



Emmanuel

United Church of Christ

1306 Michigan Street
Oshkosh, WI 54902
920.235.8340
emmanueloshkosh.org

the lamplighter

Hearing Loop Installed in Sanctuary.
Switch Hearing Aid to Telecoil.



- OUR GRADUATES -
WE WANT TO HONOR YOU!

Sunday, June 11, 2023 | 9:00a Worship

We will be honoring our graduates with your pictures on our screen as well as a little bit about yourself, such as college plans, job opportunities, etc. We will also be sharing this information on our social media.

Please have your pictures and information
submitted to the church office by June 4, 2023.



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From the Desk of Pastor Andi

June 2023

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, And the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Taking this world as it is and not as I would have it; Trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will; So that I may be reasonably happy in this life And supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen.

This, of course, is a contemporized version of Reinhold Niebuhr's The Serenity Prayer. In the 1930's and 1940's it was used a lot by church groups, and in the early 1940's was adopted and popularized by Alcoholics Anonymous and other twelve step programs. Most of us are probably familiar with the first few lines of this prayer. But it is the second part of the prayer that reminds us why accepting that control lies not with us, but with God, is so life-changing.

The idea that we are in control is an illusion of our own building. I have compared it to a house of cards, but I have come to believe it is more like a game of Jenga. The illusion that we are in control can withstand a few bumps, but eventually something happens and it all comes tumbling down.

There is no way to predict the future, but I can promise you this: we will all face unsettling life changes. Sometimes we take those changes in stride and handle them like a champ. Other times not so much. It is uncomfortable. But we are called to resist the fear that immobilizes us. Fear not! While you may not be in control, God is. And we know that our God has plans for us—plans for good; plans that we will prosper. Change will always be around us. May we find the peace that come with accepting what we cannot change, the courage to change the things that need changing, and the wisdom to know the difference. Then we shall find a joy in living as we take this world one day at a time, marveling in the way it is rather than complaining about what it isn't. Blessings as you journey through all the wonderfully unsettling changes.

Pastor Andi

pastor.andi@emmanueloshkosh.org

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Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes

June	
Sunday June 4, 2023	Ron & Sandra Golliher
Sunday, June 11, 2023	Dan & Rene Rogers
Sunday, June 18, 2023	Brad & Liz Schultz
Sunday, June 25, 2023	Volunteers are needed!

July	
Sunday, July 2, 2023	Ron & Sandra Golliher
Sunday, July 0, 2023	Dan & Rene Rogers
Sunday, July 16, 2023	Brad & Liz Schultz
Sunday, July 23, 2023	Volunteers are needed!
Sunday, July 30, 2023	Volunteers are needed!

If you would like to help out with Ushering, please contact the church office at 920.235.8340 or email at office@emmanueloshkosh.org

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Treasurer's Nook

While the weather is slowly warming up, I'm hopeful by the time you are reading this, we've experienced more warm and sunny days which is so helpful for our mental wellbeing.

We continue to have monthly deficits which are reflected in our year to date deficit of (\$7,872). Our trend is similar to 2022, where at the end of April we were running a deficit of (\$7,764). However last year, we received unexpected income of \$10,000 from TDS Metrocom for a property easement which we will not be receiving this year.

As the Council continues to monitor and look for ways to address our financial needs, we are entering our summer months which typically have been slower giving months. We are a strong congregation with many gifts and talents and I'm hopeful we, as a congregation, will continue to support and meet the needs of our church. If you have any questions, please contact myself or Pastor Andi.

April 2023 Results

The Numbers	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Direct Giving	18,160	17,371	70,786	67,239
Other Income	3,625	4,478	15,356	12,590
Total Income	21,785	21,849	86,142	79,829
Total Expenses	23,356	23,701	88,232	87,701
Cashflow/(Deficit)	(1,571)	(1,853)	(2,090)	(7,872)

Kim Winter
Treasurer

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RaiseRight *(Scrip Card Program)*



RaiseRight (Scrip Card Program orders are due on **Sunday, June 4, 2023**)

We will give you a call when your cards are available. We do have a limited supply of certain gift cards available on hand on Sunday mornings or weekday mornings in the church office. The RAISERIGHT program is a great ongoing source of income for Emmanuel. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

This program is available to us because of the continued management by **Lisa Smith** and **Leanne Monroe**. Thank you! Thank you to **Margaret Yoder** and **Sandra Golliher** for your help with sales.

