

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.

May 2023

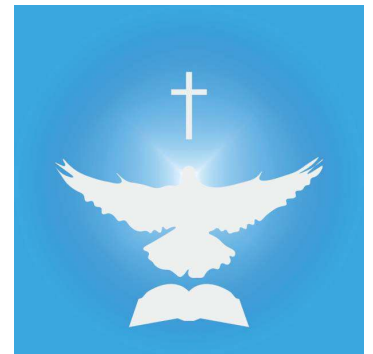
A Message from Pastor Jim

The month of May holds yet another “big day” in the church calendar. May 28th is Pentecost Sunday...the day the Holy Spirit is wind swept into our lives. It is truly a glorious worship celebration...you won't want to miss it!

Just a few years ago (HA HA) when I attended Ursinus College, I was a member of a singing group known as the Meistersingers. Every spring we would tour around one part of our great nation singing in churches and sharing amazing pieces of music with these folks who were willing and always eager to host us. One year we sang an arrangement of a very favorite spiritual of mine...“Every Time I Feel the Spirit.”

The refrain goes like this...Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray. Yes every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray. It is a snappy, foot tapping kind of song that makes you...well it makes you want to move!

At our last consistory meeting, it was noted that I have been your pastor officially since January of 2015! I was quite amazed when I realized just how long we have been together! It has been an amazing portion of my life and I love being your pastor. I must admit to you, though, that the Spirit has been moving me...moving me to the next step in my ministerial journey.



That next step would be ordainment. I have been having this keen awareness that God is still speaking to me...still calling me to this next step.

In order for this to happen, what I truly need is time...precious time to reminisce about where I have been on this journey and where I am headed. Precious time to let the Spirit work within me...time to listen to God...time to pray with God...time to learn and experience how I can best serve God in the coming years.

I will be meeting with our Pastor/Parish committee very soon as well as the Consistory to seek their approval and blessing for a time of sabbatical leave during the summer. This will allow me that time to think and begin the necessary steps to put the process in motion.

You will be in the very capable hands of Pastor Jan while I am away, and you all have a very important part in this process. I ask each one of you to hold me in prayer as I take this very spiritual step of self-examination to continue the journey that God has placed in my heart.

I will not be far and I know Jan will keep me alerted to all the happenings of our beloved congregation.

The Spirit is moving in my heart.

Help me to pray,
Pastor Jim



**All of them were
filled with
the Holy Spirit!**
Acts 2.4

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.

- May 7 Fifth Sunday in Easter (White)
Enduring Witness
Pastor Jan preaching and liturgist
Organist Audrey Bingaman
- May 14 Sixth Sunday of Easter (White)
Witness of Love
Pastor Jim preaching and Pastor Jan liturgist
Organist Audrey Bingaman
Social time following worship - Hosted by Audrey Bingaman
- May 21 Seventh Sunday of Easter (White)
Spirit of Witness
Pastor Jim preaching and liturgist
Organist Audrey Bingaman
- May 28 Pentecost Sunday (Red)
Pastor Jim preaching and Pastor Jan 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:

James Sauers, Jo Miller, Rita Tinnes, Lisa Hassenplug, Sandy Ritter, Gene Keister, Frank Fetter, Quentin Dorman, Kelsey Bush, Mary Alice Diehl

Church Members with Concerns:

Lucille Cope, Donna Sauers, Dale "Pap" Smith, Jessica Neidig, Mary Beckley, Donny Sauers, Joyce Kratzer, Robert Brown

Friends and Family with Concerns:

Frances Stover, Logan Roush, Kathy Spangler, Craig Stumpff, Cliff Ressler, Charles Knouse, Amanda Galer, Joshua George, Polly Anderson, Cindy Colyer, Donald Athey, Todd Aungst, Alfred Powell, Olive Fredrick, Sybil Spotts, Peggy Vipond, John Washburn, Beth Trautman, Pastor Alvin Smith, Tammy Ditty, Hunter Huggins, Charles Ritter, Chris Walter, Jada Ramsey, Carole Ramsey, Sheldon Weller, 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 May Birthdays & Anniversaries



May 1 - Jan Garinger
May 10 - Raejean Hummel
May 11 - Elaine Moyer
May 19 - Debra Brown

May 24 - Elmer Maurer
May 25 - Timothy Leitzel
May 28 - Gregory Bingaman
May 29 - Grace Hockenberry



May 6 - Chris & Jamie Ray
May 7 - Donny & Donna Sauers

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, May 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.

