

The Messenger

APRIL 2017

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

– *John 1:1* ESV

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‘Reflection & Restoration’

Lent is a season geared toward reflection and ultimately, restoration. Our Lenten Study groups are reading a book by pastor and author Tom Berlin entitled; "Restored - Finding Redemption in our Mess." So often as we take inventory of our lives, we find a mess and wonder if there is any redemption. Tom Berlin helps us see our mess through the eyes of Christ to find not only redemption, but restoration.



Participating in a small group during this season leading up to Easter is one of my favorite things in the life of the church. Recently, one of our members said to me, "I need to focus on my mess instead thinking I need to clean up someone else's mess." Precisely what this book is leading us to do. It may sound like spiritual work that is a downer - no fun at all. I can testify that there is nothing more rewarding than gaining new perspectives about ourselves and our relationship with God. I am so thankful that so many of you are willing to dig deep, sharing your thoughts and feelings as we do this important work.

As we begin to see ourselves more clearly, the path to the cross, and the hope of resurrection seems much closer and much less daunting. In fact, redemption and restoration are words that make a whole lot of sense to us now.

May God bless you during this most holy of seasons.

Pastor Judy

Spaghetti Dinner to Benefit Relay for Life

Commas for a Cure, our Relay for Life team, will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner on Monday, April 3rd from 4 - 6:30pm at Emmanuel. The menu includes Spaghetti and Meatballs, Salad, Bread, and Dessert. The cost is \$6 per person or \$25 for families of five or more. Take-outs will also be available. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Can't make the dinner but still want to help out? Drop off or send a donation to **Commas for a Cure, Emmanuel Congregational, 39 West Orvis Street, Massena, NY 13662**. Please be sure to include a note indicating the donation is for the Relay for Life.



Flowers for Easter

Anyone interested in bringing spring flowers for Easter is asked to do so by Good Friday, April 14, 2017. Please choose flowers that may not yet be fully bloomed. If the flowers are to be in memory of or in honor of someone, please be sure to drop off the information to the office or email Linda Tuper by Wednesday, April 12th. If you have any questions or need any additional information please see Barb Sanford, Kathleen Baker, or the Church Office.



*"For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."
- Corinthians 13:12*

Holy Week Services

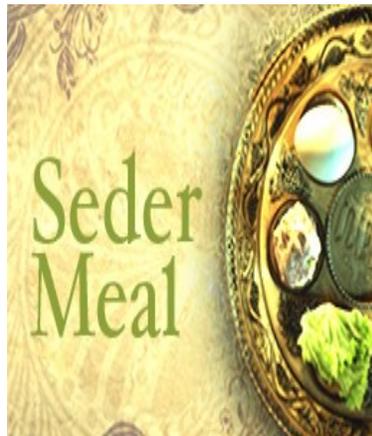
Please join us for our Holy Week Services,
All are Welcome!

Palm Sunday: April 9th at 11am

Maundy Thursday - Seder Meal: April 13th at 6:00pm.

Good Friday Service: April 14th at 7pm.

Easter Sunday Service: April 15th at 11am.



Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday

On April 12th (Maundy Thursday) we will be having a Seder Meal. Our Seder meal is a Christian version of the traditional Jewish Passover Meal. The Christian Seder Meal represents the Last Supper that Jesus shared with His Disciples.

The menu for the meal is inspired by a somewhat Middle-Eastern flavor. Roasted chicken, vegetables and potatoes, spinach salad and an apple dish called Haroseth will be served during the course of the meal.

There is a ceremony that also corresponds with the dinner and is truly a wonderful time to be in fellowship with our church family during Holy Week. If you wish to attend, please sign the yellow sheet in the Community Room on Sunday so we have an idea how much to prepare. There is no cost to join in the dinner, however a freewill offering will be taken to help offset costs.

Meet Torben

Hey,

I'm Torben. You probably met me already. ;-) For those who haven't and those who are still curious just some short introduction. Since December I'm the new intern from EKHN – UCC New York's partner church in Germany – and I'm going to stay with you for some more months. Back in Germany, I started studying Protestant Theology in 2005 at university in Marburg and finished in 2013 in Berlin. The last two years I went to seminary and worked in a parish in Darmstadt.

