

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.

August 2022

A Message from Pastor Jim

So...writing a summer time newsletter article got me to thinking about how a lot of folks like to vacation during these months. A lot of people like their destination to be tropical or have that “tropical” feel. When I think of that type of vacation, I imagine sunny days, sandy beaches, clear blue ocean water, and of course palm trees.

Palm trees are quite fascinating. Have you ever noticed that when you see pictures of tropical storms or hurricanes flood the airwaves it is pretty intense. Torrents of rain and water take over the streets...there are lashing winds and flying waves. Pieces of houses and big trees are tossed around like toys, but the palm trees, waving in the breeze, often come out of the storm unscathed or only slightly worse for wear.

It turns out that palm trees have three distinctive features that help them survive the punishing conditions of hurricanes and cyclones, and even tsunamis.

First of all they have rambling roots. The roots of a palm tree are short and spread across the upper levels of the soil, which work to secure a large amount of soil around the root ball. As opposed to having just a few very strong roots, this wider network creates a bottom-heavy base that helps keep the tree in place.

Second, the stem of a palm tree is made of many small bundles of woody material much like the bundles of wire inside a telephone cable. This allows the palm stem to bend over 40 to 50 degrees without snapping.

Third, a palm tree has “clever leaves.” They have no wide-spreading branches, rather huge leaves with a central, flexible spine...like enormous feathers. In nice weather, the fronds spread out and make a fine canopy, but in instances of strong wind and water...what do fronds do? They fold up. With less



resistance against the elements, they are much more likely to make it through intact.

So, if you are like me and you feel bad for the palm trees in the harshest of elements, you can take a bit of solace in knowing they are likely up to the task.

Why, you must be wondering, did I bring up this topic of Palm trees? Not simply because I am longing for a tropical retreat of course. I happened to read a Bible verse in which “godly” people are likened to a palm tree...and it made me wonder why?

The Bible verse is Psalm 92. “But the godly shall flourish like palm trees and grow tall as the cedars of Lebanon. For they are transplanted into the Lord’s own garden and are under his personal care. Even in old age they will still produce fruit and be vital and green. This honors the Lord and exhibits his faithful care.”

My point is that much like a palm tree God has faithfully given us the characteristics to withstand the hurricanes and tsunamis of life. We have a wide network of family and friends, like rambling roots, to keep us grounded and in place. When toppled over and beaten down we have the ability, like the wiry trunk of a palm tree, to stand back up and continue on through life’s trials. Like the “clever leaves,” we have the ability to resist the evil elements that pursue us by reshaping, retracting, renewing, and revitalizing. This makes it much more likely that we will remain intact through whatever calamity befalls us.

So whether or not you get to experience a lush tropical retreat or you opt for the retreat of staying at home...rest assured that being faithful to God means God will be faithful to you. With God in your life you are destined to flourish...just like a palm tree. There is nothing but goodness in God!

*Pressing on,
Pastor Jim*



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.

- August 7 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
Living into the Promise
Pastor Jim preaching and liturgist
Organist Audrey Bingaman
- August 14 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
Restore Us
Pastor Jan preaching and Pastor Jim liturgist
Organist Audrey Bingaman
Social time following worship hosted by Audrey Bingaman
- August 21 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
Healing Reign
Pastor Jim preaching and Pastor Jan liturgist
Organist Audrey Bingaman
- August 28 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
Open Table
Pastor Jan preaching and Pastor Jim liturgist
Organist Donna Sauers



Our Life Together In Service

Christmas in July? Yes, please!

One of our Christmas families has reached out to us for a hand up. Currently, many things have not gone in the right direction in the lives of this family. If we can help with a few needed items for back to school, it would be very much appreciated. If you can help, here is a list of needs:

Age 8 Boy (favorite color is blue, loves Spiderman and the Avengers)

Pants: size 10

Shirts: size 10

Socks: shoe size 5

Hooded Sweatshirt: size 10/12

School supplies

Gift card for sneakers

Age 4 Girl (favorite color is pink, loves princesses and unicorns)

Shirts: size 6

Pants: size 6

Socks: shoe size 12 ½.

Sweatshirt/Jacket size 6/8

Gift card for shoes/sneakers



A few Weis gift cards to supplement their food budget would also be appreciated. As always, monetary donations are also appreciated...we have others willing to shop for you. Thank you in advance for your generosity and in our mission to help this family.

Please have your items to church by *Sunday, August 7*.



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 distributions will be *Thursday, August 18*. Suggested food items from Emmanuel for the month 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.

“Beer” & Popcorn Social Sunday August 21, 2022

Come join us for a “Beer” & Popcorn and fellowship! The “beer” that will be served with the popcorn will be the beer varieties of Root and Birch. After the Worship service on Sunday, August 21, please stay for fellowship and enjoy some “beer” & popcorn.

Hope to see you there!



Harvest Home Sunday, September 11



We ask that you bring your non-perishable foods to church for our Harvest Home Service on Sunday, September 11. Canned goods such as fruits, spaghetti sauce, soup, peanut butter and similar foods are welcome! The food will be donated to the New Berlin Food Pantry.

