

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.

June 2021

A Message from Pastor Jim

Most of you have probably heard me talk about our family dogs by this time. We have two...a senior citizen and a toddler. I want to tell you about the senior citizen...I'll save the toddler dog for another time. His name is Buckeye (Jodi is from Ohio) and his canine heritage is Maltese. He is the cutest, little white fur ball...*and he is as mean as can be*. He is 15 years old now. He only likes me...or Jodi...and tolerates his groomer on most days. No one else dare touch him or have their bare feet get near him if they value their toes. He sleeps a lot and eats a lot...still...at his advanced age. He can be smelly and honestly...very few people like the poor old pooch...sad...but true.

Often times, I will admit, I dream of the day when I can have a nice dog. A dog that will cuddle with me and that will love to go places with me. A dog to be by my side. A dog that other people can approach and touch. A dog that will give kisses and go for walks without snapping at the neighbors' children. Ohhh...I dream of that day. I know...it sounds mean...but it isn't fun having a mean dog...

As I was thinking about this article, the biblical verse that popped into my head was...*Psalm 37:4* which says, "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." So what does that mean exactly? If I worship the Lord...live right...and delight in all the great things that surround me...then I will get the desires of my heart...*like a nice dog perhaps???*

You guessed it! The answer to that question is a big fat...NO. The idea behind this verse and others like it is that, when we truly rejoice or "delight" in the eternal things of God...and the good gifts God has given to us, our desires will begin to parallel God's and we will never go unfulfilled.

So how do we delight in the Lord and the good gifts given to us?

We must stop.

We must stop and open our eyes to the generosity of our God. When we sit still in God's presence and simply enjoy the Lord, we find that our souls can be satisfied. God is a delight to know!

Once we are still in God's presence and delighting in that company, the fullness and richness of all God has given us, comes to life. Suddenly we see God's hand in everything. We see God's love in the chirping birds, a crispy apple, a hot cup of coffee, a bouquet of flowers, a hug from a friend, a beautiful sunset, a powerful storm and the changing leaves on the trees.

...and yes a crabby, old mean dog.

Now that I think about it...when I go up the stairs after writing this article, he will be laying at the top of the steps waiting for my return. When I sit down on the sofa...he will move over and lay on the floor next to me. When I sit at the kitchen table reading the paper, drinking my tea...he will be at my feet...snoring away. When I go out on the back porch...he will stand in the doorway wanting to come with me. Yes...in his own way...he is the dog I have always wished for. Happy to see me (even if no one else) on my good days and on my bad days and every day in between. He is a constant presence...a companion...he loves me and deep down...I know...I love him too.

"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

The desires of our hearts may not always look or feel like we imagine them to be, but if we search deep down often times we can indeed find delight in what the Lord has given to us.

Take delight in the Lord...and keep searching,
Pastor Jim

A Message from Pastor Jan

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Can you believe it is June already? For me winter seems to drag on forever, but summer is here and gone in a blink of an eye. I truly enjoy being able to sit out on my deck after a long day at work, watching the kids riding their bikes, the bunnies playing in my yard, and seeing my neighbors after a long winter's hibernation.

It is so much fun to be able to go on picnics, cheer on our kids and grandkids at their baseball and soccer games, eat some of the yummy food at amusement parks, carnivals and fairs. We all look forward to an amazing vacation with family and friends. A time to relax, rejuvenate, and forget about work and all of our worries and cares. A

time for rest and renewal. Why is it that we only allow ourselves vacation and summer activities to give us that peace and rekindling of our souls?

In my opinion, it can be very hard to just relax and let go of our worries and cares.

My boss always says that I am in “Jan Mode”. Jan Mode is just go-go-go. Keep going until everything is done. I have to stop myself and make myself take a deep breath and “slow my roll”. Oh boy, this isn’t easy for me. If there are things to do I like to get them done.

We need to remember that God is always there when we feel overwhelmed by everyday life. What we need to do is to turn over all of our worries to God. I know that this is never easy to do. It is human to want to be in control all of the time.

There have been many times in my life that I have felt like “Atlas”. I’m sure we have all felt like we have had the weight of the world on our shoulders, that it is hard to put one foot in front of the other. The best way to lighten our load of care is to turn everything over to our Savior.

There is contemporary Christian song that has the lyrics “My God is so big, so strong and so mighty”. God knows what you are dealing with in your live. All you need to do is ask for help. God has enough strength to take away your worries in whatever you are dealing with.

So, remember that God is standing with you winter, spring, summer, and fall no matter what. Now take a deep breath and put your toes in the sand and relax in the Saviors love.

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 later in the day.

