

# 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 2023*

## **A Message from Pastor Jan**

It's time to plant our gardens. As a young girl I remember my mom and my grammy planting our large family garden. It was a lot of work but they had fun planting the vegetables that we would supply our family with delicious food for the winter. They took such amazing care of that garden. Nurturing each row with love and they had excitement in anticipation of what was to come.

I found this poem and it reminded me that we shouldn't only care for our vegetable gardens but more importantly we should care and nurture God's Garden.

## **Gardening God's Way**

author unknown

### **Plant three rows of peas:**

Peace of mind  
Peace of heart  
Peace of soul



### **Plant four rows of squash:**

Squash gossip  
Squash indifference  
Squash grumbling  
Squash selfishness

**Plant four rows of lettuce:**

Lettuce be faithful  
Lettuce be kind  
Lettuce be obedient  
Lettuce really love one another



**No garden should be without turnips:**

Turnip for meetings  
Turnip for service  
Turnip to help one another

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.  
There is abundance in your garden.... Because you reap  
what you sow.



**To conclude our garden, We must have thyme:**

Thyme for God  
Thyme for study  
Thyme for prayer

Pretty nice garden!

Let us all go out now and plant our gardens with peas, squash, lettuce, turnips, and thyme. Be sure to water and cultivate them with love and you will be amazed at the yield you will receive from gardening God's way.

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.

June 4                      Trinity Sunday (White)  
*This is Good*  
Pastor Jan preaching and Pastor Jim liturgist  
Organist Audrey Bingaman



June 11                    Second Sunday after Pentecost (Green)  
*The Call of Abram*  
Pastor Jim preaching and Pastor Jan liturgist  
Organist Audrey Bingaman  
**Social time following worship - Hosted by Donny Sauers**

June 18                    Third Sunday after Pentecost (Green)  
*Sarah Laughed*  
*Father's Day*  
Pastor Jim preaching and Pastor Jan liturgist  
Organist Audrey Bingaman



June 25                    Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)  
*Daring Discipleship*  
Pastor Jan preaching and liturgist  
Organist Audrey Bingaman

# Our Life Together In Prayer

## Those in Nursing Homes/Assisted Living:

Heritage Springs: Patricia and Robert Seebold

## Family and Friends of those who have died:

Betty Rote, Erlyn Keefer, Larry Smith

## Church Members with Concerns:

Lucille Cope, Donna Sauers, Dale "Pap" Smith, Mary Beckley, Joyce Kratzer, Scott Leitzel, Wilma Leitzel, Linda Walter, Mary Krater, Keith McCool, Nicholas Stamm, Melinda Leitzel, Karen Gemberling



## Friends and Family with Concerns:

Frances Stover, Logan Roush, Kathy Spangler, Craig Stumpff, Cliff Ressler, Charles Knouse, Amanda Galer, Joshua George, Cindy Colyer, Donald Athey, Alfred Powell, Olive Fredrick, Peggy Vipond, John Washburn, Beth Trautman, Pastor Alvin Smith, Tammy Ditty, Hunter Huggins, Charles Ritter, Cris Walter, Jada Ramsey, Carole Ramsey, Sheldon Weller, Lee Spangler, Amber Schlegel, Joey Mazzamuto, Jen Zerbe  
Congregation of Salem Lutheran Church, People of Ukraine

## Around the World and Close to Home:

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

# Our June Birthdays & Anniversaries



- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| June 4 - June Hoot     | June 21 - Irene Kessler |
| June 5 - Cali Camden   | 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 20 - Debra Benfer |                         |



- |  |
|--|
| 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           |

## Our Life Together In Service

### *“Buy Some Shingles” Church Roof Project*

It has come to the attention of our church leaders that a new roof is needed for our beautiful church home. Our dear leaders did their research and received several bids for the project and chose the one they felt would be the best for our building's future generations.



This, of course, involves a significant cost to complete. To help with this expense, we are asking our members to participate in *“Buying Some Shingles”* for the project. Please consider making a donation to help with this much needed project.



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, June 15*. Suggested food items from Emmanuel for the month are canned fruits, spaghetti sauce, soup, and peanut butter. Also the Food Pantry greatly appreciates your monetary contributions as well.

This allows them to purchase other items that are needed. 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*

June's Ladies Night Out is on Wednesday, June 21, at Bread of Life in McAlisterville at 6:00 pm.

We will meet at the church to carpool.

Signup sheet is on the table in the Fellowship room.

Hope to see you there!



## *Fan the Flame – Fully Alive*

***Central Association of the  
Penn Central Conference  
United Church of Christ***



The Central Association is on the path to becoming more Spirit-filled passionate partners in ministry. To “Fan the Flame – Fully Alive” we are going help Church World Services with their “Welcome Backpacks.”

