

EmmanuelLife

Newsletter of Emmanuel United Church of Christ



Rev. Kenneth D. Peterkin

April 2026

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Calendar Highlights

Friday-Monday, April 3-6
Office Closed for Holiday

Sundays, April 5, 12, 19, 26
8:30 am—Adult Learning Hour
10 am—Worship in person and
live streamed on YouTube

Mondays, April 13, 20, 27
1 pm—Compassionate Crafters

Thursdays, April 2 & 16
1-4 pm—Afternoon of Games

Sunday, April 19
3 pm—Pianist John Samuell Concert

Saturday, April 25
10 am-2 pm—Caring Festival

Holy Week



Palm Sunday, March 29
Maundy Thursday, April 2
Good Friday, April 3
Easter Sunday, April 5
~See details, Page 2

COMPLETE CALENDAR, PAGE 8

Heifer International

When women invest together, communities grow stronger

On Saturdays, Jeanne d’Arc Barakamfitiye sells eggs. The steady sales create predictable income for her family and fuel the growth of her small livestock business. In her savings-and-loan group, Jeanne is known as an entrepreneur — someone others are eager to invest in and work alongside. A few years ago, that kind of steady income felt out of reach. The mother of three was working in neighbors’ fields to make ends meet. Her husband’s wages weren’t enough to cover basic nutrition, and access to even small amounts of credit was uncertain.

Jeanne’s family lives in Rwanda’s Rulindo District, where many rural households struggle with poverty and malnutrition despite steady economic growth nationwide. Most of Rwanda’s population works in agriculture, yet low productivity, scarce land and reliance on rain-fed farming leave families vulnerable to food insecurity and climate shocks. Jeanne’s situation began to change in October 2022, when she and her husband joined the PRISM project – the Partnership for Resilient and Inclusive Small

Continued on Page 2



Jeanne d’Arc Barakamfitiye holds a tray of eggs from her poultry business in Rulindo District, Rwanda.
~Photo by Heifer International

“ If you’re not in a group, you miss out on learning better ways to develop yourself.”
~Jeanne d’Arc Barakamfitiye



Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday: 10 am, March 29

Featuring Jean-Baptiste Faure's anthem "The Palms" by the Chancel Choir.

Maundy Thursday: 6 pm meal, 7 pm service, April 2

Commemorate the Last Supper with a light meal at 6 pm in King Auditorium followed by a service with Holy Communion at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. A supper of soup, salad and bread will be served. Sign up on the clipboard or RSVP to the church office.

Good Friday: 12 pm, April 3

A solemn service will mark Christ's crucifixion and death.

Easter: 10 am, April 5

Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on this holy day at worship with Holy Communion. Special music will include anthems by the Chancel Choir. (There will be no Fellowship Hour or breakfast on Easter.)

*Join us in person or view on YouTube.
Find the links at emmanuelucc.org.*

Save the date: Vacation Bible School

VBS will be held 9-11:30 am Monday to Friday, June 22-26, in collaboration with both Grace and Trinity UCCs, to be held at Trinity, 116 York St., Hanover. The program is free and all children



ages 4-12 are welcome for music, games, crafts snacks, Bible Stories and fun! The theme is "Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God." Registration forms are available in the church office or by emailing office@eucchanover.org.

► **VBS needs you!** To volunteer, contact Cheryl Fritz at 717-698-1153 or candmfritz@aol.com.

Heifer International, continued from Page 1

Livestock Markets – in Rwanda. With funding from Heifer, PRISM works in districts where poverty and malnutrition are most severe, helping farmers – especially women and youth – strengthen small livestock businesses and connect to functioning markets. By combining training, access to livestock and support for savings groups, the project aims to improve nutrition, increase incomes and build resilience.



As part of the PRISM project, Jeanne joined the *Dukorere mu Mucyo* self-help group, a small group of farmers who share common interests, goals and challenges. They meet regularly for business and technical training, save money together, lend to one another and make decisions collectively.

Through the group, Jeanne participated in livestock management and financial literacy training. PRISM also helped her build a standard chicken shed and provided 10 chickens. As the chickens began laying eggs, Jeanne's family gained a reliable source of nutrition – and a steady source of income.

