

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH 1710 23RD STREET PARKERSBURG, WV 26101

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

Interim Youth Director Mr. Joe Stephens

Director of Children's Ministries Mrs. Jenny Hannah/Ms. Kathy Leavitt

Choir Director.......Mrs. Donna Marcinko Organist/Accompanist......Mr. David Enoch

Church Cook......Mrs. Jewel Lusk Visual Worship Coordinator Mrs. Bekah Brooks Treasurer......Mr. Gary Beall Assistant Treasurer Mrs. Sara Taylor **Office Number**(304)-485-5171 **Fax Number**(304)-485-5194 Website: www.ebcwv.com **Office Hours**......9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Facebook Pages Emmanuel Baptist Church (public)

Emmanuel Baptist Church WV Family Ministry (private)



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

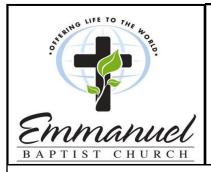


- Jon Cox
- Bill Gainer
- Analeigh Bennett
- Millicent Richards, Elijah Schoenhut
- River Garrison, Lakin Hardbarger
- Barbara Nichols
- 11. Sue Casto, Zeke Coble, Olive Nahley
- 12. Andee Ewing
- 13. Verona Enoch
- 15. David Sims
- 16. Eric Fitzer
- 18. Gary Barr, Brendan Jefferson, Gail Samolitis
- 19. Deborah Huffman, Peter Ianniciello
- 20. Carly Brooks

- 24. Seth DePriest
- 26. Stuart Bennett, Connie Childress
- 28. Destiny Duncan, Gabriel Hissam,
 - Rebecca Lyons
- 22. Dan Decker 23. Paul Ross
- 25. Baylee Cline, Phyllis Crone, Jim Sayre
- 29. Jean Farrah



- John Mulcay
- Elissa Filozof, Randy Halterman, Audrey **McPherson**
- Abby Hendershot
- Robin Barton-Thompson
- Maria Keen, Eileen Mayer, Linda Mitchell
- Erin Turner
- 11. Jim McGinnis
- 13. Tristen Beha, Kelsey Cline
- 15. Margaret Norris
- 16. Rowen Sizemore
- 18. Elena Delgado, Brittany Titlow
- 19. Kristen Bolian, Joan Stutler
- 20. Elijah Duncan
- 22. Amy Dutton, R. Keith Lusk
- 23. Ainsley Hudnall-Bolian
- 24. Mary Malson, Rose Wood
- 25. Jeremy Jones, Emma Richards
- 26. Rosemary Decker, Sue McCue
- 27. Maridor Keck
- 28. Dale Lowther
- 30. Daley Wofe
- 31. Sam Bolian, Cathy Compton



Emmanuel Life & Times April - May 2023

The Scars of Easter



As we come into another Easter season, I have been re-reading the classic by Philip Yancey called The Jesus I Never Knew. When we think of Easter, we often think of bright lights, new life and new beginnings but Yancev takes a moment in his book to reflect an aspect of Easter we often overlook: Jesus' scars. The whip and the cross made Jesus a marked man. When Jesus appeared to the "doubting Thomas" in John 21 he said, "Put your finger here (on my scars); see my hands, feel my side. Stop doubting and believe." Here's Yancey's reflection:

"One detail in the Easter stories has always intrigued me: Why did Jesus keep the scars from his crucifixion? Presumably he could have had any resurrected body he wanted, and yet he chose one identifiable mainly by scars that could be seen and touched. Why? I believe the story of Easter would be incomplete without those scars on the hands, the feet, and the side of Jesus... The scars are, to Jesus, an emblem of life on our planet, a permanent reminder of those days of confinement and suffering. I take hope in Jesus' scars. From the perspective of heaven, they represent the most horrible event that has ever happened in the history of the universe, the crucifixion of Jesus, but because of Easter, I can hope that the



tears we shed, the blows we receive, the emotional pain, the heartache over lost friends and loved ones, all these will become memories, like Jesus' scars. Scars never completely go away, but neither do they hurt any longer. We will have re-created bodies, a re-created heaven and earth. We will have a new start, an Easter start." This Easter, reflect on your own scars and struggles; those times where pain and hurt have left their mark and remember: because of Easter we will be made new creations in Christ.



