

The

# Heartbeat

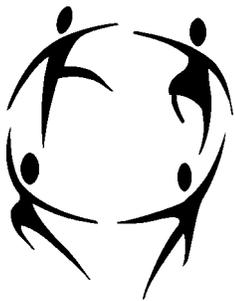


of Emmanuel

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## The Mission Statement of Emmanuel U.C.C.

We take as our mission to be disciples of God:

- Teaching our Children and Youth
- Spreading the Word through Outreach
- Loving Our Neighbors
- Being a Shining Light in our Community

Following Jesus' example, we do this with love, respect, and understanding for all - knowing that God is with us always.

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WORSHIP AND GROW

**EACH SUNDAY**

**Focus on FAITH - on hold til further notice**

**Worship - on hold til further notice**

**STAY TUNED**

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Sunday, June 7

**Trinity Sunday**

**Easter Celebration**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**(this is the plan right now)**



Spring has arrived! The birds are singing their songs to me. I can hear them outside my window as I sit and pray. Brightly colored flowers have appeared on a tree outside. Everything is green. It doesn't quite feel like spring, though. It is difficult to see the new life when there is so much sickness and death in the world around us. We are in the season of Easter. Yet, for me it still feels like we are in that in between time. It feels like we are waiting outside the tomb, unaware that Jesus has risen.

I am forced to ask myself the question: What are we to do when faced with the darkness of the world, when the heaviness of the night rests upon us? It is easy for me to tell you to find hope in the cross. Truly, I believe this is the answer. It is significantly more difficult for a human being, even the most devout Christian, to push through the darkness that threatens to consume us simply by looking to the cross. And so I am reminded of a quote by American author Richard Bach, "What the caterpillar calls the end of the world the master calls a butterfly."

The Voice translation of the Bible quotes Paul in this way "...so we are being transformed, metamorphosed, into His same image from one radiance of glory to another..." (2 Cor. 3:18). For those of you who have yet to awaken to the glory of spring I offer you this observation. If we can hold on to the tiniest bit of faith, God will transform us. Even when we feel as though we are being consumed by darkness, God is transforming us. We are the seed that sits in frozen soil all winter long only to grow into a beautiful flower in the spring. Allow this time to transform you. My prayers are with you.

In light and love,  
*Pastor Becky*



## **A Note from Consistory President**

What a strange time we are in. No one has ever experienced anything like this. “Stay-at-home” orders mean we cannot see family and friends. A big shout-out and thank you to all of our essential workers, especially those in the medical field, who are working tirelessly in our healthcare system.

We have not been able to worship for 7 weeks now and it looks like it will be another 5 weeks until that might happen. I don’t know about you, but I have never been away from worship this long. I miss our church family and friends. I hope we will be able to gather together sooner than later. But right now, it is important that we follow the “stay-at-home” order and just wait until the day when we can all come together again and praise God.

We have cut things back at church in order to help with the finances of the church. We lowered the temperature in the sanctuary and social hall so that we weren’t using a lot of heat. We have (4) people on payroll and we paid all of them through the end of March. By Consistory vote (via email), we continued to pay Pastor Becky and our church secretary, Jennifer their full salaries through April. For the month of May, it was voted that we cut Pastor Becky’s salary in half as well as Jennifer’s. We voted not to pay our sexton, Bill or our organist, Pete during April and May and, hopefully, we will be back together in June and their pay will resume at that time. Bills still come in and they need to be paid. We are extremely grateful for the offering that comes in on a weekly basis.

We will get through all of this. We just need to be patient and trust in God. If nothing else, I believe this has given us all the gift of time. Our lives are so hectic and we are always on the go. Maybe this is God’s plan to slow us down a bit. Learn to appreciate what we have – stop to “smell the roses” so to speak. Families are together, games are being played, puzzles are being worked on, pictures are being looked at, projects around the house are being done, and closets are being cleaned out. Yes, school work still needs to be done and those who are working from home must still put in a day’s work. But, we’re together for our meals and we’re not running off to the ball field for practice or running to yet another meeting.