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| June 6 | <p>Second Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
 God's Will
 Pastor Jan, preaching; Pastor Jim, liturgist
 Organist, Donna Sauers</p> |
| June 13 | <p>Third Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
 Flourishing
 Pastor Jim, preaching; Pastor Jan, liturgist
 Organist, Audrey Bingaman
 <i>Social Hour following worship with masks and social distancing
 hosted by Linda Walter</i></p> |
| June 20 | <p>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
 Pushing the Boat Out
 Pastor Jan, preaching; Pastor Jim, liturgist
 Organist, Donna Sauers
 <i>Father's Day</i></p> |
| June 27 | <p>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
 Healing Powers
 Pastor Jan, preaching and liturgist
 Organist, Audrey Bingaman</p> |



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 30th!

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, June 17, 2021.

Suggested food items from Emmanuel for the month of June 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.



Runnimage Sale Donations on Hold --- Due to the current Pandemic, a policy of health cautions prevents our regular activities of yard/runnimage 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:

Andrew Beckley, Tyler Horst,
 Geneva Hudson & family

Church Members with Concerns:

Barb Stamm, Lucille Cope, Marian Mull, Linda Walter,
 Scott Leitzel, Jeanne Leitzel, Connor Neidig, Dale "Pap" Smith,
 Jessica Neidig, Mary Kratzer, Frederick George Virgilio

Friends and Family with Concerns:

Dani Leitzel, Barry Long, Harry Kratzer, Vicki Smith, Zachary Cherrup, Diane Rearden,
 Oliver Aumand, Dave and Helen Hannah, Sybil Spotts, Carol Willow, Melanie Spade,
 Delores Henson

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



June 4 - June Hoot	June 20 - Debra Benfer
June 5 - Cali Camden	June 21 - Irene Kessler
June 12 - Marvin Maurer	June 24 - Scott Leitzel
June 12 - Harry Yost	June 25 - Emily Smith
June 13 - Amy Maurer	June 26 - Stacy Snyder
June 15 - Taylor Delp	June 29 - Harry Kratzer



June 11 - Christopher & Jennifer Beckley
 June 13 - Frank & Theresa Reber
 June 14 - Tim & Carol Spangler
 June 25 - Jeff Detrick & Grace Hockenberry
 June 26 - Richard & Barb Helm
 June 27 - Harry & Mary Kratzer
 June 30 - David & Deborah Bickel



CHURCH COUNCIL

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 in September. Enjoy the summer!

2021 Emmanuel UCC Church Council

Linda Walter - President

Keith McCool - Vice President

Debra Benfer - Secretary

Debra Benfer, Vicki Benfer, Audrey Bingaman,

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

Keith McCool, Linda Walter

The minutes of the May 2021 meeting are attached.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NEW BERLIN, PA
CONSISTORY MEETING - MAY 10, 2021

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

Meeting was called to order by President Linda Walter at 7:35pm.

Devotions by Pastor James Cope "There's More" by Pastor Anthony Robinson (Acts 19 - verse 3-4).

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Keith, seconded by David to accept the minutes of April 12, 2021 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Committee Reports:

Trustees - Keeping an eye on leak in vestibule. Cracks in parking lot - Motion was made by Audrey, seconded by Vicki to have cracks resealed in parking lot. Motion carried.

Outdoor Kitchen at Community Yard Sale May 8th raised \$700.50 and Joan was able to sell the futon and exercise machine. Thanks to everyone involved.

Old Business:

Pastor Plaque - Motion was made by Audrey, seconded by Vicki to purchase the thicker plates with names for the pastor plaque and take the cost out of a memorial fund (will have Mary Beckley check with families as to which memorial fund to use). The pastor plaque will be up to date. Motion carried.

Floor Scrubber and Lawn Mower - Motion was made by David, seconded by Keith to take the cost of these two items out of Mary Ellen Egli memorial fund. Motion carried.

Pastor's Time:

Pastor Cope - May 30th - Community & Insight Session begins., June 27th vacation.

Pastor Jan - July 4th - vacation.

Pastors have a theme for summer Sunday months to be announced later.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary,

Debra Benfer

Getting to Know You

Our monthly series continues as we feature congregation member Wilma Leitzel.



Name: Wilma Leitzel

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

Before retirement, I worked at Ott Packaging. Prior to that, I worked on the cabinet line at Yorktowne Cabinets.

What is the favorite place that you ever traveled?

I have two favorite places – We journeyed to Germany and surrounding countries and saw many interesting sites. I also had the opportunity to visit Biltmore Estate. Wow! Awesome!

What is your favorite Bible verse?

John 3:16

What is your favorite memory at Emmanuel?

Attending services and church activities over 60 years there are many memorable times!

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

I enjoy most foods.

What is your hidden talent?

No hidden talents that I can think of at this time.



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

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

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Church website: 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

Pastor's Phone: 570-898-5748

Pastor in Care: Jan Garinger

Pastor in Care Email: jang58@ptd.net

Pastor in Care Phone: 570-259-2968