



# THE GABRIEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*We press on in the ministry of faith in action in our local community and the world.*

*May 2021*

## **A Message from the Pastor**

So... in our everyday world, most people would say, "Easter is over!" All remnants of the holiday are either discarded or stashed away for another year. In the life of the church, however, we are still celebrating the Easter season. For this reason, I am not discarding or stashing away our thoughts about Easter just yet...

Three days a week, I force myself to get up early and go exercise. Once I arrive at the gym and rub my tired eyes, I begin to stretch some old, weary and sore muscles. The person I train with lines up various exercises and tasks for me to complete. One such exercise involves me holding on to some heavy straps with handles which are suspended from a pole. I am instructed to twist and turn and pull my body in various directions and contortions. It has a fancy name called TRX and has an interesting history...look it up if you want to know more. One such exercise on this contraption has me lift my arms into a 'Y' shape...and then a "T" shape...and then a "W" shape. Three rounds of twelve each. Uuggghhhh...

One day as I was progressing through these motions, my mind began to wander to other things and before you know it, I forgot where I was in the sequence and I blurted out to my trainer, "I forgot the "Y"!"

Ever since that time and ever since Easter I have uttered that phrase to myself as I juggle through the events of any given day with a slightly different meaning...now I blurt out mostly to myself, "I forgot the "WHY!"

SO many times we forget the "WHY"...we get so bogged down and weary...our minds jump from one thing to another and before we realize it

we have forgotten where we are or what we were doing and we are effectively “burnt out.” These are the moments I believe we have forgotten the “WHY”...especially the “WHY” of Easter!

I think we forget the “WHY” of Easter more often than we realize and perhaps how it could help us in our daily living...we love the holiday...the glorious church services, the fabulous meal, the family gatherings...they are wonderful and bring us joy and celebration. We return to our lives the day after Easter and before you know it...where has that joy disappeared to? In that moment, I ask you to remember the “WHY.”

In 1 Peter 1:3 we find these beautiful words, "*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*"

The important thing for us to remember about Easter is to not discard or stash it away when the day is over. We need to remind ourselves often of “WHY” we even celebrate Easter.

We celebrate Easter as a reminder that we are consistently given “new birth”...new chances...new opportunities...new moments filled with love and grace

And each new morning...a day of living hope.

Don't forget the “WHY!” Try at least three rounds of twelve...or more!

Pressing on...remembering the “WHY”,  
*Pastor Jim*

### **A Message from Jan**

Can you believe it is May already? What a beautiful month. Each year of my life I feel that time goes faster and faster. Do you remember as a child thinking that it was eternal from one Christmas to the next? Didn't we just have Christmas? And yes, I am already thinking about Christmas 2021.

One thing about May is that I have been truly blessed that the Lord has given me another year of life. Also, May brings us Mother's Day. A day to honor the women in our life that have loved and cared for us.

When we think of this wonderful day, we need to also remember the men that are also Mother and Father to their children. They have a difficult and rewarding task. Being a single parent takes unlimited patience, extreme organizational skills, a bargain shopper, good at removing those mystery stains out of clothing, and the list goes on and on.

I have an advisor that I work with on my ministerial journey. One of the things she does is to help me to grow my theology. One day we discussed that we usually think of God as our Father, but she asked me if I ever thought about God as our Mother too. Wow!!! No, I had never thought about it that way before.

So, I went home and did some research and a lot of deep thinking. Here are some of the scriptures I found:

Deuteronomy 32:18

You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you; you forgot that God who gave you birth.

Isaiah 66:13

As a mother comforts her child,  
so I will comfort you;  
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

So, this Mother's Day's don't forget to wish God a Happy Mother's Day and thank the Savior for of the love, support and blessings that we are given each and every day.

Peace and blessings

*Pastor Jan*



# WORSHIP

Worship conducted at 9:30 AM each Sunday morning

In-person (please see In-person Guidelines)

Connect by phone

The number to call: 1 877 309 2073

The access code: 591 680 557 followed by the pound sign #

View on our website [www.newberlinucc.org](http://www.newberlinucc.org) later in the day.

