



516 Park Ave., Mechanicville, NY 12118

Church Office 518-664-5204/Manse 518-664-3946
Pastor's cell phone 331-0390
Pastor's e mail jsmat1@juno.com



The doors of this Church are open wide.

We welcome every man, woman, youth and child who is disturbed by a sense of need, who hungers for a nobler life, who seeks a better world and who aspires to faithfully follow Jesus.

We summon you:

To the beauty of the worship of God-
To the service of bewildered humanity-
To a friendly fellowship with others who seek the best-
To the dangerous adventure of building a new world.



Emmanuel United Church

Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney, Interim Pastor

Ben McCormack, Organist

Mary Beth Fusco, Choir Director

April 20, 2008-11:00 A.M.

EARTH SUNDAY

Welcome to the celebration of God's beautiful earth!

Let us Praise God!

The River is Here (*Andy Park*)

Sharing of praises

Welcome to God's house

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship

We live in all things.

All things live in us.

We rejoice in all life.

We live by the sun

We move with the stars.

We rejoice in all life.

We eat from the earth

We drink from the rain

We breathe from the air.

We rejoice in all life.

We share with the creatures

We have strength through their gifts.

We rejoice in all life.

We depend on the forests

We have knowledge through their secrets.

We rejoice in all life.

We have the privilege of seeing and understanding

We have the responsibility of caring

We have the joy of celebrating.

We rejoice in all life.

SOME THOUGHTS FOR EARTH DAY

"Who owns the land? Only the land knows."

Earl Hamner (The Waltons)

"If the creation forms of chorus of praise to the Creator, how should a Christian respond when singers disappear from the choir?"

Stan LeQuire

"The high, the low, all of creation,

God gives to humankind to use.

If this privilege is misused,

God's justice permits creation

To punish humanity."

Hildegard of Birgen

"A degraded environment is a stumbling block to kids. And Jesus had his harshest words for anyone who would put a stumbling block in front of a child."

Bob Seiple

"Earth is crammed with heaven

And every bush aflame with God.

But only those who see take off their shoes."

Elizabeth Barrett Browning



*ALL: We are full of the grace of creation.
We are graceful
We are grateful.
We rejoice in all life.*

Hymn 6, "I Sing the Almighty Power of God"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, Maker of heaven and earth,
Of all that is, seen and unseen:
You place us in your creation,
And you command us to care for it.
Your works declare glory and splendor,
And you call us to praise and reverence.
Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty,
Forgive us.
Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted,
Have mercy upon us.
Where we have become estranged from the creatures
With whom we share this planet,
Grant us your peace.
Renew us with the waters of baptism,
Refresh us with the winds of your Spirit,
And sustain us with the bread of life.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
And for the sake of the new creation, we pray.
Amen

Ken Carter, 2008, www.gbod.org
Used by permission

Celebrating Missions

Choral Anthem, "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (Hymn #65)

Thanksgiving for the land
("We bless you, O God, for the East-West-North-South")

Sharing from our hearts and hands

Question: "How '*green*' is my life?"

What can kids do?

Hymn 33, "*All Creatures of our God and King*" v. 1-3

Question: "How '*green*' is my church?"

Sharing of prayers

Question: "Why does it matter?"

Hymn, "*For Beauty of Meadows*" (see bulletin)

Benediction: (unison)

O Great Spirit,

whose breath gives life to the world,

and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze:

We need your strength and wisdom.

Cause us to walk in beauty. Give us eyes

ever to behold the red and purple sunset.

Make us wise so that we may understand

what you have taught us.

Help us learn the lessons you have hidden

in every leaf and rock.

Make us always ready to come to you

with clean hands and steady eyes,

So when life fades, like the fading sunset,

our spirits may come to you without shame. Amen

(Traditional Native American prayer)

**Flowers on the altar today are given by Wendy Maiello
in loving memory of her
grandmother, Edna Van Volkenburg**

SPRING MISSION CAMPAIGN ZITI LUNCH

Next week the Board of Elders will put on a luncheon immediately following the worship service for fellowship and the opportunity for raising money and an awareness for missions. Rev. Eric Fagins will be our guest speaker, and he will talk about his experiences with Hurricane Katrina rebuilding efforts. The menu will be baked ziti, salad, Italian bread, dessert and beverage. Cost for the meal is \$7.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children 12 and under.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

In two weeks on May 3rd we will be having a church-wide work day beginning at 8:30 am. Breakfast will be provided, and drinks for thirsty workers too!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Check out the material for children, **grades 3-5** provided by the Board of Christian Ed. in the containers in the front of the church. Please return the items to the containers after the service.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Volunteers are still needed for the youth group work/mission trip to **York, Pa., July 20-25**. This is a good opportunity to join the youth in a major work project. Please see Vera Petronis for more information.

ONGOING MINISTRIES

Greeters needed: Be sure to sign up in the back of the church to exercise the gift of hospitality and take a turn at greeting worshippers this spring. You may sign up for one or more Sundays. Thank You

Would you like to donate **flowers** for a significant event in your life, or in honor or in memory of someone special? You may do so by signing up on the flower chart on the back table. The cost is \$10 for both vases and you may send money to the church office or drop it in the collection plate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome each of you to worship on this Fourth after Easter, and hope you receive a blessing from the service. If you are visiting with us today, please sign our guest book located in the back and pick up a church brochure.

What's Happening at Emmanuel United Church

Today: 9:45- Sunday School
11:00-Worship

Wednesday 3:45-Baptism class
7:30-Bible Study

Thursday 7:00-Choir

Next Sunday: 9:45-Sunday School
11:00-Worship
12:30-Mission Campaign Lunch
Board of Trustees meeting

Welcome to the celebration of God's creation! Today is the second of two Earth Sunday services. Earth Day is Tuesday, April 22. Next week we will be talking about Sabbath. What is Sabbath? When is it? Where is it? Be sure to be here to worship with your church family.

Pastor Jerrie will be in Elmira for a meeting tonight and tomorrow. She will return on Monday night. She will be in Pennsylvania from Thursday afternoon to Sat. for a retreat to complete her two year Spiritual Direction Course. She will be available by phone, so please call if you need her (331-0390). Abby Bee is in the office Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10am-1pm. Pastor Jerrie will be in the office Wednesday and Thursday morning.

Don't forget to continue to bring food for the community food pantry. Let's keep up the goal of **100 items** a month. Thank you!