



EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
1710 23RD STREET
PARKERSBURG, WV 26101

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor.....Dr. Kurt W. Busiek
Family Life Minister.....Mr. Jonathan Delgado
Director of Children’s Ministries.....Mrs. Sarah Stephens
Director of Music Ministries.....Mrs. Pam McClain
Organist/Accompanist.....Mr. David Enoch
Secretary.....Ms. Terri Fielder
Church Cook.....Mrs. Jewel Lusk
Visual Worship Coordinator.....Mrs. Bekah Brooks
Treasurer.....Mr. Gary Beall
Assistant Treasurer.....Mrs. Sara Taylor
Custodian.....Ms. Tammy Hayes
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Fax Number.....(304)-485-5194
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Office Hours.....9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - 1:00-4:00 p.m.

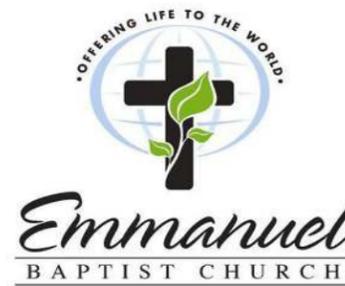


Pray for those listed below on their birthdays. Contact the church with any corrections.



1. Ava Bartlett, Brenda Wheeler
5. Anna Johnston
6. Earl Johnson, Sharon O’Neill, Ralph Paugh
7. Jordan Lallemont, Jean Van Way
8. Shirley Davis, Jason Prater, Abby Taylor, Scott Whitlatch
10. James Bailey, James Cox
11. Debbie Fenton, Dylan Jamison
12. Keith Schoenhut
13. Brian Raitz
14. Glory Hardbarger, Trenton Jones, Alex Nicholson
15. Grant Linch
16. Barbara Kirsch, Debbie Taylor
18. Destin Lantz, Christa Raitz
19. Easton Beary, Brian Brown
22. Jewel Lusk
23. Kristen Casto, Jessie Day, Diane Hays
24. Audrey Beary, Beverly Boggs, Matthew Lewis, Jonah Schoenhut
26. Susan Thornton
27. Ellie Raitz, Connie Perry
29. Andy Swearingen

1. Dave Bollinger, Jim Ross, Noah Wince
2. Gary Beall
3. Jacob Filozof
8. Everly Cosby
9. Jennifer Gatewood
11. Sharalyn Terosky
12. Emerson Sizemore
13. Bob Langkamer
14. Ed Huffman
16. Gene Beatty Sr., Avery Beha,
17. Kurt Busiek
19. Doris Fidler
20. Nathan Beha, Nate McPeak
22. Cortney Brooks, Brian Simpers
23. Calvin Florence
25. Fred Anderson, Lacey Day
26. Brett Barton, Calvin Lantz
27. Rick Ashwell
29. Rebecca Busiek, Barbara Malcomb
30. Rod Lemley
31. Naomi Couch, William Ott, Madison Southall



Emmanuel Life & Times
February & March 2021

Emmanuel “Mug Shots”

For our February/ March Newsletter I challenged our staff and the church to share their favorite "Mug Shots." Most of us have a favorite coffee mug or tea cup that has a story behind it. These mugs become a familiar and comforting part of our lives over the years.



My first "Mug Shot" is a mug I received from a friend in a previous church. It's a funny mug that pictures a cow, on it's back, in obvious distress but the caption reads, "Really, I'm fine..." The mug makes me smile and reflect on how often I am struggling but tell others, "Really, I'm fine." The mug reminds me that I need to humble myself before God and others, sharing my deepest hurts and knowing that God will bring healing. **James 5:16** says, "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed..."

My second "Mug Shot" is a picture of a green angel on a red background, blowing his trumpet in the night sky with stars. I imagine the Christmas angel who came to announce the birth of Jesus to the terrified shepherds saying in **Luke 2:10-11**, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord..." The trumpet speaks of urgency. The stars reveal how the angels move through the heavens on their mission to inform, serve and support their assigned people. **Hebrews 1: 14** says, "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?" I'm also reminded to treat everyone I meet with kindness because angels move among in mysterious ways. **Hebrews 13:2** says: "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." My angel mug reminds me that I am surrounded by God's care and support in invisible and mysterious ways so I must live every day with open and expectant eyes.



In February and March, my sermons will focus Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount beginning with the Beatitudes. In these challenging times, Jesus’ teaching reminds us of the foundation truths of our faith.



