

EmmanuelLife

Newsletter of Emmanuel United Church of Christ



Rev. Kenneth D. Peterkin

August 2026

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Calendar Highlights

Sundays, August 2, 9, 16, 23

*10 am—Worship in King Auditorium
live streamed on YouTube*

Sundays, August 2 & 16

6-6:45 pm—EUCC Mindfulness

Mondays, August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

1 pm—Compassionate Crafters

Thursdays, August 6 & 20

*1-4 pm—Afternoon of Games
at Genova's to Go*

Sunday, August 30

*10 am—Outdoor Worship Service at
Gitt Memorial Library*

Coming Up

- **Backpack Blessings**: Students and teachers are encouraged to bring their book bags to church on August 16 for a blessing before the start of school.
- **Office Closed**: The church office is closed September 7 for Labor Day.
- **New Member Class forming soon**: Rev. Ken is planning a New Member Class in September. Anyone interested in joining the congregation should contact Maria in the church office.

COMPLETE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Summer. By now you know that this season is my favorite. Ick, the mornings are losing their early sun rises though, and the sunsets are earlier and earlier. I sit out on my front porch to catch a glimpse of kids playing in the neighborhood by sight or by ear, to see the crazies cutting through my neighborhood at 50 mph from Breezewood to Grandview, and to enjoy the sky and the birds glory.

I'm an Ohio State Buckeye fan and of course as you may be Penn State in your background or anything else whatsoever, the fun and loyalty that infests us all promises to avail itself soon. And so, I'm at a crossroads, as I am every year. Do I celebrate the coming, or do I rest in the present? Guess what? As I have spoken many a time, I rest in the present. So how is your present?

It takes a lot to rest in the present. We're very organized people and we want to know what is yet coming and attempt to make it happen the way we want. We can pray about it. We can plan for it. We can expect certain things. However. Life does not honor our hopes, it honors what is.

I pray that you can find a way to honor what is at the moment. To both be assertive and accepting while remaining hopeful. Hope is one of the few things I believe was assuring us of. While many a past pastor and many a present one, let alone politicians as well will tell you that you can count on certain things they promise, I won't. What I will promise you is an endearing love in all the times of your life. Love when you plan, and when you don't. Love when things are good, and when they are bad. Love when each of us can feel assured, and when we are challenged beyond.

You know me not to be a fundamentalist. You know me to not be an absolutist. What I pray you have seen and will see me as is a both a realist and a person of faith. I long for your interaction about this, welcoming your sharing of pains and disappointments in religion or church, as well as those experiences that have brought you wonder and awe.

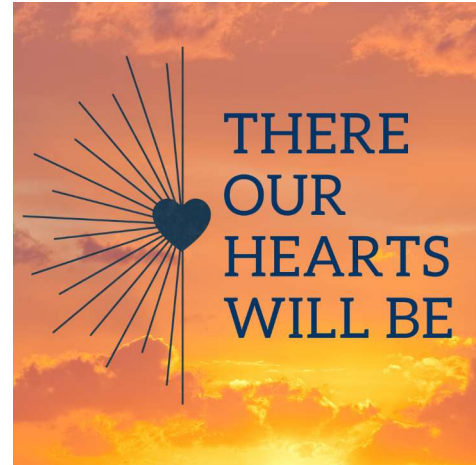
Continued on Page 2

STEWARDSHIP 2026

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” ~Matthew 6:21

This is the title and the scriptural basis for the 2026 Stewardship Campaign. Stewardship Sunday at Emmanuel UCC will be November 15 and you may be thinking it's too early to start considering pledging for next year. November does seem far off and the Stewardship Committee will be providing more information over the coming months, but we assure you, it's not too early to begin considering the personal meaning of that title and supporting verse. As one UCC leader said, “Jesus told us to love God with our heart, mind, soul, and strength; and to love our neighbors as ourselves. My pledge is an expression of that love.”

Your pledge in November is a commitment to the future of our church, our community, and our world. Please begin prayerfully considering what that commitment may be.



~The Stewardship Committee

Dan Trimmer, Chair
Dwight Dubs
Brian Frederick
Dave Jones
Judy Morris
Kyra Reichart

Rev. Ken, continued from Page 1

I pay my phone bill every month, have numerous email addresses and show up for most every Sunday all year long, other than vacation and continuing education. And, I'm in the office Tuesday-Thursday for certain, Fridays almost always and many Saturdays.

