

EmmanuelLife

Newsletter of Emmanuel United Church of Christ



Rev. Kenneth D. Peterkin

May 2026

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Calendar Highlights

Sunday, May 3

3 pm—Westminster Ringers Concert

Sundays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

8:30 am—Adult Learning Hour

*10 am—Worship in person and
live streamed on YouTube*

Sundays, May 3 & 17

6-6:45 pm—EUCC Mindfulness

Mondays, May 4, 11, 18

1 pm—Compassionate Crafters

Thursdays, May 7 & 21

1-4 pm—Afternoon of Games

Monday, May 25

Office Closed for Holiday

A Look Ahead

- Worship will move into the air conditioned King Auditorium for the summer on June 14.
- Registration is now open for VBS! See details on Page 4.
- Special musicians are needed for summer. Contact Amy Kwon at akskwon@yahoo.com.

COMPLETE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

From the Missions Committee . . .

Strengthening the Church

Like many other denominations, the UCC has experienced the closing of churches and a declining number of pastors in recent years. Yet here at Emmanuel we can be thankful for our pastor and our growing, thriving congregation. As we celebrate our blessings, we may wonder what we can do to support new and existing UCC congregations and to encourage more people to become pastors.



The UCC's Strengthen the Church offering is used to do these very things, and more. The theme for this year's collection is "Sent Forth in Love," based on John 20:21. It begins with Jesus' message to the disciples: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." This passage challenges all of us to stretch into the unknown and trust the Spirit's guidance. We can go from fear to peace and courage by following the path God has chosen for us.

The Strengthen the Church offering furthers the work of our Conference and National Ministries as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided between our Conference and the National Ministries.

The collection date is May 24. ~Carol Giesey

Strengthen the Church reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Your giving supports leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovative programs. ► *Make checks to Emmanuel UCC with "STC" in the memo.*

Pentecost: Seeing Visions, Dreaming Dreams

By REV. DONNA FRISCHKNECHT JACKSON

Someone once said that of all the liturgical holidays, Pentecost was the most frustrating to understand and embrace. After all, what are we supposed to do with the Spirit's arrival that led to the birth of the Church?



Rev. Jackson

On Easter we celebrate new life. There are dyed eggs and fragrant lilies. On Christmas we have the birth of hope. There are lots of lights and festively wrapped presents. On Palm Sunday we remember how fickle we can be in our faith, waving palm branches one minute then shouting crucify him the next. But on Pentecost we never really hit the mark as to how to welcome God's Spirit moving among us.

Pentecost, which is the Greek name for the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which is celebrated 50 days after Passover, was the time when many devout Jews were in Jerusalem to celebrate. God used this festival to usher in a new harvest of believers in the Risen Lord. With great show, God sent the Holy Spirit that was likened to a rush of mighty wind. Jesus' followers, who were in Jerusalem, poured out onto the streets speaking in a multitude of languages, ensuring that those out-of-towners from foreign lands could understand the Good News of Christ Risen. Some accused the followers of being drunk, but Peter set the naysayers straight saying they were in fact full of the Spirit. He then echoed the words of the prophet Joel saying that the young will see visions and the old will dream new dreams.

I can see why Pentecost might be a frustrating liturgical holiday to observe. For if Pentecost is all about receiving the Spirit, who then would really dare to gather around a table and share those Holy Spirit visions, dreams and hopes for the Church today?

We all have our own visions of what church should be. There is a running joke within the United Church of Christ that there is no shortage of opinions and because of the abundance of views, it seems sometimes impossible to move forward.

