

Starts Sept. 8, 10am service

Office Hours

Monday-Friday by appointment

Handicapped accessible

Please join us!