



**SPECIAL EDITION**

## The Emmanuel Envoy

Autumn 2020

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I remember the way it felt so well. I had done something I had never done before. I had cancelled in-person worship. Even though we developed a snow cancellation policy after I arrived at Emmanuel just before the memorable winter of 2015, we had never needed to use it. But it was March 15<sup>th</sup>, it was not snowing, and still, I had cancelled in person worship for that Sunday and for a still unknown number of Sundays in the future. I had just written a sermon that I would never preach, never speak aloud to anyone. I was in the church office, getting ready to send that sermon and that Sunday's prayers out to you, the people of Emmanuel. I had no idea what the next days or weeks would bring. So, I wrote a cover email to which I would attach the sermon and the prayers and before I signed it, I wrote these words, "Until we meet again, peace be with you." I remember how alone I felt in the silent church. It felt like the whole world had gone quiet, was holding its breath. There were no car sounds, no people walking around the neighborhood, no school to get ready for the next day, just the silence of a world waiting to see what would happen next. It's eight months later. We're still waiting.

Since that day I have typed those words so many times, perhaps hundreds of times, after every email, "Until we meet again, peace be with you." But I don't feel so alone. Because, in spite of the fact that I had no idea what would happen next on that March Sunday, we have found ways to be together even when we can't be together fully in the ways that we might want to, in the ways that we're used to, in the pre-2020 ways. Still, through Zoom worship and emails sent, through prayers said and stories shared over the computer, through online and outdoor meetings held, through cards sent and phone calls made, through words of encouragement and support on Facebook and games played over Zoom, and through communion shared in the Courtyard and delivered to people's homes, we have found ways to be the church together, to worship together, to pray together, to commune together, to laugh together, to cry together, to care together, and to share together, even when we can't be together in the ways that we're used to and in all of the ways that we want to. The pages of this seasonal newsletter will show you some of the ways that we have figured out how to be together during this time.

We are heading into another winter. We don't know what it will look like, but with cases of Covid-19 rising around the country and here in Massachusetts. I suspect that it won't be easy. I suspect that it will be a long time before we meet again in all of the old ways that we miss and yearn for. But while we wait for that day which will, perhaps break upon us but which will, more likely, sneak up on us as we grow into what normal will look like for us next, I pray that God will give us peace, patience, love, and generosity, for each other and for the struggling world around us. I pray that we will be able to treasure and expand that ways that we can be together right now, as we wait to discover what new challenges and even blessings are coming around the bend.

I'm grateful for the ways in which you and we are rising to the challenges of this time. I'm grateful that we have found ways to meet together. I'm grateful that none of us has to be alone during this time. And also, at the same time, my original message during this time of upheaval still feels like the cry of my heart, "Until we meet again, peace be with you."

In Christ,

*Pastor Amanda*

## Prayer Concerns List

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Pat Sheek	Susan Tomasello
Terri Loomis	Patrick Donovan
John Olson	Ann-Marie Litcof
Bo Ruda	Jovanni Sanchez-Colon
Christine Howard	Bill Rapp
Emma White	Paul & Heather Crisafulli
Sara Williams	Richard Makert
Josh Andrews	Lyndsay Boysen
Katarina Ruda	John A. Grant
John Sol	Tony Nikolassy
Megan Nowak	Rebecca Sol
Jon Keenan	Pat Goodman
Martin Moyo	Liz Easton
Thomas Becker	Jon Pierce

## Remembering Our Shut-ins

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Eleanor Bjornson

## Losses

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*In  
loving  
memory*

We have lost two beloved members of our church community since our last newsletter; Jack Gradijan and Richard Spencer. We grieve their passing, yet are

confident they now rejoice with all the saints that have gone before us.

## Thank You Notes

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Dear Pastor Warner,

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl that I received for graduation. It will come in handy on those cold nights while I study!

Sincerely,  
*Ava Gundal*

Dear Pastor and Knotty Knitters,

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl you sent. It is BEAUTIFUL (my favorite colors)



and it fits perfectly while I'm icing my knee. It was very thoughtful of you.

With Gratitude,

Thank you again,  
*Laurie Alley*

To the congregation of Emmanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the celebration of graduates, the scholarship, and the wonderful prayer shawl. Through all of this, it is clear that the community of Emmanuel Lutheran Church that I grew up in cares about supporting my future and education in general.

Thank you,  
*Annika Ruda*

A big THANK YOU to Emmanuel Lutheran Church from The Ruth House Moms. We appreciate you! Thanks again.