Now, I'm with you in Massena to enjoy some real winter. ;-) Just kidding, I'm not here for the weather; I'm here because of you actually! In church and from the Bible, we hear a lot about being part of this one body of Christ. We all are connected somehow and we all are God's creation. But just hearing about other parts of this creation or actually be with them, that's something different.



Torben joined the Children and other church members in our Christmas Show.

All my life, I lived and studied in Germany and I felt the need to meet other parts of the body. I want to experience something new, another way of connecting to each other and to God. Well, God found this place for me in Massena, among you.

I believe getting to know each other is very important to overcome conflict, separation and prejudice. Therefore we need to listen and to learn accepting one another. Not just among the parish, among all the people in the world. I know that's a huge task, but a necessary one – now more than ever. Rebuilding borders after decades of turning them down is happening in Europe right now. And we shouldn't let this happen – I don't want to let this happen!

As Christians, we already have a connection in Christ. Hence shouldn't we try hardest to keep humanity together? So, this huge dream in small and real: I'd like to meet you and hopefully form a connection. ;-)

Thank you for hosting me, for providing such a warm welcome, accepting me among you and for your support during the bumpy road to stay with you.

See you soon,

Torben

Bereavement Group Meetings on Hold

The bereavement group meetings will be put on hold for the near future. An announcement will be made when the group resumes meeting again.

'Deep in Our Hearts' (A Bible Study from www.ucc.org)

Weekly Prayer

God of suffering and glory, in Jesus Christ you reveal the way of life through the path of obedience. Inscribe your law in our hearts, that in life we may not stray from you, but may be your people. Amen.



Focus Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Additional Recommended Readings

Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Focus Questions

1. What is your favorite image for God?
2. Have you ever done anything purely "for God's sake"?
3. In what ways has the church been faithful to God's covenant? In what ways have we failed?
4. Have you ever experienced "deep, wounded love" that somehow gets past anger and disappointment?
5. What does Holy Saturday mean to you? Do you feel as if you live in an "in-between time"?

"Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

- Colossians 13:11

Boy Scouts Information

The Massena Boy Scout Troop is looking for boys age 11 up who are interested in camping, nature, and spending time with friends. We meet most Wednesdays from 7-8:30. We plan an outdoor activity every month, (camping in the summer, and other cool stuff the rest of the year).

The core tenets revolve around duty to God and Country, and as leaders, we take the responsibility to teach the boys those things seriously. Fortunately for the Massena Boy Scouts, the scouting program makes it easy to teach them, the boys learn all this responsibility without even knowing they are doing it, as it is done by doing things they know and love to do already.



Interested parents should know that if money is an issue, the scout troop will find a way to cover the cost of scouting for any boy who wishes to join. They also have a great group of parents who sometimes carpool to help each other get their boys to meetings. If you are interested in learning about the troop, call Joanne Cichetti at (315) 250-5612. You can also check out their website at www.massenatroup41.com.



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Executive Trustees Meeting Highlights

Personnel: Mary Jo and Norberta have been assisting in the office. Pastor Judy will put a notice in the bulletin to see if anyone else would like to assist for a few hours during the week.

Church Buildings/Grounds: Victor and the maintenance committee is looking in to installing the remaining cameras in for security purposes. Information about an electric energy audit, conducted by Massena Electric was shared. The cost is \$50.00. Victor feels this doesn't have to be done at this time at the church or the manse, as it wouldn't be cost efficient.

Fundraiser Team: A few people have given Linda some ideas about fundraisers. People are willing to help her out. Mary Jane Purvis, thinks if the Tea Fundraiser, being held 04/29/17, is a success another one could be held in the fall.

Events Fund: Some money in the fund will be used to hold the Seder meal, to be held 04/13/17.

Old Business: Per Sharon, our church will be responsible for Lenten Luncheon on 04/05/17. She will be passing around sign up sheets next week to assist her. We are to provide goulash, Caesar salad and dessert.