Don't forget about Father's Day!

About RaiseRight Fundraising

You have been hearing Pastor Andi talking a lot about giving to the church...right? Our time, our talents, our financial resources etc. I want to be able to explain a little more about the RaiseRight (formerly scrip) program we at Emmanuel participate in and YOU CAN TOO!

First, I buy most of my cards online or if I buy at church and it is reloadable, I reload it online...why? It is easy to do, and the money is on a reloadable card in minutes to use. Our Emmanuel web site <https://www.emmanueloshkosh.org> is the place to get started. Go to the web site, click on the "Get Involved" tab. Scroll down to "RaiseRight". You will find all the information you need to get started.

There is a great tutorial to watch that shows you step by step how to download the app to a device (phone, I pad). If you use your computer, you can go to www.Raiseright.com and click on "sign up". You will need to use the enrollment code 653FFF8731122 (listed on our RaiseRight page) to complete your enrollment.

Once enrolled you can start shopping online. I like to reload several cards we use frequently this way. I do not have to wait for a card to come in with the next order placed at church or hope there is a card in the denomination I like available on a certain Sunday. Once your order is completed, the money is usually available to use in minutes.

I choose to have the payment deducted from my checking account and pay just 29 cents per order placed for the convenience. I can also order cards online to be delivered with the church order when it arrives for the month. There is also an option for some cards to be shipped to your home directly.

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RaiseRight *(Scrip Card Program)*

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There are so many options to pay. You can pay by credit card (fee applies) or choose to give payment to church (via pay coordinator) or from a bank account (\$.29/ order). There are many cards to choose from beyond what is listed on the "order form" that is available on our web site or at the table in lower narthex too. EVERY CARD PURCHASED for Emmanuel has a rebate to Emmanuel and no cost to you for it.

This program is a significant help to our budget finances and more participation means more help. I encourage you to try this option for additional giving that only costs you a little time with a new way of thinking to make it work for you and your family. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lisa Smith or me. We are here to help answer questions.

I am a RaiseRight fan, and you can be too. You will be surprised how fast the rebate amounts add up over the year. (The program tracks it all for you in "your history"). You can see when your "favorite" cards also have extra bonus rebate days too. For me, Bath and Body Works, Kwik Trip, Marcus Theaters offer extra bonus rebates often that I try to take advantage of whenever possible. Give it a try!

Leanne Monroe



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Food Pantry

Food Pantry Update....

The Letter Carrier Food Drive was a **HUGE** success! Emmanuel received approximately 7525 #'s of food!! The pictures to your right show the food in postal tubs coming down the ramp in the back hall and transported onto the rolling track, which was then put on carts and transported into the fellowship hall to be sorted and organized to go into the food pantry. Thank you very much to our volunteers for all of their help, picking up the food door to door, hauling it back to Emmanuel and sorting it.

Thank you to...

Henry Caron	Jim & Jody Schaick	Jim & Deb Kraemer	Ron Gorchels
Tom & Candy Stark	Lisa Smith	Ray Hitz	Bev Fretchel
Dan & Leanne Monroe	Earl Dorst	Brenden & Jake Garrison	Kim Winter
Mark, Amy & Gavin Holland			

Thank you also to everyone who contributed food for the drive as well as the Letter Carrier's and their families for their help picking up and hauling food. Our food pantry shelves are full again! This will help us provide food to those in need during the summer months.



