

THE LAMPLIGHTER
Immanuel
United Church of Christ
111 Fremont St., P.O. Box 209
Walworth, WI 53184

Worship services at 8am and 10:30am

***“Immanuel’s vision is to Love, Forgive, and
Worship in service to all generations.”***

April 2009

Minister’s Moment

Last summer, the sunlight coming in my office window was just the right slant and as I moved my head, I got a flash of rainbow colors. I had not paid attention to it before, but this time I looked to see where it was coming from and I saw it was actually reflecting off my eyelashes in strips of color. I could see the colors of the spectrum from red to violet moving up and down the curved shape of my eyelashes as I moved my head. There was also a webbing of spectrum colors around the holes where the string goes through the window blinds. Now you may be thinking to yourself, well that’s a unique thing to point out, but what does it matter, when there are so many other important things going on and people are feeling a real crunch. But we do many things that are fun and diverting and deliberately not important to avoid thinking about the crunch. We go many places by land or by video seeking out the exotic and the amazing to avoid thinking about the crunch. We seek out games where there always is a winner, because there is so often no clear winner in real life. Trouble with many of these diversions is they also divert us from thoughts of God. And I think why can’t things be fun and important at the same time? And that’s what these unexpected rainbows are—fun and important at the same

time. They are important because they make us think twice about the Creator. They make us realize that we haven’t come to the end of God’s marvels yet and some of the marvels are hardly less amazing than those in the Bible. After all rainbows are supposed to be in the sky—not on eyelashes and an explanation for it doesn’t make it any less surprising. Is the water of the Red Sea parting to make a clear path of escape for the Israelites from Egyptian armies really more amazing than this? So if God still produces extraordinary things from the things we see around us, well then, maybe God can use extraordinary events to help us escape when the odds are against us today, just as God did in Biblical times. ‘Cause, after all, aren’t the odds tallied from the expected and the ordinary? Who had more odds tallied up against him than Jesus—everything bad happened to him. He not only died, but after three days decay had established a real stronghold, and that’s when God resurrected him from the dead. Jesus was supposed to be in the tomb, not alive and walking the earth. So when we really look at the things God has created, using the Bible as key, we gain for ourselves not only fun discoveries in our own “backyard” but also hope and closeness to God as well.

Pastor Elizabeth

UCC CAMP BROCHURES

You can pick up your UCC Camp brochures from the back of the church or in the middle foyer. Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach are two excellent camps for your children to attend, and for adults as well as specialty camps, quilting, cooking, etc. Camp scholarships are also available.

Important Dates to Remember

April 1—Soup & Bread supper—6pm, Wms. Bay, service 7pm
April 7—Deacons—6pm
April 9—Maundy Thurs. service, here—7pm
April 10—Good Friday service 7pm Lake Geneva
April 12—Easter service 8 and 10:30, breakfast, 9
April 13—Food Pantry meeting—6:30pm
April 21—CE—6pm, Trustees—7pm
April 25—Salad Luncheon—11am—1pm
April 26—Confirmation
April 27—Ad Board—7pm
May 2—Extreme Sports
May 3—Office closed
May 5—Deacons—6pm
May 7—Walworth Co. Prayer Breakfast

Invite all the people to our
LENTEN WORSHIP

*Bread for the night...
Bread for the journey*

April 1 We gather at United Church of Christ - Williams Bay
The Offering will be given to The Association for the Prevention of Family Violence

April 10 Our Good Friday Worship at 7pm (no soup supper) will be at 1st Congregational UCC- Lake Geneva
The Offering will be given to Twin Oaks Shelter

**Spring Cleanup on Saturday,
May 2nd from 8am to Noon.**



April Anniversaries

6—Larry & Sonja Zank
20—Bob & Cynthia Rauland



April Birthdays

2—Brenda Kroupa
Al Lehman
8—Marilyn Anderson
12—Phil Rahn
13—Alex Halma
14—Brenda Wenger
20—Marge Kurth
Craig Utesch
27—Cathy Boldger
Jennifer Coon
29—Adam Recob

**Just a reminder that the church office
is closed on Fridays.**

Administrative Board Minutes

January 26, 2009

Moderator Bob Rauland called the meeting to order at 7:01pm, on Monday, January 26th. Present in addition to Bob, Brenda Wenger—Financial Sec., Judy Gildemeister—Music, Lucy Abell—CE, Jack Cunningham—Diaconate, Andy Pearce—Trustees, Mary Church—Immanuel Cares, Gary Ruskell—Treasurer, Madeline Zindrick—Clerk, and Pastor Elizabeth opened with a prayer.

Minutes: The minutes were approved on a Pearce/Wenger motion.