New Berlin Community Yard Sales Friday May 5th and Saturday, May 6th

Emmanuel UCC will be having a yard sale with the New Berlin community on Friday May 5 and Saturday May 6.

The “Kitchen Ladies” will also be having a Soup Sale, Bake Sale, Food Stand those days.

Donations are needed of yard sale items and baked goods. Please see Debbie Benfer or Karen Gemberling to volunteer to help those days. There will also be signup sheets in the Fellowship room at Church. Please sign up to help if you can.





Ladies Night Out

May's Ladies Night Out is on Tuesday, May 16, at Amato's in Selinsgrove at 6:00 pm. Signup sheet is on the table in the Fellowship room. Hope to see you there!

*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

The Greatest Treasure ~ Ron Hatcher

The greatest treasure in the world is not found beneath the earth.
It's bounty has been with me all my life from the very moment of my birth.
When opened, there is no gold or silver and it isn't hard to find.
It comes with unconditional love and gives me a piece of mind.
When times are tough and I get down, it's the treasure I was given
That gently smiles and always says I love you and you're forgiven.
I wonder how she always knew what I was feeling everyday.
And when she held me in her arms knowing just the right words to say.
Yes, the greatest treasure in the world could only come from God above.
It is the tender, gentle heart that is my mother's love.



We feature in our newsletter this month a very special drawing by Vanessa Leitzel. Her artwork features the Good Friday depiction of Jesus suffering on the cross and its shadow. It reminded me a favorite poem I read years ago that I share with you to accompany Vanessa's very introspective depiction.

We want to share your resurrection glory. We want to be part of the resurrection story.

But the cost for us seems much too high.

We don't want to suffer and die.

You overcame temptation and hate.

Your love for us determined your fate.

How can we understand love so strong

Love that brought death for doing no wrong.

Hosannas were heard when they came to greet you.

Palm branches waved as they came to meet you.

But this earthly praise would not last long.

And soon they'd sing a very different song.

Your blood was spilled. Your body broken.

"King of the Jews," in derision spoken.

They nailed you to a cross on a hill.

You died. The heavens roared. Then t was still.

They placed you in a tomb that day.

But angels rolled the stone away.

And when the women sought you there.

They were distraught and in despair.

When you were not found in the tomb that morn.

The disciples scattered, lost and forlorn. Then they saw you, but didn't understand. Not even when they touched your wounded hand.

You suffered and died that we might live

You gave everything you had to give,

But hatred and death would not triumph o'er love.

You were resurrected and returned to God above.

Now let us remember all the year through

That your love was not meant for just a few.

It's our duty and privilege to share it with all

Until that day when we receive heaven's call.

We get weighed down with our own stones and crosses.

We make money and possessions our lords and bosses.

Free our hearts for love as we tell everyone

We have been saved by the resurrection of God's Son. (Mary Taylor)

Baking Resurrection Rolls for Easter is a creative way to tell the story of Jesus's burial and resurrection. Here's the recipe and the story to tell while assembling the rolls. Enjoy and have fun celebrating the truth that our Savior is risen!

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

2 cans of crescent rolls
16 large marshmallows
½ C melted butter
¼ C granulated sugar
2 TBSP cinnamon



The story (*Note: you may want to modify for younger children*)

Jesus is God's son who was sent to earth to pay the price for our sin. He never sinned. The white of this marshmallow represents the purity and sin-free nature of Christ.

After Jesus died his body was prepared for burial. After he was buried, his friends prepared him to be buried with oil and spices. Dip the marshmallow in butter, then in sugar and cinnamon.

Jesus was wrapped in linen and placed in a tomb with a large rock rolled in front. Wrap the marshmallow in one triangle of dough covering it completely like a ball (rock).

Complete the process for all 16 triangles and marshmallows.

Place in the oven for 10-12 minutes.

