

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

**VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1
JANUARY 2018**



**Winter at Emmanuel
Episcopal Church**

*We worship God and follow Jesus Christ, learning and
growing together in the Holy Spirit to serve in the world.
We will love and welcome ALL.*

Fr. Greg's Pastoral Letter for January 2018

Dear Emmanuel:

There comes a time when each of us has to declare, "This is MY faith".

For MANY of us, this time is NOW.

We call this moment the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Children are generally too young to make it. Their role is to learn about the Sacrament of Baptism, and it is their parents, and godparents, and the Church's role to help them understand this. We do this on Sunday at Worship Center, or in Sunday School, or through our Youth Groups for both middle and high school. They get ready to make that declaration when they become adults through their interaction and expression within the church, and we help set the stage for that declaration through participation in T.L.C. for those of high school age each summer.

We also offer the opportunity for those who have declared their faith to declare it again, to stand up and claim that their faith is alive and well, and they are nurturing it; for



those that have already been confirmed, we call this: Reaffirmation.

Some of us have been active and spiritually alive in other Christian Traditions, and have settled into the Episcopal Church as our spiritual home. Some are ready to declare this, and "officially" become Episcopalians. We call this: Reception.

We have a date when we will collect all three of these groups and have the bishop lay hands on them, to Confirm them, or to Reaffirm them, or to Receive them. That date is May 19, the Eve of Pentecost, and it will happen at Emmanuel. We will be joined by others from many churches across our diocese that are at a similar point in their spiritual journey, and we will all celebrate together.

Needless to say this will take some preparation.

SO... we will be offering classes for this preparation at Emmanuel beginning on January 14 at 11:30 a.m. ALL are welcome to attend. These classes will be offered each week and culminate on May 13. Confirmation* et. al. will take place the following Saturday. If you would like to be a part, sign up on the sheet in the church entryway, and be on hand January 14 after the late service.

MY GOAL for Emmanuel is 30 members in this class! I think that many of you can find yourself at some stage of this journey.

Our first several classes will be labeled "Adult Sunday School", as we will engage entry-level questions about our faith and figure out where we start.

I am VERY excited about Emmanuel hosting this Diocesan event.

I'm even more excited to find out who answers this call.

Ask yourself this question, and respond accordingly:

"Is this MY faith?"

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Greg

Fr. Greg's January Announcements

Pledge Cards: can STILL be turned in on the altar or place in the offering basket at the time of the offertory between now and forever.

Mondays at Nativity, Boyne City: Out of town for the weekend and didn't make it to church? Well, SOME weekends you get a last chance! During the school year, Fr. Greg celebrates Holy Communion at Nativity about once a month on a Monday at 5:30 p.m. The service is always followed by a potluck dinner, which is always delicious. So come join us, and bring a dish to pass if you'd like to add to the variety! Upcoming Mondays include Jan. 8, Feb. 5, Mar. 5, Apr 9, & May 7.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Hope everyone is staying warm during this winter blast.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2018 after the 10:00 a.m. services. In the case of inclement weather, Sunday, January 28, 2018 will be our back-up plan.



The Voting List has been posted on the "blue" bulletin board in the entranceway. Please see the Rector if you have any comments or concerns.

Cell Group Leaders+: If you have not already done so, please turn in your Cell Group's Annual Report. Any questions, contact Leah in the Church Office at 231-347-2350 ext. 110 or office@eecpetoskey.org.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday. It took four months of rehearsals to prepare for Christmas, and it seemed to go by in a heart beat. I am very grateful too all our musicians for their time and talent in making our



Christmas Eve Service, celebrating the birth of the Christ Child special. Everyone in the music ministry had a wonderful time worshipping together.

Also, a very heartfelt song of gratitude goes to all who gave to support our Brass Quintet. The Brass Quintet will be back for Easter Sunday's celebration of the Risen Lord. More about that as Easter approaches.

Our Youth Choir will sing and anthem once a month at the 10 a.m. service. Thank you for supporting them as they praise God with their voices.

The Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long was well received by all. Everyone sang carols and had a good time. Amy Cross sang, "O Holy Night" and did her rendition of "Santa Baby." Amy also sang, "O Holy Night" at the Christmas Eve service. A big thank you goes to Amy Cross for sharing with us the joy of her vocal and acting talents. Amy will be worshipping with us on Easter Sunday. Stay warm and think spring time.

Blessings,

Brian

THANK YOU

Thanks for the generosity of Emmanuel's families and individuals who donated to the Salvation Army Christmas Toys for Kids program. Your donations will make 24 children very happy.

In addition special thanks to those of you who stepped up to buy gifts 💎💎 for a whole family through the Women's Resource Center. What a great out pouring of love. The



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giving was finished off with a turkey. Almost like the Christmas Carol, how Dickensian can you get!