Pastor Kurt's Bible Studies... The Tuesday morning 10:00 a.m. study will be using the Bible Project Through the Bible studies that highlight key themes and lessons from each book of the Bible. On Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. we will be looking at how Christianity compares with other religions and faith groups. We'll look at the distinctive beliefs of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism as well as some well-known religious groups like Mormons that use the Bible in different ways, often adding their own inspired books. The Tuesday and Wednesday studies meet in the conference room and are both available via zoom.

Valentine's Day Drive In Service... On Sunday, Feb. 14th, we will have a Valentine's Day Drive In service at 5:00 p.m. You're invited to drive in for a brief Valentine's Day service. Following the service, each person will receive a Valentine's Day card and box of Russell Stover's Candy.



February is the month we promote our Prayer Partner ministry. The Prayer Partner ministry is a way we provide encouragement for others in our church family. The goal of the Prayer Partner ministry is to make sure everyone has regular contact with one other person in our church. Being a prayer partner means you commit to pray for your partner daily and to make at least one contact a month (card, email, text, visit, etc). This commitment is for one year. The Prayer Partner ministry is reviewed and revised every February. Call the office 304-485-5171 or email terri@ebcwv.com if you would like for us to help you find a prayer partner in 2021.

Serving with you, Pastor Kurt Busiek....

“Mug Shots” and Updates From our Staff:

From Pastor Jonathan (Family Life News)



Several years ago my wife and I began collecting coffee mugs of the places we have traveled. Every time we visit a different state, country or tourist attraction, we try to find a coffee mug that will serve as a pleasant reminder of those experiences every time we use it... and do we ever use them! Coffee and tea flow as plentifully in our household as milk and honey in the Promised Land! That may be an exaggeration, but only slightly so! This means that we have daily reminders of the places we have been together, the family we have shared memories with, and the blessings God has given us. It also means that choosing just one of our coffee mugs for the Emmanuel “Mug Shots” promotion is especially difficult for me! But I have managed to narrow my options down to two from our collection that I particularly enjoy using and reflecting on.

These two mugs bear the engraved images of a penguin and a sea otter respectively, and they were purchased from the gift shop in the Tennessee Aquarium 3 years ago when our youth group went to Chattanooga, TN for our annual summer retreat. These mugs are special to me for several reasons:

- They remind me of one of the most fun retreats our youth group got to go on. While in Chattanooga we visited Rock City, Ruby Falls, The Chattanooga Choo-Choo, a local amusement park, survived an escape room and, of course, went to the Tennessee Aquarium. But we also had some of the most meaningful Bible study sessions in the evenings and I enjoyed very much ministering alongside our chaperones, Mona Busiek and Jordan Lallemond.
- They remind me of my extended family and the place where I grew up. Even though many of you know I moved to Parkersburg from Atlanta, GA, many of you probably do not know that I was actually born in Chattanooga, TN and lived there for the first 11 years of my life. Consequently, I still have a lot of family in the area and two of my aunts were even hospitable enough to host our youth group in their home so we wouldn't have to pay for lodging during the retreat!
- They remind me of my wife and the family she and I now share together. Maria, who is often by my side in ministry, was unable to go with me on this particular retreat and so I had to pick out our mugs on my own! I settled on the two that I chose because I couldn't decide which one Maria would like better so I figured I might as well get both so we could enjoy our coffee together later, even if she couldn't be with me in-person when they were purchased.



Drinking out of either mug always brings a smile to my face and serves as a refreshing reminder of God's faithfulness in my past, His faithfulness in my present ministry, and His faithfulness in my present marriage. Plus, they make for excellent conversation-starters when we have guests over who get to drink from them! Also... I really like penguins and sea otters.

Prayer Ministry and Zoom Groups

Our hearts are burdened for the large segment of our church family who have still been unable to connect with each other in-person or face-to-face, or who have been severely limited in doing so. Because of this, we are eager and thankful to be able to roll out two new opportunities for connections in 2021.

The first is in answer to our limited ability to have person-to-person prayer times on Sunday mornings or to offer prayer opportunities at the end of services for our congregation watching from home. In response to this need, we have felt led to organize a team of volunteers who will be ready to pray over the phone with anyone who calls in to the church on Sunday mornings. Whether you feel convicted to receive prayer in response to that morning's message, or if you simply have a pressing need on your heart, we hope to offer anyone the opportunity to connect with a live prayer partner over the phone and share your burden with another church member who will pray with you.