Self-help group meetings became a space for shared learning. Women and other farmers exchanged ideas about livestock care, soil health and kitchen gardens – practical knowledge that helped improve yields and strengthen food security.

For many women in rural Rwanda, that kind of collective structure is critical.

Through the group, they also build social capital, practice Passing on the Gift, and expand access to form financing through collective action. These endeavors are among Heifer International's 12 core values known as the Cornerstones for Just and Sustainable Development that form the foundation of its work.

► Your offering provides livestock, seeds, training and resources to small-scale farmers and communities, supports sustainable agriculture, empowers women farmers, and helps build local economies in the U.S. and worldwide.

The collection date is May 3. Use a giving envelope, or make a check to Emmanuel UCC with "Heifer" in the memo.

John Samuel ~ Pianist

Sunday, April 19, 3 pm

John Samuel, 14, is a pianist, organist, harpsichordist, and composer who began his musical studies at age 9. In 2025, he won the Rosalyn Tureck International Bach Competition (ages 28 and under category). He also earned first place in multiple competitions, including the 2024 Ylda Novik Concerto Competition and the 2024 Virginia MTNA Junior Piano Competition. John completed the Royal Conservatory of Music Level 10 practical exams in 2024, receiving First Class Honours with Distinction in piano and organ,

and First Class Honours in harpsichord. As a composer, his published works include *Prelude in C Major, Op. 1, No. 1; Prelude in A Major, Op. 1, No. 2; Theme and Five Variations; and Night, Op. 2.* He holds two professional certifications from the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and was awarded the national CAGO Prize in 2024. His performances include appearances at National Presbyterian Church, the 47th Annual Chevy Chase Bach Marathon, the Roth Concert Series, and the Steinway Concert Series at Silo Hill. He is currently studying composition,

“He is a formidable musician for one so young, and it was thus not a surprise upon reading his biography to learn that he is also a budding composer and highly credentialed organist.”



~New York Concert Review

counterpoint, orchestration, improvisation, and music analysis with Dr. Bohdan Syroyid. At Emmanuel, John will perform works by Mozart, Chopin, Brahms and Stravinsky on the piano.
~Sponsored by Estelle King

2025-2026 EUCC Concert Series

COMING UP



Westminster Ringers | Handbell Choir *Sunday, May 3, 3 pm*

The Westminster Ringers bring exceptional artistry to advanced handbell repertoire, performing with both technical brilliance and musical sensitivity. The ensemble appears throughout the East Coast, performing on Malmark Handbells, Choirchimes, Cymbells, and a variety of percussion instruments.

~Sponsored by Amy & Lee Donner

Admission is free to all concerts!

Stay afterwards for a dessert reception to meet the artist.

Home baked finger foods needed: The Concert Reception committee is requesting donations. Contact Marilyn at 443-766-3563.

Thank you, concert sponsors!

We are truly grateful for the members and friends of Emmanuel for generously supporting our 2025-2026 Concert Series:

Donor-Named Concert Sponsors

Ronn McFarlane—Sandra Rebert *In Memory of Glenn Cooper and in Honor of Dot Cooper*

115th Annual Carol Sing—Linda & Steve McKonly

Beijing Guitar Duo—Judy Morris

John Samuel—Estelle King

Westminster Ringers—Amy & Lee Donner

Sustainers

J. Robert Baum

Phyllis Egger

Peter & Victoria Robinson

William Wertzberger

Michael Warns & Rick Freda

John Wheeler & Jody

Adelsperger

Metha Williams

Laurence Zimmermann

Benefactors

Bob Larsen

Bob Marchio

Peg Custer Moulton

Patrons

Anonymous

Pam & Alan Cashman

Sharlene Davis

Brian Frederick

Marilyn Van Lenten

Loretta Most

Maria & Brian Shea

Mandi Smith

Mary “Liz” Webb

Grand Patrons

Anonymous

Mary & Mike Bair

Sandra Bull

Eugene & Cecilia Jerry

David & Karen Jones

James McLin

Rev. Ken Peterkin &

Rev. Suzanne Personette

Charlotte Pinette

Cathy Reck

Friends

Mark C. Deardorff

Roy Evans & Gail Bernal

Carole Rhoten

Nancy Shrout-Wankowski

Karen Unger



SpringFest

Community Caring Festival

Emmanuel will host SpringFest – a Community Caring Festival from 10 am-2 pm on Saturday, April 25, offering neighbors a welcoming space to connect with local organizations that support the well-being of our community. This free event will feature information and resources on topics including child care, domestic abuse and shelter assistance, immigrant and human rights advocacy, mindfulness and stress reduction, and other services that help individuals and families thrive.