- May 2 Fifth Sunday of Easter (White)  
Abiding in Love  
Pastor Jim, preaching; Pastor Jan, liturgist  
Organist: Audrey Bingaman  
*Congregational singing in worship with masks will resume*
- May 9 Sixth Sunday of Easter (White)  
Friends Together  
Pastor Jan, preaching; Pastor Jim, liturgist  
Organist: Donna Sauers  
*Mother's Day*  
*Social Hour following worship with masks and social distancing*
- May 16 Seventh Sunday of Easter (White)  
Guided in Prayer  
Pastor Jim, preaching; Pastor Jan, liturgist  
Organist: Audrey Bingaman
- May 23 Pentecost Sunday/Holy Communion (Red)  
Spirit for All  
Pastor Jan, preaching and liturgist  
Organist: Donna Sauers  
*Strengthen the Church Offering*
- May 30 Trinity Sunday (White)  
Mysterious Encounter  
Pastor Jim preaching; Pastor Jan, liturgist  
Organist: Audrey Bingaman  
*Community and Insight following worship*  
*Memorial Day Weekend*



## Guidelines to Open Worship at Emmanuel UCC during the time of COVID-19

**Emmanuel UCC in New Berlin welcomes in-person attendance at 9:30 am  
Sunday worship services, for those who feel comfortable doing so.**

**The following rules will be used until new rules are adopted.**

- Everyone is welcome at the live service. Nobody will be refused entrance to the church. Services will continue to be broadcast on the phone and video will be posted on the church website. The video will focus on the service and will try not to include members of the congregation.
- Out of concern for the health and safety of those in attendance, the guidelines below are strongly encouraged.
- Entering and leaving Only the breezeway doors will be used at the present time. Each Sunday, a designated person will be stationed at the breezeway doors, to open the doors so that worshipers do not have to touch the doors. The doors can be propped open, weather permitting.
- A person will be stationed in the social room to guide and assist visitors.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at several places throughout the building. Worshipers should use hand sanitizer after touching any surface (for example, after using the bathroom).
- Please wear your mask when entering, or leaving, or moving from place to place.
- Bulletins will be available at the sanctuary entrance, for each person to pick up as they enter.
- Please maintain social distance when entering or leaving the sanctuary.
- People should refrain from personal contact, such as shaking hands or hugging. Waving, bowing, and curtsying are good ways to greet each other.
- Please sit in the marked pews.
- Masks are recommended but not required in the sanctuary.
- Collection plates will be available at the back of the sanctuary. The people who collect and count the offering should wear gloves.
- Family groups should sit together and sit at least 6 feet away from other groups. The 6-foot distance will be accomplished if people sit in the marked pews and at alternate ends of the pews.
- Communion will not be offered in the traditional methods.
- *Congregational singing with masks will resume on Sunday, May 2.*
- *Social Hour following worship with masks and social distancing will resume on Sunday, May 2.*

**The church will only be used for Sunday service.**

**That will ensure that live virus does not survive on surfaces. (The virus can survive for 1-3 days on most surfaces, and at most 5 days on any surface.)**

## Our Life Together In Service

### Community and Insight

As a part of Pastor Jan's training, our church is to form a committee to provide her feedback on leading worship, sermon content, programming ideas etc. Pastor Jim and Pastor Jan talked about several ideas to meet this goal for her training. We decided rather than forming a committee, we would involve any members of our congregation who would like to provide feedback. Starting May 30th, and continuing the last Sunday of each month, we will be having a time of discussion immediately after worship which we are calling Community and Insight. *Community* because it involves our whole church community and *Insight* because we are both looking to learn from you!

In addition to enjoying each other's friendship and a cup of coffee, Jan and I will be asking you about the services for that month. We would like to know how you felt about your worship experience. What moved you? What excited you? What perplexed you? How did you interpret the sermons? Did you learn anything new, and how will it help you in your everyday life? And...any other feedback you would like to offer.

We look forward to this time together! You do not need to sign up. You do not need to attend every month. This is an open invitation to talk honestly and candidly with your pastors about what is on your mind concerning the theology we are presenting to you. See you on May 30<sup>th</sup>!