The second connection opportunity we are working toward is developing and offering group meetings around common areas of interest via Zoom video chats. Many of our LifeGroups, Sunday School classes, and other regular meetings have had to delay their usual times together in light of ongoing health concerns. To offset this loss of meaningful connection time, these new “Zoom Interest Groups” will invite anyone who is interested to participate in discussing, learning, teaching and enjoying a hobby or interest together. Some of our starting interest topics include recipe-sharing, personal health awareness, gardening, and board games! Be looking for your opportunity to sign up to either participate in, or facilitate your own Zoom Interest Group!



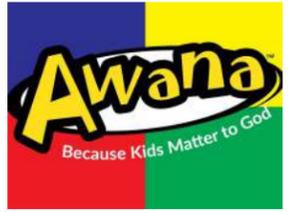
“Mug Shots” and Updates From our Staff:

From Sarah Stephens (Children's Ministry)



So – while I have some very pretty mugs in my cabinet (gifts over the years), I'm afraid I never use them. My daughter does use them for hot chocolate though! I'm more of a sweet-iced tea drinker. My favorite sweet-iced tea comes from McDonalds. I do realize this may not be the healthiest of beverages, though I will say that lately I've done a *much* better job of drinking water (flavored with orange-tangerine Mio). My daughter bought me a bubba insulated container that can keep water cold and ice from melting for literally days. She was attempting to “help” me with my tea addiction and encourage me to drink more water with the gift. And it really has! That and my discovery of Mio water flavoring. Anywho, we are all a work in progress in many different ways, and this is one of the ways in which I am.

Regarding what has been going on in the children's area here at EBC, we are still in a bit of a “wait and see” place as it relates to COVID-19. While we are up and running on Sunday mornings, without the nursery, our Wednesday evening AWANA program is on hold. However – the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter and brighter! Our children's team met January 25 and one topic of discussion was bringing AWANA back on a weekly basis. My hope is that our volunteers will feel comfortable coming back on Wednesday evenings by the beginning of March!



In other news, we have started using a new curriculum during the Sunday morning worship hour (K-5th) called Dig In by Group Publishing. The guiding principles behind all Dig In lessons are designed to help kids develop a genuine, growing relationship with God by getting to know his heart. We'll be working through various year long studies within this curriculum, the first of which is ‘The Life of Jesus’. Through this study, kids will be led in Jesus' footsteps from his birth to his resurrection and ascension. They won't just be learning about the historical Jesus; they will get to know him personally – as a real friend who can make a difference in their everyday life. The first lesson, ‘An Angel Announces Jesus' Birth’, was our January 24th topic. Look for a weekly parent take home page that will have a short summary of each lesson, easy ideas to guide you in discussing and reinforcing the topic through the week with your kiddos, and any announcements/news the children's area might have for you. We are excited about this new curriculum!

Soon I will be reaching out to those volunteers who have been on ‘pause’ due to the pandemic to get a feel for their future plans in hopes they plan to return to serving our kiddos in their volunteer roles as soon as they feel safe and comfortable doing so. Please pray with me that we can all do just that sooner than later!

Praying peace and health for us all –
Sarah

From Carol Fryfogle (Tuesday Fellowship)

We are celebrating 20 years as a fun place for our folks 55 and over to fellowship together. You are invited to join us the second Tuesday of each month. January 2021 started out wonderfully with January's “Blizzard Bingo”! In February, we will meet on Tuesday, **February 9** at 12:00 and “It's about LOVE”! And “Aren't We Lucky”, we will meet again on **March 9** at 12:00 p.m.

We provide a warm luncheon, entertainment, fun atmosphere, fellowship, games, laughter, and door prizes — all for FREE.

I'm proud to begin my second year of this wonderful ministry. We will continue to grow and enjoy wonderful Christian Fellowship.

Bring a friend - IF you can join us, please email me, Carol Fryfogle at: ucnbankonit@mail.com





Pray for: Gene Beatty, Phyllis Bennett, Dolores Chipps, Elizabeth Johnson Cremeans, the Duncan Family, Mike Hayden, Joe Hays, Tammy Reynolds Kelley, Don Kelsay, Tom McCarthy, Chris Scott, Victor Tweel, Cyndi Webb, Cheryl Winkler, our upcoming support groups, our school administrators, teachers and students, our hospital leaders and medical care workers, our policemen, firemen, EMT and first responders.