Representatives from several local organizations will be on hand to share information and answer questions, including the Hanover Area Diversity Alliance, Hanover Area Council of Churches, Rainbow Rose Center, New Hope Ministries, YWCA Hanover, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, PA Immigration Resource Center of York, Guthrie Memorial Library, Hanover Borough Parks and Recreation, and Emmanuel UCC.

In addition to community resources, the festival will include plenty of ways to enjoy the day together. Visitors can browse plants from Pleasant Hill Garden Center for sale in the courtyard, purchase food in the kitchen, enjoy children’s activities, and bring their pets for blessings. The chapel will be open for mindfulness sessions. Sanctuary tours will also be offered from 11 am-12 pm, giving guests an opportunity to learn more about Emmanuel’s beautiful worship space and the life of the congregation.

Everyone is welcome – friends, neighbors, and families alike. Mark your calendar and join us for a day of connection, care, and community at Emmanuel.

► A few Emmanuel helpers are needed – If you are able to volunteer some time, contact Charlotte Pinette at 717-227-0262.

Student loans available for education expenses

Members of Emmanuel UCC and church employees are reminded that assistance is available through the Myers Student Loan Fund.

These loans are intended to help cover tuition, books, and related educational expenses.

Eligible applicants may borrow up to \$1,500 per semester, with a maximum of \$3,000 per academic year, subject to available funds. Loans carry a 4% interest rate, with repayment beginning six months after graduation or completion of studies, and are structured with affordable monthly payments over time.

Those interested in applying should contact the church office to obtain the necessary agreement forms. All requests are reviewed by the Student Loan Committee.

This fund exists to support the educational goals of our community -- please don’t hesitate to explore this opportunity if it may be helpful to you or your family.

In addition, the Smith Hood College Trust provides financial assistance to any EUCC member attending Hood College in Frederick, Md.

Get involved with the Green Team

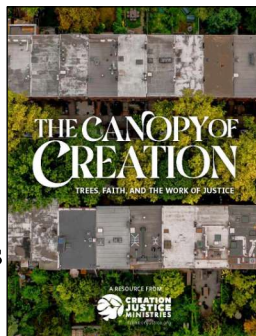
- The new section of the Hanover Trolley Trail is now being enjoyed by members of the community. A group walk for members of Emmanuel is always a possibility. If interested, contact Peg Moulton at 443-904-0234.
- The sign-up sheet for maintaining the gardens at Emmanuel is available on the Green Table. Two volunteers are needed per month, from June to September.
- We welcome volunteers to help us care for our environment bring new ideas to the Green Team.
- For information, contact Carol Giesey at 717-632-2665.



Celebrate Creation Justice Sunday

April is Earth Month – a great time for UCC congregations, to answer the call to care for God’s creation. At Emmanuel, we will observe Earth Day at worship on April 19. You can learn about the UCC’s environmental justice initiatives at ucc.org.

For Earth Day, the UCC partners with the ecumenical organization Creation Justice Ministries to produce an annual resource to support care for God’s creation. This year’s booklet, “The Canopy of Creation: Trees, Faith, and the Work of Justice,” focuses on trees and includes theological grounding, stories of practical work by churches and partners, and steps for advocacy and action. Contact the church office for a link or a PDF.



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Women’s health comes to HACC

The Hanover Area Council of Churches, in partnership with Hanover Borough and UPMC Magee-Womens Health, will host the UPMC Women’s Oncology Mobile Unit the first Tuesday of every month beginning April 7.

The 30-foot mobile unit will be parked in front of HACC at 136 Carlisle St., Hanover, and will provide services to local women from 9 am-2 pm with no appointment necessary. Services offered include HPV vaccinations, pap smears and cervical cancer screenings, pelvic and breast exams, pregnancy testing, STD testing, and urine testing.