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Thank you

- Thank you to **Cory Schultz, Zach Wolf, Kim Winter, Lisa Smith** and **Jody Schaick** for videotaping the service and running the projector during worship. Your continued dedication to the technology of the church is greatly appreciated.
- **Karen** and **Dennis Chapin** continue to have donuts and coffee available for our time in fellowship after worship.
- **Mary Dinkins, Karen Chapin** and **Marilyn Morrison** take care of the clean up after coffee hour. We thank you all for making our time in fellowship special each Sunday.
- You may notice some wall repairs going on around the building. Thank you to **Tom Stark** for making these repairs.
- It's Spring once again and the grass is growing like crazy!! Thank you to **Jim Schaick** for mowing the lawn. Also, thank you for painting the door by the labyrinth.
- Check out the bathroom in the lower narthex. Thank you to **Mike** and **Kim Winter** for freshening it up with the removal of the wallpaper and a fresh coat of paint. It looks great!
- Thank you to **Marilyn Morrison** for the spring flowers in the outdoor planters. These are in memory of her Mother, Mildred Hinz.
- Thanks **Ray!** 😊

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Coming Up

- **Tuesday, June 13, 2023**
 - – 6:30PM Church Council Meeting
 - *Please note, there will be no council meeting in July*
- **July**
 - Community Back to School Fair
- **Week of July 23, 2023**
 - Parking Cars at Sleepy Hollow Campground
 - Contact the church office or Ron Golliher for details!
- **Sunday, July 30, 2023**
 - **Noisy Collection, Save your loose change, proceeds with benefit Operation Not Alone**



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Sunday School

We would like to thank our Sunday School staff for a great Sunday school year. Thank you to:

Kay Lund ~ Superintendent

Rachel Dehne ~ Teacher

Candy McGinnis-Stark ~ Teacher

Mary Dinkins ~ Music

Linda Stowe ~ Crafts

Deb Kraemer ~ Crafts

Sunday School Mission Project...

We are continuing to collect monetary donations for Operation Not Alone. They also let us know they are in need of the following food items: Beef Jerky, Protein Bars, Oatmeal, Granola Bars, Ramen Noodles or Rice (Knor), Chicken/Tuna packets, Pre-packaged Snack and Treats, Seasonings. Let's help Operation Not Alone show our appreciation for the sacrifices our military veterans continue to make.



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Church Council

Church Council Meeting Highlights April 11, 2023

Meeting called to order by Leanne. Opening prayer by Pastor Andi.

President's Report: Narthex bathroom - new toilet paper holder, painting to be done. Remove the wallpaper border. Entry floral arrangements - Marilyn Morrison puts in flowers, Tom will talk to her about the flowers. Bathroom florals, Leanne asks for permission to put together floral arrangements.

Secretary's Report: Some clarification points on last month's minutes. Minutes accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed March financial reports. We had a negative cash flow of \$1,224.69 with a negative YTD of \$6,018.91. Alliant Energy stock was +\$2.13 (4.15%), this month, with a YTD of -\$1.81 (3.28%). The majority of expenses for the month were Employees Pension, Andi's Health Insurance, WPS, Eaton's Pizza, and Snow plowing. City of Oshkosh invoices - moved to automatic withdrawal from checking. Meg Hable on Medical Leave, so there are some savings on salary. Anticipated April extra expenses include Arrow Audio \$4,461.21, Emp Payroll taxes (last year \$2,501.17). Workers Comp (LY \$324) and Insurance (LY \$1,905.50) With our negative \$6,018.91 YTD cash flow along with Apr anticipated costs, need to be cognizant of nice to have expenses vs need to have expenses. Treasurer's Report accepted as printed.

Pastor's Report: General: I am planning to use this spring to get a more regular rotation of nursing home/shut in visits. I have been having a hard time with energy the last few months. Hopefully, a schedule will help. Vacation *sigh* No plans yet. I chatted with the family across the street about a car that was parked in our lot for a few days. Car owners were living in it, and I apologized. I didn't think allowing that was being a good neighbor. Talked with Glen Barthels about plowing and sidewalks. Last Month: Easter service numbers were down as well—especially the early service. We have completed our Lenten services. Wednesday attendance was down, especially in the am. I participated in a webinar through Samaritan Counseling Center on March 23. It was very good. We listened to a discussion of spirituality and how it relates to religion. The webinar was led by Dr. Lisa Miller who wrote the book The Awakened Brain: The New Science of Spirituality and Our Quest for an Inspired Life. This Month: Monday book study of Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and outlaws by Adam Hamilton, will conclude this coming Monday. We will spend some time discussing what we would like to see come from our time together. The Northeast Association Annual Meeting will be April 22, 9:00-2:00 at The Daycholah Center (formerly Pilgrim Center). Delegates are needed. For the Future: I signed up for an anti-racism training event. This meets a requirement by the UCC for my standing. Classes are April 27, May 11, and May 25 from 10:00 to noon. The Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting is June 8-11 at Green Lake Conference Center. I have a funeral at the church scheduled for Marianne Mathe on June 3 @ 11:00. **(Continued)**