Homebound: Jean Beatty, Beverly Boggs, Bob Byers, Kathy Harrison, Shirley Huffman, Edythe McDonald, Lu McVay, Larry Smith, Edelene Wood, Glenola Woodyard.

Assisted Living: *Cedar Grove:* Joe Hays; *Colonial House:* Betty Jo Wiseman; *Eagle Pointe:* Nancy Duty, Betty Matthews, Bud Varner; *The Pines:* Claude Denton; *Worthington:* Ada Turner; *Wyngate:* Sam Bolian, Joan Stutler.

Out of Town: Imogene Buckley, Phyllis Crone, Alletta Kaufman, Margaret Norris, Mel Williams.

Our Deepest Sympathy to: *Calvin Florence and family at the passing of his brother, Jack / Melanie Whited and family at the passing of her sister Nancy Kay Toncray / The family and friends of Dorothy Satterfield / family and friends of Ellen Deem, mother-in-law of Leslie McHenry and Jenny Hannan's sister Missy Deem / Jack Buskirk and family at the passing of his wife Dolores Buskirk / The family and friends of Fred Fitzer / Brian Lallemond and family at the passing of his father Clarence Lallemond / Jonathan Delgado and family at the passing of his grandfather / the family and friends of Marilyn Blair, Keith Boggs' mother / the family and friends of Ray Keith, Rich Shawver's former father-in-law / the family and friends of Elizabeth "Betty" Bailey.*

Thank You

From Kim Jackson: Dear Church family, There are no words to express how thankful I am for all that you are. The outpouring of love for my Christmas project is both amazing and overwhelming! I have been brought to tears over and over by your generous giving and love. Many blessings! Thank you so very much! God is good, always! With Much Love, Kim Jackson

From Katy Cox: Dear Emmanuel Church Family, Thank you so much for the cancer care package you sent to me as I begin my chemo treatments. Also, I appreciate all the cards, thoughts and prayers on my journey to better health. We miss all of you, and may God's blessings surround you! Love, Katy Cox

From Maridor Keck - I would like to thank everyone for all of the cards and holiday remembrances sent to me. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas; I miss all of you! Love, Maridor

From Kim Jackson: Thank you doesn't seem to be enough for the gratitude I feel. This church, my church, so lovingly provided funds and gifts for me to be able to provide gifts for the rural counties as well as 28 kids in wood county. Every time I felt we just didn't have enough to cover the kids God blessed us with more funds or gifts from all of you. I teared up on several occasions!! God is good. We were able to give gifts to over 100 kids in the rural counties and 28 kids locally. Thank you church family. Thank you for every dollar, every gift and every prayer. Thank you for supporting me and Catholic Charities. You are such a blessing and I'm extremely blessed to be a part of you. Blessings to all of you in this new year. Kim Jackson, Catholic Charities

From Kelsey Cline: We had a wonderful Gustke Christmas party in December and we appreciate the use of the church fellowship hall. Due to COVID, my Mom and Grandma were unable to help with the dinner this year, but the Gustke staff stepped up and were able to help. We had 2 kids leave the day before the party early but they both left with a bag filled with Christmas gifts. We had 6 kids attend the party and receive their full travel bag of gifts. We played several games and had a nice dinner. The next day we received a sibling set of 3 unexpectedly the day before Christmas Eve and we were able to fill 3 more travel bags for them as they arrived. Thank you for your continued support of the Gustke Shelter during Christmas.

From Bob Byers: Thank you for your prayers, cards and visits over the past months. Especially, thank those who came to my door and sang Christmas songs. I am getting stronger and plan to be in church before long. May our Lord richly bless you for being faithful to Him. ~ Bob Byers P.S. Amy is still in ICU in Columbus with Covid. She is improving.

From the Lallemonds: We would like to thank our church family for all of the thoughts, prayers, texts, and cards you sent during my dad's illness and after his death. We really appreciate the outpouring of love and support. Love, Brian, Dee, Jordan, and Kylie Lallemond

From Elizabeth Johnson Cremeans: I would like to extend a heart felt thank you to everyone who has offered prayers on my behalf, all of the get-well cards, all of the meal cards, the fruit basket and the cancer bag (especially the blanket) that I have received during surgery and now recovery. Your thoughtfulness for me and my family has been greatly appreciated. God has answered so many prayers already that I am overwhelmed daily by His love and His healing power. So, again, thank you everyone!!!!!!