Holy Week schedule:

On Palm Sunday, April 2, we will have Friendship Sunday and Lunch at Noon. Jewel Lusk will be making her famous spaghetti. So invite a friend to church and plan to stay for lunch and fellowship. Also on Sunday, April 2: There will be an evening service at 6:00 p.m. with communion.

On Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 7 p.m., we will offer a traditional Maundy Thursday service with communion and worship stations, including a foot washing station.





On Good Friday, April 7, there will be a Good Friday Service at St. Francis Xavier (on Market Street) beginning at noon. You can stay in the church for the "Stations of the Cross" service; or follow the group that will leave for a cross walk to all the downtown churches.

On Easter Sunday, April 9, we will have our regular 8:30 service.

Our 10:45 service will include a service of baptism and a variety of special Easter music.

Sermon series: In April and May, we will finish the sermon series on the 12 Steps of AA and then begin a series on Jesus' Call to Discipleship based on the John MacArthur book Twelve Ordinary Men.

Bible Study / Tuesday at 10 a.m. and Wednesday at 6 p.m.: In April and May, we will finish our study of Revelation. We'll do a brief series on the reality of heaven and then begin a series called The Seven Greatest Words of Love based on the seven last words of Jesus on the cross.

Serving with you, Pastor Kurt

Updates From our Staff:

From Jenny Hannan - Children's Ministry Interim Co-Director



On a recent trip to South Carolina, I noticed that the farther south we traveled, the number of budding trees increased. Once again, I realized that I'm in the minority when it comes to "favorite seasons". I'm not a "fall" girl at all. The onset of fall only tends to make me long for a few more summer days by the pool. Spring, however, makes me happy. To me, the spring flowers and budding trees serve as a colorful reminder that life starts over after a dark, dreary winter, much like our Savior Jesus Christ's resurrection after the three dark days following His crucifixion.

Although these past few months have been anything but dark and dreary (quite the contrary, praise God!), we're in the process of new beginnings for the Children's Ministry at Emmanuel. The interview committee is in the final stages of filling the permanent part-time Director of Children's Ministries. It's still the goal of the committee to present their findings to the Board of Ministry by Easter. Several team members are also working together volunteer policy and guidelines



findings to the Board of Ministry by Easter. Several team members are also working together to draft a new church volunteer policy and guidelines.

Our children continue to amaze me with their knowledge and retention as we've studied the 23rd Psalm, Psalms and Proverbs, and the Beatitudes in Sunday School and Junior Church. Kudos to our teachers and parents for nurturing God's word in these precious kids.



By the time you read this, our kids will have participated in the annual Palm Sunday program, as they performed with the choir and carried palm fronds down the aisles of the church to celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. They also learned the Legend of the Easter Donkey and made an Easter Donkey craft on the Wednesday between Palm Sunday and Easter.

While spring brings new beginnings in other areas of the Children's Ministry, it also brings the Awana/Team KID year to a close. Wednesday night participation has been holding steady throughout the year, and the kids have honed their Bible skills through a variety of lessons. We will have our "shopping night" and closing programs during our final two Wednesday night meetings in May.

Just as the buds on the trees bring anticipation of a beautiful springtime, the plans that we're making in the Children's Ministry bring anticipation of wonderful things to come!

"For the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers are springing up and the time of the singing of birds has come." - Song of Solomon 2:11-12a TLB

From Ryan Cosby - Adult Ministry



Finally, it's spring! This will be a short update as I am writing it from Disney World, so make sure to check back for a more detailed outline of what we've got going on in the Adult Ministry.

Our biggest announcement/update is that we will be hosting a Ministry Fair on Sunday, June 11, in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan on checking it out after either service. The fair is a great chance to learn about the different ministries we have here at EBC and see where/how you can get involved. It's also a great time to see if there are any holes to fill, so to speak, and if there are additional outreach ministry opportunities we haven't yet tapped into.



In the upcoming weeks we will be featuring different ministries during the Sunday service. However, there are so many more than what we can feature between now and the fair. Please start thinking about how you'd like to show off your ministry and make sure to put June 11th on your calendar!