*Church World Services helps people around the world that are forced to leave their home and begin a new life in various parts of the United States. Most of them come with very few possessions. Church World Services provides them with a “Welcome Backpack.”*

As a congregation we have signed up for 3 of each of the following items. If there is anything on this list would like to donate or a monetary donation, please let Pastor Jan know.

### **2.5 Gallon Ziploc Bag with (Each item times 3)**

**Items due by September 10<sup>th</sup>**

- 2 bottles hand sanitizer -2 oz
- 1 Chapstick
- 10 hair ties
- 1 small travel hairbrush
- 4 toothpaste/toothbrush packs
- 3 packs of tissues
- 10 disposable masks
- 1 travel deodorant
- 10 tampons
- 10 sanitary napkins
- 1 pack of cleaning/baby wipes

*Let's Go Camping  
Bible School  
June 20-21-22  
10AM to 11:30AM*



Come join us for a fun filled time exploring several Bible stories. There is a sign-up sheet in the social room.

The deadline for sign-up will be June 4.

*Any questions contact Pastor Jan*



### *Senior Community Luncheon*

Senior Community Luncheon will be on *Thursday, June 22, 2023*, from 11:30 to 2:00 pm. at Emmanuel United Church of Christ. Come socialize with your neighbors and enjoy a "Picnic Lunch" with the "campers" from the Bible School. Friends and neighbors in the New Berlin area and beyond are invited to come and enjoy this time of good food and wonderful fellowships!



Happy Father's Day



*My Father is a Christian by Joanna Fuchs*  
My father is a Christian; He leads our household well;  
With instructions from the Bible, Right behavior he'll compel.

Yet he steers us with compassion; His gentle love is true;  
He conforms to our Lord Jesus, So we know just what to do.

He teaches us with purpose, Guides us in all Godly ways,  
So we will take the right path, And serve our Lord with praise.

I'm glad you're a Christian Dad; You help me see things clearly.  
I'll always look up to you, And love you very dearly!





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 11 at 7:30 p.m.

2023 Emmanuel UCC Church Council

Vicki Benfer - President

Mary Beckley - Vice President

Debra Benfer - Secretary

Audrey Bingaman, Martha Hockenberry, Donnie Sauers, Jill Benfer,

Marie Eberhart, Bill Hauck

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NEW BERLIN, PA

CONSISTORY MEETING - MAY 8, 2023

Attendance: Vicki Benfer, Mary Beckley, Deb Benfer, Martha Hockenberry, Jill Benfer, Audrey Bingaman, Marie Eberhart, Donny Sauers, Bill Hauck, Pastor James Cope, and Pastor Jan Garinger.

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

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the minutes of April 10, 2023, and 2 phone call minutes of April 13, 2023 was made by Bill, seconded by Mary. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the treasurer's report for April 2023 subject to audit was made by Audrey, seconded by Mary. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Roof status - waiting on weather.
2. Handicap parking signs - Donny has them and they will be put up.

New Business:

1. Motion was made by Donny, seconded by Jill to use Building Fund Donations (on our envelopes) as Rainy-Day Fund and now title this Roof Fund until roof goal is reached. Motion carried.
2. Church Office Computer has been updated to Windows 10.
3. Training for AED - Vicki will check with Jared Stumpff (NB Fire Co.) to do this.
4. New Berlin Day 2023 - We will do pie stand with possibly coffee and orangeade but not do soda stand.



5. Pastor Jim's Sabbatical – Motion was made by Bill, seconded by Jill to accept the sabbatical proposal. Motion was then made by Bill, seconded by Jill to rescind the motion on the sabbatical proposal and give it back to the committee to rework and then present it to consistory again. Motion carried.
6. Charter Organization for Boy Scouts – As the church was the charter organization for the boy scouts, items are stored at the church. Motion was made by Audrey, seconded by Marie to donate all scouting items back to the District Boy Scout Council. Motion carried.
7. Memorial Funds – Bill said to use Barb Hauck's \$55.40 for the roof and Deb Benfer said to use Illa Ritter's \$3.00 for the roof. Other memorial funds will be looked at by the committee.

Pastor's Time:

Pentecost Sunday – May 28, 2023 – Communion ushers – Deb, Martha, Donny, and Vicki.

Consistory is on summer break – next meeting will be September 11, 2023.

Motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 9:00pm was made by Bill, seconded by Donny. Motion carried.

Secretary, Debra Benfer

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
NEW BERLIN, PA  
BRIEF AFTER CHURCH CONSISTORY MEETING – MAY 21, 2023

Attendance: Vicki Benfer, Deb Benfer, Martha Hockenberry, Bill Hauck, Donny Sauers, Marie Eberhart, Jill Benfer, Audrey Bingaman, and Pastor James Cope.

