

# **THE LAMPLIGHTER**

## **Immanuel United Church of Christ**

**111 Fremont St.  
Walworth, WI 53184**

**Worship services 9 a. m.**

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

**June/July 2020**

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## **Words of a Burd**

### **“Spring House Cleaning”**

When I was a child, Spring Cleaning was a ritual preparing for the Lenten Season, we didn’t observe because my father was an agnostic. Have you done your Spring Cleaning? I can still remember the Spring cleaning my mother went through in our house. It always came as a surprise to me. We would come home from school to find the house bereft of rugs, curtains and any-thing not nailed down. I remember that, when everything was put back in place, carpets would be rotated so as to wear evenly on the wooden floors. Curtains that had been stretched on special frames were brought in from the back yard clothes line to be re-hung.

I loved spring cleaning! Everything had a clean, fresh smell! It was truly a ritual of purification! No, we weren’t a ‘church-going family,’ but my mother was raised a Baptist and was one until her death

The Children of Israel, three months out of Egyptian slavery, were in the middle of Spring Cleaning. Encamped at the base of the mountain where Moses first encountered this God, who now led them here.

They now watched, first in fascination and then in fear and terror as the fire, lightening, smoke, and the thunder of God’s Presence descended on the mountain to greet the ascending Moses.

Moses had insisted that they thoroughly clean, purify, and prepare themselves. Everything had been washed because God was coming to them. They must be prepared!

What if we were given the same commandment before worshipping on a Sunday morning? Would we be prepared to obey? I think we would be.

Amen.  
Rev. Jim

## **Moderator’s Moment**

As we move from spring to summer, I’m sure most of you remain curious as to plans to resume worship services in our church building. As Lucy mentioned in her May 24 announcements, we have been looking and will continue to look to our conference for guidance.

In a recent mailing the First Congregational UCC in Lake Geneva has set a tentative date of June 21 to reopen for in person worship though with restrictions on specific areas to enter and exit the church as well as open seating areas, requiring social distancing with minimal conversation taking place within the building, possible limitations on the number of persons in attendance at a worship service, and no after church coffee fellowship. Keep in mind as I write this that all of this is tentative and could change on very short notice.

In so far as our summer fundraisers are concerned, our cream puff and bake sale, normally held in conjunction with the rotary corn - bratwurst festival on the first Saturday in August, has been canceled as has the corn - bratwurst festival. With respect to the Labor Day weekend Walworth County Fair and the Lake Geneva Fat Tire bicycle event normally held in September, I do not believe final decisions have been made on either of these events so our operation of the Fair trolley and Fat Tire food and beverage tent are uncertain.

Once again thank you to those who record and make available on our website our weekly worship services as well as mailing written copies of the scriptures and sermons to those without computer access.

Richard Rasmussen

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## What Makes a Dad

**God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew His masterpiece was complete,  
And so, He called it ... Dad**

**Author Unknown**

## Mission Moment - Together we grow Stronger

“Together we grow Stronger” is the underlying theme of “Strengthen the Church”, the second of the four annual mission campaigns of the United Church of Christ. The mission funds, distributed through the various UCC conferences, are used to start new churches, to instill new ideas in existing churches, and to develop a spiritual life in the youth and young adults of the church. With this offering, many more will be able to hear the good news that “God is still Speaking”.

During the month of June we will receive the “Strengthen the Church” offering. If you are interested in making a donation to Strengthen the Church, your check should be mailed to and be made payable to our church, though be sure to specify that the check is for the “Strengthen the Church” mission.

When considering a gift to “Strengthen the Church” it makes sense to review the purpose, vision and mission statements of the United Church of Christ which are as follows:

**Purpose** - To love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and our neighbor, As ourselves.

**Vision** - United in Christ's love, a just world for all.

**Mission** - United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, And seek justice for all.

On behalf of the United Church of Christ, thank you for your contribution. These envelopes are in the back of the church in the box on the chair along with other reading materials.

Richard Rasmussen



### **June Anniversaries**

- 5—Richard & Nancy Rasmussen
- 11—David & Sheila Rasmussen
- 12—Addison & Barbara Toynton
- 14—Mike & Diana Bromeland
- 22—Gary & Gloria Ruskell



### **July Anniversaries**

- 29—Mark & Kim Pobursky



### **June Birthdays**

- 3—Bob Rauland
- 5—Richard Rasmussen
- 6—Tom Beci
- 13—Jim Recob
- 14—Dakota Ekman
- 17—David Rasmussen
- 18—Shari Mohr
  
- 20—June Kolnik



### **July Birthdays**

- 1—Susan Gordon
- 8—Elaine Burd
- 10—Makena Ekman
- 30—Becky Merwin  
Mark Pobursky  
Betsy Utesch

## **Burd's Funnies**

### **Squirrels in church:**

The Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrels. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist Church, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels like the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Methodist Church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist Church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water slide.

But the Catholic Church came up with a very creative strategy. They baptized all the squirrels and consecrated them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish Synagogue; they took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.

**Guest writers welcome!**



Dear Immanuel Family,

I want to thank you for the cards, calls and outside visits while I am confined to home after my surgery. Thank you to Gary and Gloria for the delicious dinner you provided for us. Thank you to Pastor Jim for his calls and prayers. I'm healing slowly, but have a hard time standing for any length of time.

Madeline Zindrick

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### **Where?**

Where was the mighty Oak before it was a tree?  
Where were you and I before we came to be?  
Where was the concerto before it was a tune?  
Where was the universe; where the stars and moon?  
Where was the skyscraper before it grew so tall?  
Where was the store and shop before it was a mall?  
Where was the mighty city before it was a town?  
Where the mansion before upstairs and down?

Where was the money when invested grew four-fold?  
Where was the child before growing so old?  
Where the time now fleeting grew from days to years?  
Where the laughter in our hearts before it turned to tears?

## **Servants of Immanuel**

Where was the world's best painting seen in  
secret's lure?  
Where the color and design in artist's mind  
so pure?  
Where was the lovely rose before it was a  
sprout?  
Where was the source of beauty, before it's  
coming out?

Where was the child's first prayer when  
silent in the mind?  
Where was God to listen in to show love  
great and kind?  
Where was sermon, hymn, and litany before  
divinely shared?  
Where were the Church's teachers before  
they learned to care?

Where was I in all of this...has life somehow  
passed me by?  
Where do I get a heart of love to share before  
I die?  
'Where' is the word I offer here to answer  
when we call?  
The **WHERE** is God Who lives inside, loving  
us; one and all!

Rev. Jim Burd  
May, 2020

**Pastor:** Rev. Jim Burd  
**Home phone:** 262-379-1079  
**E-mail:** jkbehb@elknet.net  
**Pastor's Office hours:** Wednesdays  
**Church phone:** 262-275-3252  
**Fax:** 262-275-3274  
**Church e-mail:** walworthuc@gmail.com  
**Office hours:** Mon.—Thurs.—9am—Noon  
**Administrative Assistant/Lamplighter**  
**Editor:** Madeline Zindrick  
**Moderator:** Richard Rasmussen  
262-374-2021  
**Hand Bell Director:** Melany Christenson  
**Choir Director:** Bill Horn  
**Organist:** David Rasmussen  
**Lydia's Helpers:** Wednesdays—9 am-Noon  
**Website:** walworthucc.org  
**Website Coordinator:** Anne Behring

**Just a reminder if you haven't looked at  
our Website, please do so, Annie is doing  
a beautiful job putting everything on  
there that's being recorded. Thank you  
Annie, we are truly grateful for all your  
hard work. Thank you to David, and Bill  
for music and Sheila for recording.**