A Review of our Praises from December and January:

Davey and Cortney Brooks shared a piano duet entitled, "Count Your Blessings." **Rhonda Johnston** is making all 110 plus residents of Eagle Pointe Care Facility a handmade Christmas card. **Jacob Filozof** passed his Aquatics Exercise Therapy certification. Praise God for your generous help with our **Christmas projects:** Westbrook, Catholic Charities and Eagle Pointe. **Jane Hulce** made 104 Hershey Bar "reindeer decorated gifts" for all the residents of Worthington Manor; and **Earl Hulce** and his "Ham Radio" friends put up the manger scene in the front of the church along with the big Christmas "JOY" decoration. **Jeff Beatty** purchased 20 "Prayer Bears" that are available on the front pew of the church. These can be sent to anyone you know that is going through a challenging time. **Blaine Hess** and **Pam**

McClain shared a beautiful song called, "The Birthday of a King." **Dave Enoch** has been sharing some beautiful Christmas songs on the new church organ. **Victor Tweel**, Judy Prater's cousin, got a good report on his cancer blood test. He is in 95% remission. He appreciates our prayers. **Tristen Beha** graduated from WVUP last week with a BA. **Merideth McClain** graduates Summa Cum Laude from WVU on 12/19 with a Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy. **The YMCA** recently collected over 100 pounds of food for Comfort Keepers and distributed 30 Angel Tree gifts for the Salvation Army. **Carol Fryfogle** hosted a nice Tuesday Fellowship Christmas lunch and game time this week. **Wade Leonard** was able to begin a new med for his eye and will have a follow up in February. **Our celebration of ministry service** went well. We approved our 2021 Church Budget and Ministry Leaders. **The church is filled with beautiful Poinsettias.** Jane Hulce and others ordered and placed the flowers in the sanctuary. We had a wonderful **baby dedication for Carly Rose Brooks.** **John and Lynn Nicholson** shared a nice video Victorian Christmas greeting. We delivered all our Christmas gifts to **Westbrook** and all our collected Christmas items to **Eagle Pointe.** Thank you for your generosity. **Camden Clark** received their first shipment of the new Covid vaccine. **Zach Beaver** graduated from the Marshall University School of Engineering and Computers with a degree in Safety Technology. He will be employed by Marshall as a Radiation Safety Specialist. **Rhonda Johnston and the MOV Crafters** made and delivered 439 Christmas Cards for EBC members, Colonial House, Eagle Pointe residents and others. **Jane Hulce** delivered her Christmas reindeer decorated Hershey bars to all the residents at Worthington and had enough left over to give one to every resident at the Colonial House. **Jewel and Company** provided a nice Christmas Dinner. **Levi Gainer** was paroled and came home. **Our Musical Celebration of Christmas** and the **Evening Christmas Choir Event** were both well-received and a blessing. **Davey and Courtney Brooks, Lauren Modesitt, Elena Delgado, Pam McClain and David Enoch and the Puls String Trio** all provided inspiring special music. **The Brooks family** provided a touching Live Nativity. A good group enjoyed lunch and went **Christmas caroling** to some of our older members. **Maridor Keck** sends this message to Emmanuel: "I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I miss you all very much." **Mona Busiek** is thankful for the prayers for her father; he is doing better. Kelsey Cline and friends hosted eight students from the **Gustke Shelter** for a dinner and Christmas party in our church Fellowship Hall. **Jewel and Raymond Lusk** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on January 1. **Mel Williams**, a friend of Pastor Kurt's from Clarksburg, listened to our FB Live Christmas Eve service from Salem, WV. He lit his safety flashlight during the candlelight ceremony at the end. We received some other good feedback on our online Christmas Eve service. **Thanks to all the service leaders and the small group** that gathered in person (despite the weather) to make the night special. **Trish Trehame** continues to worship with Emmanuel on Sundays on Facebook and is thankful for the church that her father and mother, Jack and Ann Trehame, helped create. **Pastor Jonathan and David Brooks** took Christmas gifts around to our youth before Christmas. **Mona and Becca Busiek** were in MO for a week visiting Mona's parents and family. **Our Financial Secretaries (Randy Halterman, Cheryl Winkler and Jane Hulce) and Church Treasurers (Gary Beall and Sara Taylor)** work faithfully all year to count and process our offerings, pay our bills and do payroll. **David Mayer** graduated from WVU on Dec 19th with Honors in Economics. **Baby Connor Busiek** was born on Thursday, January 7. Pray for Kurt and Amber Busiek as they begin the adventure of parenting. **The Mission and Children's Ministry Teams** had lunches and good planning meetings. **The Deacons** are planning a new prayer ministry for our church. **Cody Alfred** is now in Dallas; he will start his new job with Fisher Investments soon. **Edythe McDonald** is recovering at home with homecare help. **Betty Matthews** is Covid-free and just got her vaccine. **Zach and Angel Beaver** were married on Jan. 4. **The Tuesday Fellowship ministry** met in the Fellowship Hall; we praise God for **Carol Fryfogle** who is providing leadership for this important ministry. **Keith Mayer** is exploring a new ministry to an area drug rehab facility. Eight people attended an orientation meeting. **Mary and Tom Malson** will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Jan. 31. Send them a card: 10640 Glendale Road, Cairo, WV 26337. **Gail Samolitis and Robin Barton Thompson** were able to visit and encourage **Tammy Reynolds Kelley.** **Kimberly Samolitis** passed her Nursing Board exam; she will be working as an RN at CC ICU. We praised God for a positive ministry in 2020 in our **Annual Celebration of Ministry** service. **Debbie Taylor and Allee Delgado** were baptized by Pastor Jonathan; **Ray and Jewel Lusk** filled the baptistry. **Jan Ashwell** shared a powerful testimony about how GriefShare helped her process her grief after Lee passed away. **Rachel Puls** shared a beautiful violin solo. **Elizabeth Johnson Cremeans** will not require any more chemo or radiation after her cancer surgery. **Kevin King**, Gail Samolitis' brother, shares about his grief process following his son's suicide in this FB video... His willingness to share his struggle is an answer to prayer. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=267500861614627>. **Our K-5th children** began studying a new curriculum focusing for the first four quarters on the life of Jesus.