Noah didn’t swim in the flood to prove his faith; he and his family stayed in the Ark until it was safe! We need to do the same thing. Stay in until it is safe.

I hope that we will all be together again in June!

In Christian Love,

Kathy Heckman  
Consistory President

## **Offering Envelopes**

Thank you to those of you who are sending in their offering on a weekly basis. It is very much appreciated. Please know that you can send in your offering at any time. This helps us to be able to pay the bills that come in on a regular basis.

Another way to financially support the church is through on-line giving. It's easy to do and you can contribute from the comfort of your home.

Setting up your on-line contribution is easy. Go to our website – Emmanuelunitedchurch.org – click on Donate – click on the symbol at the bottom of the page. Create a new account with a user name and password. That's it – you're in! Now you just need to follow the prompts to set up your giving. All the various envelopes are listed. You can give to the regular account – to the special account – to heat, flowers, bulletins, communion, OCWM, etc. It's all right there on the site. You click on "Select Gift Type" and you can either give a recurring gift or a one-time gift. It's safe and easy.

Thank you!

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## **May benevolence is Freedom School.**

"Implemented in partnership with the Children's Defense Fund, The Jim Lawson Freedom School provides children and youth grades K-12 within the Allentown School District with a unique educational opportunity to interrupt summer learning loss experienced by many inner city children. The school provides summer enrichment through a research based and multicultural curriculum that support children and families around five essential components: high quality academic enrichment, and nutrition, health and mental health. The school boosts student motivation to read, generates positive attitudes towards learning, and connects the needs of the children and families to the resources of their communities.

Delivered as a six week summer initiative that partners mission appropriate college level interns (referred to as Servant Leaders) with students (referred to as Scholars) the school operates annually from July to August, Monday through Friday (8am to 3pm) and provides children with free books, nutritious meals, educational field trips and an opportunity to learn about the significance of the American Civil Rights Movement.

The Jim Lawson Freedom School fosters an environment that support children and young adults to excel and believe in their ability to make a difference in themselves and in their families, schools, communities, country, and world."

<http://www.rcdclv.org/james-lawson-freedom-school.html>

Please remember others with your kindness through Christ our Lord.

Please consider donating to this benevolence when your offering is made either on-line or by mailing into the church.

Thank you!

# FUNDRAISERS

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As I write this, we are in the 7<sup>th</sup> week of the Coronavirus shut down. I hope everyone is staying home, if possible, and remain healthy and safe.

Our Fundraising Committee had a conference call on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and we discussed upcoming Fundraisers. Unfortunately, due to the continued “stay-at-home” order, and not sure when we will be able to gather socially, we decided to cancel all upcoming fundraisers.

The **Spring Basket Social** that was to be held on **Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>** is **cancelled**. We are not rescheduling the Basket Social. If you have already started to put baskets together, we ask that you put them aside until next year.

Other upcoming events include:

- Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Walking Tacos luncheon after church – **cancelled**.
- Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Primary Election Day – Bake Sale – **cancelled**.
- Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> – Food Bazaar – **cancelled**.

We will “revisit” Fundraisers over the summer and into the fall and will keep you posted. We hope to be able to do one or two Penny Parties, the Fall Food Bazaar and the Gift Card Social. Time will tell.

Thanks!

Kathy Heckman, Chair

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## Worship Services

We are hoping to be able to worship again in the Sanctuary on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. (again, time will tell). Looking ahead, Pastor Becky would very much like to celebrate Easter Sunday on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. If you are able, we would very much like to fill the sanctuary that day to give thanks to God and sing praises that we are able to be together once again.

If that works, we would celebrate “Holy Humor” Sunday on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

And to round things out, we would like to celebrate “Festival of the Christian Home”, Pentecost and Confirmation on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.