Thank you to all my friends at Emmanuel,

Thank you for all your kindness and heartfelt sympathy cards and prayers – and the prayer shawl, and the Edible Arrangement fruit from the Piecemakers, It was very good and helpful. It is a lonely time in my life, as I miss my son. He was a good man.

I hope you are all in good health and take care of yourselves.

Thank you so much,

*Elvira Aipperspach*

Hi,

Thank you all for the lovely flowers you sent along with Cindy (Zafft) to deliver to me. Good to see Cindy –you guys are the best!

Thanks again, I miss you all and hope to see you soon.

*Shirley Thoms*

Dear friends\*,

Thank you for your contribution of \$500 in this third quarter of 2020. We pray your members and community are safe and we are thankful for your support of our ministry!

So many people have been so generous during this time. Here's what we've been able to do:

- Purchase food to keep our meals going, since many congregations haven't been able to provide meals. We've fed more people than usual and are drawing many new people.
- Provide Care Packages – we are giving out about 80 a week filled with high protein shakes and snacks. People have been so grateful to receive these—not only for the physical nourishment, but also for the care and connection it shows.

We still need help and here are some of the ways you can assist our ministry:

Prayers

Donate toward meal/care packages

Order from our Amazon wish list for care packages

Provide food

Thrivent Members – direct any choice dollars – please email us about that.

God's Peace be with you!

*Nat Larson*

Treasurer – Cathedral in the Night  
Amherst, MA

*\*This is a summary of the much longer letter.*

Thank you, Emmanuel,

What a lovely surprise to find the flowers that were left in our mailbox. Thank you to all who were involved in this caring gesture.

*Lou and Helene Bier*

Dear Emmanuel,

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for your gifts, thoughts, and prayers since the passing of my husband, Lawrence "Larry" Sundberg. Your support means the world to us and knowing you are there has made the past six months bearable.

Thank you and God Bless,

*Ruth Sundberg, Karen Swan, Gail Lamothe*

## Worship

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Sunday Worship continues via the computer video conferencing tool called Zoom. We gather using a computer, tablet, smart phone or telephone.

For those who have been accessing our Zoom worship services, they are a real blessing; an opportunity to gather together while still being physically apart. Our Zoom worship services have even gone international, as, in addition to our local members, we have had visitors from around the country and from Canada join us for worship via computer, laptop, tablets, cell phones, and landlines!

The link for Sunday worship is emailed out every week on Fridays and it is also available on our website. If you would like participate by landline telephone, here is the information that you need to do that:

**Dial by your location**

**+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)**

**Meeting ID: 950 5873 6666**

**Passcode: 534965**

Members and friends of Emmanuel serve as worship assistants during our Zoom worship services, as designated responders, Psalm leaders, lectors, and petitioners (leading the prayers). If you would like help to lead worship in one of these ways you can sign up via sign up genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4baaa82fa2fe3-zoom>

or you can contact Pastor Amanda by phone or email.

People are also contributing to our Zoom worship services by contributing artwork that can be featured in worship, sending in pictures that we can use in slide shows, recording music that can be shared, and participating in videos that we're creating, like the Blessing of the Animals slide show, the Confirmation slide show, and the All Saints video.

"Communion in the Courtyard" has been held every Sunday since June 14<sup>th</sup>, but with the weather cooling off they are about to change. Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> was the last Sunday for "Communion in the Courtyard." Beginning on



**November 15<sup>th</sup>**, Communion services will be held in the building, at 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. in either the Sanctuary or Kask Hall. We will alternate where communion is held every week for each group, for example, on November 15<sup>th</sup>, the 2:00 p.m. group will meet in the Kask Hall and the 3:00 p.m. group will meet in the Sanctuary and on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, the 2:00 p.m. group will meet in the Sanctuary and the 3:00 p.m. group will meet in Kask Hall.

We will need to be especially mindful of Coronavirus protocols when we are in the building, paying careful attention to masks that fully cover our mouths and noses, social distancing, making sure that we sign up for communion ahead of time so that we do not exceed our state mandated occupancy threshold, and self-assessing before we go out into public, including coming to church.

If you would like to come receive communion at Emmanuel (masked and socially distanced), you can sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4BAAA82FA2FE3-communion> or you can contact us at the church by phone or email.

If you would prefer to have communion delivered to your home (along with prayers and scriptures that you can read), you can contact Pastor Amanda or the church office. Communion is delivered in a contactless way.