“Mug Shots” and Updates From our Staff:

From Pam McClain (Music Ministry)



Pastor Kurt asked the church staff to consider how a special morning coffee or tea mug might reflect how we begin our day. I submit that over the years I've become a morning coffee drinker who sleepily reaches for one of my three favorite mugs; A handmade mug from ISRAEL, a "PRACTICE - PRACTICE - PRACTICE" mug from the Carnegie Hall gift shop, or a "FAITH - FAMILY - FRIENDS" mug with a heart printed on the inside rim. I hadn't pondered as to why these three mugs were favorites until now.

My mug from Israel reminds me of a 'once-in-a-lifetime' trip to the Holy Land that I took a year ago in May. Walking where Jesus walked deepened my faith in a real and personal way. As I sip on my coffee, I remember praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, singing hymns near the Garden Tomb, and envisioning Jesus walking on the Sea of Galilee and preaching in the synagogues.

My "PRACTICE" mug reminds me that, one year ago, twenty-one EBC chancel choir members and singer friends traveled to New York City to sightsee and sing in Carnegie Hall. The concert, entitled, "Who Are The Brave", was one of the last performances given before the closing of the Hall due to the pandemic. Little did the group know how timely the concert theme would be.

My "FAITH-FAMILY-FRIENDS" mug brings warm memories from events and gatherings past. As I sit in my sunroom each morning, I begin to picture church family and friends, relatives in heaven and forever friends whom I hold near to my heart.

I guess my favorite mugs are more than vessels holding drinks. They represent fond memories which lead to my daily devotion and prayer time. My prayer time often includes giving thanks for the opportunity to be a vessel for God through music.

May we continue to pray for a complete restoration of our church's music ministry and be thankful for those who are able to provide special music each Sunday.

In Christian Love, Pam McClain



***The Marriage Course
Best "Dinner Dates" Series For Couples***



Invest in your relationship as our guests at **The Marriage Course (TMC)**! For years, this course has been hosted by Churches throughout the world: now it is here in the mid-Ohio Valley! TMC is designed to strengthen relationships whether you are happily married, working to get there, or considering marriage. Further info? Check it out at TheMarriageCourse.org. The **7 consecutive Friday evening Dinner Dates are: February 5 – March 19, 2021.**

There are two options to enjoy this Friday evening series: In-person and Online.