Moderator's Minute: Our motto this year will be "Immerse Yourself." It is important for us to converse with each other and because of what's going on in our economy, we need to keep in touch with our members to make sure everything is ok or if they need help.

Treasurer: We had a balance of \$8,824.56 at the end of December, but that can be a little misleading, because one person paid their pledge for 2009 in December. Treasurer's report was approved on a Pearce/Hazel motion.

Financial: Gary and Brenda reconciled the books because they were \$30 off which was accounted for at the end of December. We've received 42 pledges for 2009. Financial report approved on a Pearce/Church motion.

Trustees: We've had to borrow money from our reserve account most of the past year. We're down to \$3,683.85 and we can't use any of that money to pay bills because we need it to pay for a new roof on the parsonage and garage and to pay property taxes. What ever we get in for rent will be needed to fund these projects. We borrowed a total of \$9,000 from the property reserve fund. We're getting 3 bids for the roof. We also had to replace the water heater in the parsonage and the water softer tank was replaced, but that was under warranty. We decided against selling the parsonage. We have a signed contract for snow plowing. Someone had brought up the possibility of a community garden. We don't think we want to go there. We recommended moving the Endowment Fund into a CD, but Gary's had a hard time finding the documentation for the Endowment Fund. He's contacted the Department of Debt in Virginia to see where that will lead us. Joe Abell is

Chairman and Diana Bromeland is Secretary. February 17th is our next meeting.

Diaconate: We don't have a chairman or secretary because we met before the annual meeting. We will be having combined Lenten services with Fontana, Wms. Bay and Lake Geneva. We host on March 4th with Soup and Bread Supper before the 7pm service. We will have our own Ash Wednesday service Feb. 25th at 7pm and Maundy Thursday service April 9th at 7pm. Good Friday service will be at Lake Geneva at 7pm.

Christian Ed: Lucy Abell will be chairman and Mary Klein secretary. We met on January 20th. We discussed confirmation and weren't sure of the date and whether we had robes or not. There were two dates for possible confirmation, April 19th or 26th. We think it should be the 26th, and we should just have cake and coffee afterwards. Three confirmands and Dakota Ekman went to Inspiration Ministries on the 24th of January to help out with the Special Olympics there. The other dates for attending other churches are February 7th at St. Benedict church. We will meet there at 4:15pm, and Father Dan will meet with us afterwards to answer any questions and on March 13th we will go to Congregation Shalom in Milwaukee. We will meet at Immanuel at 3:30pm and carpool there. The service is at 6pm and Rabbi Shapiro will meet with us afterwards. February 17th is our next meeting.

Music: We met on January 18th and Judy Gildemeister will be the Chair and secretary and Ad Board rep every month with Melany Christenson the alternate rep. We have an opening on the board for anyone who shows and interest to serve. Cathy Boldger will do Grace Notes for the newsletter, Roxanne Baker will recruit people to do special music for the summer, and Cynthia Rauland sees that our instruments keep tuned. Bells will play for our March 4th Wednesday Service. We will do our best to provide music to the best of our ability while Nancy recuperates from surgery. February 15th is our next meeting.

Stewardship: No Report.

Pastoral Relations: No Report.

Immanuel Cares: We're doing Meals on Wheels this week.

Pastor: I will have office hours during Kids of the Kingdom on Wednesdays from 5-6pm and on Sunday mornings from 9-10am.

Old Business: Just a reminder of the meeting on January 31st with Jim Burd from the Association.

New Business: Brenda Wenger will need a replacement for February 22 to pick up the money from the offering.

The next Ad Board meeting is Monday, February 23rd at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm on an Abell/Pearce motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Zindrick—Clerk

Newsletter articles are due in the office by the 17th of each month. If you wish to have something printed in the Lamplighter you may either call the office with information or e-mail it to the church.

Administrative Board Minutes February 23, 2009

Moderator Bob Rauland called the meeting to order at 7pm, on Monday, February 23rd. Present in addition to Bob, Peter Gordon—Assistant Moderator—& Stewardship, Jack Cunningham—Diaconate, Lucy Abell—Christian Ed, Judy Gildemeister—Music, Jack Meredith—Trustees, Gary Ruskell—Treasurer, Madeline Zindrick—Clerk, and Pastor Elizabeth opened with a prayer.

Minutes: The minutes were approved on a Gordon/Ruskell motion.

Moderator's minute: The time in Florida was good. We went to 3 great church services there but home is where the heart is and it's good to be back. Even though the economy is in tough times, the tough get going. Our discussion on the

January 31st meeting should be thought out. I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and make it happen—with that I compliment you all.

Treasurer: We ended January with a balance of \$5,022.83, due in part because of pre-payment of pledges for 2009.

Financial: As presented.

