

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

Rev. Kenneth D. Peterkin, Pastor
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Amy Kwon, Music Director

April 21, 2024

10 am

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Bold invites congregation to participate. An asterisk (*) indicates “stand as you are able.”

PRELUDE

I Hear Thy Welcome Voice with I Need Thee Every Hour

arr. Robert M. Vandervliet Jr.

Amy Kwon

WELCOME

To my neighbors present, and to those who join us online, I lay down all differences and ask the same of you. With our shared goal of equality for all identities, let us now open our hearts to each other and God, ensuring the safety of grace and peace to all present. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #70 ***God Is Here! As We Your People Meet***

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Whether we live near mountains or in the prairies—

We are one in Christ.

Whether our winters are balmy or our summers are cool—

We are one in Christ.

Whether we live near the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Ocean or somewhere in the middle—

We are one in Christ.

Whether we live in urban dwellings, nestled in the suburbs, or surrounded by a rural landscape—

We are one in Christ.

In a spirit of unity, caring for each other and the whole of creation—

We are one in Christ.

*OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

As we gather, we are thankful for your Creation:

for light and darkness; for air, wind, and sky; for earth and sea;

for seeds, harvests, and plant life; for sunlight, moonlight, and starlight;

for every living creature, swarming, flying, creeping, and grazing; for our lives.

In our actions, meditations, and prayers, may we honor and celebrate your very good

Creation, as we seek wisdom on how to share our gratitude and love in good and healing ways. Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE ***Gloria Patri*** (sung)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now,

and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

You Sing Over Me

Heather Sorenson

(Given to the Glory of God by Peg Moulton in memory of her father, Richard W. Custer)
Chancel Choir

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Ken Peterkin

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark Deardorff

John 10:11-18

This is the word of our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*HYMN #252 ***Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us***

MESSAGE

Rev. Ken Peterkin

TIME FOR FOCUS AND PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

PASTORAL PRAYER

GIVING OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Jesus Is Tenderly Calling Thee Home

arr. Robert M. Vandervliet Jr.

Amy Kwon

*DOXOLOGY *A song of thanks for God's abundance*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below,

Praise Him above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Gracious God, thank you for your gift of Jesus Christ, who cares for us and protects us. With these gifts we return to you, help us care for others in our communities and around the world. Amen.

*HYMN #58 ***Spirit of Love***

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Festal Fanfare

Steven Scott

Amy Kwon

Now that worship has ended, let service begin

Our House – Is Your House!

We hope you feel welcomed and relaxed here. Our church (Emmanuel) and our denomination (The United Church of Christ) practice “radical hospitality.” Your presence here today is an honor to us. Let us and Rev. Ken know how we might get to know you better. Please tell us about yourself by filling out a Welcome Card found on the back of the pew in front of you. Return your card in the offering. Thanks!

Sunday School for Children

The Children’s Sunday School program for children age 4 through 7th grade is held in the downstairs classroom after the Children’s Time during worship.

Nursery

The nursery is located across from the elevator in the Frock Annex. At any time, you may take children to the nursery, where the service can be heard.

Adult Sunday School

Adult Learning Hour meets for lively book discussions Sunday mornings September to May in Bowers Chapel and by Zoom. Study of “The Amen Effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend Our Broken Hearts and World” by Sharon Brous begins today. For info, email Brian at brianfrederick44@gmail.com.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS •

Happy Earth Day from your Church Growth team!

To celebrate Earth Day, the Church Growth team is giving out “Growfetti” – flower shaped biodegradable seed paper. The directions are simple: Just soak seed paper overnight, tear it up, plant under a thin layer of soil in a sunny spot, and water gently and regularly until your flower seedlings sprout. Made by Bloomin Seed, the eco-friendly seed papers are created with 100 percent post-industrial, recycled paper dyed with all-natural, vegetable-based pigments, in corn-based packaging, made in the U.S. in a solar-powered production facility.