The In-person course is held at Emmanuel Baptist Church from 6:00-8:00 p.m. *Like a restaurant, couples dine separately each week at their own "table for two" in a relaxed, intimate environment while they view and privately discuss the excellent videos. No "group work"*. Only 12 Tables/Couples, so call soon! Hosts: Keith and Eileen Mayer. Cost per couple: \$40* for materials and meals.

The Online Course is delivered via Zoom from 7:45 – 9:45 p.m. Couples are encouraged to create their own intimate environment to privately discuss the videos. Hosts: Brian and Christa Raitz. Cost per couple: \$20* for materials.

Call the Church Office for more information or to register (304)-485-5171 or email terri@ebcwv.com.

*Fee waivers available.

“Mug Shots” and Updates From our Staff:

From Eileen Mayer (Missions & Ministry Development)



As glimmers of hope arise after almost a year of a pandemic, the Missions Team is stepping forward in faith and action for 2021. I begin this letter with a humble heart, thankful for the trust you all have placed in me to serve as Team Leader and Member-at-Large of this Ministry. My goal is to be a blessing to the Team and Emmanuel. Having said that, I would not have accepted this position without knowing I had a strong Team ... and we do ... Brian Brown, Dee Lallemon, Keith Mayer, Margaret Frees, Maria Keen, Kim Jackson, Jeff Evans and Sarah Stephens.



We began 2021 with a preliminary visioning Team meeting on Jan 3, 2021. We agreed to maintain all our current domestic and International missions but to increase our focus for the next two years on the latter. The past year drew our focus inward. Now it is time to broaden again! Per tradition, you will continue to see our Special Offerings, monthly Special Collections Box, and Mission Lunches. We had to adapt these activities and their scheduling to comply with current health guidelines. But, we are stepping forward in faith that our work in Missions will continue. I ask you prayers for us and all the people, organizations, and missionaries we support for 2021.

The Baby Bottle Fundraiser for Women's Care Center has started. Take a bottle home and fill with a check, bills or coins then return to the office before Valentine's Day. You may also give online! The funds we help raise go directly to support this wonderful organization. If you have a home-bound friend, please consider a "micro-mission trip" to drop one off to them with the explanatory flyer, then pick it up and return it full.



The Duncan Family Missionaries are now safely - and COVID free - in Kenya at Rift Valley Academy. Their travel saga is over! They arrived just in time to greet the students who arrive this week ... no time for jet lag recovery.



I have been communicating with Drs. Rick and Anita Gutierrez in South Africa. The country has been hit hard with COVID and the prospect of getting vaccines is bleak. The doctors have been using this time to continue their poultry, tree, and gardening program to improve people's economic and nutritional status. They have also developed a remarkable COVID 19 animated video for the people they serve. I ask you all to watch it. I learned a lot by so doing. They are now working on a Vaccine Video. Please pray the Lord blesses their efforts, that the people accept their efforts, and the glory goes to Him.

In February, the Collection Box in the Narthex will be devoted to House to Home donations. Please check the bulletin soon for specific items needed. You can contact Jeff Evans with questions.

In March, we will host a MOPS Sunday so members can share about this great ministry. It has been a challenging year for mothers of preschoolers as they have all had to become home-schooling moms ... with no training! MOPS is exploring the possibility of a Fundraising Lunch and Rummage Sale later this year.



Plans are being explored for a mission trip to the Dominican Republic late this summer to serve Madeline Flores. If you are interested, please contact Trip Leader Keith Mayer at 304.485.8555.



Each March, EBC requests a Special Offering for "America for Christ". This Offering is sponsored by the American Baptist Home Mission Society "for the purpose of equipping saints on mission and ministry across the US and Puerto Rico. Your gift will be used to cultivate leaders and equip disciples who bring healing and transformation to communities. Please check upcoming bulletins for inserts You will also find envelopes in the Narthex. For more info, visit abhms.org/AFC.

Thank you,
Eileen Mayer

"Mug Shots" and Updates From our Staff:

From Gail Samolitis (Grief Share)

Here we are already one month in to the New Year! I pray that 2021 is already kinder to you than was the year 2020. Sometimes with a new year comes thoughts and/promise of change or adventure. Sometimes those changes are not our choice but rather changes involving the loss of a loved one.

GRIEF SHARE is at Emmanuel to help you when you've lost a loved one. It is a 13 week faith based Support Group that addresses topics like A New Normal, Emotions of Grief, and Secondary Losses. Grief Share consists of three components: videos, personal workbooks, and group discussion. You participate as much or as little as you feel comfortable. Grief Share is a wonderful way to know that you are not alone and a way to "connect" to others who are sharing similar emotions as you.

