

The Messenger

JUNE - JULY 2016

'God's Presence'

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

"...and after the fire a sound of sheer silence."

Life is noisy. Even when we think there is no noticeable sound around us we are often surrounded by "white noise" – pervasive sounds of machinery quietly humming in the background, or perhaps traffic that we cannot see but which is not too far away. God is present with us in the noisiest of times, yet sometimes it can be helpful to "listen" for God in the calm and quiet. When we soften our daily living a little, we provide an uncluttered opportunity for God's presence to be a little more real for us. Stop what you are doing – even if just for a moment. Quiet any sounds you can, and then set other ones aside in your mind. Listen to the silence. What might God be saying to you?

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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Hospitality at Highland House

As you know, we were gifted with Ruth Wheeler's home on Highland ave. a couple of years ago. Since that time, we have welcomed folks in times of transition. Now, we have another opportunity to house some seminary students from Germany. During the month of August, we have a young woman visiting us. Her name is Marieluise Clotz. She is finishing a year long program in Switzerland this July. Her Fall studies resume in Germany in October, so she will be staying us from August 5 - Sept. 6.

We are also in the process of applying for a visa for an intern to spend a year with us from December 2016 to November 2017. The seminarian applying for this position is Torben Schmidt. His strengths are in Youth Ministry and Technology. We look forward to the cultural exchange as well as new energies injected in our ministries by their visits.



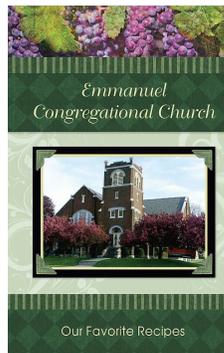
Pastor Judy Recognized

Pastor Judy was recently one of 22 local “Women of Distinction” recognized by State Senator Patty Ritchie for their contributions to our region at a special ceremony held Thursday at the historic Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library in Watertown.

“This year’s honorees represent such a wide variety of talents and accomplishments—everyone from educators and community volunteers to individuals in public service and entrepreneurs,” said Senator Ritchie.



*“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*



Emmanuel Cookbook

Have you bought your copy of Emmanuel’s Cookbook yet? Copies are still available. The cookbooks features 150 recipes sorted in to eight different categories. Each hard copy of the cookbook also comes with a free eBook digital copy of the recipes that can be used on a tablet. To purchase the cookbook stop by church or visit our site at www.uccmassena.org and click on the cookbook link.

Peek, Ponder, and Pray (from ucc.org)



Ponder: What boxes you in? What patterns keep you stuck? What are the unrecognized, unacknowledged boundaries in your life that keep your world unnecessarily small?

Pray: Free us from our preconceived notions, O Lord. Open our hearts to new possibilities and to pathways not yet paved. Amen.

Written by: Shaun Drefahl - Photo Credit: Michelle L. Torigian



Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 21st! That is the annual church picnic. We will meet at Mary Jo Fairbanks home on Wilson Hill following worship. Rev. Freeman Palmer, our Assoc. Conference Minister for Congregational Development (and his partner Don) will be joining us again for worship and the picnic. Additional details and directions will be available as the date gets closer.

New Bench at Emmanuel

At Emmanuel you will often hear “No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here — to explore your faith, to meet new people, and to strengthen your personal relationship with God.” As a symbol of this we have placed a new bench out at Emmanuel to show support for the LGBTQ community.



‘Life-giving Acts’ - A Bible Study (from www.ucc.org)

Prayer: God of comfort and compassion, through Jesus, your Son, you lead us to the water of life and the table of your bounty. May we who have received the tender love of our Good Shepherd be strengthened by your grace to care for your flock. Amen.

Focus Reading: Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs.

All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

Focus Questions:

1. What would a life lived in an "optimism of grace" look like, in an individual, and in a church?
2. What is the difference between "ministry" and "good works"?
3. What surprising new direction do you think God is leading you in today?

Executive Council Meeting Summary

The May 15, 2016 Executive Council Meeting was called to order at 12:45 pm by Sharon (moderator and acting clerk)

Pastor Judy led the group in prayer.

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



Christian Ed: Mary Jane is at the end of her tenure teaching a Sunday School class. Pastor Judy and the council are very thankful for her help, support, and donating her time.

Deacons: The deacons are looking in to doing a program incorporating Art with kids and to have some community reachout. They will be finalizing details soon.

Events Fund: The events fund is currently at a healthy level. As is typically the case there funds will be used to help supply future events, make special purchases to satisfy a specific need at the Church, or if necessary to aid in the general operations of the Church.

Missions: Gary mentioned that the group is looking in to sponsoring through Heifer International. They are also looking for ideas on possible ways to increase giving in the local area.

Interns: Pastor Judy reported that we will be having a German Intern starting in August for 6 weeks. She has also been working on, with the approval of council, getting an intern this fall that will be with us for a full year.

Ecumenical Service: We will host an ecumenical service on July 3rd. Details of which churches will be joining us are still being finalized but as is always the case with every service at Emmanuel, all are welcome!

Community Outreach: Kathy D. and Matt L. will be organizing an informational/educational event relating to Consumer Economics. Details will be released once the event is finalized.

Next meeting is June 26th at 12:45pm.

*“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 provides instructions.

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 7	1:30pm	Friends Study Group
Sunday	June 26	12:30pm	Executive Council Meeting (Library)
Sunday	July 3	11:00am	Ecumenical Service @ Emmanuel
Monday	July 4		Independence Day Holiday

For the most current and complete calendar information visit 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