With love, Ryan Cosby

Updates From our Staff:

Notes from the Organ Bench (David Enoch)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross By Isaac Watts From the Book "Then Sings my Soul Book 2" by Robert J. Morgan

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ~ Galatians 6:14

After Isaac Watts finished his college studies and returned home to Southampton, he wrote many of his now-immortalized hymns for Above Bar Congregations Church. In 1696, Isaac, 22, left home for London to become a tutor. All the while, he was feeling a clear tug toward ministry. On his 24th birthday, July 17, 1698, Isaac preached his first sermon. The following year, he became assistant pastor of London's Mark Lane Church. In March of 1700, Isaac received a long letter from his brother, Enoch, urging him to publish the hymns he had written at Southampton. The letter said:



"Dear Brother, In your last letter you mentioned an inclination to oblige the world by showing it your hymns in print, and I heartily wish that you were something more than inclinable thereunto. I am very confident whoever has the happiness of reading your hymns (unless he be either sot or atheist) will have a very favorable opinion of their author. There is great need of a pen, vigorous and lively as yours, to quicken and revive the dying devotion of the age. Yours now is the old truth, stripped of its ragged ornament, and appears, if we may say so, younger by ages in a new and fashionable dress."

Isaac, however, hesitated. He had other obligations on his time. On March 8, 1702, he became Mark Lane's pastor. The next year, 1703, the church chose Samuel Price of Wales to assist Isaac, due to the latter's fragile health. Under the preaching of these two, the old, dying church revived. The building grew too small for the crowds, and a new house of worship was built down the street.

Finally in 1707, Watts published his hymns, selling the copyright to a Mr. Lawrence, the publisher, for ten pounds. This volume was an instant success. It was enlarged and published in 1709.

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" appeared in his 1707 book of hymns. Inspired by Galatians 6:14, it was originally titled, "Crucifixion to the World, by the Cross of Christ." Many consider it the finest hymn in English church history, and Charles Wesley reportedly said he would rather have written it than all his own.

From Donna Marcinko - Chancel Choir Director (Contd.)



Thank you to Judy Jones and Pat Smith for providing delicious desserts for our birthday celebrations in January, February, and March!

Thank you to Lyndall Jones for arranging better lighting in the choir room and thank you to Jeff and Adam Evans for installing the new light bulbs! We can now see clearly! Thank you so much!

Thank you to Kathi Alfred for supplying the choir with chair pads for the wooden chairs!

Thank you to Jeff Evans for arranging the coffee bar outside the choir room. That will be great for our Wednesday celebrations!

Thank you to Tammy Hayes for always being so helpful in moving chairs, instruments, and all that you do for us!

Thanks to David Enoch for meeting with me to arrange special services during the Easter Season and for accompanying us at Wednesday rehearsals, as well as for worship each Sunday.

"Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

Romans. 6:4

Yours in Christ, Donna Marcinko

Updates From our Staff:

From Donna Marcinko - Chancel Choir Director

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come."

2 Corinthians 5:17



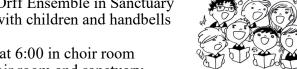
All of us involved in the Music Ministry at Emmanuel have been looking forward to the Easter season in which we celebrate Christ's resurrection! We have been rehearsing music for the six Sundays of Lent, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday. It has been said from choir members following singing an anthem after morning worship, "We have worshiped within a worship service." Rehearsals and Sunday worship services have truly provided a spiritual time for us when we have communicated with God through the music. We have felt the presence of God, experienced his love, received his blessings, and reassured that believing in Christ has given us a new life.

The EBC Chancel Choir, Celebration Ringers, Children's Orff Ensemble, Youth Ensemble, and Will Cosby will provide music for the Maundy, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services.

Below is a schedule of rehearsal and service times for the Chancel Choir, Celebration Ringers, and Orff Ensembles

EBC Chancel Choir

Wednesday, March 29 - 5:45, rehearse with Orff Ensemble in Sanctuary Sunday April 2 - 9:30 rehearse in sanctuary with children and handbells Wednesday, April 5 - rehearsal at 5:45



Maunday Thursday Service, 7:00 - rehearsal at 6:00 in choir room Easter Sunday, April 9 - 9:30, rehearse in choir room and sanctuary

EBC Celebration Ringers

Sunday, March 26 - 2:30 rehearsal

Palm Sunday, April 2 - 9:30 rehearsal in sanctuary, 2:30 afternoon rehearsal

Easter Sunday, April 9 - 9:30 rehearsal in sanctuary



EBC Orff Ensembles

Wednesday March 29, Youth begins at 4:30

Children rehearse at 5:15 and rehearse in sanctuary with choir at 5:45

Wednesday, April 5, Youth rehearse at 4:30 in sanctuary, Children rehearse at 5:15 in sanctuary.