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Trustee's Report: Tom had the following items to report: Doors downstairs have been replaced, just need to replace/add kick plates. Minor plaster repairs to be done. Also the city is Issuing a sidewalk replacement, which will need to be covered by the church. Those funds will need to be taken into consideration.

Old Business: Wish list on the website requests: Put the wishlist in its own tab and add a form that allows people to request items to be put on the wishlist.

New Business: Cory Schultz's Wish List proposal approved. Custodian Position Description was discussed, edited, and approved. Music Director Position Description was discussed, edited, and approved. Administrative Assistant Position Description was discussed. Will be continued next month.

Good & Welfare: Cory replaced/donated the TV in the coffee hour area. No update on the phone system.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

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Church Council Meeting Highlights, May 9, 2023

Meeting called to order by Leanne. Opening prayer by Pastor Andi.

President's Report: Leanne asked about the M&E Committee and Technology Committee minutes, no questions about them.

Secretary's Report: There were a few typos, but the content was fine. Minutes accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed April financial reports. We had a negative cash flow of \$1,852.61, with a negative YTD of \$7,871.52. The majority of expenses for the month were Employees Pension & Andi's Health Insurance, GuideOne - Church Insurance/Workers Comp, WPS - Gas & Electric and Barthels Farms - Snow Plowing. Talked about budget comparison Kim made, then also talking about Raise Right and wanting to spread more awareness to the congregation about it. Treasurer's Report accepted as printed.

Pastor's Report: General: I know we no longer do a Covid update, but it is good to remind ourselves that we are forever different because of the pandemic. Church attendance and giving has changed and we will be challenged to live within these changes as we do our best to minister and serve into the future. I am in the process of doing an Anti-racism training event. This is a series of 3 2-hour zoom meetings exploring implicit bias. This will meet a national requirement for my ministerial standing. We will be giving out plants for Mother's Day. Lori Holland has put this together (getting the plants and re-potting them) so make sure to thank her. I am beginning to catch up on visits. This Month: Friday, May 12 is Nate Wilson's funeral. A catered luncheon will follow. Upcoming Baptism: May 21 Collins Reiter. For the Future: Upcoming Baptism: June 4 Eloise Weeks. June 11 is Graduation Recognition Sunday. June 24 I have a non- member wedding (not at church). Wisconsin Conference meeting is June 8-11. Delegates are needed.

Trustee's Report: Craig said the grass seed is out and growing. Tom has been patching up cracks around the church. The adjacent parking lot was a mess, thinking of installing some sort of light in order to deter future problems from occurring.

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Old Business: Entrance planters--Tom talked to Marilyn and said there would be money for some new flowers for in the planters. Flowers have been routinely pulled out of the planters and the council decided to remove them. Leanne said she would talk to Marilyn. The donut area bathroom toilet paper dispenser needs to be replaced, and Kim said Mike would be able to handle that. There would need to be some painting to touch up the area around the new dispenser, and they asked whether the paint should stay the same or change color and repaint the whole room. The decision was to repaint the bathroom to the same color as the Donut Room. Wish list website - List, form and tab are all out there and corrected. Connie talked about the Administrative Assistant job description. Further discussion on money handling procedures to be had at a future date.

