

# 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.*

*October 2022*

## **A Message from Pastor Jim**

Jodi and I recently spent a couple of days roaming around the city of Philadelphia. We saw beautiful, brand new buildings reaching to the clouds. The streets were bustling with activity and in the midst of that there would be green parks dotted with leafy green trees and accented with beautiful summer blooms. As we walked toward the historic district we began to see buildings smaller in stature, but with no less architectural grandeur. These buildings were hundreds of years old. They have withstood the test of time and still maintain their beauty in their own right.



I was inspired and filled with awe as we would take the time to tour one of these landmarks from history. Independence Hall where a gathering of men dreamed and debated, discussed and wrote town a vision for a country that was yet to be in existence. Congress Hall where a community from thirteen states would begin to form a government that had the same but components we have today but on a smaller scale. Here they would discuss and enact laws that would strive to take that vision of free and united people and turn it into reality. Christ Church where folks like Betsy Ross and George Washington worshipped the very same God that we worship. A place where the spirit became grounded and breathed through the minds of those who were leading a fledgling nation.

Oh I wondered in my mind...if these walls could talk...if these windows could give us a glimpse of what life was like during that time...if these hallways could lead us to the dreams that not only they had but that we still dream for ourselves this very day.

This month, we celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Emmanuel United Church of Christ. What a magnificent and important milestone for the community of faith! Just as those important places and structure in the city of Philadelphia, we too share an important slice of history in New Berlin, Pennsylvania. Oh I wondered again in my mind...if these walls could talk, could they tell us of how and why we became who we are today?...could these windows give us a glimpse of what was and what may still be?...could these hallways lead us on in our journey to share the gospel in new and exciting ways.

In the book of Revelation, I found a verse. "I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. (Rev 2: 19)"

Yes, I was in awe as I walked through the streets of history in Philadelphia. I was awed by the incredible faith of those who formed our nation. I was awed by the love for freedom and love for people. I was awed by the selfless acts of service for what was at the time a dream. I was awed by the perseverance of an institution and a people. "I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance." Yes indeed God was watching and God is watching now.

Yes, I am in awe as I walk these grounds of Emmanuel United Church of Christ. I am in awe of the incredible faith of those who had a dream for this church and this congregation. I am in awe of the love they created and shared for a church community and a wider community of people. I am in awe of all of those acts of service that enabled us to have what we have this day. I am in awe of the perseverance of a church and its members.

"I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance." Yes indeed God was watching then and God is watching now. Too often. From day to day, and week to week, we overlook the goodness and faithfulness that is in our own congregation. We see what other churches may be doing and perhaps feel like we don't or can't measure up.

I have seen many churches. I have participated in many churches in various positions...and my friends, let me share something with you. I was drawn to this church because I thought I could help you...but in fact you have helped me. In this church I have noticed a faith and love unmatched. I have

seen service and perseverance where others would have thrown in the towel. I see the poor continually fed. I see children taught. I see adults seeking a deeper spiritual life and connection with God. I see strangers welcomed. I see the love of Christ lived. I see God thanked and praised.

I see a remarkable proof that over and over again through a span of 200 years this community has demonstrated that indeed there is a God...and you and I...all of us together...are the evidence.

Let us celebrate our past and let us press on into our future.

Here's to what is yet to be for Emmanuel United Church of Christ!

In the faith and love of Jesus Christ  
Your Pastor,

Jim Cope



# 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.

October 2                      Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)  
*Free to Grieve*  
*World Wide Communion*  
Pastor Jim preaching and liturgist  
Organist Audrey Bingaman



October 9                      Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)  
*Planting Life*  
Pastor Jim preaching and liturgist  
Organist Audrey Bingaman  
**Social time following worship hosted by Penny Guzenski**

October 16                     Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)  
*Ask Boldy, Live Justly*  
*Laity Sunday*  
Pastor Jan preaching  
Organist Audrey Bingaman

October 23                    Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)  
**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
*To God Be the Glory*  
**There will only be one service at 2PM**  
*Pastor Alice Rauch preaching*



October 30                    Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost (White)  
*Transforming Love*  
*All Saints Sunday*  
Pastor Jan preaching and Pastor Jim liturgist  
Organist Audrey Bingaman

## Our Life Together In Service



### *World Communion Sunday, October 2*

Every year on the first Sunday in October, on October 2 this year, Christians around the globe celebrate World Communion Sunday. It is a day to remember that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and that every Christian Church and any denomination that promotes Christian unity are one. On this day, people draw faith and inspiration from seeing that they are part of a community that boasts millions of believers and worshippers.

(<https://nationaltoday.com/world-communion-sunday/>)

### **Laity Sunday, October 16**

Laity Sunday focuses on the celebration of the ministry of all Christians, especially those who aren't ministers of Word and sacrament. It offers a chance for members of all ages to pause and consider their own unique calling to ministry within the community of believers.

