



The Emmanuel Envoy

February 2019

As you might know, Lent is right around the corner (Ash Wednesday is March 6th), with all of the excitement and extra activity that that season of the church year brings, but right now, there's something else on the horizon that I'm both excited and nervous about. It's the 2019 Norwood Community Service Day.

Community Service Day is an event that got started at the First Congregational Church in Norwood. It was the idea of one of the members of First Congregational. Community Service Day gives community organizations that work in the greater Boston area and around the world an opportunity to come together and share their mission with people who come to the event. At Community Service Day the various organizations have booths where they share information about how people can get involved in the various service organizations that are represented. There are also hands on mission projects that people can help with, and activities for children to participate in. There is a lunch tent, a bake sale, and a rummage sale, all of which raise money for the community service organizations that are represented at Community Service Day.

From the beginning the vision of this Community Service Day was that it would involve more than just the members of First Congregational Church. It has always been the vision that the various religious communities in Norwood would co-sponsor this day, working together to highlight and raise money for various community services organizations and to share with the greater community ways in which people can be involved in service in their own lives. Last year, members of Emmanuel helped with the Community Service Day in many ways. We donated items from our rummage sale to theirs, we brought baked goods for the bake sale, we sponsored a table for More Than Words (mtwyouth.org), and we had volunteers who worked at the rummage sale and with the children's activities.

This year, the organizers of the 2019 Community Service Day want to take a big step. They are talking about moving the Community Service Day from the grounds of First Congregational Church to the green across from our church. This would make it a more explicitly community event and perhaps get even more people involved in helping with it and attending it. While the event would still be a joint effort of many of the churches in Norwood and while the original organizers from First Congregational would still play a big role, since the event would be held right across the street from our church and from Grace Episcopal, it would be important that we take on a bigger role as organizers and that we would be able to share our building for the mission of Community Service Day.

Community Service Day will be held on Saturday, May 4th this year. I am excited about the idea of this congregation playing a big part in making this event bigger and better than ever, but I'm also nervous because I also know that we will need a lot of people to make that happen. Might you be one of them? In the coming weeks you will see sign up sheets and planning meetings about Community Service Day. I hope that you will jump in to help in some way to make this year's Community Service Day a big success.

In Christ,
Pastor Amanda

Prayer Concerns List

Grace	Lyndsay Boysen
Daniel Carow	Jack Gradijan
Jeff Pitman	Bernie Byrnes
Jovanni Sanchez-Colon	The Hayes Family
Warren Spencer	Hilary Shaw Family
Susan Tomasello	Paul Dullea
Helen Hultman	Jody Spillane
Lorraine Earle	Dennis Ohlson
Heather Crisafulli	Ruth McHugh
Rebecca Hendrickson	Kathleen Fabio
Lorraine Lee	Helen Hahlen

Remembering Our Shut-ins

Ingrid Bamber and Richard Spencer

Thank You Notes



Our Friends of the Emmanuel
Lutheran Church,

Thank you for continued support and generosity of letting us use your space over the summer and for our annual holiday concert. You've become such a special part of our history and traditions. Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,
The Norwood Alumni Choir

Thank you for the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets from Emmanuel that found me at my new home in Yarmouth. I enjoyed the cards from the Sunday School children, the homemade cranberry bread and Swedish rolls, the cookies and tea, the ornaments and all the other gifts in the beautiful and festive baskets. But most of all it was so good to be remembered.

Thank you, *Ingrid Bamber*

Dear Emmanuel,

Thank you so much for the care package! It always means so much to me...Thank you! It came right in time for finals. Thank you so much again.

Kelsey Sweeney

To our church family,

Many thanks for your support during the past year. For Pastor Amanda's visits while Bernie was hospitalized and visits to us at home—bringing communion and reassurance that God watches over all of us *always*. Your prayers, your noes of encouragement. The lovely baskets so thoughtfully prepared, with messages from the Sunday School children—Oh how it lifted Bernie's spirits! It all made Bernie's long recovery a lot easier and for both of us the dark days a bit lighter. Our heartfelt 'thank you' and God Bless you all.

Bernie & Fridel Byrnes

Dear Friends and Carolers of Emmanuel,

I thank you all who came out and sang on that cold winter evening. You were awesome—including some of my favorite hymns.

Also for the lovely Christmas basket filled with lovely goodies – I just couldn't resist.

You made my holidays!!!

Ann-Marie Blomquist

Thank you all so much for your generous donations, we truly appreciate it. Without help from wonderful people like you we wouldn't be able to provide our kids a great Christmas—we are so thankful.

The Ascentria Intensive Foster Care Program

...and from a couple of the kids...

Thank you very much for the gift cards. I hope you get something that makes you as joyful as me. *Jayden*

Thank you ever so much for the gifts I received on Christmas. I was extraordinarily happy with what I received and genuinely appreciate the thought and consideration. *Collette*

Quilting has begun again in February



"The Piecemakers" are now meeting every Saturday morning in February and March, from 9 to noon. Fabric will be available in Kask Hall for those looking for material to work with. Anyone with questions can e-mail me at lawsue51@verizon.net or call me at 508-660-7459. All are welcome!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Let the Confirmation class make you dinner! The Confirmation class and their families invite you to a **Pancake Supper** on Tuesday, **February 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** We will prepare for the Lenten season with good food and good fellowship and by burning last year's Palm Sunday palms to make ashes for our Ash Wednesday services. There's a sign-up sheet outside Pastor's office!



Ash Wednesday Worship

We begin the season of Lent with two opportunities for worship on Ash Wednesday **March 6th**. We will gather at **3 pm and 7:30 pm**. The imposition of ashes and Holy Communion will be offered at both services.



Invitation for women

The Jezebels meet on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Founders' Room. The group chooses a spiritual-based book to read to discuss at the next meeting. Depending on the size of the book, we may read a few chapters each month for discussion. The group is open to all adult women.

For our **March 8th** gathering, we will be discussing "Chapter 6 - Mary: Blessed Among Women" from the book "Twelve Extraordinary Women" by John MacArthur.

If you are interested in attending our group, please feel free to drop in. You can also bring a friend. It is a great opportunity to connect with other women in or outside of the congregation. If you have any questions, please contact Janice McHugh buster718@msn.com or 617-543-5406.

Book Group Meets...

The Book Group will be meeting on Friday evening **March 15th at 7 p.m.** and the book we're reading for that meeting is "*Hillbilly Elegy*" by J. D. Vance.



Midweek Lenten Soup Supper & Worship – 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Lenten Soup Suppers and Evening Prayer Services will be held on five Wednesdays during Lent.

Dinner will be from 6:00-6:45 and worship will be held from 6:45-7:30. If you would like to bring soup or bread for the Soup Suppers, please sign up on the table in the hallway outside of the pastor's office.

Snow Cancellation Policy

I can always get to church, but there are times when it is not safe or community minded for other people to venture out to come to worship.



The reality is that the church of Jesus Christ can never be closed. As long as the people of God engage in prayer for their neighbors, especially those who are put at risk because of dangerous weather, the work and worship of the church goes forward. But, there are times when worship services can and should be cancelled.

This might not come up this coming winter (we can only hope), but if it looks like a storm is coming that will bring significant snow or other seriously dangerous weather to our area, then worship at Emmanuel will be cancelled.

I will let people know about a cancellation, by changing the phone message at church, sending

out a mass e-mail, putting it on Facebook, and putting it on local TV stations. If you hear the words, “Blizzard expected Saturday into Sunday morning” this winter, chances are good that worship at Emmanuel will be cancelled! *Pastor Amanda*

Altar Flowers For 2019

The 2019 Altar Flower Chart is now posted in the Narthex. To sponsor a Sunday, please sign your name and phone number. Our Flower Coordinator, **Helen Bonaceto**, will contact you regarding the dedication and payment. We appreciate all those who help to adorn the sanctuary on Sundays with fresh flowers.

Rummage Sales 2019

Please mark your calendars. The spring rummage sale at Emmanuel Lutheran Church will be **Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.** - AND our Fall one will be **October 25 and 26.**

If you have any questions, please talk to **Arlene Cegelis** or **Anne Martin**.

First Communion

First Communion classes for children in second grade and older who have not yet received communion instruction will be held on **March 2nd, March 9th, March 23rd, and March 30th, 10:00-11:30.** There will also be a First Communion Event, for the students, on May 4th, 4:00-6:00 p.m. The First Communion Event will include, skits, games, a tour of the sacristy, and baking bread for use at the First Communion worship services. First Communion worship will be held on Sunday, May 5th. The children can receive their First Communion at the 8:45 or 11:15 worship services on that day.

The Capital Fund

For the months of January and February the Church Council wanted to let the Congregation know a little more about the Capital Improvement Fund. This fund may

not sound glamorous but it is a very important part of the Church.

The Property Committee is responsible for maintaining and repairing the Church and the Parsonage. The Capital Improvement Fund helps to fund those major repairs and maintenance needed.

In the past year this fund has provided for a new roof over Kask Hall and repaired the chimney in Kask Hall. The list of repairs and renovations that are on the Property Committee’s agenda is long and involve both the Church and Parsonage. Some of these items are:

- Adding a bathroom in the Parsonage.
- In the church: repair or replace the upstairs men’s room, replacing the carpet in the upstairs hallway, and renovating Kask Hall from the floor up.

If you’ve ever done any home renovations, you know what kinds of expenses are involved! Please consider contributing to this fund. Thank You.

Nursery Taskforce Update

While children are always welcome at Sunday worship, I can appreciate having a nursery option as I think back to times when I spent most of the worship service wrestling with an unhappy toddler. Everyone around me was very supportive but I would leave exhausted, having taken in very little of the spiritual nourishment I so needed.

With examples like that in mind, a Nursery Taskforce met in December to discuss the need for a “Nursery Ministry” to serve our current families and those we hope will join us in the future. We reviewed the results from the nursery survey completed earlier in the year, toured the building, and considered how, where, and when to start an 18-month pilot program to begin this spring.

If you are interested in participating in the planning and follow through, please contact Cindy Zafft at zaffts@comcast.net or 781-801-9546.