Remember our ongoing mission project...the New Berlin Food Pantry. Please help us continue to support this vital mission in our local community. The next distribution will be Thursday, May 20, 2021. Suggested food items from Emmanuel for the month of April are canned fruits, spaghetti sauce, soup, and peanut butter. We do thank all those who make donations and offer their time to make this mission and service possible for those who are in need.





**Emmanuel United Church of Christ**  
**“Outdoor Kitchen in the Yard”**  
**Saturday, May 8, 2021**

The UCC Church will be selling homemade soups (by the bowl or quart), sandwiches, baked goods and drinks! Stop by for lunch or a snack while shopping the New Berlin Community Yard Sales!

The New Berlin Community Yard Sale is scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup>. At the present time the Kitchen Team is working towards making our usual Chicken Corn with and without rivels soup, Ham & Bean Soup, and Vegetable Soup. Monetary donations toward the cost of ingredients to make the soup are being collected. You may give a donation to any of the Kitchen Team members (Marie Eberhart, Karen Gemberling, or Barb Stamm). You may also put your donation in a marked envelope and place it in the offering plate in the back of the church.

We will be cooking the soup on May 5, 6 and/or 7<sup>th</sup>. Helpers are needed to help cut up the vegetables for in the soup and fill the soup containers. Schedules are on the information table. Please sign up to help.

During the Fall Yard Sale in October, we opened the Outdoor Kitchen in the Yard. It was quite successful. We, of course, need workers on the 8<sup>th</sup> to help with the Kitchen. We did feature a lunch special of a sandwich, soup, drink and dessert. We’d like to try this again.

We will need donations of individual dessert type foods: individual wrapped cookies, brownies, pieces of cake, etc. We will also have a **bake sale** so pies, etc. are also needed. We sold quite a large portion of our “dessert” food the last time as a bake sale item. All donated items can be delivered to the kitchen on Friday, the day prior to the sale.

Our hours of business will be from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM .

We will need individuals to help set up the outside kitchen in the AM as well as workers throughout the period of time the fund raiser is active. Many of our members are senior citizens and we will need all the help we can get so that everyone is not exhausted beyond belief at the end of the day. PLEASE SIGN UP.

**Rummage Sale Donations on Hold** --- Due to the current Pandemic, a policy of health cautions prevents our regular activities of yard/rummage sales, indoor bazaars, etc. We ask that you hold all future donations at your home until we can resume these activities in the future. All of our storage spaces at the church are full and the committee appreciates all of your contributions.

## Our Life Together In Prayer

### Those in Nursing Homes/Assisted Living:

Riverwoods: Georgia Linke

Elmcroft: Patricia and Robert Seebold

### Family and Friends of those who have died:

Dale Reichard, Roger Lauver, Diana Weikel,

Kenneth "Yogi" Wagner, Heather Hetrick

### Church Members with Concerns:

Barb Stamm, Lucille Cope, Marian Mull, Linda Walter,

Scott Leitzel, Jeanne Leitzel, Connor Neidig. Dale "Pap" Smith

### Friends and Family with Concerns:

Dani Leitzel, Betty Kratzer, Barry Long, Harry Kratzer, Jennifer D'Napoli, Linda Creveling, Brantley Herman, Kimmie Rudnitsky Burkhart, Vicki Reichenbach, Zachary Cherrup, Jason Benfer, Andrew Beckley, Dave and Helen Hannah, Oliver Aumand (6yr old boy undergoing Cancer treatment), Frederick George Virgilio, Donald Moyer, Jessica Neidig

### Around the World and Close to Home:

Pray for Peace in our World

All those serving in the Armed Forces

Lester Wayne Timosan, Kalauman Development Center



## Our Birthdays and Anniversaries



May 1 - Jan Garinger  
May 10 - Raejean Hummel  
May 11 - Elaine Moyer  
May 16 - Rodney Kline Sr.  
May 24 - Elmer Maurer  
May 25 - Timothy Leitzel  
May 28 - Greg Bingaman  
May 29 - Grace Hockenberry



May 6 - Chris & Jamie Ray  
May 7 - Donnie & Donna Sauers



Our church leaders continually listen for that still, small voice as they discern the next steps for Emmanuel United Church of Christ.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, May 10, at 7:30PM. Please hold these individuals in prayer as they conduct the business aspect of our beloved church.