Palm Sunday, Children's Orff meet in choir room at 10:30

Easter Sunday, Both Orff groups will sit in the sanctuary in the front rows on the right and be seated at 10:35.

After the Easter Season, the groups in the EBC Music Ministry will continue to rehearse on Wednesdays and are planning for a special musical event. More information to come!

Celebration Ringers will not have rehearsal on April 9, Easter Sunday, and will resume Sunday rehearsals on April 23.



Thank you to all in the Choir, Handbell group and Orff Ensembles who have been so faithful in coming to rehearsals to prepare for morning worship!

Thank you to Blaine Hess for directing the EBC Celebration Ringers!

Thank you to Mary Ellen Dearth for acting as the guest assistant conductor for the Celebration Ringers on Palm Sunday.

Thank you to Will Cosby for playing the trumpet and to Scott Kitchen for playing with the Youth Orff Ensemble on Easter Sunday!

< Continued >

Updates From our Staff:

From Gail Samolitis - New Life Counseling Center

"See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind." Isaiah 65:17



It is Spring! March 20, 2023 was the first day of Spring! The days are longer, and peepers have been heard. Easter, Resurrection Sunday is upon us. With Spring comes new life, new beginnings, change. Change is good and fresh and teaches us new ways to view and experience our emotions and feelings. Mimi Novic said, "Sometimes we can only find our true direction when we let the wind of change carry us."

Is there something in your life you would like to change? Is there something in your life you need to change? Would you like to change your eating habits to more nutritional eating habits? Or would you like to volunteer somewhere or serve in the church? NEW LIFE COUNSELING can help you with these life changes as well as other life changes you are facing. Seeking Christian counsel does not indicate weakness. It takes courage to seek wise counsel AND seeking counsel is scriptural. Be courageous and come visit me at NEW LIFE COUNSELING at Emmanuel Baptist Church. You can call me, GAIL SAMOLITIS at 304-588-7632 for an appointment or to talk.



"Be the change you want to see in the world."-Mahatma Gandhi

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and recognizes the importance of communities working together to help families thrive and prevent child maltreatment. During the month of April and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to increase awareness about child and family well-being, and work together to implement effective strategies that support families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

From Joe Stephens - Youth Ministry



This time of year is such an energizing time for me. Easter, the day set aside to celebrate Jesus' triumph over death, is fast approaching. Christmas is an important event in the life of the church, but Easter is the reason the church exists, so I pray that you'll take time to worship God and lift up thanks on this holiest of days. Additionally, the weather is getting warmer, trees are budding, flowers are blooming, and the youth group's thoughts turn to the great outdoors. We started that already, with our recent evening of roasting hot dogs, making s'mores, & gazing at the stars through Nate McPeak's telescope. A fun time and way too much food were had by all. As we look to April and May, we are excited to have other activities that allow us to get out into God's glorious creation. Here's a run-down of our calendar of special events:

April 7: Great Friday at South Parkersburg Baptist with youth from all over the MOV

April 29: Ice Skating and other fun in Athens, Ohio

May 5: Taco Party!

May 20: Blennerhassett Island

We'll also meet on Wednesdays, where we'll be playing outdoor games as weather allows, and then move to the Upside Down. We're in the midst of a series of lessons that cover pretty much every major topic or issue teens will face. It's great stuff, so I hope you'll join us at 6pm on Wednesdays. If you want more information on this or any of our activities, contact me at 304-893-2992 (text is best), or joe@ebcwv.com.



I want to end with a big thank-you to all the folks who bought potato chips for Great Friday. I put out the word of our need and it was filled in just a couple days. This congregation is truly a blessing.

In Christ, Joe

Updates From our Staff:

From Gail Samolitis - GriefShare

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)



At the writing of this article Spring is only three days away! After a sleepy Winter we have already turned our clocks forward, hung Bluebird boxes, heard "Peepers" in the evening and we have even spotted Daffodils, Tulips and Crocus with snowy bonnets on their fragile little heads. All around us we see God's blessings of new life and new beginnings of the spring season. As we welcome Spring we welcome Easter, Christ's resurrection, and new life.