We “counter protested” a group from “TFP.org” a couple weeks ago. They thought they would inhabit the space in front of our church to rebel against care and love and acceptance and affirmation that Little Fox Coffee & Books offers on a daily basis (sickening of this “tfp” group). As we were here as well they had to distress Dr. Kondner's sidewalk. They are a rogue Catholic group having their U.S. base in Spring Grove. They refused Little Fox's counter protester's offer of cold water during their presence, they spoke the Rosary aloud in a manner to dismiss the love Little Fox offers (and us as well), they sang hymns believing God would praise their efforts to hate, and they held signs demeaning others and declaring themselves superior. Superiority is a state of self-service and lack of humility. I pray that we never find ourselves in that state. I do know that some would suggest that our manner of outreach could be seen as a

sense of superiority, when in fact our stance is a place of vulnerability in a world that teaches domination rather than affirmation. A person online told me that Jesus never taught affirmation, to which I scoffed suggesting that he affirmed humans but never assumed their intentions and never criticized their wounds.

Be in the now, I pray. Hold to love. Reject other's blatant and hurtful criticism in a manner that holds them to accountability and shields yourself from blame, always remaining compassionate and assertive.

Our Sanctuary heating system is being replaced (even though I sorta like the pipes thumping) so that we will be energy and financially efficient -- the old boiler and the asbestos have been removed!

Our fellowship is growing while other's are quickly diminishing to a place of disappearing. I'm so sad about that but so many have held to conventions which no longer apply nor ever expressed the welcome that you can offer, do offer, and live to offer. Hold firm.

My love,
Rev. Ken

♪♪♪ Join the choirs! ♪♪♪

All returning and new musicians are welcome

• Wednesday rehearsals begin September 9 •

Emmanuel Ringers: 6-7 pm • Chancel Choir: 7-8:30 pm

For questions, contact Music Director Amy Kwon at 410-262-3031, akskwon@yahoo.com, or see her at church.

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Join EUCC team for Walk A Mile

Emmanuel will support the YWCA Hanover's Walk A Mile In Her Shoes fundraiser on Friday, August 7. The event supports free and confidential help for survivors of domestic violence through the YWCA's Safe Home program.

Walk A Mile asks men to literally walk one mile in women's high-heeled shoes, which is not an easy feat but it gets the community to talk about gender relations and raises awareness of men's sexual violence against women. Women are also welcome to walk in support and are encouraged to wear sneakers or comfortable shoes.

The event will be held at Moul Field in Hanover, with check-in at 5 pm, the walk at 6 pm, and an after-party at 6:45 pm. The Church Growth committee will cover the costs for anyone who would like to participate. **Sign up by Monday, August 3**, on the brown clipboard or contact Karen Jones at 717-316-0092 or kjones@mindfulnessandmotion.com.

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Yard Sale set for September

The Missions Committee annual Yard Sale will be held 9am-4pm Sept. 24 and 25; and 9am-noon on Sept. 26. Setup will be Sept. 22-23, with cleanup on Saturday afternoon. Donations of household items may be brought to the church basement storage room. No books, clothing or large pieces of furniture, please.

Volunteers needed for set-up! To donate, volunteer or help with publicity, contact Estelle King at 717-486-1906.

Proceeds from the Yard Sale benefit our three sponsored children and other Missions outreach.

► **BAKE SALE:** The committee is also requesting home made cookies, muffins, cupcakes, brownies, bars, sweet rolls, cakes, half cakes, pies, etc. – anything a bakery would sell – for a “Bake Shop” during the sale. Please mark items containing nuts and bring to the church Sept. 22-23. Questions? Contact Marilyn Van Lenten at 717-619-3148 or 443-766-3563.



Events & Activities

Afternoon of Games

1-4 pm, August 6 & 20

Players will meet again this month at Genova's to



Go, 1412 Baltimore Pike, Hanover (Weis shopping center) for Scrabble, cards, board games and more. Grab lunch or a snack at Genova's. New players are always welcome! Call Carol Giesey at 717-632-2665 for info.

Mindfulness at EUCC

6 pm, August 2 & 16

Join Karen Jones 1st and 3rd 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.

Compassionate Crafters

1-4 pm Mondays

All crafters are welcome to bring a project, swap techniques and enjoy fellowship. For meeting location or other info, call Marilyn at 443-766-3563 or Sandy at 717-586-2136.

Lunch Bunch

On hiatus for summer

The second Sunday gatherings will resume September 13. For info, call Sandy Rebert at 717-586-2136.

Provide-A-Lunch

9 am-1 pm, September 29

Volunteers are needed to prepare, serve and clean up at the Hanover Area Council of Churches PAL Lunch. To help, call Marilyn at 443-766-3563.

CONSISTORY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

June minutes were approved July 20

Consistory Minutes — June 15

- Treasurer's Report: \$30,000 from the unrestricted fund has been moved into the checking account so far this year; pledges are at 92% of budget (up from 72% at this time last year). Approved subject to audit.

Old business

- Retraining for security system use still on agenda.
- Auditing (2024 and 2025): Clay could do 2024 with John Connor, then Emmanuel could start every 3 years with a professional audit.
- Boiler replacement schedule to be confirmed by Sean.
- Bealing Roof Repair quote approved electronically earlier in the month.