2021 Emmanuel UCC Church Council

Linda Walter – President

Keith McCool – Vice President

Debra Benfer – Secretary

Debra Benfer, Vicki Benfer, Audrey Bingaman,

David Farmer, Penny Guzenski, Martha Hockenberry, Joan Maurer,

Keith McCool, Linda Walter

The minutes of the April 2021 meeting are attached.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, NEW BERLIN, PA

CONSISTORY MEETING – APRIL 12, 2021

Attendance: Linda Walter, Keith McCool, Vicki Benfer, Audrey Bingaman, Joan Maurer, Martha Hockenberry, David Farmer, Deb Benfer, Pastor James Cope, and Pastor Jan Garinger.

Meeting was called to order by President Linda Walter at 7:33pm.

Devotions by Pastor James Cope (Unprecedented) Philippians Chapter 4 – Verse 6.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Martha, seconded by Keith to accept the minutes of March 8, 2021 as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Audrey, seconded by Martha to accept the March 2021 report subject to audit. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Pastor Plaque – Joan stated that it is still being worked on.
2. Chairs – Social Room – Looking to purchase 60 chairs at a cost of \$45.45/chair. Motion to authorize the chairs for purchase using the chair fund money was made by Audrey, seconded by Martha. Motion carried. Will need help to unload the truck when they arrive.

3. Floor Scrubber (Kitchen) – A motion was made by Keith, seconded by Vicki to purchase a floor scrubber for the kitchen. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Resume congregational singing with masks on – 1st Sunday of May (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Resume social hour (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of May (9<sup>th</sup>) and to do a one call to congregation explaining this. Motion was made by Vicki, seconded by Martha. Motion carried.
2. Request from New Berlin Fire Company for a donation – Motion was made by Audrey, seconded by Vicki to give a \$300.00 donation to the fire company. Motion carried.
3. Community yard sale May 8th – Joan asked if she could sit the futon and exercise machine out and try to sell them. She will take care of this. Permission granted.

Pastor's time:

Pastor Cope

1. Vacation Sunday – May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Pastor Jan will cover the service.
2. Big thank you to Jan for organizing Palm Sunday Service.
3. Pastor Jan and myself have been discussing putting a committee to mentor on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (Community & Insight Session). More information to follow.

Pastor Jan

1. Community & Insight – What did you get out of the service?
2. Thanks for supporting her through her education/learning and having her first communion as a Pastor.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:20pm.

Secretary,  
Debra Benfer

## Getting to Know You

Our monthly series continues as we feature congregation member Jill Benfer.

**Name:** Jill Benfer

**Occupation (If you are retired what did you do for a living?)**

Before retirement, I was an Assistant Supervisor at JPM (1968-1998) and Customer Service at the BonTon (1998-2013).

**What is the favorite place that you ever traveled?**

Williamsburg VA

**What is your favorite Bible verse?**

Genesis 1

**What is your favorite memory at Emmanuel?**

I grew up in Lutheran faith from baptism as a baby. Some things were changing and I found open arms from all, especially Mary Ellen Egli, at Emmanuel UCC.

**If you could have an endless supply of one food item, what would it be?**

Potato Chips

**What is your hidden talent?**

No hidden talent but enjoy talking to friends and watching TV.





## Emmanuel United Church of Christ

**Church Address:** 326 Market Street, PO Box 329, New Berlin, PA 17855

**Church email:** [newberlinucc@windstream.net](mailto:newberlinucc@windstream.net)

**Church website:** [www.newberlinucc.org](http://www.newberlinucc.org)

**Church Phone:** 570-966-2880

**Church Secretary:** Shirley Wilhelm

**Office Hours:** As noted in the bulletin

**Pastor:** Dr. James L. Cope

**Pastor Email:** [newberlinuccpastor@windstream.net](mailto:newberlinuccpastor@windstream.net)

**Pastor's Phone:** 570-898-5748

**Pastor in Care:** Jan Garinger

**Pastor in Care Email:** [jang58@ptd.net](mailto:jang58@ptd.net)

**Pastor in Care Phone:** 570-259-2968