

Emmanuel United Church of Christ
April 2023 Newsletter



Easter

Christ the Lord is risen today,
Alleluia!

*The Easter Lilies on the alter are in
Honor of Our Risen Lord!
by the Faith Formation Classes
Easter Sunday (April 9)*



Pastors Page

It is hard to believe that Spring is already upon us when it feels like winter almost never happened. Can you truly have an Ohio winter without at least *one* good snow storm?! Either way, we begin now to prepare ourselves for Easter, for spring planting, new blossoms, the return of birds chirping early in the morning, and the sight of annual flowers rising from the hardened and seemingly frozen soil. Truly Springtime is a wonderful reminder of the rejuvenating new life which is brought about in creation each and every year. Indeed our God is good who can renew not only the planet on which we live, but also renew our Spirits and embolden our hearts.

Here at Emmanuel we now look forward to our annual Work Day in rejuvenating our buildings and grounds and, this year, to inviting our Sister Church, St. John's, to an outdoor service and picnic on Memorial Day Sunday. One year after working together in ministry we continue to find new ways of bonding together and truly working as One Body in Christ. I continue to look forward to the many ways in which we might grow our partnership and strengthen our connection to one another. One of the ways in which we might be able to do this, if you are comfortable with the idea, is to choose a Sunday in your personal schedules, to attend the other worship service once or twice. When our service times are a 9:00am, at either church, I continue to hear that attendance will resume when we start at 10:30 once more. Why wait to return to church? Why wait to renew your Spirit on a Sunday when an opportunity already stands before you to grow that Spirit in getting to know your brothers and sisters in Christ in another setting? I promise, they do not bite. Also, there are excellent cooks/bakers at each church who continue to provide our congregations with tasty treats, breakfast items, and snacks.

While our identity as uniquely Emmanuel is important to us, all I ask is that you open your hearts to your neighbors and friends and expand that Emmanuel identity to include those whom you have partnered with in building the Kingdom and Kin-dom of God here in Bluffton. Who knows, you might make some new friends and meet some people with whom you share great interests. So, in this season of Spring, as you prepare yourself for warming weather, wardrobe changes, and eventually find time to open the windows and air out the home, allow yourself an opportunity for new Spiritual growth in a

new and different setting. You might surprise yourself as to who you might become.

Shifting gears, we are also beginning to prepare for another busy summer of Outdoor Family Movie Nights, slightly altered due to busy summer schedules and growing active Mann children, an annual Church Picnic, allowing for breaks in our Adult and Youth Faith Formation (Sunday School) schedules, Community Vacation Bible School at English Lutheran, and the beginning stages of preparing for a Mission Trip in 2024. While there will be time my family and I will be away this Summer, the leadership of Emmanuel will continue to work towards expanding our scope of ministry and strengthening the church in various ways.

But, before we get too far ahead of ourselves, we prepare for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. In this heightened spiritual season of Lent, let us be mindful of what Christ has done for us and continues to do for us even now. Let us be mindful of the ways in which God is calling us to renew ourselves in Him and may we ever persevere on the journey which is laid out before us, the race in which we run each and every day. My thoughts and prayers are ever focused on the discernment of our congregation and the blessings which God has bestowed upon our congregation, our community, and all who are part of our Church Family. May God bless us all. Amen.
Blessings, Pastor Jeremy

April 2nd

Matt. 26:14 - Matt. 27:66

April 16th

John 20:19-31

April 9th

John 20:19-31

April 23rd

Luke 14: 13-35

April 30th

Psalm 23

Praying the
SCRIPTURES
elisapulliam.com

Holy Week



- April 2 Palm Sunday
- April 6 Maundy Thursday 6:00pm at St. John's
- April 7 Good Friday Walk starts at 11:30am at St. Mary's. We will conclude at St. John's UCC church with no inside service
- April 8 Egg Hunt at 10:00am
- April 9 **EASTER**
9:00 am Easter Service/Communion
Breakfast at 8:00am

Christ the Lord has risen!



Church Updates

Emmanuel Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 8 at 10am

Invite your friends and family for a time of fun, fellowship, and food. There will be Easter crafts, snacks, and, of course, lots of eggs to hunt!

If you're interested in helping on the day of the event or by donating food items in advance, please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or talk to Jen Mann for more information.



No flower Order was taken by the church this year due to K& J Greenhouse closing. Please feel free to bring in an Easter Lilly or flower of your choice to share up front for Easter Sunday



WOMEN'S OUTREACH

April 16 – Sunday after Worship (Put together Personnel Care Kits)

May - Mystery trip???