In addition to the mobile oncology unit, UPMC representatives already serving on site on first Tuesdays will continue their work, including: an enrollment specialist providing assistance with linkage to healthcare, SNAP benefits, Medicaid/Medicare enrollment, and related resources; and a physician available to meet with shelter guests for general medical needs.

Having all three resources available at the same time will significantly strengthen immediate access to coordinated care, ensuring comprehensive support in one location.

For information, call UPMC at 717-221-5940.

Events & Activities

Association meeting

2 pm, April 19

The Gettysburg Association will hold its Spring Meeting at Zwingli UCC, 403 W. King St., East Berlin, for pastors and lay leaders. To RSVP, email gapccucc@gmail.com.



Lunch Bunch

12 pm, second Sundays

The group will gather for food and fellowship after worship on April 12 at Olivia’s, 3015 Baltimore Pike (Route 97), Gettysburg. RSVP to Sandy Rebert at 717-586-2136.



Mindfulness at EUCC

6 pm, April 19

(No session on April 5, Easter)
Join Karen Jones first and third Sundays at 6 pm for free 45-minute drop-in sessions in King Auditorium. The mindfulness and stress-reduction practices are open to all. For a Zoom link or questions, email kjones@mindfulnessandmotion.com.

Afternoon of Games

1-4 pm, April 2 and 16

Joins us in King Auditorium first and third Thursdays for Scrabble, cards, board games, snacks and fellowship. New players are always welcome! Call Carol Giesey at 717-632-2665 for info.

Compassionate Crafters

1-4 pm Mondays

All crafters are welcome to bring a project, swap techniques and enjoy fellowship. For info, call Sandy Rebert at 717-586-2136.

CONSISTORY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

February minutes were approved March 16

Consistory Minutes — February 16

- Treasurer's Report: Clay met with Dave to review the budget and expenses. The monthly report was approved, subject to audit.
 - President's Report: Brian noted a Fellowship Hour Coordinator is still needed; and the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is seeking additional people.
- Old Business:
- WFX was contacted about office door access control.
 - Asbestos abatement scheduled week of March 2.
 - Brian, Dave and Clay to discuss financing for D.E. Wildasin boiler replacement quote of \$103K prior to next Consistory meeting.
 - Large Screen TV for auditorium to use instead of projector: Brian to discuss options with Andy to have in place prior to June 21.
 - Used oven search not bearing fruit to date, will continue to look.
 - Electronic sign for side wall of office: Meeting with STSG Digital Feb. 18.
 - Professional Auditors: still need to find.
 - Weekday Sexton retirement: Met with Larry Feb 4; position description is up to date; discussed reasonable salary range; at least one interested person is known.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christian Education Committee — March

- Our joint Vacation Bible School with Trinity and Grace UCCs will be June 22-26. The theme is Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God.
- We are continuing to work on making sure that all our volunteers are up to date on the Safe Church requirements. Since June of last year, we have gained three new Children's Ministry volunteers.

Church Growth Committee — March 15

Upcoming annual events/updates

- April 25: Community Caring Festival, 10 am-2 pm. Planning is underway for vendors and activities.
- Additional events: July 11, SnackTown Street Fair; August 7, YWCA Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes; August, Gitt Outdoor Service; September, Member Appreciation; Oct. 4, Pet Blessings at worship; Nov. 13, Gift Card Bingo.

Missions Committee — March 4

- God's Meal Barrel: served 158 families in February. Missions donated \$300 toward hams for Easter.
- HACC ends their cold weather emergency shelter on March 31. They continue with Strategic Planning meetings. Onsite medical care is now available to clients several days a month. HACC has installed a

Continued on next page

2026 CONSISTORY OFFICERS

President	Brian Frederick 717-451-3977 brianfrederick44@gmail.com
Vice President	Dave Jones 717-451-3044 redcon1@comcast.net
Secretary	JJ Dugan 717-465-3549 jldugan77@gmail.com
Treasurer	Clay Reichart 717-521-9572 clayreichart@gmail.com