Springtime at Emmanuel means that the spring cycle of GRIEF SHARE has begun. The cycle started in February however you can join us anytime. We are 11 members strong, and we have a co-facilitator for the first time! Sherry Smith attends Trinity Episcopal and is an alumni of GRIEF SHARE 2022. We are blessed to have Sherry as co-leader.





Emmanuel offers GRIEF SHARE to help you experience and process your emotions after the death of a loved one. GRIEF SHARE is a 13- week faith- based Support Group that addresses topics like A New Normal, and establishing a New Identity. 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.

I invite you to come out to Grief Share to see what it is all about, make a connection and start your journey from Mourning to Joy. Other GRIEF SHARE events throughout the year include Loss of Spouse which was in February and SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS which will be offered in November. Each of these events are 2- hour seminars and you do not need to be a member of Emmanuel to attend.

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 do not need to be a member of Emmanuel to attend. You can also go online to griefshare.org and register.

Bus Trip to Racine OH - April 29

We are making a day bus trip to Racine, Ohio to the Norris and Son's greenhouses on April 29th. We plan on taking the bus and van. We will leave the church parking lot at 9:00 AM. After visiting the greenhouses, we will have lunch in Racine, and then return home. If you have never been there, Norris' have a nice page on Facebook, so check it out! The trip could be limited to the first people who sign up. If you have any questions about the trip, contact Cynda O'Brien at 740-629-4361 or Jane Hulce 304-428-2873.



Jesus Calls His First Disciples



Luke 5: 1-11: "One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came

and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.'

Updates From our Staff:

From Eileen Mayer (Missions & Ministry Development)



Feels great to be rolling into Spring! It also feels good to be reflecting on the past few months of Missions Team

We wrapped up the end of February with a Visit and Mission Fundraising Lunch for Sarah McCloy, IM Missionary to Japan. On Feb. 26, Sarah shared her message of calling into missions to Japan! After, we enjoyed a lunch to help her raise funds. Thank you to all who donated!



Latrobe Street Missions has expanded recently. The Mission offers emergency shelter services and sober living facilities and services for homeless adults and children. Please consider attending their "Party with a Purpose" on April 22 at Grand Pointe to raise funds. Call 304 893 9460.

Please make plans now to join us on April 16, for a visit from Jim and Melissa Adkins of Global Poultry Initiative, based out of Crab Orchard, WV. Their WV and international ministry is designed to make disciples through sustainable poultry production. Join us to hear about their exciting work and then lunch to help them raise necessary funds.





The Marriage Course 2023

On March 10, the 7 week Marriage Course wrapped up its 7th year here at EBC. The purpose of TMC is to strengthen marriage using a video based program of 7 "dinner dates with a purpose". It was our busiest year yet! A record-breaking total of 14 couples signed up this year. They brought 12 children as well! One of the couples even married in the midst of the Course! In addition, there were 10 couples who participated in the online version hosted by Brian and Christa Raitz. Offering this version of the Course allows couples who cannot come in person to receive the same excellent material!

Our prayer is that the Course is a good seed that will bear the fruit of stronger marriages. These strengthened marriages will leave a generation-changing legacy of blessing to their children and extended families as well! Without you all, it would never have happened!

Hosting this Course takes a village: the EBC Village! Keith and I are so thankful for all of you: Online hosts Brian and Christa Raitz, Co-hosts Joe and Sarah Stephens; administrative help from Terri Fielder and Susan Stout; Cook and Food Presenter Jenny Hannan; Childcare Coordinator Extraordinaire (who made me cry in relief at all her wise help) Rose Wood; Weekly Childcarers Jane Powell, Kathy Leavitt, Jeannie Boyd, Pat Smith; Room Set up Seth and Tammy Hayes; Rotating Childcarers Sally Beckwith, Rich and Donna Shawver, Brenda Bolian, Lauren Modesitt, Dee Lallemont, Edy Jones; graphics designer Rhonda Johnston; Kitchen assistant Jennifer Beaver, Wendy Kedward, Bekka Sassi, Karen Cox; Chefs Linda Mitchell, Judy Prater, Christa Raitz; Bakers/Dessert Providers Jane Hulce, Ann Beck, Judy Langkamer, Sarah Robinson; Kitchen Advisor and Organizer Jewel Lusk; Scholarship Provider Tim Gaydac. We pray the Lord blesses each of you 10 times over for your generous and kind service to these couples!



Please be considering and praying about who you would like to invite next year! We will begin taking reservations near the end of November: only 8 months from now! Thank you all!

