

Emmanuel Congregational United Church of Christ

Your Journey

I once read that; "Our spiritual journey is not our setting out to find God [...] It is a journey of learning to yield ourselves to God and discovering where God will take us." (from "Invitation to a Journey" by Robert Mulholland Jr., p. 32) This is almost the reverse that we envision when thinking about a spiritual journey. The use of the word "journey" implies the person on the journey is the one who is moving, or doing the action. Instead, think about yielding yourself to God and allowing God to take you on the journey. Most people strive to have some control in their lives however I invite you to think about letting go – or losing control.

So often we struggle with trusting God. Mulholland recommends that we bring ourselves to a "point of relinquishing to God our control of our relationship with God." (p. 137) As Holy Week approaches, pray about those places in your life that you feel God inviting you to loosen your grip and relinquish control. You will be pleasantly surprised to see where God will lead you.

May God bless you this Easter season,

Pastor Judy

Holy Week Schedule

If you would like to place a spring plant on the altar for Easter please have your information in the church office by Wed., March 31. Please do not place anything on the altar until after Good Friday. Thank you.

Maundy Thursday – April 1 – 6:00 Seder Dinner - We will once again participate in a traditional Seder Meal in the Community Room. The meal will be prepared in the Jewish tradition and consist of chicken, vegetables, salads and special desserts. In order to know how many to prepare the meal for, there will be a sign up sheet made available or you may call the church office (769-8523) to let the committee know the number of people attending from your family. A free will offering will be taken that evening to help cover the cost of the food.

Good Friday – April 2 – 7:00 worship service - (Our sanctuary will be open during the day for quiet meditation)

Easter Sunday – April 4 – 11:00 - Morning service will be broadcast LIVE on 1340 WMSA Radio. Easter dinner after worship – please sign the sheet on table at the back of the sanctuary-please designate what you will bring-you may also RSVP at the church office @ 769-8523.



Emmanuel Donates to the Free Clinic

Norma Stone, member of the Mission Committee, presented a \$1,000 check to Marrell D'ariento, RN, Massena Free Clinic. Mary Ellen Colby & Chris Hamel, volunteers.

Covered Dish Luncheons

We have begun to have Covered Dish Luncheons on the last Sunday of each month following worship. Also, at that time we will celebrate each month's birthdays with a cake. HOWEVER - some months that date may change due to events or holidays but we will announce changes of dates in advance.

In April (the 25th), we will not be having the covered dish luncheon as that will be a very special day for our church family!! Pastor Judy will be ordained that day and a supper will be held in her honor following the late afternoon ceremony. **BUT** - we will celebrate the April birthdays with a cake during Coffee/Fellowship Hour following worship on the 25th!!

Upcoming Events

Thur.	Apr. 1	Maundy Thursday - 6:00 Seder Dinner – please RSVP
Fri.	Apr. 2	Good Friday - Church open all day for quiet meditation 7:00 Worship Service
Sun.	Apr. 4	Easter - Dinner after 11:00 service - RSVP & bring dish to share
Sun.	Apr. 11	9:30 Trustees meet 12:30 Executive Council meets after fellowship time
Wed.	Apr. 14	1:00 Friends' Study Group meets in Library
Fri.	Apr. 16	7:00 Dedicatory Organ Concert
Sun.	Apr. 18	Spring Fling Breakfast
Sun.	Apr. 25	3:00 Pastor Judy's Ordination followed by a dinner
Thu. - Sat.	Apr. 29	2010 UCC NY Women's Annual Conference @ Watson Homestead in Painted Post, NY

Weekly Events

Sundays	11:00	Worship Service
Tuesdays	10:15	"Praying w/Scriptures" in Church Multi-Purpose Room #1
	7:00	Lenten Bible Study
Wednesdays	6:00	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30	...at the well

Baptism Mar. 21 Drew Michael, son of Nathan and Christina Smutz and brother of Tyler & Jacob

New Members

Jim & Evelyn Hume
Nathan & Christina Smutz
Lynn Smutz
Jung-Ae Choi
Mary Ann VanBuskirk
R. Glenn Jacks

Birthdays We would like to gather the birth dates of our church family so that we may honor those celebrating birthdays each month!! There are birthday sign up sheets for each month of the year in the Community Room so if you haven't already done so - please sign up on your birth month! The monthly birthdays will be recognized during our monthly Covered Dish Luncheon or Coffee Hour following worship and will also appear each month in the Messenger. We are hoping to develop a birthday calendar so that everyone has a copy!