CONSISTORY MEMBERS

Megan Alcott, Jan Hagenberger,
Eugene Jerry, Sean Moore,
Sandy Topper, Dan Trimmer

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Altar Guild	Mary Bair 717-870-5597
Caring	Judy Morris 717-968-6998
Christian Education	Cheryl Fritz 717-698-1153 Consistory Rep: Megan Alcott
Church Growth	Charlotte Pinette 717-227-0262 Consistory Rep: Megan Alcott
Fellowship Hour Coordinators	Brandon Groff-Wood & Joey Wildasin 717-476-9698
Investment	Dave Jones 717-451-3044
Missions	Carol Giesey 717-632-2665 Estelle King 717-487-1906 Consistory Rep: JJ Dugan
Pastor-Parish Relations	Estelle King 717-487-1906
Personnel	Jan Hagenberger 410-829-9371
Property and Safety	Sean Moore 443-618-7481
Stewardship	Dan Trimmer 717-870-4539
Worship and Music	Charlotte Pinette 717-227-0262 Consistory Rep: Clay Reichart

Committee Reports, continued from Page 6

shower for women in the main floor bathroom and is obtaining a new dishwasher.

- Emmanuel's next turn for serving PAL lunch is March 31. Volunteers are needed. Contact Estelle King.
- We can benefit Hoffman Homes when donating to Community Aid. Provide code #50059, and Hoffman Homes will receive 13 cents for every pound of items you donate.
- Communion Gifts for March totaled 58 pounds of food, 25 hygiene items and 4 cleaning products. All were delivered to the 3 local food banks
- The Compassionate Crafters report that most of the 262 donated and crafted items were claimed. This is an increase over the 168 items distributed last year.
- In support of our immigrant community, we delivered the following to the YMCA Welcome Center in York: 81 pounds of beans, 40 pounds of rice, several cans of tomatoes, 2 boxes of chocolates, and several packets of powdered milk. The collection basket for continued donations remains in the narthex. Rita Bouchard reports that the Haitian community continues to struggle since their protective status was recently removed. Deb Detzel, representing the Welcome Center, continues to work with agencies to defend immigrants' rights in the York area, and hopes to help in the Hanover area as well. See Rita for more information.
- The Neighbors in Knead group meets the first Monday evening of the month in Emmanuel's kitchen to prepare bagged lunches. They deliver about 100 lunches to HACC for distribution to those in need. For more info, see Rev. Ken.

Personnel Committee — March

- Revised the Weekday Sexton Job Description and for advertising purposes have named the position "Church Facilities Caretaker." The suggested pay is \$14-\$16 per hour depending on experience. It was posted on Indeed March 5 and we have received 6 resumes so far with 4 being viable. The next step will be to schedule tours/ interviews.
- Searching for a new cleaning service for the sanctuary, classrooms, and restrooms. I received one quote so far but would like another for comparison. Any suggestions would be welcome! The current service is providing 4 hours per week. The first company I talked to felt that 15 hours per week is inadequate.

Worship & Music Committee — March 8

- Worship will move to King Auditorium for the summer on June 14.
- The need for a substitute person to assist in the livestream program was discussed briefly.

Thank You

► **Thanks for supporting OGHS**

Many thanks to the congregation for contributing \$725 to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The Missions Committee will match your gifts.



► **Thanks for supporting EUCC music**

Thank you to all who attended the Beijing Guitar Duo concert on March 15. There were 60 in the audience and a free will offering of \$170. Your support is appreciated! Thanks also to those who baked, set up and cleaned up for the reception.

Ongoing Collections

Communion Sunday Gifts: Your offerings of pantry items, cleaners and hygiene products are distributed to our three local agencies. Held every first Sunday.

Aluminum pull tabs: Supports childhood dialysis.

Canceled stamps: These benefit residents at the Brethren Home at Cross Keys.

Bingo prizes for Homewood: New, non-perishable prizes are needed for twice weekly bingo for Skilled Care and Personal Care residents. Find a list in the auditorium.

Little Free Library: Help keep it full with adult and children's books, shelf-stable pantry items and small toiletries.

