

# **The Latch – October 2020** **Emmanuel United Church of Christ** **Valley City, Ohio**

## **Indoor Worship**

Autumn is here, and Church Council has been working with Pastor Brian to develop plans for indoor worship at Emmanuel. Copies of the plan were emailed last week, and distributed to those attending worship on Sunday.

Please understand that this is a work in progress, and that we will need to tweak our worship practices on a week-by-week basis as circumstances and weather dictate. We hope to continue with outdoor services for as many weeks into October as possible. Please direct any questions you may have about this to Jill Morton.

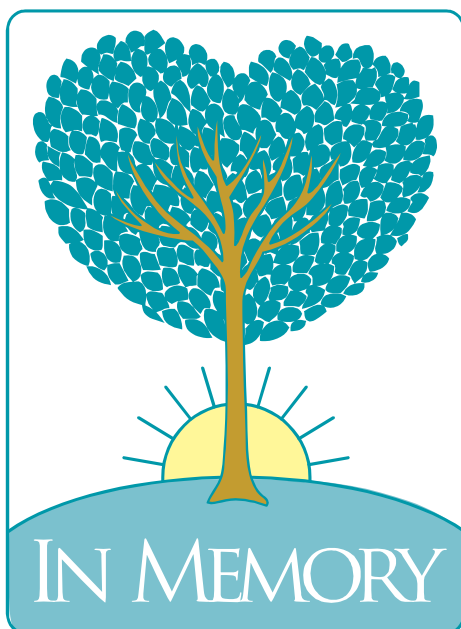
## **Annual Traditions**

The Fellowship and Missions committees are making plans to carry on with many of EUCC's annual traditions in new ways that will be safe for all involved. For example, a group will gather at the church to pass out candy on Halloween. Details will be shared as the time gets closer.

A collection "in the spirit" of a Mitten Tree will also be held soon – we will let everyone know when it is organized. The Lodi Family Center is in need of mittens, gloves, hats and socks. Understanding that many people are not out shopping this year as usual, we will of course welcome monetary donations that can be used to purchase needed items.

## **Hope in the Promise**

We hold fast to the promise of the Resurrection as we remember Lori Hemeyer, who went home to the Lord on September 21, 2020.



A memorial service was held at Emmanuel on Sunday, October 4. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lori's family and dear friends.

## **A Note of Thanks**

The following was received recently:

*We appreciate the kind thoughts, beautiful cards, and memorial contributions from our friends and church family at Emmanuel. The years spent with you bring us cherished memories. Syl's happiest times were singing with Bill Davidson [whose death] was a great loss to Emmanuel.*

*In Christian Love, The Balash Family*

## **From Pastor Brian's Desk – October 2020**

As I was driving from Wellington to Valley City on Monday morning, I compared my new eastbound drive to the familiar one from Wellington to Amherst that had been my northbound trek for the past four years. Many parts of the drive were similar – thriving farmland on both sides of the road with corn and beans starting to brown, a community to pass through (the city of Oberlin to the north, the traffic circle of Litchfield to the east), and about 25 minutes of listening to the car radio or making phone calls.

I also thought about the differences. Going to Amherst, there was one practical route – drive straight north on Route 58, turn left at the Dairy Queen, and then take a couple of half-right turns to the church. Coming to Valley City there are options: I could go north out of Wellington to 303 and come straight across, or I could go east on 18 and take one of many roads north – 301, Indian Hollow, 83, Station, 252, and so on.

And coming to Valley City in the morning hours, the sun is in my eyes.

Whether one's journey follows a straight line or offers a number of different paths, our Christian faith tells us that we have one ultimate end point that is found in Jesus Christ. In terms of my driving destinations, that is what the two congregations in Amherst represented, and that is what the congregation at EUCC represents.

Our interim time together will be a time of discerning what God has in store for the church today, and we will explore different routes to get us to an understanding of what God is calling us to be as we approach our 183<sup>rd</sup> year of ministry in Valley City.

One of those explorations is the transition from a full-time pastor to a part-time pastor, and my interim work will model how that might work. I will be working for the church on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in addition to Sunday morning.

Please know, however, that when pastoral needs arise such as a personal crisis, hospitalization, imminent death, or other unforeseen life circumstances, I am available to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Do not hesitate to contact my cell phone at 440.225.4458. While there is a tendency to say, "We shouldn't bother the pastor with this", know that this pastor cannot support you if he doesn't know that support is needed. So please – "bother" me with these needs!

I look forward to coming to know you as individuals and as a congregation as together we encounter God in our midst and engage in the ministry that expresses our love for God and our love for our neighbors – no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Brian



## **Special Occasions & Dates**

### **October Birthdays**

Jim Phillips 10/1  
Grace Hammon 10/3  
Barb Mack 10/4  
Maureen Webber 10/4  
James Schneider 10/6  
Lois Jacoby 10/7  
Bill Hunter 10/19  
Diane McCullough 10/21  
Donna Watson Vaughn 10/21  
Cheryl Furfaro 10/21  
Antoinette Valente 10/23  
Scott Salzman 10/23  
Ava Piovarchy 10/28  
Bill Schneider 10/31

### **October Anniversaries**

Dan & Peggy McMullen 10/4  
Ken & Marilyn Kessler 10/8  
Chris & Denise Piovarchy 10/13  
George & Linda Polansky 10/22

### **Congregational Meeting**

#### **October 25, 2020**

A congregational meeting will take place following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect Council Members for 2021.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Church Council: Tuesday 10/20 @ 7:00 PM  
Property Committee: Monday 10/26 @ 6:00

### **Living Water Association: Streams of Connection Newsletter**

The Living Water Association (Northeast Ohio UCC) publishes a great weekly newsletter that offers spiritual support, news, and other information. Go to [livingwaterone.org](http://livingwaterone.org) and look for the box that says Streams of Connection, or click here to go to the most recent issue:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Streams-of-Connection.html?soid=1111414231978&aid=NtuewduZTUs>.



Pastor Brian is normally in on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. (It's best to call him in advance.) The church office is typically staffed at these times:

Tuesday	8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Thursday	8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Friday	8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Anyone entering the building during office hours is asked to stop by the office so we know who is here! Per State of Ohio COVID-19 recommendations, a mask/face covering should be worn at all indoor locations except where people live.

Please wear a mask unless you are working alone in a room. THANK YOU!

## Farewell Sunday & Luncheon

We were blessed with lovely weather and a large number of people came to celebrate with Pastor Bert on his last Sunday at Emmanuel. Below are some pictures from the morning, courtesy of Gretchen Checkelsky.



"Dear Family of Emmanuel United Church of Christ,

Thank you for making my retirement day memorable and joyous with all your love, support, kindness and thoughtful retirement gifts. In the midst of these strange and shadowy coronavirus times your best still shined through. Everything was perfect. A day that will be remembered and storied.

And, thank you for honoring Elizabeth in the celebration with gifts of gratitude. The lilac is in its new home along our back-yard fence.

Emmanuel, as well as Elizabeth and I, are beginning new, Spirit-led journeys. For all of us it is as the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:12 (from The Message),

*"We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!"*

Thank you for our amazing, grace-filled 10-year journey together! We know we'll see you again 'before the cows come home!'"

Blessings and prayers, Pastor Bert & Elizabeth