

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.

November 2022

A Message from Pastor Jan

Can you believe that it is November? Where did the year go? When I think of November, I think about Thanksgiving Dinner. How about you? Things like turkey, filling, mashed potatoes, gravy, filling, vegetables, pumpkin pie. You know all of those amazing comfort foods. Oh boy, I am making myself hungry!

Why does food give us comfort? For myself it brings memories of past Thanksgivings. Those Thanksgivings spent with family and enjoying a wonderful meal together.

But maybe I need rethink what I feel is important about Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving isn't only about the meal that we share together. Thanksgiving is about gratitude. It is about being grateful for all of the blessings that God gives to all of us. The book of James 1:17 says "But whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God, the Creator of all light, and he shines forever without change or shadow."

My friend gave me a daily devotional book entitled "All God's Creatures." The daily devotionals all have animals as the theme. Here is one of them entitled "The Feeling of Thanksgiving."

"It didn't feel like Thanksgiving Day to me. My husband, Terry, had just gotten home from the hospital after surgery. His dietary restrictions meant no turkey and none of the usual trimmings. I stood in the kitchen sipping a cup of black coffee, wondering what to do to make it feel like the holiday.

Terry entered the kitchen and suddenly gripped his nose. "EWW!" he uttered in a shrill, nasal tone. He pointed to my ankle. I gasped. It didn't take a rocket scientist to discover that the pungent smell came from our cat, Mr. Rudy. In licking my ankle, he had lovingly left a deposit of stinky mackerel.

"Maybe that was Rudy's way of wishing his mom-cat a Happy Thanksgiving," Terry said as he took his medications.

“Right,” I mumbled as I wiped away the smelly residue from my ankle. In that instant, I knew I had better check my disposition. God is watching. He couldn’t be pleased with my attitude of non-gratitude, especially on Thanksgiving Day. Surely, I could stretch my frowning mouth into a smile – for both Terry and Mr. Rudy.

Mr. Rudy’s ankle deposit had made me aware of the importance of showing thanks. On this particular Thursday, I knew it was only right that I thank the Lord out loud for all He had done for us. I grabbed Terry’s hand, and we bowed our heads, praying and expressing our gratitude. And then it felt like Thanksgiving Day.”

Gratitude – yes that is what I need to think about when I think of Thanksgiving. Gratitude that God loves me and provides all that I need. Gratitude that God guides me each and every day of my life. Gratitude for the love of family, friends, and my church. And lastly gratitude for that wonderful Thanksgiving meal and time that I will enjoy with my family.

My Thanksgiving wish for each one of you is that all of you have a Thanksgiving filled with many blessings and gratitude.

Pastor Jan



*“For all the blessings of this day,
For rest, for food, for work, and play,
We give Thee thanks, oh God of light.
Help us to live our lives aright
And help us to serve our fellow men;
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.”*

Our Life Together In Service



Thanksgiving Sunday, November 20

We ask that you bring your non-perishable foods to church for our Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 20. 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!

Hanging of the Greens -- Sunday, November 20

Christmas is such a special time of the year – a time of celebration, family, and the birth of our Lord. Please join us after the worship service on Sunday, November 20, to prepare the church for Advent.



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, November 17*. 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.

Ladies Night Out

Ladies Night Out has been resumed!
For November, the night will be, Wednesday, 11/16
and the restaurant is Hoss's in Shamokin Dam.
Sign up sheet is on the table in the Fellowship room.
Hope to see you there!





Christmas Mission 2022

We need your help again this year! We will provide two families with a little help for a Merry Christmas. Dinners for each family includes gift cards for Weis Markets and Walmart. The Christmas Tree in the Social Room will once again have stockings with the gifts to purchase or monetary donations for these children. We are still waiting for one family's needs/wants, then the tree will be up and ready to go in November. Please have all gifts or monetary donations into the church by December 4.

If you are currently not attending church in person, please consider a monetary donation marked "Christmas Mission 2022". Your past support has been much appreciated and we thank you for your generosity! We look forward to giving these families a great Christmas and your heart will grow one size bigger!

Christmas Bazaar, Saturday, December 3, 2022

Cookie bakers, get out those recipes!
Crafters, get those projects made!
Go through your Christmas decorations you
don't use anymore!

The Christmas Bazaar is back!

On Saturday, December 3,
we will be selling gently used Christmas decorations and handmade crafts.

There will be the "famous" Cookie Walk, baked goods for sale,
and lunch stand. Lots of volunteers and cookies will be needed!

See Deb Benfer with any questions.

(Only Christmas themed items such as decorations, sweaters, coats, tablecloths, etc. will be accepted at this time. Please save your other items for the spring yard sale.)



Our Life Together In Prayer

Those in Nursing Homes/Assisted Living:

Heritage Springs: Patricia and Robert Seebold
Nottingham: George Mull

Family and Friends of those who have died:

George Hurst, Laura Benfer, Pearl Culp, Joe Gerst

Church Members with Concerns:

Lucille Cope, Jim Forster, Dale (Pap) Smith, Donna Sauers,
Jill Benfer, Scott Leitzel

Friends and Family with Concerns:

Frances Stover, John Snook, Mary Hummel, Logan Roush, Elsie Mutchler,
Cindy Colyer, Easton Oliverson (Little Leaguer), Makena Boyer, Tucker Smith,
Pat Spade, Lainey & Casey Ross, Donald Athey, Vicki Heimbach, Phyllis Swanger,
John Wagner, Denise Hubbert, Keith Phelps, People of Ukraine

Around the World and Close to Home:

Pray for Peace in our World
All those serving in the Armed Forces



Our November Birthdays & Anniversaries



November 4 -- Chris Beckley
November 6 - Zachary Leitzel
November 10 - William Hockenberry
November 14 - Doris Maurer
November 14 - Roxanne Seitzer Waite

November 20 - Chris Ray
November 23 - Patricia Seebold
November 23 - Nate Stamm
November 26 - Brian Smith



November 18 - Elmer & Joan Maurer



Thank you note from Barbara Stamm -- "Just in case I missed you when I announced my gratitude during church service a couple of weeks ago, I'd like to thank all those folks who provided prayers, sent cards, visited and provided food for me during my medical issues this summer."



