



MARCH - 2020

## From the Rector

This past week on four separate occasions, people have approached me with the same question, "What is happening to our country?" They were speaking to the demise of civil discourse in public life. We hear public officials use profanity in the public arena. People are mocked because of their height, weight or any number of perceived physical flaws. As people who care deeply about this country, it is time for us to stand up to this kind of language and cynicism. We are becoming a nation of rageaholics, and it is tearing us apart. Like many of you, I am horrified, frightened, and worried. I ask myself this same question over and over, what does this say about us? This leads to me ask, aren't we better than this?

This constant negativity weighs on us all whether we know it or not. Sub-consciously we begin to see everyone as "the Other". This means we don't have to engage in dialogue as our minds are already made up. But if we continue to live this way, our collective world will become smaller and smaller. Soon we will be so insular, we won't know how to interact with others. Think of the richness we miss when we choose not to engage with others who are different from us.

I have also been approached to begin dinner groups. A similar group was founded in Coventry, England after the devastation of the bombing of Coventry during WW II. The Provost began a ministry of reconciliation he called the *Community of the Cross and Nails*. It was a group of people intent on living out a ministry of reconciliation. Their creed being, *That there can be no division when we truly know one another*. In 1967, the staff of the Coventry Cathedral began meeting together in small informal groups as a means "to bridge the divisions which subtly separate us one from another"; as a result of the meetings they noticed a powerful bond forming among the staff members who joined what they came to call the *Foyer Group*. Two years later, the Foyer movement spread to the congregation of Coventry Cathedral and beyond.

Foyer Groups are now found in Britain and the US. The purpose of Foyers is for parishioners 21 and over is to

gather together on a regular but informal basis for purely social reasons – to enjoy one another's company, to strengthen bonds of community, to meet new members and just get to know other people who share a common interest in Emmanuel but with whom we might not otherwise interact. They provide a means to develop new friendships and deepen old ones and are a way to make our Church feel smaller and warmer.

Groups of 8-10 people meet monthly in one another's homes for food and fellowship. It is usually a simple potluck meal. They can be purely informal while others may want to dive deep into a topic or book. There is no right or wrong way to structure the Foyer Group.

While traditionally groups begin in the fall, I believe the time is now for us to begin to meet and talk about those ideas and beliefs we hold dear. After Easter, groups will be forming. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex. These are important conversations for us to have. Please join us.



## Lenten Program



## Soup Suppers

### Wednesday Evenings in Lent

**Lenten Program:** According to a French philosopher and paleontologist Teilhard de Chardin, who said, we are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings having a human experience. How does our faith interact with our work lives? If we are spiritual beings, as de Chardin writes, how do our beliefs and experiences of God shape our interactions with others? The Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers will explore this as we listen to how their own lives of faith, inform their interactions with others and how they model the gospel to all they meet. Join us each Wednesday during Lent beginning March 4th as Emmanuel Parishioners and friends share with us how their faith impacts their work life. The evening starts at 6:00 pm with a soup and salad supper, followed by our featured speaker. There will be time to share experiences before we end at 7:30.

## Stations of the Cross with Holy Eucharist



Are on Wednesdays at 10:00 am during Lent. The Scriptural significance of the **Stations of the Cross** is to detail the path Jesus walked on his way to eventual redemption of humanity. ...

The **Stations of the Cross** also include Jesus being nailed to the **cross**, his death, and eventual resurrection.

## Lenten Labyrinth Walk

Labyrinth Walks are scheduled throughout Lent for contemplative embodied reflection. The labyrinth at Emmanuel is an adaptation of the magnificent labyrinth in the sanctuary of the 13<sup>th</sup> c. Chartres Cathedral in Chartres, France. Walking the labyrinth is symbolic of life journey, a sacred pilgrimage with a holy intention. Early pilgrims traveled to labyrinths in European Cathedrals to fulfill their duty of a symbolic journey to Jerusalem. Reaching the rosette center of the labyrinth offers a place for renewal and the arrival to the New Jerusalem.

As we walk this path in Lent, let us be receptive to God's message of the wilderness experience. Let us journey together as pilgrims in the knowledge that we walk with Jesus and are baptized into the commitment to share God's love.

**Labyrinth Walks** are available these days during Lent:

Wed., March 18 - 5:00 – 6:00 PM, before meal & program

Wed., March 25 - 5:00 – 6:00 PM, before meal & program

Wed., April 1, - 5:00 – 6:00 PM, before meal & program

Holy Week – every day when office is open plus -  
Maundy Thursday April 9 – candlelight and music before service

Finger labyrinths are also available.