Trustee: Still getting quotes for roof, there's one more coming. Replaced water heater and softener tank at parsonage. Community garden is still up for discussion. We're going to keep the Coca-Cola stock and it will be reinvested. Donations to the Food Pantry have been very good, but we've also increased the number of people that are coming. We are now receiving commodities. We picked up 1424 lbs. of food so far. They cost us nothing except we have to pick it up. We have a new freezer. We will be receiving money from the Food Pantry to pay for the electricity used by the pantry. We already receive \$200 a year for heat. It is suggested that the one treasury note in the Endowment Fund be cashed in for around \$12,000 and put into a one year CD. Do we have a consensus of what to do—Gary or Margaret can go to the bank. Stewardship will have to make a decision soon.

Diaconate: Jack Cunningham will be the chair and Sandy Cunningham secretary. We have our ashes from the papers Gary burned to use for Ash Wednesday. We're set for Lenten services. Advertising for Easter services—Pastor is willing to pay the difference for the larger ad. The Explorer ad will be done again as well. We will strip the church after the Maundy Thursday service. Deacons will order confirmation flowers and cake. They will also be ushering the first Sunday of each month since it's communion.

Christian Ed: We met on Feb. 17th and will meet again March 17th. Nancy Beci donated some pizzas for us to use as our snack for the kids. There will be no Kids on April 1. We will do palms for Palm Sunday. Easter breakfast—is there going to be one—CE will do one. We have a plan for a fun night—possibly in Oct invite everyone for game night.

Music: There was a discrepancy in fees for David and the church use fees for him. The Music Board will revise theirs to conform to the

fee schedule. Roxy volunteered to keep a journal for critical dates and info about things as organ repair, robe cleaning, etc.

Stewardship: The website name we own and it's a design in progress www.walworthucc.org

We've had 2 meetings. Tom Barone is chairman and Susan Gordon is secretary. We discussed our quarterly campaign, which is One Great Hour of Sharing. The presentation will be on March 15th and the offering taken on March 22nd. We've had various discussions on the economy and giving. We want to promote a great deal of effort towards promoting community efforts. We will poll the Board via phone or e-mail on the Treasury note.

Pastoral Relations: No report

Immanuel Cares: We do Meals on Wheels the week of March 9th.

Pastor: We've been having our clergy meetings regularly and possible suggestions for getting banners advertising specific things going on, a family game night, a progressive dinner, make our videos easier done. Wisconsin Conference had some good videos and pastor will contact them. Praise music—check into sheet music for it rather than have it on the screen. I've been getting the confirmands to volunteer in the Food Pantry and we're going to Temple Shalom in Milwaukee on March 13th.

New Business: Discussion of meeting January 31st. Music Board asked was the purpose of this activity to give us options as to what we would do if we run out of money? The conference is looking into restructuring the associations—should this go to the Long-Range Planning Committee? CE talked about that at the very least we got other peoples opinions and ideas on what we're feeling. Now that the congregation has all the information from the meeting, Long-Range Planning will need to meet again and make some plans (pros and cons). Where does the congregation want to go. Economics are dictating where we may be down the road. What kind of data are we going to use, it can be a positive thing. The congregation needs to give us some guidance. Do we want to deal with this in house? Define the issues and then the strategies that will move us forward to fix it. There have been many successes we've had—build on our strengths and look at where we're not as strong as we have been. Get input back from Long-

Range Planning, your boards and committees and report back to the Ad Board.

Upcoming dates: Spring Salad Luncheon: Saturday, April 25th from 11am to 1pm. The Walworth County Emergency Homeless Shelter has a Spaghetti Fundraiser at Champs on Tuesday, April 28th. On a Meredith/L. Abell motion the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Zindrick—Clerk

The following printed with permission by the pastor from the newsletter of Faith UCC, Wentzville, Missouri.

With the New Year upon us, I have been noticing a tremendous amount of doubt among folks all over the spectrum of our community and church. All of us struggle with doubt at one time or another. Doubt is not sinful but it is dangerous. It can inhibit spiritual growth. I have listed some suggestions in how one can combat doubt through spiritual insights.

1. Admit your doubts and ask for help. Tell the Lord about your struggles. God is not fragile. He can handle all your questions. And find some wise Christian friends who won't put you down when you express your doubts.

2. "Borrow" faith by hanging around those whose faith is strong. Stay attached to the larger body of Christ. Keep going to worship—even if it doesn't seem to help you at the moment. Remember that you're not the first Christian to go through the "dark night of the soul." If you pull back from other believers, your doubts will only grow stronger.

3. Act on Your Faith, Not Your Doubts.

We know that many great men and women of the Bible struggle with doubt. Sometimes believing can be very difficult indeed. Don't let your doubts shut down your faith altogether. Noah had never seen rain, but he built the ark anyway. Abraham had no idea where he was going, but he left Ur of the Chaldees anyway. The heroes of the Bible were flesh and blood people just like you and me. They chose to believe even when they had no idea how things were going to turn out.