Thanksgiving Day, annual national holiday in the United States and Canada celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. Americans generally believe that their Thanksgiving is modeled on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists (Pilgrims) of Plymouth and the Wampanoag people. The American holiday is particularly rich in legend and symbolism, and the traditional fare of the Thanksgiving meal typically includes turkey, bread stuffing, potatoes, cranberries, and pumpkin pie. With respect to vehicular travel, the holiday is often the busiest of the year, as family members gather with one another. Thanksgiving Day is celebrated on Thursday, November 24, 2022.

The holiday was annually proclaimed by every president thereafter, and the date chosen, with few exceptions, was the last Thursday in November. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, however, attempted to extend the Christmas shopping season, which generally begins with the Thanksgiving holiday, and to boost the economy by moving the date back a week, to the third week in November. But not all states complied, and, after a joint resolution of Congress in 1941, Roosevelt issued a proclamation in 1942 designating the fourth Thursday in November (which is not always the last Thursday) as Thanksgiving Day. As the country became more urban and family members began to live farther apart, Thanksgiving became a time to gather together. The holiday moved away from its religious roots to allow immigrants of every background to participate in a common tradition. Thanksgiving Day football games, beginning with Yale versus Princeton in 1876, enabled fans to add some rowdiness to the holiday. In the late 1800s parades of costumed revelers became common. In 1920 Gimbel's department store in Philadelphia staged a parade of about 50 people with Santa Claus at the rear of the procession. Since 1924 the annual Macy's parade in New York City has continued the tradition, with huge balloons since 1927.

(<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Thanksgiving-Day>)



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 November 14 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 Guzinski,
Martha Hockenberry, Donnie Sauers, Jill Benfer

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NEW BERLIN, PA
CONSISTORY MINUTES – OCTOBER 10, 2022

Attendance: Linda Walter, Keith McCool, Deb Benfer, Martha Hockenberry, Audrey Bingaman, Vicki & Jill Benfer (via phone), Pastor James Cope, and Pastor Jan Garinger.

Meeting was called to order by President Linda Walter at 7:30pm with devotions by Pastor Jan.

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the minutes of September 12, 2022, was made by Martha, seconded by Audrey. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the treasurer's report for September 30, 2022, subject to audit was made by Audrey, seconded by Martha. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Roof Update – We have received three bids and are reviewing them.
2. Sanctuary Painting Update – Research is continuing.
3. Lighting in Vestibule – Donny is looking into making it brighter.
4. 200th Anniversary Celebration – October 23rd – Former Pastor's coming, Pastor Alice speaking and Jay Mueller singing. Motion was made to give Pastor Alice and Jay Mueller a gift of \$100/each for their service by Audrey, seconded by Martha. Motion carried.
5. Reserved sign for Pastor – Vicki is looking on Amazon.
6. Budget Committee – Waiting on Pastor/Parish report. Martha's committee is Jim Benfer, Audrey or Sally, and Martha. They will meet with Jay.
7. Nominating committee – Working on getting their replacements. We have one, need two more. Please consider saying YES if asked.
8. Insurance on copier – We have insurance on this.
9. Tree trimming on Linden Trees out front will be done by Hackenberg's Tree Trimming at a cost of \$1,200.

New Business:

1. Donation to New Berlin Fire Co. – Motion to give them a donation like we have done in the past was made by Martha, seconded by Keith. Motion carried.
2. Angel Banner for the Advent Season – Motion to have Pastor Cope purchase this banner at a cost of \$200 using money from Jason Benfer's memorial fund was made by Audrey, seconded by Jill. Motion carried.
3. Organ – Audrey reported that the organ may need some repair in the future. It is working for now. She will keep us posted.

Pastor's Time:

Pastor Cope reported that this has been a busy month and are moving into Advent. The theme for Advent is (Angels Among Us).

Both Pastor Cope and Pastor Jan have done funeral services.

Pastor Jan did a wedding and has started a Bible Study.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm with the Lord's Prayer. Secretary, Debra Benfer

Getting to Know You

Our monthly series continues as we feature one of our younger congregation member Mason Kratzer.



Name: Mason Kratzer

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

2nd Grade Student

What is the favorite place that you ever traveled?

Kalahari (Indoor Waterpark)

What is your favorite memory at Emmanuel?

When Pastor Jim brought in the flower and watered me, even though I had my bath!

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

Alfredo

What is your hidden talent?

I can run super fast!

Attitude of Gratitude

Dear Lord, we come to You today
With a humble attitude.
For all you give, our hearts are full
Of love and gratitude.

Thank you for this special time
To offer our Thanksgiving.
Thank you for this food, and for
The blessed lives we're living.
In Jesus' name we pray; Amen

By Joanna Fuchs





Emmanuel United Church of Christ

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Office Hours: As noted in the bulletin

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