New Business: Sidewalks will be replaced by the city. We'll figure out an estimate soon but need to start considering ways to pay for it. Talked about reinstating Greeters to hand out bulletins. Deb asked about the garbage can from the usher's closet, which is out during communion, and asked if we could find an alternative since that can seems dated. Rene said they would keep it in the usher's closet for future communion days. Motion approved to ask for up to \$500 from M&E Blind budget to replace the blinds in the multipurpose room. Discussed Lamplighter, both how it's mailed out and the content in it. Connie would like to make it look a little different, since people don't always read things when they look the same. She will discuss it with Lori. Meg resigned Sunday afternoon. Do we pay for another custodian, or rely on volunteers for a while?

Good & Welfare: Deb wants to ask about using the Fellowship Hall for her Bunco group. She will bring it up to her group but wanted permission from the council.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

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Church Council Message

On behalf of Emmanuel's Church Council, I am writing to all members, friends, and supporters of Emmanuel United Church of Christ. I would like to make you aware of some financial needs we are facing now and in the very near future.

- As of the end of April we have a cash flow deficit of **(\$7,872)** in our 2023 budget. We have encountered an additional charge of \$270.27 for needed hardware in the replacement of the "switcher". This amount is beyond the quote we received and funds that were asked for and paid from the donations received toward the project as well as the Memorial and Endowment funds.
- Our Technology Fund balance is now depleted in the Memorial and Endowment funds. This fund is part of the "Wish List" looking for support.
- We are facing a very large sidewalk replacement cost this year as we are scheduled to have 40 + sidewalk squares replaced when they reach our area this summer. We are estimating a bill of \$12, 000-\$13,000.

The Church Council has been discussing ways to fundraise to not only manage our budget deficit but also the impending bill we will be receiving from the city for sidewalk replacement. Your support of these efforts as they come to fruition is greatly appreciated.

I am asking that you take the time to check out our newly updated and available "Wish List". It is available online through our website at <https://www.emmanueloshkosh.org/>. Look for the tab Wish List to see what is available and in need of support. There are brochures highlighting the needs available as well in the pamphlet holders in the entrance, on the RaiseRight table and near sanctuary entrance. Check it out!

If you would like to donate money to a project, simply place your donation in an envelope with a notation for what project and drop in offering plate or drop it off in the Church office.

It is my hope and prayer you will consider how you may help our church in these efforts. If you have any questions, please reach out to me, Pastor Andi, or any member of the Council.

Thank you,

Leanne Monroe

Church Council President

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We continue to collect metal tabs from beverage cans for the Ronald McDonald Houses in Wisconsin to help offset costs who need to stay in Milwaukee and Madison while their children are in the hospital. You can drop the metal tabs off in the church in the upper narthex, or in the church office. Thank you to **EARL & LAURIE DORST** for picking up and delivering t. Paul.



Please remember, if you have a prayer request you can enter it on our website at www.emmanueloshkosh.org. You can also call the church office at 920-235-8340 any weekday morning.



Please remember if you are having surgery or a procedure done, please call the church office 920-235-8340 or send us an email at office@emmanueloshkosh.org and let us know. Pastor Andi would like to be there for you and your family at this difficult time.

EMMANUEL WILL BE PARKING CARS FOR EAA AGAIN THIS YEAR!

Thank you so much to **Jeff & MaryAnn Bartels** for graciously offering their property for us to park cars during EAA. We will be parking cars **the week of July 23rd**.

Volunteers will be needed to help park cars during the mornings of that week. For further information, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Ron Golliher.

This is a great fundraising opportunity for Emmanuel. Last year we raised \$8233, which helped support our general fund.

It's also a great opportunity to meet people from all over the world!!





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Labyrinth Brick Update....

Our plan was to have a brick order placed and for the bricks to be installed sometime during the summer. Our order has been placed, however, the company that does the engraving is having difficulty getting the materials needed to do the engraving. Unless we receive the bricks before the winter weather sets in, we won't be able to install them until next spring. If you have a brick ordered, we will let you know when we have received it and it has been installed. Thank you for your patience!

Labyrinth Brick Order Form....