4. Doubt your doubts, not your faith.

We will all spend some time slogging through the Valley of Doubt. When you are in that valley, remember these two words: **Keep Going!** If you are in the Valley of Doubt, don't stop and build a condo there. The only way out is to keep on walking. Every step forward is a way to "doubt your doubts." Soon enough the light will shine again.

5. Sing!

Since music is the language of the heart, when we sing, we are dealing with our doubts on more than just an intellectual level. Put in a Christian CD or play a good song on your iPod or pick out a song and start singing. I don't mean just listen. I mean sing along. Sing out loud. Singing godly music builds your faith by tattooing the truth on your soul.

6. Let go of what you cannot know with certainty.

All of us have questions that we simply can't answer. Often those questions revolve around the whys of life. Why did this happen? Why did it happen to me? Or to my children? Or to my wife? Or to my husband? Why did it happen now and not ten years from now? To all those questions of the heart, the answers will not come until we get to heaven. It is faith-building to say, "I understand that I won't understand right now."

7. Keep going back to what you know to be true.

This, for me, is the most important point. After considering the sufferings of this life, and the perils and tribulations of following Christ, Paul concludes Romans 8 triumphantly by declaring, "For I am persuaded." And he declares that nothing in the entire universe can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. In 2 Timothy 1:12 he says, "I know whom I have believed."

In times of trouble, keep going back to what you know to be true. This means consciously reminding yourself that God is sovereign, that Jesus is Lord, the God is good, and that there is a higher purpose at work even when I can't see it.

Doubt is not a sin. It's what you do with your doubt that makes all the difference. Don't let your doubts keep you from Jesus. Come to him just as you are—and bring your doubts with you. He will not turn you away.

See you in church!

Relay for Life

We're looking for more teams to join the fight against Cancer! The American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Walworth County will be held July 10 & 11th at the Walworth Co. Fairgrounds in Elkhorn and there is room for YOU!

Relay for Life involves teams of 8-15 people who take turns walking around the track all night long. This "walk" is meant to symbolize the cancer patient's struggle thru cancer diagnosis and treatment. The registration fee for a team is \$150 (which is just \$10 a person with a full team)!

Please give serious thought to getting involved with the 2009 Relay for Life. Either thru registering a team of your friends, family or co-workers, becoming a volunteer, attending the event to help support our silent auction and concession booths or becoming a corporate sponsor.

Please contact me for additional information. I would LOVE to get a registration packet in your hands! It is to your advantage to register your team by May 19, 2009! Don't be left behind...join Relay and make a difference!

Cheri McIntosh—262-325-0954
macmaddogg@hotmail.com

Happenings at Immanuel

We will have our own Maundy Thursday service at 7pm on April 9th.

On April 19th, the confirmands will try to stump the pastor during the 10:30 service after which there will be a coffee hour in their honor with their mentors. On April 26th is confirmation. We have 5 confirmands, Katie and Daniel Peace, Daniel Freitag, Natalie Boldger and Adam Kolnik.

Our Spring Salad Luncheon is Saturday, April 25th from 11am to 1pm. This is an ALL CHURCH event like our Turkey Dinner and we need lots of salads and volunteers for the kitchen. We will set up the dining room at 4pm on Friday the 24th. Contact Madeline at 275-3869, if you can volunteer to help or to make a salad. Thank you.

Summer worship schedule changes on May 24th. We will switch to 9:30am services that day and will continue through Labor Day Sunday, Sept. 6th.

Walworth County Emergency Homeless Shelter Fundraiser

**Spaghetti Dinner
At Champs in Lake Geneva
Tuesday, April 28th
5—8pm
Cost: \$8:00**

Advance tickets preferred and are available from Madeline.

Aromas Restaurant is doing a free soup supper on Wednesdays and would like volunteers to come and help serve.

Servants of Immanuel

Pastor: Elizabeth Hazel
Home phone: 262-275-3094
E-mail: morrinhazel@elknet.net
Pastor's office hours: Tue. and Thurs.
Church phone: 262-275-3252
Church e-mail: immanuel1@charter.net
Office hours: Mon.—Thurs.—9am—Noon
Administrative Assistant/Lampighter
Editor: Madeline Zindrick
Moderator: Robert Rauland—275-5655
Music Director: Nancy Rasmussen
Hand Bell Director: Melany Christenson
Organist: David Rasmussen
Pianist: Lois O'Brien, 8 am service
Lydia's Helpers: Wednesdays—9am—Noon
Kids of the Kingdom: Wed. 5—6pm