PRACTICING THE PRESENCE

In his last sermon of 2017, Father Greg encouraged us to make JESUS one of the six people in our lives that we spend the most time with. "How do we do that?" you may be asking yourself!



It will probably be different for each person, but one method may be to read and meditate on the Bible. Perhaps participating in a service project such as feeding or housing other people may be a good opportunity to spend time with the One who tells us that when we do good to others, we do good to Him. Another way to more easily hear the sweet, quiet voice of God more easily is to relax and invite His presence into our lives. The day-to-day grind gets busy for all of us, so even a few minutes of putting aside ALL distractions helps us to understand more of what God's Spirit wants us to know or do.

The Vestry invites everyone who wants to try "Practicing the Presence" to gather in the chapel each Thursday night from 7-8pm. There will always be at least one facilitator, a variety of materials to read or sing, and each session will likely be a little different. Since the goal is to listen, there will not be a great deal of talking. As a community of believers, we look forward to the many ways Jesus will help 'bring up our average' in 2018!

JANUARY 2018

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE:

January 7 Worship Center
 January 14 TBD
 January 21 Vestry
 January 28 Bob & Karel Howse

BIRTHDAYS:

January 1	William Chatterson	January 1	Nicole Viterbo
January 5	John Smith	January 6	Nancy Hodgkiss
January 6	Richard Kelbaugh	January 6	Wendy Thatcher
January 7	Benjamin Hall	January 8	Deborah Kan
January 10	Suzanne (Suzy) Carpenter		
January 11	Juliana Liebler		
January 11	Moon Seagren		
January 12	Cricket Kelbaugh		
January 14	Christine Carpenter		
January 15	Patricia (T.) Jones		
January 16	Maeve Janssens		
January 17	Mary Iles		
January 18	Alana Ernsberger		
January 19	Nina Wagar		
January 21	Molly Landi		
January 25	James Hempstead	January 27	Nina Chatterson
January 27	Benjamin Doornbos	January 27	Ronald Varga
January 29	Robert Need	January 30	Frank Hawthorne
January 31	Stephanie Asiala Gross		



**Celebrate Your
Day**

ANNIVERSARIES:

January 1 Bob & Susan Hannah
 January 2 Kirk & Kristin Lufkin
 January 3 Glen (Rusty) & Pam Carpenter



<u>January 7</u>	<u>January 14</u>	<u>January 21</u>	<u>January 28</u>
RITE I Service: Ernie Mainland	RITE I Service: Dennis McGeath	RITE I Service: Lynn Duse	RITE I Service: Ernie Mainland
LEMs: Julie Eckhardt 1st asst Tom Hord 1st	LEMs: Maryln Graham 1st Tom Hord	LEMs: Julie Eckhardt 1st asst Tom Hord	LEMs: Dottie Hawthorne Tim Tippett 1st asst
POPs: Tim Tippett	POPs: Julie Eckhardt 1st asst	POPs: Maryln Graham	POPs: Julie Eckhardt 1st
LECTORs: Dottie Hawthorne	LECTORs: Denise Evans	LECTORs: Nina Wagar	LECTORs: Julie Eckhardt
ACOLYTEs: Lillian Lamarche - Crucifer Caroline Farley Katie Farley	ACOLYTEs: Josephine Cabana Avery Sears	ACOLYTEs: Juliana Liebler - Crucifer Suzy Carpenter	ACOLYTEs: Van Atchison - Crucifer Joe Farley Thomas Farley
USHERs & GREETERs: Bill & Ginny King	USHERs & GREETERs: Bruce & Connie Booth	USHERs & GREETERs: Sarah Mosser, Joan Neubrecht	USHERs & GREETERs: Ashley Price, Wendy Price
CHURCH OPENERs: Jeremy Rakoniewski	CHURCH OPENERs: Bruce Koch	CHURCH OPENERs: Lynn Duse	CHURCH OPENERs: DJ Jones
ALTAR GUILD: Christina Carpenter, Maryln Graham	ALTAR GUILD: Patti Grannis	ALTAR GUILD: TBD	ALTAR GUILD: Karel Howse
COFFEE HOUR: Worship Center	COFFEE HOUR: TBD	COFFEE HOUR: Vestry	COFFEE HOUR: Bob & Karel Howse
VPOW: Ashley Price	VPOW: Bruce Koch	VPOW: Bill Nicholson	VPOW: Joyce Riordan
PLATE COORDINATOR: Andy/Susan Spence	PLATE COORDINATOR: Sandy Selden	PLATE COORDINATOR: Ron Rinker	PLATE COORDINATOR: Franz Neubrecht



Check our website for the latest, up to date happenings at Emmanuel by clicking the link to our Church Calendar [here](#).

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

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STAY CONNECTED



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