

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we begin the new season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 10, we have much to celebrate and we'll be making time for God and for each other in several intentional ways. I do want to particularly invite you to our Along the Road Ecumenical Series beginning with our shared Ash Wednesday services with both our Oxford and Seymour Congregational brothers and sisters. We will journey Along the Road on Wednesday evenings in Lent with simple soup suppers at 6 p.m. and a prayer service at 7 p.m. in the tradition of each congregation we'll visit—please see the schedule further on in this newsletter.

I'll also have the chance to bring a lunch and reflect on Scripture and prayer together on Wednesdays at noon for those who prefer to gather in the day time. I'm also excited to be able to teach and explore spiritual formation with adults on Sunday mornings in Lent from 9:30 to 10:15. This series is called "The Language of Love: Liturgy and Our Lives". We'll begin February 14 and run through March 13. As Christians we can sometimes take our liturgies and prayers for granted. Come and deepen your understanding of the many facets of our common prayers and how they connect with our every day.

What is prayer? One simple definition asserts that prayer is "talking to God". One might also want to add that prayer includes listening to God as much as talking. Another classic definition lists the seven traditional forms of prayer as adoration, praise, thanksgiving, penitence, oblation, intercession, and petition. One Catechism teaches that "Prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deed, with or without words". In a wonderful book called "Creating a Life with God" author Dan Wolpert draws on ancient prayer practices and defines them in contemporary language. He writes "A prayer practice is just that: practice. It is taking time to learn how to listen for God. It is taking time to see the hand of God at work in our lives....Prayer practice is the art of setting aside our own individual desires to seek the desire that God has placed on our heart. It is becoming aware of the distractions of our minds and then letting them go, and as we repeat the disciplines over time, we become more skilled at seeing God in all that we do." (Creating A Life with God, p.18)

In his own down to earth way Fred Buechner begins his definition of prayer with this: "Everybody prays whether he thinks of it as praying or not. The odd silence you fall into when something very beautiful is happening or something very good or very bad. The ah-h-h-h! that sometimes floats up out of you as out of a Fourth of July crowd when the sky rocket bursts over the water. The stammer of pain at somebody else's pain; the stammer of joy at someone else's joy. Whatever words or sounds you use for sighing over your own life. These are all prayers in their way. These are all spoken not just to yourself but to something even more familiar than yourself and even stranger than the world. According to Jesus, by far the most important thing about praying is to keep at it.... (Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC p.70)

In some of our Cottage meetings recently people have spoken about our worship as one of the great blessings of this community. Let us explore prayer and our common life together this Lent!

All Blessings, Katie

Annual Meeting

January 31st

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Potluck luncheon & meeting

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## *Along the Road begins!*

**Ash Wednesday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Noon @ Immanuel**

Holy Communion & Ashes

**Seymour Congregational Ch.**

45 Broad St., Seymour

**6:00 pm**

Simple Lenten Supper

**7:00 pm**

Holy Communion

Imposition of Ashes

**6:00p Simple Supper / 7:00p Services**

**Feb. 17** Seymour United Methodist Ch.

92 Pearl St., Seymour

**Feb 24 TBA**

**Mar. 2** Immanuel Lutheran Ch.

**Mar.9 TBA**

**Mar.16** Great Hill United Methodist Ch.

225 Great Hill, Seymour

† † †

**Wednesdays Feb. 17-Mar. 16 Noon**

**Brown Bag Lunch & Prayer Study**

† † †

**Sundays Feb 14 - March 13**

**The Language of Love**

**9:30 am Study with Pastor**

## Immanuel's Blessings!

*I would like to thank Pastor Katie Keene for all her thoughtfulness and concerns for me before and after my operation. Her visit to my house inspired me with all the prayers. I want to thank all the people that kept me in their prayers, and the Get Well Cards. I really appreciate all your kindness during my sickness. God Bless each and every one of you. Blessings, Barbara Enquist*

*To My Church Family:*

*Thank you very much for your cards, visits, and prayers during the past couple of months. Your kindness and support are greatly appreciated. Wishing you God's blessings during the holidays and throughout the new year. Millie Grele*