- The outdoor worship service at the Gitt Memorial Library will be August 30.
- The effort to find volunteers to assist as greeters and ushers was discussed. The committee has requested that Consistory fill in as greeters if there is no one signed up or there is a no-show.
- The committee discussed having a VBS Sunday when children could share their VBS experience
- Upcoming services:
 - April 2, Maundy Thursday, 6 pm meal, 7 pm service.
 - April 3, Good Friday, 12 pm.
 - April 5, Easter with communion.
 - April 12, Regular; Rev. Ken on vacation.
 - April 19, Regular, Earth Day observed; John Samuel Piano Concert, 3 pm.



The following members and friends of Emmanuel celebrate birthdays in **April**. We extend to each of you best wishes and many happy returns. May God bless you!

- 1—Jeff Hopkins
- 4—Michelle Brady
- 5—Kerry Rebert
- 7—Linda McKonly, Sandra Sheaffer
- 8—Lenyx LeGrant
- 11—Dan Trimmer
- 12—Andy Kemp
- 14—Jeff Pratt
- 17—Peg Hull, Judy Dubs
- 19—Brooke Hall
- 23—Amy Kwon
- 24—CeCe Jerry
- 25—Clay Reichart
- 27—Steven Bair, Zoe Brown
- 28—Baird McIlvain, Katherine Migatulski
- 30—Jaime Pratt

Remembering ♦ Caring ♦ Reaching Out

Terry Alcott (Care South)
 Barbara Cooledge (Creekside 2209)
 Julia Greth (Care Central D-233-A)
 Homewood, 425 Westminster Avenue,
 Hanover PA 17331

Peg Hull (Room 406)
 Tree of Life, 236 N. Railroad St., Hanover PA

► **Have some news?** Change of address?

New email? Let us know!

office@eucchanover.org
 124 Broadway, Hanover PA 17331



Emmanuel hosts meetings

of the Girl Scouts, Hanover Area Diversity Alliance,
 and Hanover Pride Trans Support Group.
 ~ For info, contact the church office. ~

Rev. Kenneth D. Peterkin

860-581-0869 • pastor@eucchanover.org
 Office Hours: 10am-1pm, Tuesday-Wednesday

April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 March Palm Sunday 8:30 am—Adult SS 10 am—Worship Children's SS	30 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor	31	1 12-1 pm—Lenten Mindfulness in Bowers Chapel 11 am—Missions Committee meeting	2 1-4 pm—Afternoon of Games Maundy Thursday 6 pm—Meal 7 pm—Service	3 Office Closed Good Friday 12 pm—Service	4
5 Easter Sunday 10 am—Worship with Communion	6 Office Closed 6-8—Neighbors in Knead baking	7 1-2:30 pm— Neighbors in Knead food distribution	8 12-1 pm— Bowers Chapel open 6 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Handbells	9	10	11
12 8:30—Adult SS 10 am—Worship Children's SS 11:30 am—W&M 12 pm—Lunch Bunch	13 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor	14	15 11 am—Missions Committee 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel open 6 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Handbells	16 1-4 pm—Afternoon of Games	17	18
19 8:30 am—Adult SS 10 am—Worship Children's SS 3 pm—Concert 6 pm—Mindfulness	20 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor 7 pm—Consistory	21	22 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel open 6 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Handbells	23	24	25 10 am-2 pm— Community Caring Festival in King Auditorium
26 8:30 am—Adult SS 10 am—Worship Children's SS 11:30 am—Church Growth Committee	27 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor	28	29 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel open 6 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Handbells	30	1 May	2

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

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Hanover, PA 17331
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Worship Services
10 am Sunday

Rev. Ken Peterkin
860-581-0869
pastor@eucchanover.org

Church Office
9 am-1 pm, Mon-Fri
717-632-8281
office@eucchanover.org

Visit Online
www.emmanuelucc.org

April F.Y.I.

■ **Holy Week & Easter**

Join us for four meaningful services: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. ~Details, Page 2



■ **John Samuel**

The Concert Series continues with a program of classical music from this emerging young artist. ~See Page 3



■ **Community Caring Festival**

The Church Growth Team will host SpringFest, featuring organizations offering resources for child care, advocacy, wellness and more. ~See Page 4