## Advent Wreath Lighting



We need four individuals, couples, or families to sign up to video record themselves lighting the Advent Wreath at Emmanuel for each Sunday in Advent. Here's how it will work. You sign up to light the candle a Sunday in Advent by using this Sign Up Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4BA AA82FA2FE3-advent1> or by contacting the church office.

Then you come in sometime during the week before the Sunday you have signed up for. You contact Pastor Amanda by phone or email about when you're coming in so that she can make sure that the church is open for you. Once you're here you have someone in your group (or Pastor Amanda if you're an individual) video record (landscape orientation) you lowering the Advent wreath, lighting the correct number of candles for the week that you signed up for, and then raising the Advent wreath again. If you have any questions about how to do any of this, Pastor Amanda can easily guide you through the process. The Advent Wreath lighting video recording needs to be sent to [elcnorwood.digital@gmail.com](mailto:elcnorwood.digital@gmail.com) by 6:00 p.m. the Friday before the Sunday when it will be included in Zoom worship. If you have questions about any of this please contact Pastor Amanda.

## Stewardship

Thank you for everyone who has returned a pledge form for 2021. If you haven't returned it yet, please do so as soon as possible. This financial information is needed in order to create the church budget for 2021.

Ways you can return your pledge form:

- mail the form back to the church office.
- put your pledge form through the mail slot in the door at church.
- fill out the confidential pledge form on our website at <https://www.emmanuelnorwood.org/2020/10/19/2021-pledge-form/>

If you would like to receive a paper copy of the pledge form, please contact the church office.

The theme of our Stewardship program this year is “Experiencing the Joy of Generosity.” Our scripture verse that goes along with that theme is James 1:17,

*Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

During a time when we are experiencing a great deal of challenge and change, you are encouraged to make your pledge as an act of faith in our God who is consistent and reliable in love, mercy, forgiveness, and support, even during times of trouble.

Thank you,

*The Stewardship Ministry Team*

## Gathering for Prayer

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Our Wednesday prayer group gathers together every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. to check in with each other, share prayer requests, read and reflect on scripture using a process called *Lectio Divina*, and pray together.

The link to the Wednesday prayer gathering does not change from week to week, but it is still emailed out every Wednesday. It is also on our website under events.

If you would like to participate in the prayer group by phone this the information that you need to call in to the meeting:

**Dial by your location**

**+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)**

**Meeting ID: 953 6668 1219**

**Passcode: 206384**

Please note that long distance charges do apply if you call into a Zoom meeting, so please consider your long-distance plan if you decide to call in to any Zoom experience at Emmanuel.

You are welcome and encouraged to drop in to the prayer group any time you are in need of a little extra prayer and fellowship. You can join any time you are able whether you can come for one Wednesday or for all of them.

## Faith Formation

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Growing in faith has also been continuing in new and different ways.

**Confirmation:** Joey Gundal and Julia Warner were confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. The Laying on of Hands took place on October 13<sup>th</sup>, in the Sanctuary with their immediate families present as witnesses. The Laying on of Hands was recorded and shared with the congregation during the October 25<sup>th</sup> Zoom worship service, where Joey and Julia also affirmed their faith and made their Confirmation vows. Joey and Julia also attended the afternoon Communion in the Courtyard service as part of their Confirmation Day. Many thanks to everyone who worked hard to make Joey’s and Julia’s Confirmation a special milestone

in their lives and in the life of the church.

**Confirmation Class:** The 2020-2021 Confirmation is meeting in a hybrid of Zoom classes and in outdoor in person gatherings. On Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, the “Welcome of the Affirmers” liturgy was performed for the students beginning a new Confirmation year.

**Sunday School:** This fall Emmanuel's Sunday School Program is via Zoom. The Sunday School has a total of 10 children who attend on a regular basis. Sue Navalta is teaching the younger students (Age 5-2nd grade) and Cindy Zafft along with Martha Russell is teaching the older students (Grades 3-6). Zoom Sunday School begins at 9:00 a.m. for 30 minutes. We continue to use the Whirl curriculum. The children were mailed their Learner's Pack to their homes, and they enjoy their Sunday School time and especially love the Whirl videos that go along with their weekly lesson.

For Thanksgiving, the parents were asked to take a picture of their children with "Happy Thanksgiving" signs, and we will put the photos on cardstock paper to be mailed to the homebound members. Also, we will be planning to have a "mini" Christmas Pageant with Nina Tobin taking the lead. More details to follow.

I want to thank Sue, Cindy and Martha for their awesome leadership in teaching the students under these unusual circumstances via Zoom as opposed to physically being in church. Zoom Sunday School could not have happened without them!