MISSION

The Women's Outreach will be collecting money donations for personal care kits till April 9. These kits will be put together at our meeting on Sunday, April 16. Any monetary amount is welcomed. Please give money to Renee, Canda or Bev and the checks can be made out to Women's Outreach.

Sunday, April 30
Combined Service
at St. John's
10:30 Worship Time
Potluck to Follow

Potluck Dinner



SUMMER CAMP

Templed Hills has a great summer camp. If you are interested please check out the website @ <http://www.ohioucc.org/outdoor-ministries/> for more information on all the different camps they have to offer. If would like more information or have questions talk to Renee Caskie, rcaskie@thewavz.com, 419-890-6213.

Starting in May
Worship Service time 10:30am

Financial Updates



Current Fund

YTD Income \$20,428.61
YTD Expenses \$18,169.07

Benevolence Fund

YTD Income \$680.00
Budget \$875.00

Overall Income/Expense

YTD Income \$25,152.44
YTD Expense \$23,518.59

Prayer List

Janice Brewster	Fred Andrews
Sean Burrell	Karen Falk
Jeta Fruchey	Ellie Koch
Bob and Terri Wilch	

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Community Events

Mennonite Home communities is having a Chicken BBQ fundraiser on April 29

Curbside pickup at Bubba C. BBQ 158 N. Jackson St. Bluffton from 4-6 on April 29

Ticket information will be available at a later date.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

The theme is **Twist & Turn**



From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up it's never "game over."

Save the dates of Sunday, July 16 through Thursday, July 20, 2023(6:00 to 7:30pm) for the Bluffton Community Vacation Bible School.

English Lutheran Church hosts this year's VBS. Further information will be shared as plans progress.

What might Jesus Obituary look like??

We remember the death of Jesus Christ on this Good Friday, April 7, 2023. Jesus Christ, 33, Nazareth died in 0033 on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, the place of the skull. Betrayed by the apostle Judas, Jesus was crucified by the Romans, by order of the Ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture, and loss of blood. Jesus Christ, the Son of God and a descendant of Abraham was a member of the house of David. He was also cared for by the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth and Mary, His devoted Mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by His mother Mary, His faithful Apostles, numerous disciples, and many other followers. Betrayed by the apostle Judas, Jesus was crucified by the Romans, by order of the Ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture, and loss of blood. Jesus Christ, the Son of God and a descendant of Abraham was a member of the house of David. He was also cared for by the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth and Mary, His devoted Mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by His mother Mary, His faithful Apostles, numerous disciples, and many other followers. Jesus was educated and spent most of his adult life working as a Teacher. Jesus also occasionally worked as a Medical Doctor and it is reported that he healed many patients. Up until the time of His death, Jesus was teaching and sharing the Good News, healing the sick, touching the lonely, and helping the poor. Jesus was most noted for telling parables about His Father's Kingdom and performing miracles, such as feeding over 6,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, and healing a man who was born blind. On the day before His death, He held a Last Supper celebrating the Passover Feast, at which He foretold His death. The body has been quickly entombed in a crypt, which was donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a loyal friend of the family. By order of Pontius Pilate, a boulder has been rolled in front of the tomb. Roman soldiers are on guard. In lieu of expressions of sympathy, the

family has requested that everyone try to live as Jesus did. Donations may be sent to anyone in need.

<https://www.courageouschristianfat>

“Don't fear: I am First, I am Last,
I'm Alive. I died, but I came to life,
and my life is now forever.
Revelation 1:18 (The Message)



 Happy Easter 

Consistory Members 2023


Elders: Jaret Geiser, Amy Muniz, Ron Geiser, Kelly Fruchey
Deacons: Logan Fruchey, Nick Shepler, Sara Music, Jesse Owsley

Church Staff

Pastor, Jeremy Mann	419-420-5052
Jesse Owsley, Consistory President	567-712-5018
Kristen Parkins, Fin. Sec.	419-302-3969
Teresa Pinks, Treasurer	419-234-1817
Jen Mann, Faith Formation	717-813-1485
Dick & Connie Baker, Maintenance	567-712-0119
Renee Caskie, Secretary	419-890-6213
Church Number	419-358-1561

Emmanuel UCC 8375 Phillips Rd, Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-1561

 Facebook: Emmanuel United Church of Christ
Bluffton OH

 Twitter: EmmanuelUCC Bluffton
(@EmmanuelUCC1561)



<http://www.emmanueluccbluffton.com/>
(Today's and past Sermons can be heard on the
Emmanuel UCC Bluffton website under media)



Instagram #EmmanuelUcc

E-Mail: emmanuelucc8375@gmail.com