

FEBRUARY
2010

the messenger

“
God
is still
speaking,

Emmanuel Congregational United Church of Christ

Lenten Bible Study

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 17th this year. I will be leading a Lenten Bible study using the book; “Gospel Lives: Encounter with Jesus.” This book will allow us to meet New Testament individuals who heard Jesus speak a word about their life. We will have the opportunity to study how their responses differed. Some responded with joy and gratitude, while others ignored or rejected his word to them. This is a six week study with daily reading which includes: scripture, exploration of the biblical witness, prayer and a call to encounter Jesus Christ yourself.

Hopefully, this will give us a format to center our lives on Christ during this holy season while exploring on a deeper level what it means to hear and respond to Christ’s word.

We will meet Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room next to the library. Please let Sue know if you plan on participating so she can order a book for you. Call her during morning hours at the church office at 769-8523 or email her at ecucc@verizon.net. You can also let me know, by calling evenings at 769-6900.

If you cannot participate in this, please look for others ways to carve out time for self-reflection, prayer and study of scripture during the 40 days of lent. I pray it is a time for you to deepen your relationship with God and gain spiritual strength and peace.

May God bless you on the journey this season.

Blessings,

Pastor Judy



Winter’s quiet majesty reigns over the North Country,
reminding us of God’s awesome creation.

From Your Executive Council

Executive Council met on Sunday, January 10th, following worship, with nine council members and Pastor Judy in attendance.

Judy reported that we are still working on our audio/visual system. She worked with Tom Manley and Darryl Helms on Friday. Lori and Terry will be sharing the responsibility of the control board.

It was mentioned that we need more diversity on our Missions Committee, with possibly a congregation-wide meeting to decide the structure. The Missions Committee welcomes all who are interested. There will be a monthly Missions meeting the same Sunday as Executive Council. Currently we are donating \$200 to the Neighborhood Center Food Pantry, \$1000 to Church World Services, \$1000-\$1500 to Habitat for Humanity, \$1000 to The Free Clinic, \$500 to Sarish's Children's Home in India, \$300 to Prison Ministry. It was noted that half of all our Missions donations stays in the Massena area.

We are in the process of signing a 5-year contract with Headstart for the use of the CE Building. Once this is signed, Headstart will be responsible for paying the utility bills. Then Vance will start renovations. Headstart will not start paying monthly rent until they are operating in the building.

Barb will be meeting with Norberta to update a list of volunteers for Sunday School teachers.

The Trustees have approved the purchase of 27 storm windows for the church basement at a cost of \$4720. They also reported that we have chosen Preferred Mutual as Emmanuel's new insurance company. Victor has temporarily fixed a leakage problem in the Bell Tower. It will need more work in the spring and we need volunteers for this.

Massena Electric put a monitor on our service to determine the reason for the dimming lights. They say that the problem is on their end but that it's within an allowable range. Judy will contact Bob Farrington &/or Chuck Rawlins for an objective opinion of why this is happening and whether there is a risk of damage to our new equipment.

It has been brought to our attention that plaques are missing from the old Guild Room. These will need to be located or replaced. Lori suggested making a video inventory of the new building.

Margaret reported the Harold Burdick would like to have Beulah Taylor's Bible placed on the altar.

New Executive Council nominees are George Brouse, Linda Lakins, and Chris Szarka.

The Building Usage Policy was read and discussed. It now will go to Trustees for tweaking and approval.

The next Executive Council Meeting is scheduled for Feb. 7th, 2010.

Respectively Submitted,

Sally Gleason, Church Clerk

Big Thanks and Congratulations

At our Annual Meeting we elected three new Executive Council members: George Brouse, Linda Lakins, and Chris Szarka. Many thanks for being willing to serve.

Great thanks are in order for the three members whose terms expired. Margaret Disotell and Nola Martin who also served on the Trustees and Sharon Neault, who served as Council Moderator, led this church through the very difficult time of reconstructing our church building.