Emmanuel will be having Zoom Sunday School this winter. Parents, if your children did not attend Zoom Sunday School this fall, but you would like to have them attend the winter session, please contact me at [buster718@msn.com](mailto:buster718@msn.com) or call me at 617.543.5406.

*Janice McHugh*  
Sunday School Coordinator

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## Congregation Care

The Covid-19 pandemic has created the need for another task group here at Emmanuel—one focusing on Congregation Care. The goal of the Congregation Care Task Group is to provide for the ongoing care/connection of the members and friends of Emmanuel during this time of separation and even when we are back together in person in changed ways. We began our work at the beginning of August and have focused on the following task: supporting the Learning Ministry as they planned for the opening of Zoom Sunday School; launching a survey to assess ways the Emmanuel community feels connected; and looking for opportunities to provide ongoing care to our homebound members. Our work is not done! All are welcome. We typically meet via Zoom every few weeks. Join by sending an email to Cindy Zafft at [zaffts@comcast.net](mailto:zaffts@comcast.net). Task Group members include Ann Frerichs, Lorraine Lynch, Janice McHugh, Lonnie Schroeder, and Cindy Zafft.

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## Congregation Survey

Our Congregation Care Task Group has created a congregational survey to determine how we are doing at keeping connected during this time of separation and “strangeness”. Your feedback is definitely needed and will be very helpful to us as we figure out ways for us to stay together and support each other as a community during this challenging time. Please fill out the survey on our website by following this link: <https://www.emmanuelnorwood.org/2020/10/16/congregational-survey/>. Please fill out the survey on or by Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>! If you would like a paper copy of the survey, please contact the church office.

## Friday Night Live

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After a summer break our Friday Night Live, youth group started again and meet online or outdoors in person (depending on the weather). Some activities have included a neighborhood scavenger hunt, creating signs to share messages of encouragement with anyone walking or driving by, and playing the new video game "Among Us" when the weather has driven us back online. Our Friday Night Live gatherings also always include prayer requests and sharing Highs and Lows.

Many thanks to Bryon Sol, Stephanie Sol, and Abigail Warner who, on behalf of Friday Night Live, represented Emmanuel at Norwood's socially distanced Trunk or Treat event on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Next Steps Ministry Gift Cards

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We are planning to reach out to Emmanuel's college students during first semester exam time this year, as we do every year. Since it will not be practical to gather together to pack care packages this year, we are asking for \$10.00 gift cards to Dunkin Donuts that we will send to the college students along with a note of encouragement during this challenging time. If you would like to donate a gift card (or cards) to this project you can mail the gifts cards to the church, attention "Next Steps Ministry" or you can drop them off at church through the mail slot. (***no later than November 20 please***) We have 16 college students that we are planning to reach out to this semester.

## Service

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**Ecumenical Community Food Pantry of Norwood:** The Norwood Food Pantry continues to provide food and hygiene items outside in the parking lot at Grace Episcopal

Church. Clients receive grab-and-go bags of nonperishable items that are prepared during the week. In addition, each household "orders" a variety of fresh and frozen produce, dairy products, meat/fish, and bakery items that are packaged on the spot during our Saturday hours. Volunteers and clients wear face masks at all times and work to maintain social distancing.

The pantry has changed to "Winter Hours." Over the fall and winter, we serve clients later in the morning, from 9 am to 11:40 am. This ensures that volunteers and clients are not outside in the cold, dark early morning. While we rarely close in the winter, we provide an updated message on our phone (781-291-3663) and on our website (<https://www.norwoodpantry.org/>) in bad weather.

The Norwood Food Pantry list of foods requested for clients is modified frequently and posted on our website. Items being accepted now are a bit more specific to allow for "Grab & Go" bags.

- Hash, Beef Stew, Chili
- Canned Soup (esp. chunky types, minestrone, chowder, veggie, chicken, etc.)
- Spaghetti Sauce (small jars or cans)
- Pasta (ziti, penne, rigatoni, rotini, spaghetti, etc.)
- Boxed Rice Pilaf (Near East, Rice a Roni, Store Brand, etc.)
- Cereals (cold boxed and oatmeal varieties)
- Canned beans (ex: baked, black, red, white, pinto, kidney, etc.)
- Canned Chicken (small cans preferred)
- Canned White Albacore Tuna (small cans preferred)
- Canned Vegetables (Peas, Corn, Carrots, Mixed)
- Canned Fruit (Pears, Fruit Cocktail, Peaches)
- Jams/Jelly (Grape, Strawberry,

Raspberry)

- Pudding/Gelatin Mixes (Instant, sugar free preferred)
- Crackers (Oyster Crackers for soup, Ritz, Saltines)
- Crunchy Peanut Butter
- Brownie Mix, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup

When the temperature is above freezing, donations can be left in the brown pantry drop box in front of the large garage behind Grace Episcopal Church. The box is checked each day before 3 pm. If items may freeze, please drop off donations on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday morning between 8:30-10:30 am.