Jan. 4	Alexis Neault	Mar. 19	Eunice Shippee
Jan. 9	Rande Ashley	Mar. 20	Morgan DuBray
Jan. 14	Arlene & Armand Rivers	Mar. 22	Linda Tuper
		Mar. 26	Roger Martin
Feb. 3	Bill Shippee	Mar. 27	David Peterson
Feb. 6	Ellen Raymond	Mar. 30	Victor Ashley
Feb. 15	Rick Stone	Mar. 30	Robert Mulvaugh
Feb. 27	Jeff Stone		
		Apr. 4	Ruth Wheeler
Mar. 3	Sharon Neault	Apr. 5	Janet Peterson
Mar. 7	Austin Plante	Apr. 7	Christine Neault
Mar. 8	Jean LeBoeuf	Apr. 9	Deb Beaulieu
Mar. 11	Gary Van Kennen	Apr. 29	Norma Stone
Mar. 13	Mark Crosby	Apr. 29	Eula Colby
Mar. 15	Sharmela Garcia-Martin		



From Your Executive Council

Executive Council met on Sunday, February 8, 2010, following worship with five council members and Pastor Judy and four others in attendance.

Missions: Gary Van Kennen reported contributions to: Adult Free Clinic, Habitat for Humanity, Kairos, Church World Service (water wheel), Relay for Life, Sinsh's Ministry, and AIDS Outreach.

Worship: Many hours go into preparing the power point videos. We need to get a better handle on how to use our multi-media resources. Gotta Dance is performing Palm Sunday. Holy Week –Seder dinner April 1 @ 6 p.m. and Good Friday evening service @ 7 p.m.

Christian Education Building: Asbestos abatement is to be done on flooring & boiler has developed a problem. The CO2 level out of chimney was a problem. We may need to buy a new heating system.

Christian Education: The toddler room was opened March 14 and we had 2 attend. Care is given by 2 young people being paid \$10 each. We need to develop a way to get donations for this room.

Women's Fellowship: Eunice Shippee reported their Bylaws have been updated. Dates for spring events: World Day of Prayer-March 19 @ FUMC, Spring Fling Breakfast-April 18, Rummage Sale-May 6 & 7, UCCNY Women Annual Conference-April 29 thru May 2, fall retreat-September 25.

Deacons: Workshop was attended by 12 people and they plan to have another meeting with interested people.

Trustees: Electrical bill was higher than expected & Massena Electric has put a second line into the building. Alltech had to come back because the fire alarm system was malfunctioning. Linda filled in for Sue, which was greatly appreciated. Ron suggested floor runners are needed to collect some of the dirt. Water problems are improving with work on the bell tower but there is more work to be done when weather is warmer.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Judy reported on Holy Week events. Bible study on Tuesday night has been well attended and enjoyed by all. A long discussion was held on how to recognize the donations of specific items to the rebuilding of the church. The old plaques were found and we need to decide how they should be displayed. More discussion is needed.

New Business: The Organ Dedicatory Concert has been scheduled for 7 p.m. on April 16 followed by a reception afterwards. Pastor Judy's ordination is 3 p.m. April 25. Gen Dox explained we were hosting the service for Judy's ordination, followed by a dinner. We need to plan a gift for Judy. Formal invitations w/ RSVP are being sent out.

Respectively Submitted, Barbara Sanford

Announcements

11 AM Sunday worship services broadcast LIVE on 1340 WMSA Radio during April

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.

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.

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.

APRIL
2010

the messenger

Emmanuel Congregational **United Church of Christ**
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www.uccmassena.org



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

- Gracie Allen



God
is still
speaking,