

THE PARISH CRIER
EMMANUEL (BAUST)
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2930-2950 Old Taneytown Road
Westminster, Maryland 21158

410-202-8655

Rev. Jeffry Dull, Pastor

Email: pastor@ebucc.com

website: www.ebucc.com

Helen Miller, Church Secretary

and Newsletter Editor

Email: office@ebucc.com

Email: helenmiller@hotmail.com



From the Pastor's Desk

February 2021

Here we are in February 2021 and COVID, along with its restrictions, is still among us. Valentine's Day is on Sunday this year followed by Presidents' Day on Monday. Ash Wednesday comes in the same week. So basically all of our Christian and secular holidays in February are celebrated in the same week. If you really want other holidays for February, you could always recognize the Jewish holiday of Purim on the 26th and 27th. And on top of all of this, nearly half the month is in Lent.

Yes, we still have many stressors but there is hope as well. A vaccine is being distributed for COVID and hopefully will be out to most of the population by mid-year or so. We look forward to more jobs and a better economy as COVID restrictions wane. Much attention is being given to economic, ethnic, racial, environmental, and gender justice. People are looking at new and better ways to do business.

We at Baust Church are no exception. February, even though it has little to offer in terms of holidays or good weather, gives us the chance to use our time to plan for a future that will probably not be much like we have experienced in the recent past. We are looking at new ways to reach out to people and spread the Gospel message. We are opening up ways for volunteers to use their talents to reach out to our members and to the community at large. There are those in need all around us and we can use this Winter season to allow the Spirit to inspire us to greater ministry.

So why not take the time to read some books, to pray and meditate on God's calling for us, and to reconnect with those who have been marginalized by our current situation. We are all in this together so let's reach out and take hold of all that God has set before us!

Blessings,

Pastor Jeff and Cathy

Greetings Fellow Families & Friends



It is an honor to be elected to the presidency of the consistory for a new year. I know there will be hurdles along the way, but I am ready for the challenge.

The following will serve as officers:

President—Sandra Stonesifer
Vice-President—Jim Stonesifer
Secretary—Corey Wilt
Treasurer—Carolyn Dutterer

We will continue to work with presenting the service by electronics each week for those who are not comfortable coming to church or can not attend church in person. This continues to be a priority. Keep in mind Bible Study (for sure) and I would think the Literary Society can also be zoomed. You just need to let Pastor Jeff know you would like to be included.

We ended 2020 very well financially. We had an extraordinarily strong December through giving and several particularly good fundraisers. We appreciate all those who continued to send their offerings.

Ash Wednesday is February 17, which is the beginning of Lent. We had to change some things we normally do because of COVID. Check the Worship Committee section for that information.

We may not see each other in person each week but the church is alive and doing its mission work in the community.

Sandra Stonesifer, Consistory President

Worship Committee

The committee met on January 10th to plan for Lent and Easter.

If you are in need of communion elements, there are plenty available on the back porch of the parsonage. Stop by at your convenience. It looks as if we will be using these for a while.

The following are the 2021 Communion Dates:

- February 21: First Sunday in Lent
- April 1: Maundy Thursday
- April 4: Easter
- May 23: Pentecost
- August 8: Summer Communion
- October 3: World-Wide Communion
- November 28: First Sunday in Advent



As noted earlier in the newsletter Lent begins on February 17th, Ash Wednesday We are going to try something new. There will be a short pre-recorded service available that day. There will also be a drive-by imposition of ashes. The drive-by will be the parsonage driveway. Bible Study will be a book by Adam Hamilton, *"Words of Life"*. On April 1, Maundy Thursday, at 6 p.m. will be a short service with communion. There will be an Easter Sunrise Service on April 4 at 6:30 a.m. at the top of the cemetery hill.

If you have any comments or concerns about the recorded service, please contact Mike Paxton. We are starting to explore our options for upgrading the equipment.