(<https://www.faithward.org/laity-sunday-worship-ideas>)



### **Emmanuel UCC New Berlin's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Worship "To God be the Glory!" October 23, 2022, 2:00 pm**



Emmanuel UCC New Berlin will hold a **200th Anniversary Celebration** Worship Service, "To God be the Glory!" on **Sunday, October 23, at 2:00 pm.**

The message for the day will be delivered by our former pastor, Rev. Alice Rauch. There will be a reception following the worship service in our social room. We are hoping to fill the church on this very special day to welcome Rev. Rauch back to the pulpit and hear her words of inspiration as we "press on" into the future and celebrate this very significant event in the life of our congregation. We also look forward to uniting together in praise and thanksgiving for the many years that Emmanuel has served New Berlin and the surrounding area. If you would kindly let our church office know if you are able to attend, we would greatly appreciate it as we plan for the day. *Let's fill the church!* (There will be no morning worship service.)



**All Saints Sunday, October 30**  
Please join us on Sunday October 30 to observe and honor All Saints Day.

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, October 20*. 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 October, the night will be, Tuesday 10/18  
and the restaurant is.....TBD  
Sign up sheet is on the table in the Fellowship room.  
Hope to see you there!



**Halloween Trick or Treat**  
*Emmanuel UCC will be participating in New Berlin's annual Trick or Treating for Halloween. Donations of candy is appreciated. Please bring your candy to the church by Sunday, October 23.*

## 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:

Jill Kreisher, Pat Steese, Marguerite Heidler, Robert Reedy,  
George Hursh

### Church Members with Concerns:

Lucille Cope, Vicki Benfer, Barbara Stamm, Jim Forster,  
Dale (Pap) Smith, Donna Sauers, George Mull

### Friends and Family with Concerns:

Frances Stover, John Snook, Darl Thomason, Mary Hummel, Lisa Hassenplug,  
Vicki Heimbach, Logan Roush, Linda Mensch, Linda Pelovic, Dan Harris, Jon Norman,  
Donald Kratzer, Lucy Phillips, Jeremy Kuhar, Mark Mapes, Elsie Mutchler, John Wert,  
Cindy, Colyer, Easton Oliverson (Little Leaguer), Makena Boyer, Tucker Smith,  
Pat Spade, People of Ukraine, The victims and families of the Nescopeck fire

### Around the World and Close to Home:

Pray for Peace in our World

All those serving in the Armed Forces



## Our October Birthdays & Anniversaries



October 6 - Marie Eberhart  
October 6 - George Mull  
October 11 - David Bickel  
October 13 - Robert Seebold

October 16 - Shirley Renninger  
October 18 - Dennis Seltzer  
October 24 - Randy Keister  
October 25 - Donna Sauers



October 26 - Chris & Hope Dauberman

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# CHURCH COUNCIL

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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 October 10 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.



*Halloween* is a holiday celebrated each year on October 31, and Halloween 2021 will occur on Sunday, October 31. The tradition originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor all saints. Soon, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was

known as All Hallows Eve, and later Halloween. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating treats.

(<https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween>)

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
NEW BERLIN, PA  
CONSISTORY MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by President Linda Walter with devotions by Pastor Jan (reading Small Town Pride (referencing our church)).

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the minutes of May 9, 2022, was made by Audrey, seconded by Martha. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the treasurer's reports for May, June, July, and August 2022, subject to audit was made by Martha, seconded by Donny. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Roof - Keith is waiting on two more bids.
2. Sanctuary painting - Research continuing and getting bids.
3. Light bulbs for sanctuary lights - Motion was made to have Donny purchase a case of 200W light bulbs by Audrey, seconded by Keith. Motion carried.
4. Donny reported that the leaf blower works great.
5. Audrey reported that the humidifier in the sanctuary piano works well and the Organ is scheduled for a tune up.
6. Linden Trees Out Front - Will be trimmed by Hackenberg Tree Service.

New Business:

1. Maurer CD - Audrey checked into the child we sponsor through this and he has aged out. She cancelled our contract. On the treasurer's report we are showing a minus of \$1,550.86. Motion was made to take \$1,550.86 from Current Funds and bring Maurer CD back up to \$10,000 by Martha, seconded by Jill. Motion carried.
2. Parking lot sealing - Donny will talk to Chris Sauers about this project and report back.
3. 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration - October 23<sup>rd</sup> - One service at 2:00pm with Pastor Alice speaking. Special music planned and slide show at the social afterwards. Please come and enjoy the afternoon.
4. Budget committee - Martha will chair and form her committee and meet with Jay.
5. Outgoing consistory members - Linda, Keith, and Penny will get new members. If you are asked, please consider serving.
6. Reserve a spot for Pastor - We will research for a sign to do this.

Pastor's Time:

Pastor Cope spoke at a retreat on Sunday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. Both Pastors say come and enjoy our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm with the Lord's Prayer. Secretary, Debra Benfer



## 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