Sincerely, Keith and Eileen Mayer

Matthew 28:16-20: "Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



A Review of our Praises from February and March:

Brendan and Allie Palmer, aviation missionaries with Wycliffe International, shared with us in our Sunday services and a mission lunch helped us raise money (\$1,067.00) for their support. The Deacons had a positive mission lunch in February. The Marriage Course had a positive first week with many couples committed to working on making their relationships better and stronger. The new Young Life/Young Moms group met at Emmanuel. The moms and their children enjoyed dinner and then a support group in the parlor for the moms while their children attended Awana and Team Kid. Rebecca Lyons made a beautiful quilt for the baby of a young couple that has been attending Emmanuel. Alyssa (Roberts) and Val Young gave birth to baby Micah. Dave and Kim Bollinger have found a house in Charleston

Young gave birth to baby Micah. Dave and Kim Bollinger have found a house in Charleston, WV. The Children's Team had a positive lunch and meeting in February. Max Bohatch, Phil and Leslie McHenry's grandson, won the 4 and under/ 44 pound Tri State Wrestling competition. Emmanuel hosted a **nice first birthday** party for Willow, daughter of Deidra and granddaughter of Rebecca Lyons. We had a positive guest lunch that was prepared by Jewel Lusk and her friends (Kim and Dave Bollinger, Sue McCue, Jeanie Boyd, Tammy Hayes & Phil Morris). Thanks to deacons Barb Kirsch and Jane Hulce who helped to organize the guest lunch. Phil O'Brien recently passed his amateur radio test. Mona Busiek and Lynn Nicholson were able to visit with Delbert and Sue Casto in Huntington. We showed a picture of the South Wrestling Team who won the WV State Duals Championship. Jenny Hannan wrote: "Our ministries don't have to be official church ministries. Over the past 19 years, God has used me to love and encourage literally hundreds of high school boys and girls through my work as the team statistician. I've prayed for them. I've prayed with them; and I've shared scripture with them and their parents. Be open to letting God use you through your hobbies and interests. You'll be amazed at what God can do through you." Bob and Joyce Hines wrote Pastor Kurt: "We are both doing great and are in Myrtle Beach until the end of March. The Chinese spy balloon was shot down outside our condo and has been entertaining to watch. We pray for all to be happy, healthy and safe. We'll see you all in April." Pastor Kurt received a note from "Brian" from our website "Contact Us" that said: "I would like to ask if you could pray that Jesus would help me with my faith in him. Thank you!" Our necessity pantry team served 16 families, which is a total of 45 people. The Wednesday night dinner on 3/1 is a time to celebrate Dave Bollinger's birthday and to thank Dave and Kim for their help with our kitchen / meal ministry during their time at Emmanuel. Sarah McCloy had an encouraging message and Christa Raitz did a good job leading our Sunday service on 2/26. Mason Cheuvront and Ashley Kedward got married at Emmanuel on March 4. Pray for God's blessing on their marriage. The Men's Prayer Breakfast on 2/25 went well with 22 attending. Jewel Lusk and Co made breakfast. Keith Mayer and Rich Shawver led the service. Lyndall Jones led the singing. David Enoch played the piano. Others who attended: Evan Frees, Tim Samolitis and Jim Ross. Lyndall Jones and the lawn crew removed some shrubs and will be landscaping with river rock and new plants. Our Capital Team is making good progress with our Capital Projects. Our Security Team had a productive meeting. We are looking at various safety projects. The Visitation Team had a positive lunch meeting. The Marriage Course completed their seventh and final session. Keith and Eileen Mayer would like to thank everyone who helped with the dinners, childcare and hospitality. Pastor Kurt sponsored a clergy support group at EBC in March. The Caregiver's Support group had a positive meeting. The Bible Study at the Harmony Ridge Rehab center went well. Ron Hannan and his friend played music and Pastor Kurt led the Bible study. Betty Jo Wiseman sends her love and prayers to her Emmanuel church family. The Latrobe Mission received a grant and is fixing their roof and renovating their homeless shelter. Ken Barton was in our worship service on 3/19. **The Marriage Course** had a very positive ministry this year with 12 couples in person and 10 couples who took the course online. God has blessed this ministry over seven seasons to help and enrich many marriage relationships. The J Dollar Men's Breakfast had 81 in attendance and an offering of \$1,426 that Emmanuel can use for its ministry. There was a positive memorial service and family lunch for **Jean Beatty** at Emmanuel on 3/25. Pray for the family as they grieve her passing. Tuesday Fellowship is coming back on 4/11. Pray for Sarah Robinson and Jane Hulce as they plan and organize the ministry. There was a positive memorial service and family lunch for **Arlene Flowers** on 3/27. Pray for Mickie and the family as they grieve her passing.