*Thank you to everyone for your kindness at Christmastime. I am blessed to be a part of this Church family. Mauree*

**Please add your concerns back by emailing the office:**  
**[immanuelct@sbcglobal.net](mailto:immanuelct@sbcglobal.net). Or put a note with correct spelling**  
**in Mauree's mailbox. Thank you.**

## Prayers: Deb Steckert (203.888.1218) Donna Figoras (203.734.0249)

|                  |                  |                    |                  |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Ann Marie Lisa   | Eric Figoras     | Richard LoRicco Sr | Dorothy Prillip  |
| Barbara          | Ellen Fritz      | Wilma Luft         | Hank Rotzal      |
| Helen Ahern      | Millie Grele     | Florence Masiak    | Joyce Sauer      |
| Bob Ancefsy      | Jake             | Ava Nebbia         | Dorothy Stockman |
| Shirley Bernardo | Linda Kunecki    | Tacia Newmann      | Ed Stockman      |
| Fay Brown        | Nancy Lane       | Tyler Otis         | John Turley      |
| Lauren Burton    | Norbert Lorenzen | Olivia             | Chelsea Wheeler  |
| Mary Ann Croves  | Penny Lorenzen   | Florence Pawlak    |                  |
| Barbara Enquist  | Sue Lorenzen     | Gary Petitii       |                  |

**New baby?** Let Karin Schidat know so a rose can be placed on the font in their honor. 203.888.5946

## The Food Bank Corner

**Pasta Night essentials:**  
**Grated cheese, pasta, sauce, etc.**

**Spooner House Meal**  
**Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Thank you, Bonnie & Rick Kaeser**  
**for this month's meal.**  
**Kitchen helpers are not needed.**

## Happy Anniversaries

10 Stephanie & Hector Vargas  
17 Diane & Mark Waggner  
18 Ruth and Jay Simpson

## Happy Birthdays

1 Dorothy Stockman  
3 Amanda Betts  
Charles Rippel  
4 Hunter Cripps  
6 Sharon Trede  
Virginia Wilde  
Warren Austin  
8 Stephanie Alves  
11 Karen Errickson  
Andrew Alves  
14 Gregory Dorosh  
Crystal Bransfield  
16 Mallory Rioux  
Henry Rotzal  
17 Katelyn Mullen  
Milana Campion  
21 Norma Miles  
24 Jenna Dorosh  
26 Billy Ahearn  
29 Jeanette Scinto

| February Ministry                                   |       |                                         |                            |                        |                         |                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
|                                                     |       | Ushers                                  | Assisting Minister         | Lector                 | Acolyte                 | Coffee Hour                               |
| 7                                                   | 8:15  | <i>Julie Cormack &amp; Peter Wright</i> | <i>Wendy Cegelka</i>       | <i>Lars Edgren</i>     | <i>Anella Porto</i>     | <i>Youth Group Souper Bowl</i>            |
|                                                     | 10:30 | <i>Kim Tupper &amp; Charlie Rippel</i>  | <i>Bonnie Kaeser</i>       | <i>Karin Schidat</i>   | <i>Jillian Andes</i>    | <i>Youth Group Souper Bowl</i>            |
| 14                                                  | 8:15  | <i>Janet &amp; Lars Edgren</i>          | <i>Jeananne Urbanowicz</i> | <i>Hunter Cripps</i>   | <i>Sean Ruggeio</i>     | <i>The Burton family</i>                  |
|                                                     | 10:30 | <i>Beth &amp; Rich Alves</i>            | <i>Julie Cormack</i>       | <i>Bonnie Kaeser</i>   | <i>Tori Alves</i>       | <i>Ruth Simpson &amp; Victoria Skehan</i> |
| 21                                                  | 8:15  | <i>Dale Peters &amp; Dave Ahearn</i>    | <i>TBA</i>                 | <i>Lynn Nesshoever</i> | <i>Sierra Cripps</i>    | <i>Diane &amp; Dale Peters</i>            |
|                                                     | 10:30 | <i>Anne &amp; Rob Dow</i>               | <i>Ellen Fritz</i>         | <i>Charlie Rippel</i>  | <i>Madison Jarvis</i>   | <i>The Mullen family</i>                  |
| 28                                                  | 8:15  | <i>Betty &amp; Jerry Lower</i>          | <i>Hunter Cripps</i>       | <i>Janet Edgren</i>    | <i>Stephanie Alves</i>  | <i>Evelyn Belinsky</i>                    |
|                                                     | 10:30 | <i>Jeanmarie &amp; Rob Mullen</i>       | <i>Wendy Cegelka</i>       | <i>Teresa Mentgen</i>  | <i>Samantha Fletter</i> | <i>The Mentgen family</i>                 |
| Altar Guild: <i>Judy Adcox and MaryAnn Robinson</i> |       |                                         |                            |                        |                         |                                           |