**Location:** Nicholas Youth Center on the third floor, elevator accessible.

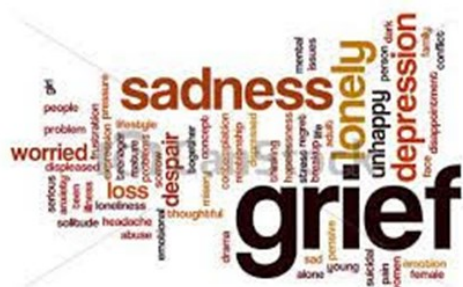


## Grief Support Group

Henri Nouwen, Catholic priest and founder of L'Arche wrote "The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing... not healing, not curing... that is a friend who cares." Loss is the physical loss of a loved one, but it is also the loss of a job, a way of life, or a dream.

**Tuesday, March 10, at 7:00 pm** in the Janet James Room, we will meet to share our feelings and experiences with grief.

Please join us as we navigate the terrain of pain and sadness together. If you have any questions please speak with Diane.



## Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality Group will be meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. The meeting will be at Mary Dammann's at 7 pm. Refreshments will be served. Call Mary at 815-520-2990 for directions or any questions.



## Emmanuel Reads

Emmanuel Reads will meet on Thursday, March 12th, at Mary Dammann's house 627 Trent Ln. Loves Park at 7:00 pm. We will be discussing **Where the Crawdads**

**Sing** by Delia Owens. Come bring an idea for our next book. We encourage anyone interested in a book we're reading to join us for that meeting or more. Call Mary at 815-520-2990 with any questions.



## Emmanuel Guild

### EMMANUEL GUILD HOSTS LADIES' AFTERNOON TEA



On January 25th, over one hundred ladies of all ages gathered to enjoy one of life's most elegant Tea. Guests feasted on a variety of scones, sweets, and fancy tea savories and

enjoying tea served by gentlemen in their formal wear. During the tea, beautiful piano music filled the room. The Specialty Shop was a hit with Silent Auction goodies. Profits were \$2,770.00 after expenses and will be used to fund the general account, which supports Emmanuel projects, needs of Shelter Care Ministry, and its programs. Thank you, Emanuel Guild and Emmanuel Church members for the successful event and your continued support.



One of the many quilts auctioned off at the Tea

## Wicker or Straw Baskets

Emmanuel Guild is looking for baskets for the Shelter Care Spring Luncheon, in a size that will hold one or two geraniums. If you have any, please bring them to the church office in the next few weeks. Thanks!



## Children and Families



Mark your calendar ahead of time, March 14th will again be an opportunity for you to recharge and allow your children to engage in some Emmanuel community time with their peers! Bring your child(ren) with a sack dinner at 4:30 and pick them up at 6:30! RSVP to Courtney Oakes so we know how many children to plan for!

## It's Easter basket season

We are in need of donations for 53 Easter baskets for new Shelter Care families. There is a card for each child located in the narthex, please take a card and bring back your items to be placed in the labeled barrel in the narthex. All donations need to be in by March 29th. The children and families will be putting together the baskets on April 5th. Please see Courtney Oakes with any questions. Thank you for supporting our Shelter Care families.



## Intergenerational Valentine Crafting Event

Creativity, fellowship and fun took over Emmanuel's Undercroft on Inter-Generational Sunday. Parishioners gathered to make a variety of Valentine crafts, gifts and treats. It was a special time for members of all ages to work and interact together while creating one of a kind Valentine items. Special thanks to our project leaders:

Cindy Joesten took over the kitchen and helped create pretzel treats, Matt Oakes supervised the necklace/bracelet table, Kay Hatch managed the Valentine pillow station,

Michael Smith worked with artists at the Make Your Own Valentine table, Theresa Sinks oversaw the making of Bell-a-rinas, and Leadell Schmitt helped parishioners create their own Valen-Slime.



Libby Oakes, Mary Johnson, Kay Hatch, Delbert Brown,

## Foyer Dinner Group

As mentioned in the Rector's column Foyer Groups will be forming beginning in May.

This time of food and fellowship is a lovely way to meet others; you may not have had the opportunity to in church or at coffee hour. Groups are 8-10 people (21 and over please) who rotate hosting responsibilities, and the meal is potluck—sign-up in the narthex mid-March.