New Business

- Hanover Emergency Management Agency asked if we could open in case of extreme weather for the downtown July Fourth event. Rev. Ken agrees to be available. Approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Church Growth Committee — June-July

- Snack Town review: Interaction with many people, bubbles given out, water given out, hard candy and paper materials. We need to improve on handing out our information. A sufficient number of volunteers came out. Thanks to all for the help! We are signed up for next year.

Upcoming Events

- August 7: YWCA Hanover Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes. Karen is organizing; announcements at worship are planned.
- Sept. 13: Member Appreciation Day, with board games and food will last until 2 pm. Food items and other details to be discussed during the Aug. 16 Meeting.
- Oct. 4: Pet Blessings during the service on World Communication Sunday and St. Francis of Assisi Day during church. We will use the Emmanuel ribbon.
- Nov. 13: Bingo. Megan will organize.
- Outdoor Christmas décor: Plan is to have an electronic display by then.

Notes

- Movie Night at R/C Theaters: Keep an eye out for movies that the congregation would like.
- Please take pictures of our events. Send them to Maria and Charlotte for publication. Encourage others to create and send photos.

Continuing

- Church publications: Continue to evaluate, create a simple flyer to give to visitors.
- Continue puzzles in the auditorium.

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
jjdugan77@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 Wood 717-476-9698
Joey Warehime 717-253-3336

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 4

Missions Committee — July 14

- God's Meal Barrel served 219 households in June, including 31 new households. The total number of individuals served was 754.
- The June collection of Communion gifts totaled 22 pounds of grocery items, 1 cleaning item and 3 snack-size items for Ruth's Harvest. Items were delivered to God's Meal Barrel and HACC. The next collection day is August 2.
- The Crafters are working on scarves and hats for the coming winter. They will continue to meet through the summer. Contact Marilyn Van Lenten.
- New Hope and Hoffman Homes welcome donations of school supplies. Fliers are on the Opportunities Table with details for drop-off. For more information, you may also call New Hope at 717-698-3365, and Hoffman Homes at 717-359-7146, ext. 4501.
- The 350,000 Haitians living and working in York County are facing the loss of Temporary Protected Status as of July 24. The House passed Bill S4814 in late June to extend their TPS, but the Senate has not yet passed it. If you choose to support the Haitians and encourage passage of this bill, you can contact PA's senators Fetterman and McCormick.
- We continue to support the Haitians in our area by collecting rice, beans and canned tomatoes. The collection basket will remain in King Auditorium.
- In response to the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela, Missions will donate \$500 through the UCC national setting. We encourage members to donate to this effort through the month of August.

Personnel Committee — July

- In the upcoming weeks Jan will work at scheduling staff evaluations. She will ask various Consistory members and Committee members for their involvement in this task.

Stewardship Committee — June 30

- The committee picked from two mock-ups of bulletin covers for Stewardship Sunday. Maria will prepare these and she will also be asked to prepare a similar design for posters and a slide to be displayed on the screen before church and during Fellowship Hour.
- A draft letter to be sent to new members regarding giving was reviewed by the committee.
- Stewardship Sunday will be Nov. 15, and a sponsor for the luncheon was confirmed.
- Members of the committee will be contacting potential couples to provide short testimonials regarding giving to be shown prior to church beginning in mid-October. Rev. Ken will record these and see that Andy has them to be broadcast.



PAL LUNCH CREW

The Hanover Area Council of Churches PAL Lunch volunteers on June 29 included, from left, Bob Larsen, Barbara Trimmer, Dan Trimmer, Marilyn Van Lenten, Roy Evans and Sandy Topper. They prepared and served 54 lunches. The next Emmanuel volunteer day is Sept. 29.

Planning a Community Aid Donation?

Your donated items can be turned into direct financial support for Hoffman Homes by mentioning their name and partner number when making a drop-off.

**Hoffman Homes
Partner #50059**

Donate gently used clothing and household items, toys, sporting goods, books and more at Community Aid, 793 Baltimore Street, Hanover.

Worship & Music Committee — July 5

- The committee shared positive sentiment about the new TV in King Auditorium.
- Logistical planning for the outdoor worship at the Gitt Memorial Library was discussed.
- There was discussion regarding the display of American flags in and around the church.
- Upcoming services:
 - Aug. 2: Communion
 - Aug. 9: Regular
 - Aug. 16: Regular, with Backpack blessings
 - Aug. 23: Regular
 - Aug. 30: Gitt Service
 - Sept. 6: Communion
 - Sept. 13: Regular—Return to sanctuary, with Member Appreciation Day and Games

Thank You

From the Council of Churches...