Heifer: Celebrating Earth Day Every Day

Does Heifer focus on caring for the Earth? Their mission statement says it clearly: “Heifer International’s mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth.” Among Heifer’s 12 Cornerstones for Just and Sustainable Development are these:

Sharing and Caring: We believe global problems can be solved if all people commit to sharing what they have and caring about others.

Genuine Need and Justice: While we partner with people in need who can improve the quality of life with modest support, priority is given to marginalized groups.

Improving the Environment: Our programs and projects adopt agro-ecological farming practices, promote natural resource management and adapt to climate change, contributing to resilient livelihoods.

Spirituality: Our common belief lies in the value of all life, a sense of connectedness to the Earth and a shared vision of the future.

Heifer is following these guidelines while enabling families to farm more productively, feed their children, empower women, and much more.

So we have much to celebrate – Earth Day, Heifer’s global efforts, and our own potential to make Earth a better place for all!

■ Please consider making a generous donation anytime this month. Make checks to Emmanuel UCC and write “Heifer” in the memo or use an offering envelope found at any exit

Volunteers needed for upcoming festivals

The Church Growth team is gauging interest in volunteer availability for two festivals this summer: Pride Fest on June 29 at Moul Field and the SnackTown Street Fair downtown on July 13. Find details or sign up on the purple clipboard.

PAL Lunch volunteers needed

Help is needed at the Hanover Area Council of Churches PAL Lunch on Tuesday, April 30. Work 9-11 am or 11 am-1 pm to prepare, serve and clean up. To help, contact Estelle King at estellebking@icloud.com or 717-487-1906.

Desserts needed for concert

Calling all bakers (or shoppers)! The Fellowship Committee is seeking desserts for the reception after the organ concert on May 12. Please bring your cookies, brownies, bars or other desserts to the church by 11 am that day. For info, contact Susan Hoke or the church office.

Girl Scout Cookie sales

Did you know Emmanuel is home to Girl Scouts? We host newly-formed Daisy Troop 80119 two Wednesdays a month in the first floor classroom. Girl Scout cookie sales continue online through May 5. To support the troop, order online for shipping to your home. Contact the office for the link or visit: <https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/eloise626700>
Girls in kindergarten and first grade are welcome to join the troop. For info, contact Troop Leader Ashley Miller at or ashley.en.brown@gmail.com or 717-698-4706.

Lunch Bunch outing

A group of eight enjoyed lunch at C&D Bar & Grill in New Oxford last Sunday: Sharlene Davis, Cathy Reck, Katie Dempsey, Cheryl and Mike Fritz, Marilyn Van Lenten, Bill Wertzberger and Sandy Rebert. The next Lunch Bunch gathering will be 12 pm May 19 at Green Horizon Grill at The Bridges, Route 30, Abbottstown. RSVP to Sandy Rebert at 717-586-2136.

Earth Day

Earth Day, celebrated annually on April 22, serves as a global reminder of the importance of environmental conservation and sustainability. This day brings together individuals, communities, and organizations worldwide to raise awareness about the pressing environmental issues our planet faces and to advocate for positive change. It is a time to reflect on our collective responsibility to protect the Earth's precious ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources for future generations. Earth Day inspires action, encouraging people to adopt eco-friendly practices, promote renewable energy sources, reduce waste, and support initiatives that aim to combat climate change. Through education, activism, and collaboration, Earth Day fosters a renewed commitment to preserving and cherishing our beautiful planet.

What Can We as Churches Do to Care for God's Creation?

As Christians, we are called to care for all of creation: land, water, air, animals, plants, people – all of it. Dawn Dole shares that at the Federated Church, UCC, in the small village of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, they have been dedicated to a theology and practice of creation care for many years. Over time, Federated Church has shifted and expanded their scope of concern and action. In the past six years, the focus has transitioned from recycling and energy conservation to include social and environmental justice advocacy. Here are some activity and program ideas they have implemented over the years in the hopes that it might stimulate and inspire other churches in answering the call to care for God's creation.

Worship: Setting a Theological and Spiritual Foundation

- Extend creation care worship throughout the year. Songs, hymns, prayers, sermons, scripture – all take on new life when we express continued love and care for God’s Creation.

