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Sunday Schedule:
Sunday School-9:45 am
Worship-11:00 am

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.



Prayer

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH
MARCH 15, 2009

OUR 35TH YEAR AS A UNITED CHURCH

Emmanuel United Church
Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney, Interim Pastor
Ben McCormack, Organist
Mary Beth Fusco, Choir Director
March 15, 2009
Third Sunday in Lent

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Ring of the Bell

Prelude, *Ben McCormack*

Gathering Song, *"My Life is in You, Lord" (Gardner)*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

*Hymn 315, *"The Solid Rock"*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

SHARING OUR GIFTS AND TALENTS

A Moment with Mission

Offering and Offertory Music

*Doxology (No. 623) and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem, *"Be Thou My Vision" (Byrne)*
vs. 1-2 (Gaelic), vs. 4 (English)

Time with Our Children

PRAYING AND GIVING THANKS TO GOD

Sharing of Joys, Concerns and Celebrations

Silent Prayer

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen

*Hymn 262, *"My Jesus, I Love Thee"*, vs. 1,2

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Reading from the Word: Selections from John 17

Message, *"How to pray like Jesus"*

Prayer of Commitment

*Hymn 533, *"Jesus Calls Us"*

*Benediction

*Postlude

*You are invited to stand

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, the choir anthem is "Be Thou My Vision", with the first two verses sung in Gaelic, the fourth verse in English. These will be accompanied by a few of Pastor Jerrie's pictures from Ireland.

Please remember to keep your cell phones and iPods turned off during worship. Thank you

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome each of you to worship today, 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.



Thought for the week:

“ God is closer to sinners than to saints.” This is how it is explained. God in heaven holds each person by a string. When you sin, you cut the string. Then God ties it up again, making a knot – and thereby bringing you closer to Him. Again and again your sins cut the string - and with each further knot God keeps drawing you closer and closer.” Anthony deMello



What’s Happening at Emmanuel United Church

- Today:** 9:45- Sunday School
- 11:00 -Worship
- 12:30 -Trustees meeting
- 2:30- Musical rehearsal
- Wednesday:** 7:00 -Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday:** 7:00 -Bible Study
- Saturday:** 6:00 -Green Gag Gift party
- Next Sunday:** 9:45 -Sunday School
- 11:00-**Favorite Hymn Sunday**
- 1:00-Youth Group Movie and Discussion
- 2:30-Musical rehearsal
- 4:00-Baptism class



Special days-This Week:

Birthdays

20-Kevin McCormack

21-Marguerite Yager- Happy 100th Birthday!

Blessings to You!

Pastor Jerrie will be in the office (or home office) Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. mornings. Abby Bee will be in the office Tuesday from 10-1 pm and Thursday and Friday from 10-1 pm. **The newsletter deadline is Tuesday, March 24.**

Our Spring Mission Campaign is continuing through March. Our total received so far is **592!** You will find envelopes on the back table for your offering – and beautiful fish if you are following the calendar. Thank-you for your contributions to the ministries and missions our church supports.



Next Saturday, March 21 is the “**Green Gag Gift party**” at 6 pm. at McCormacks’ – please bring a snack to share and a green “gag gift.”

Next week is Favorite Hymn Sunday – we will sing our favorite hymns and hear the stories of how they came to be. Readers are still needed for this – please let Pastor Jerrie know if you are available to read. This is a good opportunity to invite a friend to worship with you.

Two weeks from today we will gather for coffee hour and our next round-table discussion. Be sure to be with us as we continue to talk about worship and other concerns of the church. Everyone, younger and older, members or not, are welcome to participate.

The following Sunday, April 4 – Palm Sunday – we will gather outdoors before worship (weather permitting) to take a picture of the congregation. This will go on the web site so that the world can see what a wonderful inter-generational church we are. We will then process into worship together as we sing. We hope you will join us.

YOUTH GROUP

Coming Next week (March 22) is Movie and Discussion 1:00 p. m. Also **Next week:** Information about **Spring Spin Tickets** will be handed out to youth group members. The Spring Spin weekends this year at **Great Escape** are May 9-10, 16-17, 22-25 (Memorial Day Weekend) ,28-31.

Weekly Bible study is underway! We are meeting on Thursdays at 7:00. We are studying the book, "Who is Holy Spirit," and having good discussion, as well as a time of prayer. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Preparations for the spring musical, “Lifesong,” are well underway. Rehearsals are every Sunday at 2:30. Stage sets are being designed and props are being gathered. The following list includes items needed for the musical – if you have any of these to contribute, please see Becky Dixon or Laurie Bobear. Thank-you!

Props needed are:

2 *small* tents – easy to assemble
One sheet – or something to make a parachute
SCUBA/snorkel gear megaphone(s)
pizza carrier (insulated box) fake pizza slices
cooler to carry several bottles/cans

An invitation – Latham Community Baptist Church is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year with a series of events. On Sunday, March 22 at 2:30 there will be a program of music, tea, and fellowship at the church. All are invited. The church is on Forts Ferry Road in Latham.

ONGOING MINISTRIES

The EUC goal of **donating 100 food items** each month has helped to make regular contributions the Mechanicville Community Center. **The need for food at the Community Center has increased by 200% due to the difficult economic times many are facing. There is a specific need for cereals, juice, pasta mixes, tuna, and baby foods in non-glass containers.**

In this week’s mail,

We received a note from Linda Rowland thanking the church for remembering her on the first anniversary of Larry’s death, Feb. 26.

**“Pastor Jerrie and the church community,
Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated. Special thanks for the beautiful bouquet of flowers.
Many thanks,
Linda Rowland and family.”**