## Stewardship Report

*This is a loving reminder to keep up with your pledges and a request to consider, if possible, an additional financial gift to the church.*

## God's Work – Our Hands

|             | Income    | Expenditures |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| December    | \$18,609  | \$25,470     |
| 2015 Income | \$183,945 | \$252,174    |

## Weather Cancellation Policy

Should the church need to be closed because of bad weather, the President & Vice President of Council, Sunday School Director, and Pastor will jointly decide whether worship services should be cancelled on a weekend. Decisions for Sunday will be made by 8 p.m. Saturday night. Cancellations during the week will be determined by the same people as soon as it becomes apparent a decision must be made to insure the safety of any group using our building.

### Information on possible closings can be found four ways:

- On local news stations Channels 8, *WTNH*, NBC Connecticut *WVIT* and Channel 3, *WFSB*,
- on our church web site,
- by e-mail blast,

PLEASE USE YOUR OWN GOOD JUDGEMENT as we want people to stay safe and healthy this winter!! Cancellations will not be lightly made, but again will be determined by what seems safest for everyone.

# February 2016

| Sun                                                                                                                    | Mon               | Tue                                          | Wed                                                                                  | Thu                                     | Fri                         | Sat                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                        | 1<br>7p<br>Scouts | 2                                            | 3<br>6:30 Scouts<br>7:00 Choir<br>Rehearsal                                          | 4<br>6:30 Adult Ed<br>7:00 Christian Ed | 5                           | 6<br>30 Adult1-<br>4p Pack 14<br>Pinewood<br>Derby<br>AM set up |
| 7 <b>Souper Bowl</b><br>8:15 Holy Communion<br>9:20 Church School<br>10:30 Holy Communion                              | 8                 | 9<br>9:30a RMC<br>630p<br>Worship &<br>Music | 10<br><i>Ash</i><br><i>Wednesday</i><br>6:00 <i>Along the</i><br><i>Road</i> begins  | 11<br>6:30 Adult Ed                     | 12                          | 13                                                              |
| 14<br>8:15 Holy Communion<br>9:20 Church School<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br>11:30 M & O Ministry<br>6:30 Youth Group    | 15                | 16<br>7:00p<br>Congregation<br>Council mtg.  | 17<br>6:30 Scouts<br>7:00 Choir<br>Rehearsal<br>6:00 <i>Along the</i><br><i>Road</i> | 18<br>6:30 Adult Ed                     | 19                          | 20                                                              |
| 21<br>8:15 Holy Communion<br>9:20 Church School<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br><b>11:30-1:30</b><br><b>Cupcake Contest</b> | 22                | 23<br>2:30 Spooner<br>House meal             | 24<br>6:30 Scouts<br>7:00 Choir<br>Rehearsal<br>6:00 <i>Along the</i><br><i>Road</i> | 2<br>6:30 Adult Ed                      | 26<br>7-9 Set up<br>Pack 65 | 27<br>2-7 p<br>Pack 65<br>Pinewood<br>Derby                     |
| 28 <b>Scout Sunday</b><br>8:15 Holy Communion<br>9:20 Church School<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br>6:30 Youth Group        | 29                |                                              |                                                                                      |                                         |                             |                                                                 |