Awareness Building: Learning How Environmental Issues Impact Some More Than Others

- Host movie nights with discussion.
- Host book studies or, in our case, we held a “Book Journey.”
- Host speaker nights – Invite local experts in environmental justice to come talk to your church. It is engaging, informative and often leads to action and partnerships.
- Invite your church council and all of your church’s committees to engage in conversations and decisions about our environmental impact.

Action: Putting Our Faith into Practice

- If your church does not already have a recycling program, start one. It is easy and everyone can participate.
- Use environmentally friendly products in cleaning, gardening, and hosting events at your church.
- Include a list of environmental actions or tips each month in your newsletter.
- Do an energy audit to see if your church can improve its energy usage.
- Explore alternative, renewable energy for your church.
- Plant trees.
- Collaborate with other churches and community organizations already working in the environmental justice field.
- Participate in the UCC’s Creation Justice Ministries, and join your local UCC association or conference Environmental Justice Network.

The main thing is to do *something*. Start the conversation. Explore the issues. Invite experts in. Form action groups. Inform and engage your congregation. Start small or big, but just start. You can do it.

~From *The Pollinator*

Learn more

The Pollinator is the UCC’s Environmental Justice Blog, a digital platform for sharing ideas and inspiration, so that we might become more fruitful in the pursuit of environmental justice. Its focus is the building of a faith-filled and faith-rooted movement for the care of creation. To sign up for The Pollinator or learn more about the UCC’s Environmental Justice Ministries, visit: www.ucc.org/environmental-justice-ministries.

Environmental ministries at EUCC

The Missions Committee continues to discuss how we can better respond to God’s call to care for our Earth. We welcome input from the congregation as to how we can do this, as individuals, as a congregation and as a community. Contact any member of the Missions Committee.

Pastoral concerns

If you have an emergency or any pastoral concerns, please call Rev. Ken at 860-581-0869.

► **New names on the prayer list will be in bold** for the first week and prayer concerns will remain on the list for a month, unless you request additional time.

Please remember those who are in need of prayer and special encouragement at this time and throughout the year.

Jane Anderson, mother of Jenny Myers

Jim Bankert, friend of James McLin

Larry Donner, who died recently; he was the father-in-law of Amy Kwon

Joy and Gary Garber, friends of Elaine Weaver

Jane Moore
Robert Sheaffer, nephew of Sandy Sheaffer
Jane Siegel
The family of Susan Kintzing Wright, who died March 23

UPCOMING WEEK: APRIL 21-28

Sunday, April 21

8:30 am Adult Learning Hour in Bowers Chapel and by Zoom
10 am Worship with music from the Chancel Choir; Children's Message; Children's Sunday School; Fellowship Hour Sponsor: Missions Committee featuring honey-themed snacks!
2:30 pm Gettysburg Association meeting at Trinity, Gettysburg

Monday, April 22

1 pm Compassionate Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor

Wednesday, April 23

12-1 pm Bowers Chapel open for an hour of quiet reflection

Thursday, April 25

6-8:30 pm Handbell and Choir rehearsals

Friday, April 26

9:15 am Coffee ER with Rev. Ken at The Reader's Café

Saturday, April 27

9:15 am Coffee ER with Rev. Ken at The Reader's Café

Sunday, April 28

10 am Worship with music from the Chancel Choir; Children's Message; Children's Sunday School; Fellowship Hour sponsor: Estelle King

A LOOK AHEAD

Save the Date: Vacation Bible School, featuring a "Scuba" theme, will be held with Trinity UCC June 17-21.

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Open & Affirming Welcoming Statement

We, the members of Emmanuel United Church of Christ, Hanover, Pennsylvania, are a community of Christians who believe that all people are created in God's image. As we seek to fulfill our mission to live out Christ's compassion and grace, fairness and equality, we welcome into our community of faith all persons of every gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, age, race, ethnic origin, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing and family structure; and we invite each of them to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, rites and sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love. Therefore, we celebrate ourselves as an Open and Affirming Christian Community.