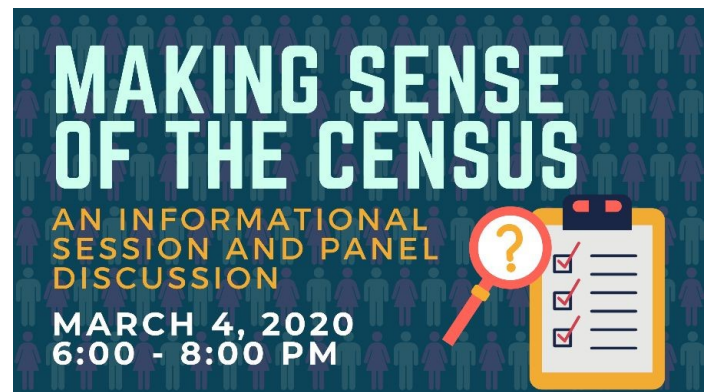
## Flower Guild

Ah, Spring! A time of renewal and reinvigoration. The same is certainly true for Emmanuel, and in the spirit of renewal the Flower Guild is starting up again. Even if you think you can't arrange flowers, trust me, you can. Plus, you meet and work with some wonderful people. There will be a meeting for anyone interested Sunday, March 15th, after the 10:30 service down in the undercroft. Some have already been "gently" recruited, but we have plenty to do, and everyone is welcome. While it may seem like an intimidating endeavor, when we work for the Glory of God, all are beautiful. If you have any questions, please speak with Diane or Cindy.



## First Lenten Program

The Aspire Outreach of Emmanuel Episcopal Church is partnering with the League of Women Voters of Rockford on March 4th to host a panel on "Making Sense of the Census. The group will focus on "why" and "how" we can participate in the upcoming census to insure representation in Congress, allocation of tax dollars, and the distribution of resources. Please join us for this important discussion at 412 N. Church Street, Rockford, IL. A light supper will be served at 6:00



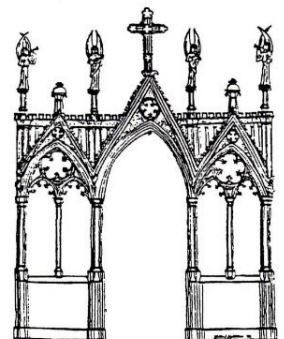
## Evensong for Peace

Please join us on Sunday, **March 1**, at 5:00 pm.

Emmanuel will host this most Anglican of all services to sing and pray for peace in the world. The setting will be informal with string band music and new and ancient prayers.

All are welcome!

# Evensong



## Please no food or drinks in the sanctuary.

### Why? You may ask?

There's the simple cosmetic reason for potential spills on the seats, which leave stains and are unattractive for future worshippers. Yet, there are other potential reasons not to bring coffee to the sanctuary. Some are distracted from their worship by having someone beside them grab their coffee and sip.

But more importantly, we have so few places in our world which are considered sacred. Our sanctuary is for most of us the only one. God required Moses to remove his sandals for he was standing on Holy Ground, and while we do not require removal of our footwear, we do want to maintain our sacred space and keep it holy.

**So please no food or drink in the sanctuary.**



## Early Voting

At Emmanuel begins Monday, March 2nd for those who live in the city of Rockford. Voting will be open at the following times and take place in the Nicholas Youth Center on the third floor, elevator accessible.

Monday through Friday, March 2nd - 6th, 8:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday, March 7th,  
9:00am - 12:00pm

Monday through Friday,  
March 9th -13th, 8:00am - 7:00pm

Saturday, March 14th,  
9:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday, March 15th,  
8:00 - 1:00pm

Monday, March 16th,  
8:00am - 7:00pm



## Spring Forward

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8. Don't forget to set the clocks forward one hour!



## Birthday

Amber Neal	3/04	Theresa Sinks	3/20
Scott Neal	3/04	Owen Carter	3/23
Maria Mendia	3/05	Lindsey Zimmerman	3/23
Jordan Neal	3/11	John Cygnor	3/24
Robert Crawford	3/14	Gale Degner	3/25
Susan Rubendall	3/14	Oscar Garza	3/29
Eric Jones	3/17		