Thanks also to all of you who attended the meeting and helped in passing a difficult budget and who expressed, yet again, their faith that God is Still Speaking at Emmanuel!

Help us in Using the Church Building

Everyone is excited to be back 'home' in our own building. With the excitement comes the want/need to use this grand building as much and as often as possible.

To make sure rooms are not double booked and to help maintain a cleaning schedule (because we want to keep our new place in tip-top shape) we are requiring all groups/organizations (Emmanuel, Women's Fellowship, outside groups, etc.) to check w/the church office when you need to use a room(s). Please be specific in what room(s) you need and keep in mind if you decide you need more space to check with the office first. Thank you for understanding and helping us maintain our building.

From Your Church's Past

Margaret Disotell shares this piece, an excerpt from an article about Dr. Josiah Grinnell, 1815-1813, who was a member of the Second Congregational Church, which later became Emmanuel Congregational .

“The best insight into his character may be found in what he wrote in his diary under the date of Oct. 19, 1858. ‘This day, the Sabbath, has been an important day with me. Today, I have been ordained deacon of the Second Congregational Church; an official member of the Church of God!!! What a thought! A sinful man that I am, to occupy such a position. My only hope is in God my Saviour. The condition of the church and the cause of Christ demand that I should take the place. Alas! How little we know of the future. How distant from my mind was such a state of things when I came to this town, or that I could ever assume the duties of such an office. Surely there is a divinity that moulds our destiny. Oh that my prayer, that I may be useful in the Church of God, may be heard in heaven.’”

Upcoming Events

Wed.	Feb. 3	Floors in Community Room and Kitchen will be waxed so do not use lower level - thanks.
Sun.	Feb. 7	12:30 Council meets
Sun.	Feb. 14	12:30 Trustees meet
		UCC Women's Week begins
Mon.	Feb. 15	Holiday - Church offices closed
Wed.	Feb. 17	7:30 Ash Wednesday Service
Tue.	Feb. 23	7:00 Lenten Bible Study begins
Sat.	Feb. 27	12:00 - 6:00 Private party in Community Room (Kitchen will also be used)

Weekly Events

Sundays	11:00	Worship Service
Tuesdays	10:15	“Praying w/Scriptures” in Church Multi-Purpose Room #1
	7:00	Prayer Team
Wednesdays	6:00	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30	...at the well

Announcements

Prayer Team

During Lent the Prayer Team will become a Lenten Bible Study. It is open to all and will meet on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. from February 23rd through Easter. Please let Sue know if you plan on participating so she can order a book for you. Call her during morning hours at the church office at 769-8523 or email her at ecucc@verizon.net.

Want to Become a Member of Emmanuel!?!?

Just ask Pastor Judy and she'll be happy to explain!

At the Well

We invite you to join us ...at the well, every Wednesday at 7:30 pm, in alternative worship to share in a “sense” of God. All are welcome!

Listening for the Word of God

Join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:15 in the Church Multi-Purpose Room #1 as Rev. Gen Dox, leads us in listening for the Word of God.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is looking for volunteers for their Skate-A-Thon fundraiser, Saturday, February 6 from 1pm to 2 pm at the St. Lawrence Centre Mall Ice Arena. If you would like to volunteer, please let Nola know.

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be on the Prayer Chain or if you have prayers to add, please call Nola Martin at 769-2005 or email her at nolak@twcny.rr.com

Donations for Food Pantry

There is a basket in the entry way for donations of non-perishable food items which are taken to the food pantry at the Massena Neighborhood Center. Donations of non-food items are also needed. Thank you!

Coffee Hours

The “Cow Can” at the Coffee Hour is for donations to buy supplies for the weekly Coffee Hours. Also, we need people to sign up for a turn at hosting a Coffee Hour. The Sign Up Sheet is in the Fellowship Hall and there is a “To Do List” in the kitchen tells you what's required.



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Emmanuel Congregational **United Church of Christ**
39 West Orvis Street
Massena, NY 13662

www.uccmassena.org



“Never place a period where God has put a comma”

- Gracie Allen



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