Let's fill the altar with canned goods so Pastor Jim and Pastor Jan will each have a teeny tiny spot to stand in!

Ladies Night Out

There has been interest in starting up the Ladies Night Out that was put on hold the last couple of years. It is a fun evening out for dinner and fellowship. If you are interested in resuming this, please contact Audrey Bingaman or Pastor Jan.



Our Life Together In Prayer

Those in Nursing Homes/Assisted Living:

Elmcroft: Patricia and Robert Seebold

Nottingham: George Mull

Family and Friends of those who have died:

Betty Hess, Kathy Wilhelm, Sam Peachy

Church Members with Concerns:

Lucille Cope, Joyce Kratzer, Vicki Benfer, Penny Guzenski,

Neil Moyer, Bill Hockenberry, Jill Benfer, Barb Stamm, Vicki Heimbach

Friends and Family with Concerns:

Frances Stover, Kathy Brady, Vic Crevelling, John Snook, Julia Hauck,

Tawnya Lovell, Hannah Newell, Darlene Hoffmaster, Kay Martin, Cliff Ressler,

Cody Moyer, Scott Hummel, Darl Thomason, Mary Hummel, Brynley Grove,

Ken Haizlett, Clair Beaver, Jonathan Shultz, Lisa Hassenplug, Pam Aungst,

Loretta Gross, People of Ukraine, People of Uvalde

Around the World and Close to Home:

Pray for Peace in our World

All those serving in the Armed Forces



Our August Birthdays & Anniversaries



August 1 - Thomas Leitzel

August 2 - C. Richard Heim

August 5 - Cinda Buoy

August 9 - Cathy Keister

August 9 - Nicholas Stamm

August 11 - Cole Kuhar

August 15 - Kim Smith

August 17 - Audrey Seltzer

August 19 - Dale Hoot

August 23 - Jamie Ray

August 26 - Robert Renniger

August 26 - Betty Vonada

August 27 - Ryan Smith



August 7 - Brian & Kim Smith

August 13 - Scott & Jeanne Leitzel

August 22 - Dan & Penny Guzenski



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 September 12 at 7:30 p.m.

2022 Emmanuel UCC Church Council

Linda Walter - President

Keith McCool - Vice President

Debra Benfer - Secretary

Vicki Benfer, Audrey Bingaman, Penny Guzenski,

Martha Hockenberry, Donnie Sauers, Jill Benfer

Traditional Holy Communion and Offering Collection

Consistory Members of Emmanuel United Church of Christ voted to get back to some traditional methods of Sunday Services to give us more normalcy.

- The Offering Plate will be passed through the pews for collection.
- Holy Communion will be served in the traditional way.
- Hand sanitizers will still be around the church for your use.
- Sunday Services will continue to be via phone and video will be posted to website later in the day.



Please contact Pastor Jim, Pastor Jan or any of the Church Consistory members if you have any questions or concerns.

Getting to Know You

Our monthly series continues as we feature congregation member and part of the “Kitchen Ladies”, Karen Gemberling.

Name: Karen Gemberling



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

Data Entry - General Interiors (1 year)

Assistant Inmate Systems Manager - Allenwood Federal Prison Camp Low Security Correctional Institution in Allenwood PA (30 years)

What is the favorite place that you ever traveled?

Hawaii and Alaska

What is your favorite Bible verse?

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that who so ever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

What is your favorite memory at Emmanuel?

Working in the kitchen with others at the church

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

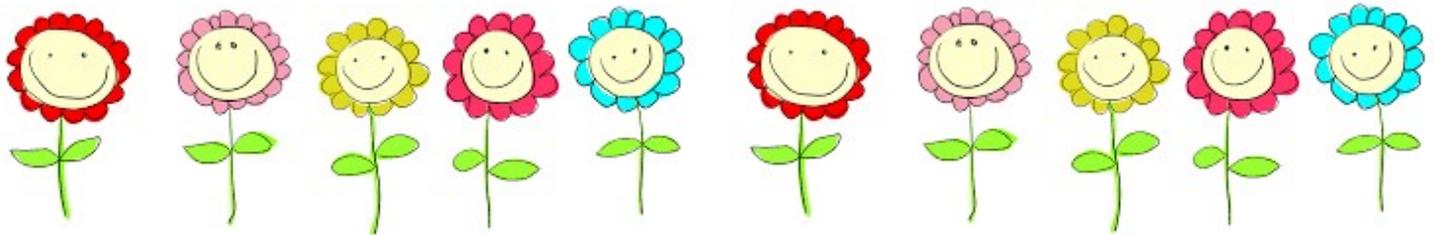
Candy

What is your hidden talent?

No particular hidden talents

Smile *by B. B. Taylor*

A smile doesn't cost a thing
As it spreads from face to face,
And a hug can warm your heart,
As you welcome its embrace.
A listening ear can sooth a soul,
That's trapped in deep despair,
And help find hope in gloomy times,
When life seems so unfair.
Your pockets may be empty,
With nothing there to share,
But kindness costs you nothing,
To show how much you care.

**Smiling Is Infectious** *by Jez Alborough*

Smiling is infectious,
you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realized
I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile,
then I realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected!



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

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

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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

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