What's the Pastor Reading Now?



The book I am reading for February is, "*How the South Won the Civil War*." Before I tell you about the book, let me give you some information on the author, Heather Cox Richardson. She is Professor of History at Boston College and author of five books on the history of politics in America. She is also a national commentator on American political history.

"*How the South Won the Civil War*" is not principally about that war but a historical commentary on the struggle between oligarchy and democracy. Richardson examines how we have promoted and developed two conflicting political concepts in the U.S. One is the concept of allowing power to be accumulated in the hands of a few, the other ideal, that "all men are created equal."

If you are at all interested in the roots of our current political and social stresses, Richardson will give you her take on the situation that stretches from John C. Calhoun to our current situation. If nothing else, this author will give you a different perspective from most of the history we have read and give you something to think about.



Below are excerpts from some of the letters that we received from two of our SOCK recipients:

Northwest Middle School: *"We are so thrilled to have your church partner with us again this year, particularly during this very trying time. ...we are able to help students with school supplies, meals during the holidays, glasses and unforeseen needs that arise during the school year.we can't thank you enough"*

Hoffman Homes for Youth: *"Thank you for bringing hope to the children of Hoffman Homes for Youth. Your commitment and dedication to our program is a testament to the hope you have in us and in our children."*

Committee Report

The committee recently met to discuss 2021 fundraisers.

Profit from our fundraisers at the end of the year were

- Fall Sub Sale -- \$408.65
- Texas Roadhouse Gift Cards -- \$460.
- Poinsettias -- \$177.83
- Cookies & Candy Sale -- \$3,334.98

We have scheduled a Winter Sub Sale -- See attached order form for more information.

Also scheduled Spring Tea on May 15. It will be an in person tea with the option of carryout.

We have contacted the Health Department about a Soup & Sandwich Sale. We have been given our guidelines and have received approval. A flyer and order form is attached.



Note from the Treasurer

Dear EBUCC Family,

Needless to say, 2020 was a year that most of us would like to totally forget. It has been a difficult year in the life of the church. Like most of you, I miss seeing and talking to you each week. I really miss choir practice, singing in church and a regular church service. I personally want to thank Jeff, Cathy, Kent and Jennifer for making a weekly service available on ZOOM and in person. I also want to thank our hard working and loyal support staff, Helen Miller, Rachel Bowers, Beth Brandenburg, Susan Hardinger and President, Mike Paxton.

But most of all, I am so thankful for all of you. When I presented the budget in November, I projected our income was going to fall short of our expenses for the year. But the month of December offerings proved me totally wrong. We ended the year on a high financial note with income exceeding expenses by over \$13,000. You all deserve a rousing round of applause! Thank you also for the Christmas gift.

Now a few reminders for your 2020 tax return filing:

1. This year you will be able to deduct \$300 charitable contributions in addition to itemized or standard deduction. Please include your giving statement to your tax preparer.
2. You will also need to know the amount of your first stimulus payment you received earlier this year. What you received is not taxable, but you will need to reconcile the amount received based on your 2020 adjusted gross income. If your income went down and you did not receive the total amount, you may be entitled to an additional payment. If you received too much, you don't need to pay it back.
3. If your contributions were made directly from your IRA, then you reduce your IRA taxable income, but you can not deduct as a contribution. No double dipping.
4. If you have any tax questions, you can email me at cfid2340@gmail.com.

Carolyn Dutterer, Treasurer



FEBRUARY



- 3 – Simone Staubs
- 4 – Ryan Hevner
- 6 – Nicole Overholtzer
- 7 – Brian Edwards
- 9 – Scott Edwards

- 12 – Madison Barnes
- 13 – Andrew Stonsifer
- 24 – Libby Hill
- 25 – Lois Bickerton
- 27 – Adam Brower

- 1 – Barney & Debbie
Stambaugh

**ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER
ARE DUE TO HELEN MILLER BY
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH.**