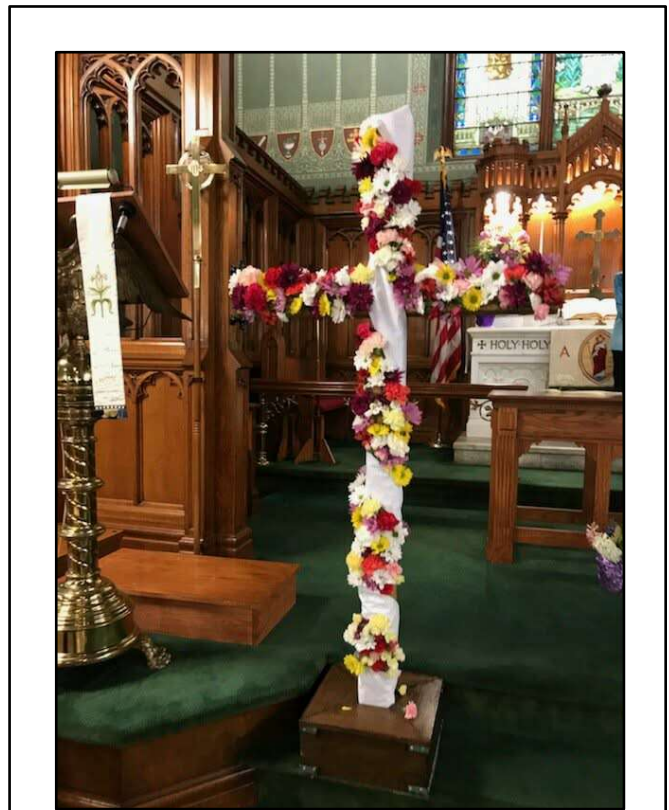
Maybe this year, we should step away from the rushing wind Spirit metaphor of Pentecost and try

to see it a little differently. St. John Vianney used gardening to explain the work of the Spirit, viewing it as a gardener who cultivates our souls. He also described Pentecost as the moment when "a heart of stone is shattered, and heart of flesh takes its place."

Perhaps a shattering of stone hearts is what we need this year at Pentecost so that fledgling visions and dreams can take root and grow.

PRAYER: Renewing God, You sent the Spirit so long ago to bring Your church to life. May this Pentecost find ourselves renewed by new visions and dreams for how to be Your children. Soften our hearts to new ways of being Your body here in our communities. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Rev. Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ.



EASTER FLOWERS

After several years' absence, the flower cross returned for Easter this year, with a lovely floral and ribbon design by Augusta McAlhany. Worship attendance was 72 for Palm Sunday and 102 for Easter.

~Photo by Peg Moulton

Westminster Ringers *Handbell Choir*

2025-2026 EUCC Concert Series

Sunday, May 3, 3 pm

Under the direction of Larry Henning, the Westminster Ringers will present a multi-sensory program celebrating familiar sacred songs, secular favorites and original bell compositions.

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

~Sponsored by Amy & Lee Donner

Thanks for a great season

Our 2025-2026 EUCC Community Concert Series comes to a close with the Westminster Ringers. In April, scheduled pianist John Samuell injured his hand and was unable to perform. Unfortunately, the event will not be rescheduled.

Thanks to the generosity of our concert and series sponsors, we received \$6,595 this season to support a diverse lineup of programs with world-class musicians and talented regional artists. Free-will offerings have totaled \$542 so far, and we've welcomed 286 attendees.

Thank you for helping sustain the music program at Emmanuel.

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.



"The musically creative art of English handbell ringing is strikingly evident with the Westminster Ringers... one of the leading organizations for musical expression and innovation. (They) have established themselves as one of America's premier professional ensembles."

~Dr. William A. Payn, teacher, composer and conductor

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 Samuell—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

Vacation Bible School

VBS will be held 9-11:30 am Monday to Friday, June 22-26, in collaboration with 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."



Register online at www.emmanuelucc.org or email office@eucchanover.org.

► **VBS needs you!** To volunteer, contact Cheryl Fritz at 717-698-1153 or candmfritz@aol.com. Volunteers are needed for any amount of time. Youth age 13 and up may volunteer as assistants. All adults need current clearances.

Salute to veterans

Emmanuel will honor members of the armed forces who died with a photo presentation during worship on May 24, for Memorial Day weekend. Digital photos are preferred and can be emailed to Alec at alecsivel@hotmail.com. Bring actual photos to the church office for scanning. The deadline is Monday, May 11. For info, call the office.



Save the Date: Missions Yard Sale

The Missions Committee annual Yard Sale will be Sept. 24-26 in King Auditorium, with set-up in preceding days and cleanup on Saturday. Start collecting household items and other good stuff from your attic, garage and basement (no clothing or books). Please hold your drop offs until closer to the date. Proceeds benefit the education of our three sponsored girls as well as local nonprofits. For questions, contact Estelle King at 717-487-1906.



Register now for summer camp

All ages can enjoy spirit, adventure, growth and acceptance at camp. Lutheran Camping Corporation hosts campers at Camp Nawakwa near Ardentsville and Camp Kirchenwald in Lebanon County. Campership assistance is available. A 30 percent discount is available with the code KEYSTONEUCC26. For details or to register, visit www.LutheranCamping.org or call Nawakwa at 717-677-8211.