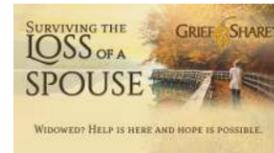


Pastor Kurt has been challenging us to serve and connect to others during this historic time of quarantine and isolation. This month's challenge was "Mug Shots." The challenge was to take a picture of our favorite mug (coffee or tea) and tell why it was our favorite.



I appreciate that this is an effort to get to know us (staff) better and perhaps make a connection to others because I am not a coffee or tea drinker. I do not on a regular basis drink anything from a mug. I usually drink water but occasionally I will drink Arnold Palmer ½ tea and ½ lemonade and when I drink that I drink it from a travel "mug" (cup) with sunflowers on it that says, "Today I choose Joy." I love this cup because it comes from a friend I've known for 45 years and it reminds me daily of James 1:2; "Consider it pure joy my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds." This cup and this verse help keep my focus on Jesus, Others and You (myself). JOY. On very cold, snowy days I have been known to drink hot chocolate from a mug that says, "Seasons come and go but friendships last forever." This mug is special because a "new" friend gave it to me. A friend from a past Grief Share group.

So, come out to Grief Share, make a connection and start your journey from Mourning to Joy. Upcoming Grief Share events include a Loss of a Spouse seminar on Saturday February 13th, 2021 from 10:00 am to noon. This seminar is a 2-hour, stand alone seminar but many choose to attend the regular Grief Share meetings that follow. Grief Share will begin on Wednesday February 24th, 2021 from 6:00 pm to 8:00pm.



If you are interested in attending a Grief Share group please call the church at 304-485-5171 or call me Gail Samolitis at 304-588-7632. You can also go online to griefshare.org and register.

From Gail Samolitis (New Life Counseling Center)



Happy February! This is the month to make a LOVE CONNECTION! Now that I have your attention, let's proceed. Jesus commands us to love one another as He has loved us. (John 13:34). The challenge is to show our love to one another by making a connection to someone new or different from us. Someone we do not know well. Someone who may be (or feel) isolated during this pandemic. Think of creative ways to connect with people. We recently started leaving snacks for the delivery people who frequent our address. They love it! There is now a connection!

My "Mug Shot" can be read under Grief Share news but my Mug Shot challenge to all of you is, bring your favorite mug and appropriate beverage by my office to make a connection. Tim and I are still fairly new at Emmanuel and still don't know many people. It takes a few minutes to stop by and make a connection!

If you are feeling isolated, lonely, depressed, fearful or anxious, please make a therapy connection at New Life Counseling ministry. We can help with these issues and others. Call for an appointment at 304-588-7632. All calls and appointments are confidential.



"Mug Shots" and Updates From our Staff:

From Judy Prater (Adult Ministry)



Here are my mug shots with the message quoting Psalm 96:0 "sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth." My second mug contains a message for all time: "Just Believe".

Things are happening in Adult Ministry, although they have experienced many adjustments. We are looking forward to the opening up of our world, but until then, we learn patience and continue trusting in our Lord.



- The Marriage Course will begin February 5. Sign up through the office.
- Tuesday Fellowship meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at noon.
- Divorce Care meets on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- GriefShare begins meeting weekly on Wednesdays, February 24 at 6:00 p.m. Death of a Spouse Workshop will meet on February 13 at 10:00 a.m..
- Bible Studies led by Pastor Kurt meet live and zoom on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m..
- Adult Sunday School Classes are meeting on zoom and at church at 9:30.

Stay tuned for more opportunities to fellowship and learn through Zoom Interest Groups, which are still in the planning stages.

Because of Covid, we have learned much, and still have much to learn as we tread the thin line between sharing God's love with one another and being safe. One thing is for sure, from Romans 8: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us..."

The following really spoke to me, from the newsletter of the First Baptist church of Waterloo, IA, with permission to reprint, written by Jean Vaux:

"I personally think there are silver linings: We've sat still and deep. We've had to become more compassionate for others. We've picked up things we've put off or always wanted to do if we had the time. We're more conscious about our own health. We're getting outside in God's creation. We're saving money. We're appreciating our first responders and teachers for their thankless work. We're letting others know how important they are to us because no one knows if there's another tomorrow to do so."



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