

The Messenger

FEBRUARY 2017

"It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God-- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."

- 1 Corinthians 1:30

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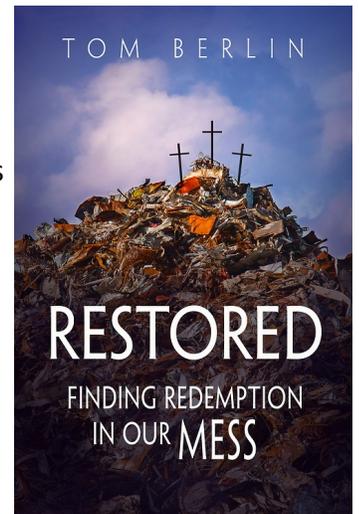
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'Restored'

This year's Lenten Study will be centered around the book 'Restored: Finding Redemption In Our Mess' by Tom Berlin.

Often we make a mess of our lives and wonder if there is any redemption. As described on amazon.com, in this book, pastor and author Tom Berlin helps us see our mess through the eyes of Christ to find redemption and restoration. Using Scripture, devotional tools, and the writings of Ignatius of Loyola, John of the Cross, St. Augustine, John Wesley, Evelyn Underhill, and others, Berlin encourages reflection and meditation through our own brokenness. Only then can we focus on the cross as the place where we truly surrender control, leave our mess, and find redemption.

The Lenten Study will begin on March 8th. There will be two session options each week, Wednesday afternoons at 1:15 pm or Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. If you would like the church to order a book for you, please contact us at 315-769-8523. We hope you will join us for this Lenten study, all are welcome!



Reminder!

Residents in the 315 area code including those in St. Lawrence County will need to dial 10 digits to make phone calls, even local calls, beginning Feb. 11th.

While actual phone numbers for people and businesses with 315 area codes are not changing, failure to dial the 315 area code will result in the call failing and an error message be received.

Be sure to adjust any saved auto dial numbers and to remind any family and friends who may not be aware of the change.

Annual Meeting Highlights

On Sunday, January 15, 2017 Emmanuel Congregational Church held its annual meeting. The meeting featured a variety of committee reports as well as the presentation of the budget for the coming year and statement of financial position. Below are highlights from the meeting.

* The proposed budget was approved. While the budget does project a deficit we are optimistic and hopeful that we will be able to close the budget gap as the year moves along.

* After a healthy and informative comment and question period, a bylaw change was passed that combined the Executive Council and Board of Trustees into one group. The new group will be called Executive Trustees.

The current members of the Executive Trustees are Sharon Neault, Joel Auger, Victor Ashley, Gay Rawlins, Linda Besio and Mary Jo Fairbanks

* Nominations were accepted and approved for the following: Rande Jean Ashley - Church Clerk, Kathy Dunkelberg—Treasurer, Lori Blaha - Christian Ed, Jeffrey Stone and Sharon Ryan - Deacons and Thomas Baker—Pastoral Relations Committee.

*"Also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man."
- Ecclesiastes 3:13*

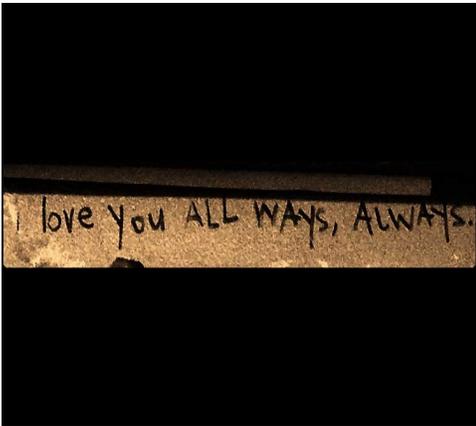
Caring Ministry

Presently, Emmanuel has 9 trained Caring Ministers: Sharon Ryan, Linda Lakins, Jerry Ward, Jane DuBray, Norberta Russo, Ellie Noreau, Ruthann Matthews, Kathy Dunkelberg and Eunice Shippee. Their participation includes a wide range of activities including Nursing Home and Hospital visits, Prison Ministry, telephone and social media support, transportation to medical appointments and grocery shopping, mental health support, companionship, funeral attendance for family support to mention a few.



The training for caring ministers involves a commitment to 8 hours, generally done in increments of 2 hours for 4 consecutive Saturdays. We are anticipating doing training this summer if there is enough interest.

If you are interested in becoming a caring minister and would like to sign up for the class OR if you would like more information regarding this program, please contact MaryEllen Casselman RN, Parish Nurse at mehospicern@aol.com or 315-842-2687.



“Peek, Ponder, Pray” (from ucc.org)

Ponder: What does it mean to love someone in ALL ways? And is it possible to love someone ALWAYS?

Pray: Perfect God, We trust that you Love in ALL ways, ALWAYS. Teach us to Love in More Ways, Most of the Time. Amen.

Written by Sue Donnelly: Photo credit Michelle L. Torigian

Repair & Maintenance Fund

Donations continue to be accepted for the Emmanuel Repair & Maintenance Fund (RPM). Having been depleted last year we are looking to once again build the fund back up to a level that will allow for the continuation maintenance and repair activities at the Church and church properties. If you would like to donate to the RPM Fund you may do so by sending a check to Emmanuel Congregational UCC, 39 West Orvis St, Massena, NY 13662. Please be sure to include a note that the donation is for the RPM Fund.



Pictures & Memories

We certainly share a lot of great moments and times at Emmanuel. Did you happen to capture some great photos you would like to share? If so please email them to Matt at mattlebire@gmail.com so that they can be in-



'Letting the Light Through' (A Bible Study from www.ucc.org)

Prayer: O God of light, your searching Spirit reveals and illumines your presence in creation. Shine your radiant holiness into our lives, that we may offer our hands and hearts to your work: to heal and shelter, to feed and clothe, to break every yoke and silence evil tongues. Amen.

Focus Scripture: Matthew 5:13-20

[Jesus said:] "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.



*"And whatever you do,
in word or deed, do
everything in the name
of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God
the Father through
him."
- Colossians 3:17*

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Additional Recommended Readings: Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12), Psalm 112:1-9 (10), 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16), Matthew 5:13-20

Focus Questions

1. What are some of the "indelibly etched pictures" of God's love that your congregation has drawn?
 2. Is surpassing "conventional" righteousness too much of a challenge?
 3. What is the connection between what we do and who we are?
 4. Do economic "hard times" change the call that we have to righteousness? Why or why not?
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Announcements and Events

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

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!

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.

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.

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



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