Dear Emmanuel United Church of Christ,
On behalf of the entire team, thank you for your generous donation of \$2,000. Your contribution has been allocated to our Greatest Needs, enabling us to address the most pressing needs in our community.

Thanks to your support, we are able to continue serving the Hanover community through various ministries, including Provide-A-Lunch, Meals-on-Wheels, Changing Lives Homeless Shelter, the Clothing Bank and Ruth's Harvest. With God's blessings and your generosity, countless lives have been positively impacted and transformed.

Sincerely,

Eríka Gonzalez

Interim Executive Director, Hanover Area Council of Churches

From New Hope Ministries...

Dear Friends,

Thank you for generously helping families with food, housing, transportation, employment and youth programs. Because of friends like you, New Hope Ministries provides practical help, demonstrates compassionate care and gives hope!

We are grateful for your lovely gift of \$2,000 received on June 15. Through your faithful support, God's love is reaching our neighbors in meaningful ways. Thank you for partnering with us to transform lives and bring help and hope to those served by New Hope every day.

Summer blessings,

Eric Saunders

Executive Director, New Hope Ministries

From God's Meal Barrel...

Thank you for supporting your neighbors!

Tom Imler

Managing Director, God's Meal Barrel

► *The Missions Committee presented each of these nonprofits with \$2,000 on Missions Sunday in June.*

From our VBS coordinator...

A huge thank you to each person who helped make the Emmanuel/Grace/Trinity UCC joint Vacation Bible School a huge success. This includes Emmanuel's volunteers. There were four in addition to me: Mary Bair, Rev. Ken, Cindy Sparacino, and Barbara Trimmer. They were exceptional workers. Also thank you to members who donated materials and funds toward this program.

Our VBS was held June 22-26 from 9-11:30 am. The theme was "Rain Forest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God." A total of 40 to 43 children attended each day to hear about God's love through Bible stories, meet new friends, learn new songs, do crafts, enjoy a snack, and play indoor and outdoor games. Two children from our church attended – Addy and Crimson.

Our mission project for VBS was God's Meal Barrel and \$610 was contributed to this worthwhile cause.

Cheryl Fritz

Christian Education Chair

From a member...

Emmanuel UCC Congregation,

Thank you so much for the calls, cards and healing shawl after my knee surgery. Your love and support during this time is much appreciated. The healing and recovery is a long and slow process but it is going well. Thank you again for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Kristen Gessner

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

New Address:

Sandy Rebert

425 Westminster Ave.

Creskide Apt. 1113

Hanover PA 17331



Moved? New email? Please inform the office!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

- 1—Judy Morris
- 2—Michael Bair
- 5—Julia Greth, Kiem LeGrant
- 7—Todd Sheaffer
- 11—Bob Baum
- 12—Mary Bair
- 16—Dot Thormaehlen, Kathleen Sterner
- 18—Jane Frock
- 21—Chuck Bauer
- 22—Autumn McIlvain
- 23—Richard Hagerman Jr., Craig Powell
- 24—Terry Wilson
- 25—Jessica LeGrant
- 28—Sally Smith
- 31—Kristen Gessner

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

Dot Cooper
 676 Morning Glory Drive, Hanover PA 17331

► Have some news? Change of address?

New email? Let us know!
 Call or email: 717-632-8281
office@eucchanover.org



Emmanuel hosts meetings

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

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

August 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 10 am—Worship with Communion 11:30 am—W&M 6 pm—Mindfulness	3 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor 6-8—Neighbors in Knead baking	4	5 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel open	6 1-4 pm—Afternoon of Games @ Genova's	7	8
9 10 am—Worship	10 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor	11	12 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel open	13	14	15
16 10 am—Worship 11:30 am—Church Growth Committee 6 pm—Mindfulness	17 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor 7 pm—Consistory	18	19 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel open	20 1-4 pm—Afternoon of Games @Genova's	21	22
23 10 am—Worship	24 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor	25	26 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel open	27	28	29
30 10 am—Outdoor Worship @ Gitt Memorial Library & Potluck Luncheon	31 1-4 pm—Crafters in the Pastor's Parlor	1 September	2 12-1 pm—Bowers Chapel open	3 1-4 pm—Afternoon of Games in King Auditorium	4	5

Emmanuel United Church of Christ
124 Broadway
Hanover, PA 17331
(Return Service Requested)

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Emmanuel United Church of Christ, 124 Broadway, Hanover PA 17331



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

August F.Y.I.

■ Outdoor Worship

Our annual Outdoor Worship service will be held at 10 am Sunday, August 30, on the lawn at the Gitt Memorial Library, 2029

Broadway (Route 194 N), Hanover.

Fellowship Hour will be a potluck picnic

with hot dogs provided. Please bring a side, salad or dessert to share. Sign up on the black clipboard or call the church office. Don't forget your lawn chairs!