# MAY ANNIVERSARIES



Steve & Sabrina Welty May 3, 1997	23 years
Jack & Julie Kaye May 5, 1991	29 years
Michael & Lisa Saylor May 15, 2011	9 years
Bill & Diane Eichelberger May 23, 1970	50 years

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## **A Prayer for this time – taken from a post on the internet:**

“Eternal Father, You made the whole World stop spinning for a while. You silenced the noise that we all have created. You made us bend our knees again and ask for a Miracle.

You closed Your Churches so we will realize how dark our World is without You in it. You humbled the proud and the powerful.

The economy is crashing, businesses are closing. We were very proud; we thought that everything we have, everything we possess, was the result of our hard work.

We have forgotten that it was always Your grace and mercy that made us who we are. We’re running in circles looking for some cure to this disease, when in fact, we need to humble ourselves and ask You for guidance and wisdom.

We’ve been living our lives like we will be here on Earth forever, like there’s no Heaven. Maybe these trials are Your mercy in disguise. Maybe this virus is actually Your way of purifying us and cleansing our soul, bringing us back to You!

Today as these words travel about, may all who see and hear them join their hearts and hands together in prayer! Asking for forgiveness and asking for healing and protection from this virus. God just wipe it from the Earth!

Father, You have been patiently waiting for us. We’re so sorry for ignoring Your voice and in our selfish ways, we’ve sometimes forgotten that You are GOD!!

You only need to say the words and our souls shall all be healed. We ask these things in Jesus name.

Amen”

## Financial Secretary's Report April 2020

Spring is starting to blossom all around us, Easter is past and the weather is finally warming and yet this year is all different. COVID-19 has changed all that we do. Pastor Becky has been providing our Sunday worship times each week by Facebook. We have been thankful that we have members that continue to support our church family by sending the offering in each week. Unfortunately, our bills continue, so please keep up your support until we have the good fortune of returning to worship. In the Regular Account, we had a total offering of \$6,324.50. In Benevolence our total gifts were \$735.00. Thank you to all that supported these causes.

The following chart shows the distribution of our Income for the first four-month period as compared to last year. I will also show our total expenses as of March versus the same period in 2019.

2019 Income Distribution			2020 Income Distribution		
As of April 30	Income	Budget	As of April 30	Income	Budget
Regular Gifts	\$ 32,179.90		Regular Gifts	\$ 22,921.17	
Special Gifts Distribution	\$ 15,327.83		Special Gifts Distribution	\$ 16,854.44	
Fund Raising	\$ 3,803.50		Fund Raising	\$ 1,508.00	
<b>Total</b>	\$ 51,311.23	\$ 49,035.68	<b>Total</b>	\$ 41,283.61	\$ 47,700.68
Benevolence	\$ 4,892.04	\$ 4,903.68	Benevolence	\$ 3,121.00	\$ 4,700.00

2019 Expenses			2020 Expenses		
As of March 31	Expenses	Budget	As of March 31	Expenses	Budget
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 21,661.11	\$ 22,920.50	Salaries & Benefits	\$ 22,653.79	\$ 22,838.00
Utilities	\$ 5,587.55	\$ 5,212.50	Utilities	\$ 4,881.01	\$ 4,587.50
Operations	\$ 7,509.79	\$ 8,643.75	Operations	\$ 6,376.96	\$ 8,350.00
<b>Total</b>	\$ 34,758.45	\$ 36,776.75	<b>Total</b>	\$ 33,911.76	\$ 35,775.50

# May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Jacqueline Nuss
3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo Beth Taylor	6 Judy Kodack	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16 Armed Forces Day
17	18	19 Delaney Smith Derek Werley	20	21	22	23
24	25  Memorial DAY	26 Ralph Lehr, Jr Mark Rader	27 Tyler Heckman	28 Joan Breinig	29 Michele Pastula	30
31 Justin Kehm						