## Anniversary

L. Earl & Judith Morgan 3/26



## An Evening in Paris

Save the date and join us on

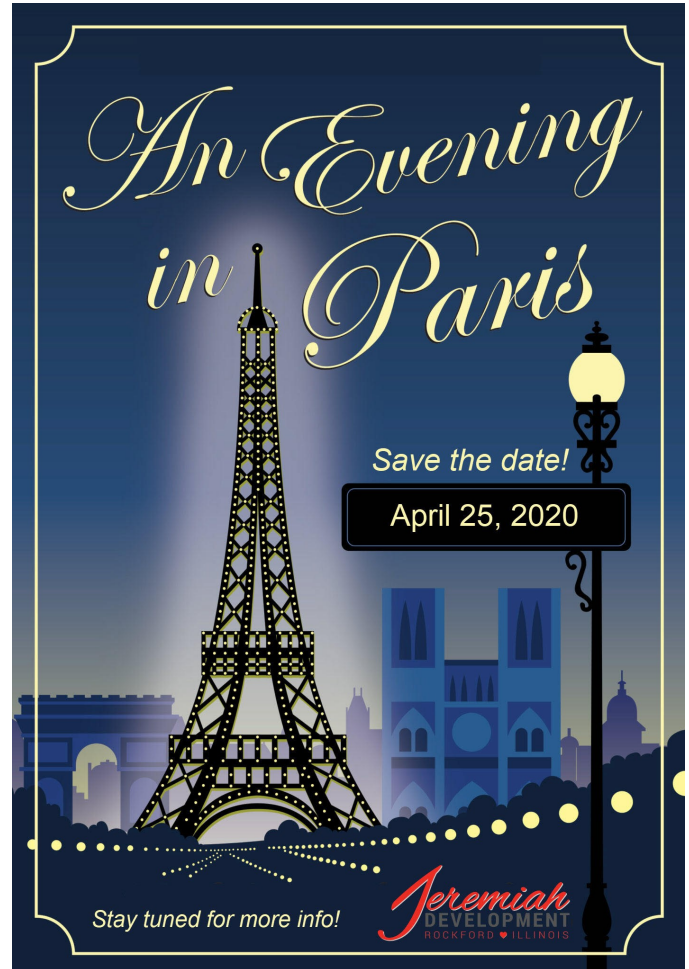
April 25 at Emmanuel for

**"An Evening in Paris."**

Cocktails: 5:30pm

Dinner: 6:30pm

**Tickets will be available starting  
March 30.**



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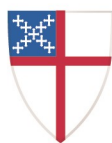
**Jason J. Crouch, CRPC®**  
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## March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8am - Spoken Holy Euch. 9:00am - Choir Rehearsal 9:00am - Child at Heart Serv. 9:15am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Choral Holy Eucharist 5:00pm - Evensong	<b>2</b> Early Voting 8am-5pm  <b>Parish Office Closed</b>	<b>3</b> Early Voting 8am-5pm	<b>4</b> 10pm - Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Eucharist Early Voting 8am-5pm	<b>5</b> Early Voting 8am-5pm	<b>6</b> Early Voting 8am-5pm	<b>7</b> Early Voting 9am-12pm
<b>8</b>  8am - Spoken Holy Eucharist 9:00am - Choir Rehearsal 9:00am - Child at Heart Serv. 9:15am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Choral Holy Eucharist	<b>9</b> Early Voting 8am-7pm  <b>Parish Office Closed</b>	<b>10</b> Early Voting 8am-7pm 7pm - Grief Support Group	<b>11</b> 10pm - Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Eucharist Early Voting 8am-7pm	<b>12</b> Early Voting 8am-7pm 5pm - Aspire Meeting 6pm - Emmanuel Reads	<b>13</b> Early Voting 8am-7pm	<b>14</b> Early Voting 9am-5pm 4:30 - 6:30pm - Parent's Night Out
<b>15</b> 8am - Spoken Holy Eucharist 9:45am - Choir Rehearsal 9:00am - Child at Heart Serv. 9:15am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Choral Holy Eucharist 8am-1pm Early Voting	<b>16</b> Early Voting 8am-7pm  <b>Parish Office Closed</b>	<b>17 Election Day</b>  	<b>18</b> 10am - Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Eucharist 5-6pm - Lenten Labyrinth Walk	<b>19 First Day of Spring</b> 11am - Emmanuel Guild 6pm - Vestry	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8am - Spoken Holy Eucharist 9:00am - Choir Rehearsal 9:00am - Child at Heart Serv. 9:15am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Choral Holy Eucharist	<b>23</b> <b>Parish Office Closed</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10am - Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Eucharist 5-6pm - Lenten Labyrinth Walk	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8am - Spoken Holy Eucharist 9:00am - Choir Rehearsal 9:00am - Child at Heart Serv. 9:15am - Adult Forum 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Choral Holy Eucharist	<b>30</b> <b>Parish Office Closed</b>	<b>31</b> 7pm - Women's Spirituality at Mary Dammann's				<b>28</b>



**Emmanuel**  
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH