

# The Messenger

October 2020

## COMMUNION SUNDAY

### OCTOBER 4

Come break bread with our Lord at our worship service and **Sacrament of Holy Communion** on Sunday, October 4, at 10:30 am. It will be a no contact communion. Wafers and wine will be in disposable cup at the pews.

## HARVEST HOME

### OCTOBER 11

We will have our church decorated for Harvest Home Sunday on October 11. As we have in the past, we will collect canned/boxed goods for the food bank. There are suggested items on the poster in the narthex as we replenish the food bank for the people who need our assistance.



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## From the Pastor's Desk

Hello to October and to the faithful members and friends of Emmanuel UCC!

There are many times that I visit a very interesting website of a company that does church research. It is aptly named Pew Research. This website gives the latest trends on churches and church attendance and can be found at <https://www.pewresearch.org>. My recent visit was stimulated by the newest trend of watching church services on line in this pandemic era.

My message to you is to not lose heart when we as a congregation count 19 to 23 people per service. Many congregation members and those who are not members do watch our service which is televised every Sunday. I even have a few folks watching from New Jersey.

So, wondering if remote viewing and worshipping will be the new trend, I did some unearthing with the help of Pew research. I would like to share with you what I have found:

One-third of U.S. adults have watched religious services online or on television in the past month, and a little over half of them – or 18% of all adults – say they began doing this for the first time during the coronavirus pandemic. Of course, if you're worshipping remotely, you can't hug the other members of your congregation or shake hands with your minister, priest, rabbi or imam. But you can wear whatever clothes you want, turn up (or down) the volume, forget about traffic in the parking lot, and easily check out that service you've heard about in a congregation across town or even across the country.

Whatever the reasons, lots of people like virtual worship. Nine out of 10 Americans who have watched services online or on TV in the past month say they are either "very" satisfied (54%) or "somewhat" satisfied (37%) with the experience; just 8% say they are "not too" or "not at all" satisfied, according to a recent Pew Research Center survey conducted in mid-July.

So what does this bode for the future? By the time the COVID-19 pandemic has finally run its course, will Americans have lost the habit of going in person to a church, synagogue, temple or mosque? Some commentators have suggested that just as the pandemic has accelerated the trend toward shopping online and made Americans reliant on the internet for work, school, health and entertainment, so might many, if not all, varieties of religious experience move online in the 21st century.

But that's not what the people who've been worshipping online see in their future. **On the contrary, most U.S. adults overall say that when the pandemic is over, they expect to go back to attending religious services in person as often as they did before the coronavirus outbreak.**

To be sure, a substantial share of Americans (43%) say they didn't attend religious services in person before the pandemic struck and they don't plan to start going to a church or other house of worship when it's all over. But 42% of U.S. adults say they plan to resume going to religious services about as often as they did before the

outbreak, while 10% say they will go *more* often than they used to, and just 5% anticipate going less often.

Similarly, a lot of Americans are not interested in virtual services: Two-thirds of U.S. adults say they have not watched religious services online or on TV in the past month. But of the one-third of U.S. adults who recently watched services online or on TV, relatively few (19% of this group, or 6% of all adults) say that once the pandemic is over, they intend to watch religious services more often than they did before it started.

Most online worshippers say that after COVID-19 has passed, they plan to revert to their pre-pandemic habits (18% of all adults) or watch online *less* often than they did before the outbreak (9%).

The forecast is even more striking if one looks just at regular attenders from pre-COVID times – the respondents who told us in a 2019 survey that they went to services at least once or twice a month. Of those congregational stalwarts, 92% expect that when the pandemic is fully behind us, they will attend physical services at least as often as they did in the past. This includes 10% who say they will *also* watch online or on TV more than in the past.

Of course, it is impossible to predict how behavior will actually change after the pandemic, particularly if it extends further into the future than people expect. But, at the moment at least, very few U.S. adults anticipate substituting virtual participation for physical attendance at their church or other house of worship: Just 2% of the pre-pandemic regular attenders think that in the long run they will watch services online or on TV more often – and attend in person less often – than they used to.

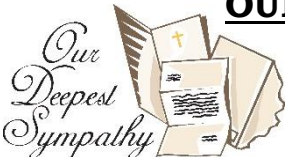
Well...that’s a lot of numbers and percentages! I personally find it interesting, and I hope you do also. It’s a very sterile way of approaching the question of attending worship, yet, we are presented with the most up to date facts.

Once more I say, do not lose heart! The pandemic is temporary. We have managed to navigate waters that were deeper and more turbulent than these as a church and a society. Emmanuel UCC must continue to move forward with worship and of course the business end of the church. As your minister, know that I will continue to upkeep the tradition we have of fruitful worship and outreach to the people of our church and the community.

In Christian love, Pastor Lou



**OUR SYMPATHY...**



We offer our sincere condolences to Gloria Schreyer and Family on the passing of Francis Schreyer, on September 16,2020. We pray that God’s love and strength will sustain you in your time of need and sorrow.

**UPCOMING DATES**

- Nov. 3** Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Nov 7** Soup Sale
- Dec 20** Annual Congregational Meeting



## COMMITTEE MEETINGS CONSISTORY

The next **Consistory** meeting will be on **Sunday, October 25** following **10:30 worship service/counting**.

## KITCHEN COMMITTEE

The next **Kitchen committee** meeting will be on **Friday, October 9**, at **9:00 am**.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!

**Emmanuel UCC is in urgent need of your help.**

You are cordially invited to join our 2021 Consistory! Your church needs you! This year was unprecedented with only 4 volunteers sitting on the Consistory. And while we hope we proved to be successful and productive we do not want to see this lack of involvement become



a trend. Being on the consistory and helping with the behind the scenes business of the church is fulfilling and important work that can be done by any congregational member. No prior experience needed. The Elders and Deacons of the church, as well as Pastor are available to help you. We meet monthly, and work together throughout the month via email, FB messenger chat or phone calls.

The Consistory is your governing body and we could really use your talents to help guide your church into the future, please consider joining, God's house needs you! Many of this years members will not be returning. Please pray on this and follow your heart.

## BUDGET COMMITTEE

The 2020 Consistory needs your help! We need a few folks to form the 2021 Budget Committee to review expenses and create a viable budget for 2021. The budget needs to be approved at the December congregational meeting.



Please consider taking on this task to assist us. I (Lisa C) cannot do it again this year, there is just too many other "extracurricular" activities I am trying to juggle and this one is too important to only get half my attention. I would much prefer someone else run with it to ensure it is done correctly.

If you can help, please let me know. Chris, as Treasurer will be available to the committee as well.

## PICTURE PERFECT

Check the front entrance bulletin board for the following pictures:

**Landon Dean** is shown with Melody Glazenski, Landon's teacher/owner of Starry Knights Learning Center is located in Mountaintop on Alberdeen Road in the Labor Day edition of the Mountaintop Eagle. She is show doing "**Labor of Love**"