# of Bricks	Honor, Memory of or...	First Name(s)	Last Name

The bricks that are available are in the 4x8 size
Three lines, 11 characters per line including spaces
The cost per brick is \$60.00 (this includes engraving and return postage)
If you would like to purchase a brick in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the order blank below. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 235-8340 or by email at office@emmanueloshkosh.org.

Please include your name: _____
Number of bricks you would like to purchase _____
Amount Due _____

Please remember, if you have a prayer request you can enter it on our website at www.emmanueloshkosh.org. You can also call the church office at 920-235-8340 any weekday morning with your request.

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**The Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meeting
is being held at the Green Lake Conference Center June 9-11.**

This year's theme, Changing Church: Following Jesus Forward will recognize that The Body of Christ has always existed in paradox: We are called to participate in God's everlasting covenant and to imagine the Church renewed in every generation.

If you would be interested in representing Emmanuel at the Annual meeting please contact the church office.



COMMUNITY BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

The Back to School Fair Committee is preparing for the 25th annual fair which will be held in August. It is the goal of the BTSF Committee to assist over 1000 families this and help students get off to a good start in the 2023/2024 school year.

There are three ways you can make a donation:

- Grab a tag off of the Christmas Tree which will be located in the upper narthex throughout the month of July. Purchase the item(s) listed on the tag, bring it back to church unwrapped and place it under the tree.
- Issue a check to **Emmanuel UCC** in whatever amount you choose and we will purchase gift cards through our RaiseRight program. Please make sure to designate the check for BTSF.
- Write a check to **Community Back to School Fair** in any amount you choose and mail it to: Boys & Girls Club (Attention Back to School Fair) 501 E. Parkway Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901

If you choose to donate money for a RaiseRight card, please have your donations brought to church no later than Friday, August 4th. We will have a RaiseRight order going in on August 6th.

Please have all purchased items back to church by August 6th. Thank you!

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Help Wanted

Volunteer Help Wanted

We are looking for volunteers to help clean the church over the next few months. Using volunteers will help save on our expenses for our current budget. Since losing our Custodian because of health reasons, this opens our thoughts to how this job can be handled differently again. We, the Council, have decided to explore the volunteer opportunity for all that may be interested and able to help in this area of need.

If you would like to help 1-2 times a month for a couple of hours at a time, PLEASE contact Leanne Monroe or Kim Winter for more information. We are working on a way to sign up for duties/needs using an online system like the "Projector sign up". More volunteers would give everyone a chance to not feel it was a weekly commitment of time to keep the church continuing to look good.

Thank you for considering,
Leanne Monroe & Kim Winter

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The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. ***We will be receiving donations to Strengthen the Church throughout the month of June. Please use the envelopes that you will find in the pews for your donation. Please don't forget to put your name on the envelope to insure proper credit to your account. Thank you for your support!***



Collins Rae Reiter was baptized on Sunday, May 21st.

Collins is the daughter of Craig & Carley Reiter. May God continue to bless Collins and her family.

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If you have any questions or concerns for the Church Council, Memorial and Endowment Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee, please find the contact information below:

Church Council

Leanne Monroe	<i>President</i>	Dan Rogers	<i>Vice-President</i>
Zach Wolf	<i>Secretary</i>	Kim Winter	<i>Treasurer</i>
Craig Geiger	<i>Trustee</i>	Jim Schaick	<i>Trustee</i>
Noah Wilson	<i>Trustee</i>	Tom Stark	<i>Trustee</i>
Debra Kraemer	<i>Deacon</i>	Rene Rogers	<i>Deacon</i>
Robin Wilson	<i>Deacon</i>	Connie Whittaker	<i>Deacon</i>

Memorial/Endowment Committee:

Gerry Keuler	Ann Stark
Kathleen Hable	Henry Caron
Sandy Golliher	Margaret Yoder
Emily Reyes	

Pastoral Relations Committee:

Sandra Golliher	Kay Lund
Julie Barthels	Lori Potratz
Faith Lueck	

Would you like to share your time and talents with Emmanuel? Please consider volunteering for any of these committees, please contact the church office 920.235.8340 if you are interested.

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Additional Resources

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