Kroger Community Rewards

If you would like to support Emmanuel through your Kroger purchases, you can call 1-800-853-3033 and a customer service person will help you. Or you can go to Kroger.com. If you don't have a Kroger account, create an account. Then sign into your account. Find "Community" on the bottom of the website and click on "Kroger Community Rewards" which is directly underneath. Then click on "View Details."



If you do not have an organization designated, click on "Enroll". In the search bar, type "Emmanuel Baptist Parkersburg", it should be the first organization you see, click on the "Enroll" button. Emmanuel's organization number is: HR910. If you are enrolled and it is not Emmanuel, you can click on "Change Organization" and follow the previous instructions to select.



Pray for: John Alfred, Jan Ashwell, Bob Byers, Matthew Casto, Steve and Deena Deem, Dianna, Kim Fowler, Linda Gainer, Dedra Goff, Virgie Harrison, Joe Kessler, Barb Kirsch, Dee Lallemont, Necia Leleux, Raymond Lusk, Ethel Mason, Greg Mathers, Bonnie Nestor, Ann Routa, Sherry Smith, Tyler Turner, Karen Vanoster, Pam Wharton, People struggling in their families and marriages; for the people in Mississippi as they recover from a devastating tornado, for the people of Turkey, Syria and Ukraine; and Kenya is experiencing a devastating drought.

Homebound: Beverly Boggs, Kathy Harrison, Diane Hays, Maridor Keck, Jean Lawrence, Glenola Woodyard.

Assisted Living:

Belpre Landing: Ruth Carder; **Glenwood**: Bob Byers, Helen Hill; **Stonerise/Eagle Pointe**: Nancy Duty, Betty Matthews; **Waterview Pointe**: Naomi Couch; **Worthington**: Shirley Huffman, Ada Turner; **Wyngate**: Sam Bolian, Helen Howell, Joan Stutler.

Out of Town: Phyllis Crone, Allenetta Kaufman, Mary Malson, Margaret Norris, Bill Ott, Mel Williams, Betty Wiseman.

Our Deepest Sympathy to:

Mary Malson and her family at the passing of Tom Malson / Rev. David and Lisa Easter at the passing of their son Cody / The family and friends of Jean Beatty / The family and friends of Chuck McPeek, a friend of Karen Cox / The family and friends of Arlene Flowers.

Thank You

From Parrish Malson - "Mary and I, my sister Angela and all of the grandsons and granddaughters wish to thank you all for the love, prayers and kindness you and your congregation have extended toward our family during this time of sorrow. We would be remiss if you we didn't mention all of the personal visits from members and the food! The personal connections we have made have warmed our hearts and shown us the true nature of Christian love. Best regards, Parrish Malson"

Fom Delbert & Sue Casto - "Dear Church Family, Words cannot express our deep gratitude for your prayers, texts, cards and visits. They sustained us during the most difficult time of our lives. The reality that Matthew survived and is neurologically sound is truly a miracle. The staff at St. Mary's Hospital told us multiple times how they don't see such good outcomes from people who endured what Matthew did. To God Be the Glory!"



Spring Golden'eers Conference "Love is in the Air"

The Spring Golden'eers Conference will be May 1-3 at the Parchment Valley Conference Center. This is a conference for adults 55 years of age and older. Join them for bible study, evening group activities, music, indoor and outdoor games, vespers, book store, puzzles, crafts and much more. There are Registration Forms (due April 20) on the Ministry Table in the narthex. See Steve or Laraine Metheny if you have any questions.

In February, Emmanuel began the Renew Church Health Program that is sponsored by the WVBC. We hope to bring together the results and share them to the church by the end of April.



Go to our website (www.ebcwv.com) and click on the Renew Link and then answer the questions in the church survey. Call the office (304)-485-5171 if you need a paper survey.

Thank you for your willingness to help us better understand our church and its ministry. Answers given on these surveys are confidential.