Events & Activities

Mindfulness at EUCC

6 pm, May 3 & 17

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, May 7 & 21

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. (No meeting May 25.)

Missions Sunday

June 14, at worship

We will hear from several representatives of local faith-based agencies who will accept donations from Missions funds.

Lunch Bunch

12 pm, June 14

The next second Sunday outing for food and fellowship will be in June after a month off for May. RSVP to Sandy Rebert at 717-586-2136.



Provide-A-Lunch

9 am-1 pm, June 30

Volunteers are needed to prepare, serve and clean up at the Hanover Area Council of Churches PAL Lunch. To help, call Estelle at 717-487-1906.

CONSISTORY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

March minutes were approved April 20

Consistory Minutes — March 16

- Treasurer's Report: Approved subject to audit.
- President's Report: Consistory is back up to 10 members with the addition of Eugene Jerry. Brandon Groff-Wood & Joey Wildason will take over coordination of Fellowship Hour.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Missions Committee — April 15

- God's Meal Barrel served 179 families in March, which includes 583 individuals.
- Hanover Area Council of Churches continues to reorganize, improve facilities, provide more healthcare services such as onsite AA meetings, and streamline communications by more extensive use of emails. There has been a decline in donations from local churches, and food bank resources are low. Organizers of Ruth's Harvest encourage donations of snacks that provide additional protein.
- A record number of volunteers worked at Emmanuel's last PAL Lunch. Our next lunches will be June 30 and Sept. 30. To volunteer, see Estelle
- Hoffman Homes is holding the following fundraisers: A Motorcycle Ride and a Cornhole Tourney on June 6, a golf tourney on June 8, and the Annual Gala on Oct. 30.
- The Homewood Auxiliary at Plum Creek continues to need prizes for Bingo with chocolates especially welcomed (jewelry is not currently needed). We continue to collect pull tabs to benefit children's dialysis.
- Communion Gifts for April totaled 50 pounds of food, 15 hygiene items, and 2 cleaning products. They will be delivered to our 3 local food banks in the next few days. We have been asked to provide a total of our food and hygiene donations from Easter to Pentecost as a way of supporting the UCC Keystone Conference's focus on feeding the hungry.
- The Crafters will continue to meet on Monday afternoons through the summer to prepare items for winter. For more info, see Marilyn Van Lenten.
- The Brethren Home Foundation Butterfly Release, which benefits residents in need, takes place May 30. Missions will donate \$200 in honor and in memory of Friends of Emmanuel. Bill Wertzberger has agreed to release our donation of butterflies.
- The collection of food for Haitian immigrants continues with the weekly collection in the Narthex. This month we delivered 116 pounds of beans, rice and canned goods to the Welcome Center in York.
- We are considering how we can support a new effort sponsored by Hanover Against Hunger, which has been packing meals in Hanover since 2012 for worldwide distribution. This effort is Meals of Hope,

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 jkdugan77@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 5

which can provide food and equipment for packing 10,000 meals at a cost of \$3,800. These packaged meals will be distributed locally. HAH is holding an informational meeting at the Hanover Borough Office Community Room on April 21 at 7 pm. The public is invited. Missions hopes to make a donation and provide volunteers for this new meal-packing event.

- Give Local York, which benefits many local agencies, takes place April 30 & May 1. the following local agencies are participating: God's Meal Barrel, HACC, Hoffman Homes and New Hope. Donations may be made online.
- The One Great Hour of Sharing donations from the congregation totaled \$795. Missions agreed to add \$1,005 for a total of \$1,800.
- Missions agreed to donate \$1,000 from Missions funds to support the UCC collection for victims of the flooding in Hawaii.
- The Green Table, which contains info on how we can celebrate and care for the environment, always has room for new suggestions and info.
- Volunteers to help care for Emmanuel's gardens are still needed. Sign up on the clipboard.
- Missions Sunday, when we donate to local agencies and invite them to share the work they do in our community, is set for June 14. Details to follow.

Personnel Committee — April

- Weekday Sexton Job: Personnel Chair Jan Hagenberger, Property Chair Sean Moore and Sandy Topper interviewed four candidates recently, calling back two candidates on April 9, when Rev. Ken joined the interviews. A job offer was extended, but the candidate later withdrew his application. An offer was made to the alternate candidate and was accepted. Larry's final day is May 1.
- Cleaning Services: The interview committee thought we had found someone to clean the church but that fell through so I'll be contacting individuals/companies for quotes.