You can also make monetary donations to the food pantry by donating through their website or sending a check to:

Ecumenical Community Food Pantry of  
Norwood, Inc.  
150 Chapel Street  
Norwood, MA 02062

### **Ascentria Christmas Gift Program**



**Ascentria**  
CARE ALLIANCE  
Empowering People. Strengthening Communities.

We are partnering  
with Ascentria

again this year to provide Christmas gifts for children in foster care. Please consider signing up and purchasing a gift or giving a donation to help make Christmas brighter for these children.

Since we are not gathering together in church at this time, we will be using a google doc at this link: [Ascentria Christmas Gift Signup Sheet 2020](#) to sign up for gifts. Gifts (unwrapped) are due by **November 29, 2020**.

If you have problems using the google doc, the gift list is in the attached word document.

You can e-mail Ann Frerichs ([afrerichs@ymail.com](mailto:afrerichs@ymail.com)) with the gift you'd like to purchase and she will add your name to the goggle doc. If you are e-mailing, please wait until you receive confirmation that no one else has signed up for the gift before purchasing it.

If you are ordering on-line or would like to ship your gift, please have it sent to:

**Ann Frerichs**  
**84 Mill St.**  
**Westwood, MA 02090**

Please include in the shipping receipt/gift note the name of the child the gift is for.

You can also drop off your gift at the above address. If this is not convenient, you can arrange for drop off/pick up at the church or another location. Please contact Ann Frerichs at [afrerichs@ymail.com](mailto:afrerichs@ymail.com) or 339-213-3769 to arrange drop off/pick up and for any questions.

If you'd like to make a donation, please send a check to Ann Frerichs at the above address and she will use it to purchase gift cards for the children.

### **Christmas shopping with Amazon ?**

Please remember to use Emmanuel's Amazon Affiliate Link. The link is found at the bottom of Emmanuel's homepage at [wip.emmanuelnorwood.org](http://wip.emmanuelnorwood.org). You can also follow this link which takes you directly to the affiliate link:

[www.shop.emmanuelnorwood.org](http://www.shop.emmanuelnorwood.org). Once you're on this page, click where it says "here" which will take you to Amazon. Once you're there, you can just shop as you normally would. You do not need to do anything differently at check out and Emmanuel will receive a percentage of the money that you spend.

## Ingrid Bamber is 100 Years Old!

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Thank you for the beautiful flowers and all the birthday cards sent to my mother Ingrid Bamber on her 100th birthday yesterday. Hearing from so many of her Emmanuel friends made her day and she had a wonderful birthday celebration with residents of Thirwood Place in South Yarmouth where she lives. She got phone calls from her children and grandchildren. I was able to see her for an hour for a socially distanced visit and snapped this photo of her opening a card from an Emmanuel friend. She is wearing a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday tiara and sash sent by her granddaughter Annie. Thank you for remembering her and making her birthday so special.

*Peg Flood*

## Stewardship Report

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	Target Income	Received actual	Received actual
October	\$17,846.15	\$15,865.33	89%
YTD	\$207,174.24	\$181,547.53	88%

### Ministry Highlights for October

- ❖ Online church service continues.
- ❖ Online Mid-week prayer group continues.
- ❖ Communion in the Courtyard took place.
- ❖ Confirmation class met weekly on Zoom.
- ❖ Friday Night Live youth ministry met online and in person.
- ❖ Flower bouquets were distributed to some of our homebound/isolated members.
- ❖ Online Sunday School continued.
- ❖ The 2021 Stewardship program, "Experiencing the Joy of Generosity", took place.
- ❖ Confirmation was celebrated as Joey Gundal and Julia Warner affirmed their baptisms.
- ❖ Emmanuel had a trunk at Norwood's socially distanced "Trunk or Treat" Event.
- ❖ Ministry Team Meetings: Executive, Council, Forward Leadership, Mutual Ministry, Stewardship

Thank you for your generous giving.

***We are Emmanuel Lutheran Church***

*Worshiping God with joy, loving one another, serving all.  
We welcome you!*