



# *The Messenger*

## *March 2023*

Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
P. O. Box 1028  
400 Highland Avenue  
Coos Bay, OR 97420

### **Rector Reflection**

"You are dust and to dust you shall return....."

The stark words of the Imposition of Ashes ring in my ears. There is no real way to hear them or receive with nonchalance. Death is a reality for us all. From the moment we take our first breath our life moves forward to the moment in which we take our last. Lent is a time in which we examine our souls and repent of our sins in order to repair, renew and nourish our commitment of faith in Jesus Christ which we celebrate with great majesty at Easter. But it is also a time in which we face up to, with authenticity, honesty and fearlessness, the fact that we are mortal. Our time in this corporeal existence is finite. It is easy to take it for granted as we live from day to day. So much so that we can veer into a lane of putting it out of our minds and thinking we have all the time in the world. But the Scriptures for Ash Wednesday remind us that the time to 'get right with God' and one another is now. It is a clarion call to re-center our lives against the plumb line of God's love and therefore the demands of love for the love of neighbor, for justice and righteousness in our souls.



I have been particularly aware of the reality of death since Ash Wednesday on February 22. Over the weekend I learned that one of my 'surrogate moms'... one of those dear souls that come alongside you and nurture you and bless you when you needed it.... passed away suddenly from a stroke. Her funeral will be this weekend and for reasons of travel to Canada I cannot attend. But my heart is heavy with grief and the 'transitory nature of life' as we say in the Rite I liturgy. Also this weekend we lost Helen Mineau after her valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. March 17th marks for me the 20th anniversary of my mother's passing. Death is all around. It is a very present reality.

But Lent is not a time to wallow in some kind of hopelessness about mortality. It is a time to remember the great gift of God in Jesus Christ. He who lived our life and died our death rose again and broke the power of death. It has no sting, the Apostle Paul says in I Corinthians 15. It has no ultimacy. That is to say that in all manner of things God alone has the last word. For all who have faith in this good promise of God, we know that life is changed and not ended when our mortal body finally fails. The Lord holds our life and our death and our life after death in his hands. We return to the dust but our song then is always Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! This is not mere wishful thinking. It is the proclamation of God's reality that has so wondrously broken through into our reality and shown us who we belong to.

As Lent marches on, let us be bold to hold fast to the faith of Christ crucified and risen. It is our hope and our stay.

See you in Church! *Patti+*

Please note, Rev. Sr. Patti Hale and Sr. Amy Linder, OP will be at a continuing education course in Toronto from March 5 - 10. For emergency pastoral care during this time, please call Rev. Cathy Clark from St. James in Coquille at 541-294-6991.





## Coos Food Cupboard

For the month of March, the food cupboard is in need of nonperishable sources of protein, such as peanut butter and canned tuna. As a special ask, we request more specifically creamy peanut butter as this is what our clients/families prefer.

Stay up to date with what’s happening at the food cupboard by following us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086983710511>.

Thank you for your continued support of the Coos Food Cupboard!

~submitted by Brian Sullivan



**40 days, 40 items, 40 blessings...**a way to give thanks for the gift of having enough! There will be United Thank Offering boxes in the entryway for those who would like to participate in a Lenten discipline that is focused on giving thanks for the blessing of having “enough” that we can share with others.

Each day of Lent, put a coin or paper money into the United Thank Offering blue box, giving thanks for the blessings of having enough. 40 days, 40 items, 40 blessings multiplied by all of us who participate!



## Daylight Saving Time

**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>!**

### Meet the New Members of Your Vestry - Jennifer Hope

The new Vestry members were asked to share their answers to the following questions:

- 1.) Why do you feel called to serve?  
**“Simply put, I won't say no to God.”**
- 2.) What is your vision for the future of Emmanuel?  
**“My vision for the future of Emmanuel is predictability, consistency, and sound financial status.”**
- 3.) What skills do you bring to lead us toward that vision?  
**“My skills that I bring forward to lead us toward that vision include reliability and the ability to exercise discretion.”**



Sincerely, *Jennifer Hope*



## Lent Madness 2023

The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight will advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch. To learn more about the 32 saints and to download your 2023 bracket, visit their website at <https://www.lentmadness.org>. If you're not sure about terminology, check out the glossary on their page. For a printed copy of the 2023 bracket just stop by the office and Kerri will be happy to give you one. **It's free!**



## Coastal Families Relief Nursery

Get Ready, Get Set: That is what the Coastal Families Relief Nursery (CFRN) is doing. Evan, the newly hired Executive Director, is off to a great start moving forward towards opening to serve children and families. CFRN now has their offices, furniture, internet, computers, etc. set up. Supplies are rolling in for the classroom space and are starting to take shape. CFRN is thankful for the church moving out the furniture and items that can't be used, getting door locks put on, changing doors, etc. These are all the many things done that have helped the set up go faster.

The site State Certification is set to take place in March and an opening date will be set soon. There is a lot being accomplished! There is excitement in the air!

Blessings, *Nancy Lee Stewart*, Emmanuel Liaison to CFRN

## Project "Welcome Back Pack"

To welcome the small children that will be members of the Coastal Relief Nursery here at Emmanuel, we have put together a small "Welcome Back Pack" for each child. In the "packs" that look like small cute animals, there will be a small soft toy and a soft cuddly blanket, a little grooming kit with comb, brush, toothbrush, etc., a coloring book with crayons and a copy of Goodnight Moon, which is a highly recommended book for young children up to 3 / 4 years old.

The Coastal Families Relief Nursery is going to start with a small number of children and grow over the years! If you would like to contribute towards another Emmanuel joyous endeavor, just note "Nursery Back Pack" on your contribution. We will take and share pictures of this "community" event when the back packs are given out!



Blessings, *Patti Nichols*



**Great News!** The Diocesan Board of Trustees has allowed Emmanuel to use the remaining money left from the Shepherd House Renovation grant for a new roof for Shepherd's House! The Vestry has voted with a quorum to accept a bid from Evergreen Roofing. Special thanks to Sally Jaeggli for her advocacy for Emmanuel on the Board of Trustees where she serves as a Board member!

Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming information about our next BIG project – replacing the main roof of our church.

Anyone wishing to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (Confession) before Easter is invited to make an appointment with the priest, Rev. Sr. Patti Hale, OP  
Cell Phone/text (541) 654-3758 Email: [rev.patti.hale@gmail.com](mailto:rev.patti.hale@gmail.com)



### *Special Days in March*

Virginia O'Neal Birthday - March 9

Cullen Cribbins Birthday - March 10

Darleen Atkinson Birthday - March 11

Kellen Cahill Birthday - March 20

John Powell Birthday - March 28

Judy Jensen Birthday - March 29

Doug Laird Birthday - March 30

Megan Chaney Bingham Birthday - March 30

Andy Nasburg Birthday - March 31

If you don't see your name(s) on the birthday and anniversaries list, please let Kerri in the office know so we can add you to our parish list. *Thank you!*

**\*\*April Newsletter Submissions Deadline is Friday, March 24th\*\***