

# The Messenger

*September 2020*

## **COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR**

**SEPTEMBER 6**

Come break bread with our Lord at our worship service and **Sacrament of Holy Communion** on Sunday, September 6, at 10:30 am. It will be a no contact communion. Wafers and wine will be in disposable cup at the pews.

## **CHOIRS & RALLY DAY!!**

\* Due to Covid-19 Choir Practices have been put on hold to resume at this time. They will be revisited in the near future for a possible date of when it is safe to begin gathering again.

\* Sunday school Teachers are still working to determine safest option for starting classes. We'd like to know the number of children who are interested in returning to Sunday School in person, with CDC guidelines of masks and social distancing to resume in the fall. Please email Lisa Ceaser at [lac8278@gmail.com](mailto:lac8278@gmail.com) with your response so they can move forward.

## **UPCOMING DATES**

Oct. 19 Turkey Supper **CANCELLED**

Nov 7 Soup Sale

## Emmanuel United Church of Christ

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## From The Pastor's Desk

### Does God Exist?

In the August edition of our newsletter I tackled the question of why we as people of believers in God and His Son Jesus should attend church. This month I am tackling an even deeper question. **Is there proof that God exists?**

I have thought of both of these questions myself since childhood years. I feel I provided some good evidence why we should attend a worship service weekly. Hopefully, this article will also provide an answer to the age old question of the existence of God.

We live in a scientific driven age. As a people, we have explored a vast amount of space, even more than our discoveries of the great oceans of the world. For me, most of our answers to both questions are driven by one simple word, faith.

I do know that usually, when skeptics ask us Christians for “proof,” they are usually calling for “scientific proof” for God’s existence, objective moral values, the soul, or life after death. We have come to expect such challenges in an age of scientism—the belief that science, and thus “*scientific proof*”—can alone yield knowledge. The scientific proof of God’s existence gets very deeply into philosophy, math, cosmological evidence, our perfect conditions on Earth to sustain life, etc. Very interesting material and a strong subject of many books and internet articles. Yet, let’s begin here:

Explain to your family that God has not left us without evidence for His existence. He knows we would be foolish to make up something to believe in, so He helps us find the real thing.

#### **Nature**

Nature is not random. It is orderly, consistent and beautiful. Could this order have happened without a Designer to plan it? Could this beauty have happened without a personal, caring Creator? A "big bang" without the guidance of God, would cause big destruction, not an orderly result. Explosions create chaos, not beauty. Only a Personal Creator brings beauty.

#### **Human Individuality**

All humans are unique. For example, human faces have two eyes, a nose and a mouth, but each face is different. If we were created by a neutral force, why aren't we all clones? The uniqueness of each person points to a Personal Creator who values the uniqueness of His creation.

#### **A Sense of Right and Wrong**

If there is no good God and no Personal Creator, where did our sense of right and wrong come from? The fact that each person has a sense of right and wrong points to a Moral Creator. Otherwise, everything would be a matter of personal preference. Even people labeled as sociopaths have a sense of right or wrong when the action is against them. Even a serial murderer will admit that it is wrong to kill. It's just that he ignored his conscience and acted on his own sinful schemes.

#### **The Presence of Love**

How do you explain that human beings care about each other? Where does love come from? Why do babies need their parents long after they are not physically dependent upon them? Why do males and females want an exclusive relationship? Why are we lonely when we feel no connection with other people? Rocks and trees don't love, so why do people love? The human ability to give and receive love shows that we are guided by more than instinct. It also shows that we are more than a random collection of atoms.

#### **Yearning for Something More**

It's not enough to just get up, go to school, do our chores, eat, earn money and sleep. We want more. We want meaning, relationships and purpose. Many see this yearning as a God-shaped emptiness that only God can fill. Unless God fills this void, we can never find contentment no matter how many people we relate to. Serving God brings the purpose and meaning for which we yearn.

## Jesus Christ

Who is Jesus? Jesus Christ is much more than a religious leader, prophet or teacher. The Jesus of history is God Himself. How do we know? Jesus rose from death never to die again. Why is His resurrection so important? No human can do that. Jesus is God's ultimate revelation of Himself. Through Jesus, God showed people what He is like. He became a human being so the Almighty God could communicate with us.

## The Bible

More than just another Holy Book, the Bible comes directly from God. The Bible tells us how God acted in the past, how to obey Him in the present and how He will act in the future. How do we know the Bible is God's book and not another of the many holy books available? The Bible has historical, archeological, scientific and internal proofs. It has more evidence for its reliability than other printed documents. The Bible also proves itself spiritually: 2 Timothy 3:16 describes the Bible as God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

Questioning is a sign of growth no matter what age. Perhaps this short article cleared up some questions or doubts you may have. Perhaps not. Maybe I have fallen short of a good and soothing explanation. So, I will continue to speak of the existence of God in future articles, and know I am only a phone call away. I love to talk, especially about God.

Blessings, Pastor Lou

## Thank You

Thank you to Bonnie Silvetti for the beautiful fresh flowers from her garden that were used as altar flowers a few Sundays in August.

Thank you to the Engler Family, at the consistory meeting on August 23rd we received a donation of a brand new Philips Heartsmart AED from the Engler Family in honor of Eddie Engler. Emmanuel was the 2019 recipient of their annual AED donation. We are very grateful to the Engler family and hope to never need to use it. But the peace of mind it brings having it available to our congregation as well as guests who utilize the fellowship hall is priceless. We do plan to honor Eddie with a memorial plaque to be hung with the AED.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### CONSISTORY

The next **Consistory** meeting will be on **Sunday, September 27** following **10:30 worship service/counting**.

### KITCHEN COMMITTEE

The next **Kitchen committee** meeting will be on **Friday, September 11**, at **9:00 am**.

## CARDS FOR A CAUSE



Thanks to everyone who buys Weis or Carone's cards. We appreciate all your support. See Deb or let a Youth Group member know if you want some more! There are also envelopes on the table in the narthex to put in with the offering and receive the following week.

## SHOP AT AMAZON ???

**What is AmazonSmile?** AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.



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