Meeting was called to order by President Vicki Benfer to discuss the revised amount of Pastor Jan's salary during Pastor Jim's Sabbatical.

Pastor-Parish Committee corrected the salary amount from a 12-week period to a 14-week period to \$2400 to cover her additional full time (not shared) responsibilities during the sabbatical period.

Motion was made by Donny, seconded by Bill to accept the new proposal as presented by the Pastor-Parish Committee. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Audrey, seconded by Martha. Motion carried.

Secretary, Debra Benfer

## Sabbatical Proposal for Pastor Jim Cope May, 2023

The Pastor-Parish Committee recommends that the New Berlin Emmanuel UCC Church Consistory grant Pastor James Cope a sabbatical leave from June 25 – October 1, 2023. This request is in accordance with Pastor's Cope's original contract, dated January 18, 2015 which states that Emmanuel UCC will

*Grant a sabbatical of three months with full pay after each 5 full years of service.*

The purpose of this sabbatical is to allow Pastor Cope the opportunity to continue his work toward ordination while also permitting a time for reflection. This sabbatical period will be a time of professional development for Pastor Cope; an opportunity to more deeply examine his spiritual journey away from the regular ministerial duties, which he intends to resume in the Fall. As outlined in the contract, this sabbatical will be supported with no change in Pastor Cope's compensation.

During the period of sabbatical leave, we recommend that:

1. Pastor Jan Garinger assumes full pastoral responsibilities, moving from the equally shared roles, currently in place.
2. Pastor Cope continue to meet regularly with the Pastor-Parish Committee, including the period of sabbatical.
3. Pastor Jan be the primary point of contact during this time. However, Pastor Cope will be reachable should any rare, extraordinary circumstances require his attention. The Pastor-Parish Committee asks Consistory and the congregation to respectfully allow Pastor Cope time away from the daily demands of the church.
4. Pastor Jan be compensated an additional \$2400 in recognition for the additional responsibilities that will ensure the uninterrupted operation of the church. Since we are asking Pastor Jan to assume full (and not shared) responsibilities for a 14-week period, we propose to double Pastor Jan's compensation for that period. This amount corresponds to \$2397 and is comparable to the cost of a supply minister of \$175-200, for the 14-week sabbatical period.

The Pastor-Parish Committee believes that these arrangements are agreeable to both Pastor Cope and Pastor Garinger, and recommends to Consistory that they be accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor-Parish Committee  
(Audrey Bingaman, Heather Delp, and Sally Farmer)  
May 5, 2023



## Trinity Sunday

### June 4, 2023

Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost to honor the Holy Trinity—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Although the word “trinity” does not appear in Scripture, it is taught in [Matthew 28:18-20](#) and [2 Corinthians 13:14](#) (and many other biblical passages). The concept of the trinity can never be completely understood or rationalized, but it is clearly taught in Scripture. Understanding of all scriptural doctrine is by faith which comes through the work of the Holy Spirit; therefore, it is appropriate that this mystery is celebrated the first Sunday after Pentecost, when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit first occurred.

On Trinity Sunday, the Christian Church ponders with joy and thanksgiving what the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have done to accomplish the salvation of sinful humanity. It is brought to remembrance how Christians should respond to the love God has shown us, praising Him and giving Him glory. We remember the Father as our Creator, the Son as our Savior and the Holy Spirit as our Comforter. Scriptural readings for the Trinity Sunday ceremony may include [Psalm 8](#), beginning and ending with, “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.” [Second Corinthians 13:11-13](#) appeals to believers to aim for perfection and live in peace, ending with the prayer that the grace of Christ Jesus, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all, including again the commission Jesus left for believers in [Matthew 28:16-20](#).

Today, Trinity Sunday is to explain, to the best of man’s ability, the clues written in Scripture to guide us to a fuller understanding of our triune God. The Father is God from the beginning ([John 1:1](#)); Jesus revealed Himself as equal to the Father in [John 10:30](#), “I and the Father are one.” Together, they sent the Holy Spirit ([John 14:26](#)). “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” ([Matthew 28:19](#)). [<https://www.gotquestions.org/Trinity-Sunday.html>]



**Yard Sale Recap** – Thanks for a successful yard sale! The church made \$1,082 plus. Leftover items went to Community Aid bins, Christian Aid shed at Wenger’s parking lot and women’s dresses/suits to Dress for Success in Wilkes-Barre.

There are 2 sets of World Book Encyclopedia and a set of World of Science books, all are free to anyone who use them. ~~ submitted by 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