



**NOVEMBER**

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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.

**Emmanuel United Church**  
Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney, Interim Pastor  
Ben McCormack, Organist  
Mary Beth Fusco, Choir Director  
**November 30, 2008**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

Ringing of the Bell

Gathering Song

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

On this first Sunday of Advent, as we prepare ourselves  
for the Messiah's coming.

**Like the Old Testament prophets who awaited the  
fulfillment of the promise,**

Like the faithful ones who kept their ears and hearts  
open to God's Word,

**We too, await his coming among us. Praise be to God  
for this inexpressible gift!**

\*Hymn 186, " O Come, O Come Emmanuel" v. 1,3,5

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Candle of Hope - the Dixon family

**SHARING OUR GIFTS AND TALENTS**

Offering and Offertory Music

\*Doxology (No. 623) and Prayer of Dedication  
Anthem

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 , 185, "Emmanuel" 2x

**LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD**

Reading from the Word: Isaiah 9:1-7

Message, "Searching for Shalom"

Prayer of Commitment

\*Hymn 187, "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*you are invited to stand

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: "HALLOWTHANKMASSNEWBOWL"**

Pastor Pam Abbey called the three month marathon of "card-sending, party-throwing, putting up and taking down decoration, overeating and over-buying: Hallowthankmasnewbowl." She wrote, "Americans during this season remind me of myself on those vaguely blue, out-of-sorts evenings when I find myself standing in front of the refrigerator with a spoon and a carton of ice cream. I want something. I'm not sure what, but ice cream will have to do. It's sweet and comforting and plentiful and it takes my mind off whatever it is that I want but don't have."

Even the name for that period sounds hollow. We invite you to deepen your spiritual life during this time through worship, Bible study, and service and find what is really hallowed, what we have to be thankful for, and to prepare to meet the One who is coming.



### What's Happening at Emmanuel United Church

- Today:** 9:45-Sunday School  
1:00-Worship, followed by Youth Group  
Service project, and Christmas party
- Wednesday:** 7:00- Choir  
7:00- Bible Study
- Saturday:** 5:00- Progressive Dinner
- Next Sunday:** 9:45-Sunday School  
11:00-Worship, Communion, 2nd Sunday of Advent

**Today is the first Sunday of Advent.** This season provides many opportunities:

Do you have a favorite **Advent/Christmas** song you would like to sing in worship?

Would you like to be a reader for the **Advent candle lighting** one Sunday?

Would you like to participate in an **Advent Bible study**?

Are you interested in leading a Children's message during worship?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please let Pastor Jerrie know. Thank-you!

Pastor Jerrie will be in the office Thursday, and Friday mornings this week. She will be at a meeting in Syracuse on Wed., and she will be in Mass. Friday evening and all day Sat. Please call her cell phone if you need to reach her - 331-0390. Abby Bee will be here Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10-1pm this week.

Pastor Jerrie is offering an Advent Bible study on Thursday evenings during December, on the book, *"Let Us Go Over to Bethlehem"*. We will begin this Thursday at 7:00 at the church. Everyone is invited.

A big "thank-you" to all who helped to decorate the church building for the Advent season yesterday.

If you do not already have a **Commitment/Pledge Card**, you will find them on the back table. Please turn them in as soon as possible, as the 2009 budget will be prepared soon. Thank-you for your support of Emmanuel United Church during the coming year!

**The annual Progressive dinner** will be next Saturday, December 6, beginning at Wendy Maiello's at 5p.m. The party continues onto the Dixon's for soup and salad, then to the McCormack's for the main course, and the Salmon's for dessert. Please join us for this great night of fun and fellowship!

Gifts for the **Chamber Angels** project are due next Sunday. There are still some "angels" on the tree, and gift cards (appropriate for a 12 year old boy) are also welcome. Thank You!

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**The Christmas pageant, "A Not So Silent Night"** will be December 21st, during worship. Be sure to be here for this special Sunday.

### YOUTH MINISTRY

**Today after worship** is the Youth Group Service project to help distribute information pamphlets as part of the church outreach ministry. We will work immediately after church and then meet back here for our Christmas party. Please bring a generic gift, no more than \$15 and wrap it but don't label it. See Vera for more information.

### ONGOING MINISTRIES

**Greeters** are needed for Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Thank You! We especially need greeters for the Advent season.

**Altar flowers** are a wonderful way to celebrate and honor a loved one. You may donate flowers 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.

The Mechanicville Community is in desperate need of canned and boxed food for the food pantry. **The Community Center is expecting to feed 800 families this year-double the previous year's number.** Please give as generously as you can during these challenging economic times.