Stewardship Committee — April

- Materials for this year's stewardship campaign have arrived. The theme is "There Our Hearts Will Be," based on Matthew 6:21. The majority of the committee members from last year have indicated a willingness to continue serving. The first meeting of the committee will be scheduled within the next few weeks.

Worship & Music Committee — April 12

- Gitt Memorial Library annual outdoor service is set for August 30.
- Finding volunteers for Greeters and Ushers continues to be a challenge.

Thank You

From New Hope Ministries ...

Dear Friends,

Wow! What a spectacular year! Because of you, our 40th anniversary Feed-A-Friend event in December was nothing short of extraordinary! Together we collected 212,738 food items, a milestone that reflects the generosity, compassion and community spirit that make the Hanover area so special.

And the impact was truly meaningful. In 2025, 3,604 local families were served at New Hope. Your support of Feed-A-Friend played an important role in providing critical foods for our neighbors in need. You made a difference.

With deep gratitude for what's ahead,

Michelle Zemba

Gift Officer, New Hope Ministries Inc.

The Missions Committee contributed \$1,000 to the event. This year's marathon will be Dec. 10-11.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

New Info:

Sandy Rebert

425 Westminster Ave., #44
Hanover PA 17331

Fred & Marjorie Lohnes

1095 Bridgewater Drive
New Oxford, PA 17350

Brandon Groff-Wood

New phone: 717-476-9698

Moved? New email? Please inform the office!



- Upcoming services:
 - May 3: Communion, Heifer offering, Westminster Ringers Concert at 3 pm.
 - May 10: Mother's Day, flowers.
 - May 17: Regular.
 - May 24: Memorial Day observed, with slide presentation; wear red for Pentecost Sunday; Strengthen the Church Missions offering.
 - June 7: Communion.
 - June 14: Services move to King Auditorium for summer.
 - June 21: Father's Day, flowers.



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

- 1—Nora Zettlemoyer
- 2—Ben Haynes
- 7—Harry Holm, Larry Myers
- 10—Gabrielle Brady, Aaron Eisenhart
- 11—Benjamin Frock, Henry Saggau,
- 12—Barbara Cooledge, Marilyn Van Lenten
- 15—Owen Pickering
- 16—Roy Fauth, Floyd Lohr III
- 21—Megan Alcott, Kandy Carbaugh
- 23—Bruce Bouchard
- 25—Carol Bunn
- 26—Chase Gessner
- 28—Ethel Lohr
- 29—Jenna McLin
- 31—Laura Eisenhart

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

May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 8:30 am—Adult SS 10 am—Worship with Communion Children's SS 11:30 am—W&M 3 pm—Concert 6 pm—Mindfulness	4 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor 6-8—Neighbors in Knead baking	5 1-2:30 pm—Neighbors in Knead food distribution	6 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel open 6 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Handbells	7 1-4 pm—Afternoon of Games	8 ~ Office Closed ~	9
10 Mother's Day 8:30 am—Adult SS 10 am—Worship Children's SS 12 pm—Lunch Bunch	11 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor	12 11 am—Missions Committee meeting	13 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel open 6 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Handbells	14	15	16
17 Safety Day 8:30—Adult SS 10 am—Worship Children's SS 6 pm—Mindfulness 11:30 am—Church Growth Committee	18 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor 7 pm—Consistory	19	20 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel open 6 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Handbells	21 1-4 pm—Afternoon of Games	22	23
24 Pentecost 8:30 am—Adult SS 10 am—Worship Children's SS	25 ~ Office Closed ~	26	27 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel open 6 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Handbells	28	29	30
31 8:30 am—Adult SS 10 am—Worship Children's SS	1 June 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor	2	3 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel open 6 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Handbells	4 1-4 pm—Afternoon of Games	5	6

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

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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

May F.Y.I.

■ **Heifer International Offering**

Your contribution supports Heifer's work to address poverty and food insecurity worldwide by distributing livestock and providing agricultural training to families in need. *~The offering date is May 3.*



■ **Westminster Ringers**

The Concert Series continues with this talented regional handbell ensemble on May 3. *~Details, Page 3*



■ **Pentecost is May 24**

Wear red to welcome God's Spirit moving among us. Read a Pentecost message from the national setting. *~See Page 2*