

# The Messenger

JUNE 2015

## “fruit of the Spirit”

We are now in the season of Pentecost. It is a time that we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the body of Christ.

The gifts that the Holy Spirit gives are sometimes referred to as the "fruit of the Spirit." Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a person remains in me and I in them, they will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." Think now for a minute about the sorts of fruit you might bear. Love? Joy? Patience? Kindness?



Perhaps your fruit might not be the sort of thing you would think of as actually being fruit. It might be exotic or it might be mundane. Maybe it's making meals for others, providing a listening ear or sharing computer skills with others. What do you do that makes life a little sweeter for others?

You might be feeling a little fruitless at the moment. Or like you used to bear fruit in the past, yet somehow you're feeling a bit dry and uninspired. Or maybe you want to grow some new fruits. Jesus compared God to the gardener who prunes the fruit tree to bear more fruit. Are there any branches of your life that seem to be going nowhere, projects you should be cutting back on? These might just need to grow a little more, or need a little more patience and love. Or maybe it's time for something new. Ask God to prompt you now, to show you the difference. Where should you be shedding old branches, old projects, and beginning new ones?

Where should you just be asking him for more help to grow, and patience to wait for the growth to happen? Ask God to send the Holy Spirit to inspire you and bring new fruit to your life now.

Be blessed,  
Pastor Judy

***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”***

**- Galatians 5:22-23**

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## Save the Date

Emmanuel’s annual picnic will be on Sunday, July 19th. The event will take place at the home of Mary Jo Fairbanks who has once again graciously agreed to host us. Additional information and details will be forthcoming as the event gets closer. Rev. Freeman Palmer will also be preaching that day during the morning worship service.

*“And so we know and rely on the love god has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God and God in him.”  
- 1 John 4:16*

## Submit Your Photos and more...

Did you recently take some pictures at an Emmanuel event or gathering? Do you have an event coming up or information you would like disseminated to the overall Church group? If so, send it along to be included in the next edition of the newsletter and/or put on our website. Pictures and information can be submitted via email to Matt LeBire,



## Thoughts for our Journey (from ucc.org)



“Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold...”

Philemon 1:8

**The apostle Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.”**

**With persistent and faithful prayer, it is surprising just what can be accomplished in spite of the odds.**

**You are never alone.**

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## Ecumenical Service - July 5th

Emmanuel Congregational will be hosting an ecumenical service on Sunday, July 5th. Our brothers and sisters in Christ from Grace United & First United Methodists will join us at our normal worship time, 11am. A 'picnic menu' lunch will be served following worship. Brenda Seguin is coordinating the lunch and will be announcing details and calls for help in the coming days. If you are interested in helping or would like more information

## 'Friends Together' - Bible Study

Excerpts taken from [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) - weekly bible study

**Prayer:** God of judgment and mercy, when we hide ourselves in shame, you seek us out in love. Grant us the fullness of your forgiveness, that as one people, united by your grace, we may stand with Christ against the powers of evil. Amen.

**Focus Reading:** John 15:9-17

And the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" ó for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Additional Readings: 1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20 with Psalm 138, Genesis 3:8-15 with Psalm 130

Focus Questions:

1. What do you think motivated Jesus' family to visit him?
2. What are the strengths of "family" as an image for the church?

## Executive Council Meeting Summary

The May 17, 2015 Executive Council Meeting was called to order at 12:45 pm by Rande J Ashley, Church Clerk.

Sharon led the group in prayer.

Minutes from the April meeting were unanimously approved after a motion from Victor and seconded by Brenda.

Christian Ed: Per Mary Jane, she and Lori Blaha are very happy with the program materials being used. Both agree to teach in the fall with same material, as it is very easy to use. She has 2-6 teenagers; Lori has about 6 children. This years program will end sometime in June.

Missions: No report.

Matt moved to request that all committees submit at least a quarterly report either in person at a council meeting or via writing so that Council stays current on the activities of the committees. Brenda seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Exterior Sign: The design phase for the new sign continues. Updates will be made available once the project progresses further.

Deacons: No report

Trustees:

- A bid on repairing the roof at the manse has been accepted
- The issue in the Christian Ed room will be repaired after Sunday School ends for the year
- The rest of the cameras will be installed June 1st.
- Brian Shafer has been working on a report on repairing the crack in the sidewalk.
- The Highland home is on the market

New Business:

Rev Freeman Palmer will be preaching here July 19th. Mary Jo is willing to host the church picnic on that day.

St. John's parish will not be joining us on July 5th for the joint worship. The Methodists will be here. Brenda has agreed to chair the Fellowship hour.

Pastor Judy will be attending the Annual Conference, on June 7 and will also be attending General Synod on June 28.

Our next meeting will be Sunday June 21st.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm by a motion from Victor and seconded by Matt, Passed unanimously. Matt said closing prayer.



*“Therefore,  
since we have  
been justified  
through faith,  
we have peace  
with God  
through our  
Lord Jesus  
Christ”  
- Romans 5:1*

# Announcements and Events

**Church Office Hours** - Monday through Thursday from 9am until noon.

**Praying with the Scriptures** - Join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:15 in the Church Multi-Purpose Room as Rev. Gen Dox leads us in listening for the Word of God.

**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 that tells you what's required.

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

**Prayer Chain** - If you would like to be on the Prayer Chain or if you have prayers to add, please call Mary Jo Fairbanks at 769-7936 or email her at mfairbanks@twcny.rr.com

**Free Will Dinner** - First United Methodist Church - 189 Main St., Massena - Thursdays from 4:30—6:00 p.m. EVERYONE is welcome!

**Has your group decided to hold a gathering? Please remember to notify the church office. Our email address is ecuccmassena@gmail.com and our 24/7 answering machine number is 769-8523. We thank you for letting us know of your meeting plans.**

## Additional Calendar Items

|         |         |         |                                     |
|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Tuesday | June 9  | 1:30pm  | Friends Study Group                 |
| Sunday  | June 14 | 12:30pm | Trustee Meeting (Library)           |
| Monday  | May 18  | 11:30am | Free Community Lunch @ Emmanuel     |
| Sunday  | June 21 | 12:30pm | Executive Council Meeting (Library) |
| Sunday  | July 5  | 11:00am | Ecumenical Service @ Emmanuel       |

For the most current and complete calendar information visit [www.uccmassena.org](http://www.uccmassena.org) or contact the Church office at 315-769-8523

## Volunteer Drivers Needed

We would like to have a pool of volunteer drivers that would be willing to on occasion give a ride to and from Church for those who may need one. If you are interested in helping provide transportation please call the Church office at 315-769-8523 or email [ecuccmassena@gmail.com](mailto:ecuccmassena@gmail.com)