Allow rolls to cool. Say after 3 days, his friends went to visit the tomb but the rock was rolled away and two angels said, "why are you looking for the living among the dead?"

Reveal that when you cut open a roll or take a bite that the marshmallow has disappeared, leaving an empty "tomb."

Remind children that the rolls are sweet just like the love God has for us.



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 May 8 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 - APRIL 13, 2023

Conducted by phone: Mary Beckley, Vice President contacted members Deb Benfer, Jill Benfer, Marie Eberhart, Donny Sauers, Bill Hauck, Martha Hockenberry, Audrey Bingaman concerning \$100 gifts for Scott Benfer, Ellen Benfer, and Vicki Benfer in appreciation for their sound system and media coverage of our church services. Unanimous vote was obtained. Motion carried.

THANK YOU, SCOTT, ELLEN, AND VICKI FOR YOUR SERVICES.

Secretary, Debra Benfer

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NEW BERLIN, PA

CONSISTORY - APRIL 13, 2023

Conducted by phone: Vicki Benfer, President contacted members Deb Benfer, Mary Beckley, Jill Benfer, Marie Eberhart, Bill Hauck, Martha Hockenberry, Audrey Bingaman concerning a gift for Donny Sauers for snow/ice removal this past winter. Vote was taken to give Donny \$100 for this work. Unanimously passed. Motion carried.

THANK YOU, DONNY FOR YOUR SERVICES.

Secretary, Debra Benfer

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NEW BERLIN, PA
CONSISTORY MEETING - APRIL 10, 2023

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

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

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the minutes of March 13, and March 19 (after church) was made by Audrey, seconded by Donny. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the treasurer's report of March 2023 subject to audit was made by Jill, seconded by Bill. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Roof Repair - Bill stated that work could possibly begin end of April beginning of May
2. Handicap Parking - Donny received permission to put (2) additional handicap signs up. He will check in stores to find the signs.
3. Personnel Committee - Will consist of Sally Farmer, Mary Beckley, and Martha Hockenberry. Motion to accept these members to form this committee was made by Bill, seconded by Marie. Motion carried.
4. Altar Flowers - Checked out different flower vendors for prices. Motion was made to get them from Steins at \$50.00 (no delivery fee) by Mary, seconded by Jill. Motion carried.

New Business:

Mulch is coming - Getting it from Boop, Kratzerville (full load - 8 scoops for \$360)

Pastor's Time:

1. Lenten services went good (Brunch, Palm Sunday, and Easter)
2. In worship baptism service April 23rd for Kennedy and Sebastian Leitzel.
3. The first Senior Soup Luncheon went well. There were 25 in attendance. Next one is April 27th.

Motion to adjourn at 8:25pm with the Lord's Prayer was made by Bill, seconded by Audrey.

Secretary, Debra Benfer

Getting to Know You

Our monthly series continues as we feature one of our congregation, Lucille Cope

Name: Lucille Cope

Occupation (If you are retired what did you do for a living?)
Pastor's wife

What is the favorite place that you ever traveled?
Nova Scotia

What is your favorite Bible verse?

Psalm 23 -- He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

What is your favorite memory at Emmanuel?

The loving people of Emannuel.

If you could have an endless supply anything, what would it be?

Lobster tail

What is your hidden talent?

No hidden talent - just enjoying word puzzles and my grandchildren!

A Memorial Day Prayer

As our nation pauses today to remember those in the military who have given their lives for freedoms we enjoy, we pray you would have us all look to you for strength, comfort and guidance.

Be with all who serve in our Armed Forces. Bless them and their families.

Grant your loving protection. Let peace prevail among all the nations, O God. Especially let your mercy rest upon our land, even as we acknowledge with thanksgiving your past goodness on this country.

If it is your will, preserve the lives of the men and women in uniform as they defend our citizenry.

Most of all, we pray that you would turn the hearts of all - military and civilian - to your holy Word where we find the true peace for our sinful souls that surpasses all understanding. Keep us repentant of sin. Move us to know, take hold and treasure your saving grace. In this peace and hope for eternity, we pray. - *Author Unknown*





Emmanuel United Church of Christ

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

Church email: newberlinucc@windstream.net

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