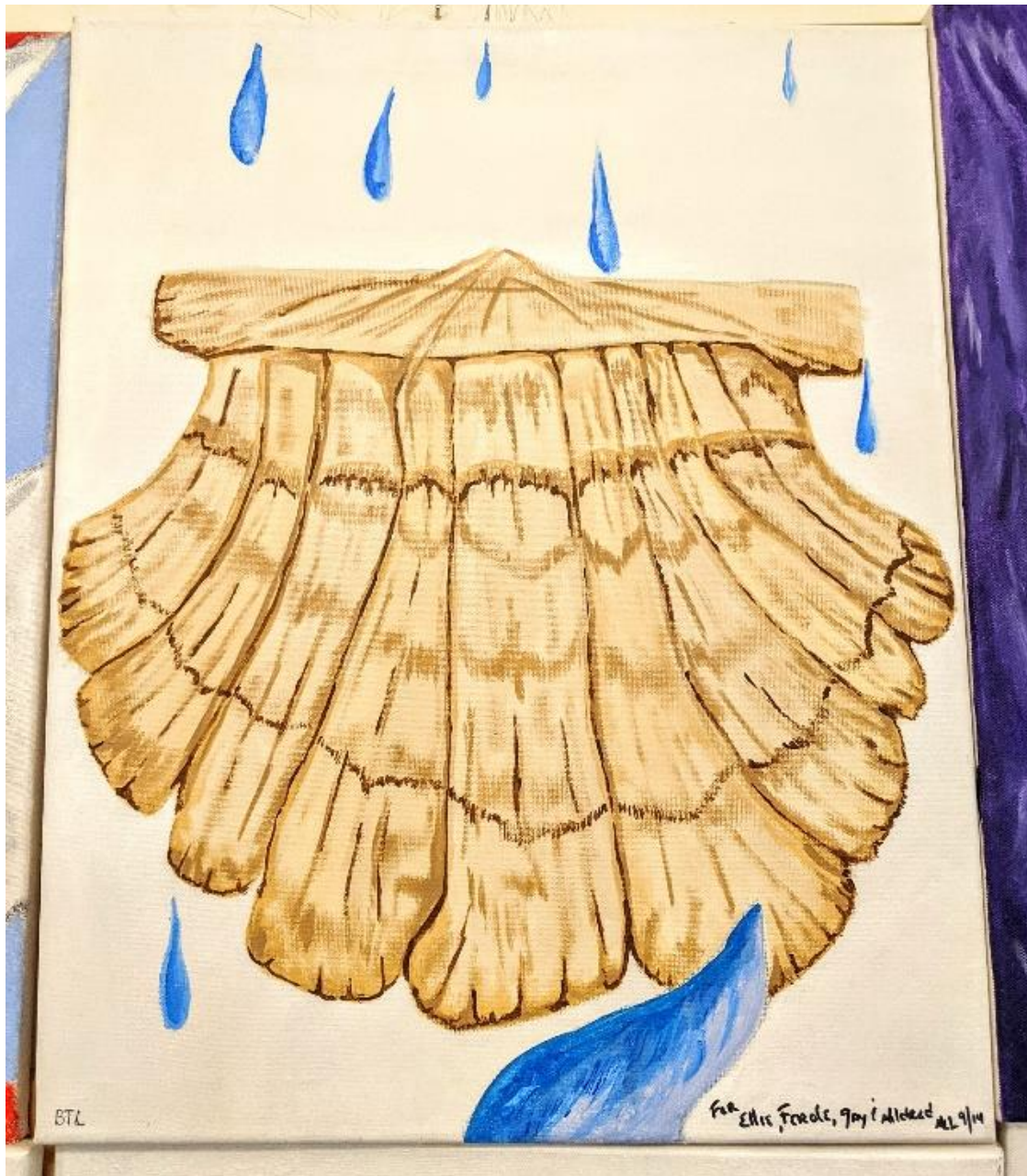


Emanuel's Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday January 28th



11:45am Lunch
12:15pm Meeting

(snow date – Sunday February 4th same time)

Live Laugh & Learn Lunch



The next lunch will be held:

Thursday, January 25th 12:30PM to 2PM

at the **Cowesett Inn**

226 Cowesett Avenue, West Warwick, RI 02893

Estimated cost \$10 to \$30

If you would like to go, please email, text or call
Michael Groleau at

Cell: 401-465-5021

Email: MichaelKGroleau@gmail.com

Friends welcome!

2023 Financial Statements



Hello charitable churchgoers!
2023 giving statements will be compiled and sent out to you soon.

If you would prefer to receive your statement by email, please reach out to Danielle David

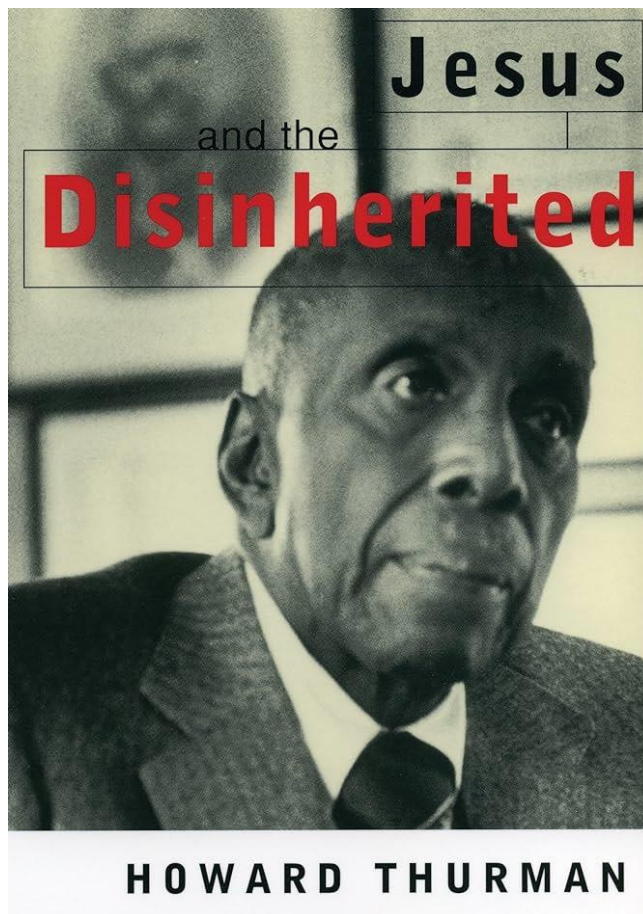
email: **david.danielle416@gmail.com** or

text: **401-248-5922**

by **Thursday January 25th** to let her know.

If we do NOT hear from you by 1/25, then a printed copy of your 2023 giving statement will be mailed.
Thanks!

New Adult Forum
“Jesus and the Disinherited”



This Lent we will discover who Howard Thurman was and listen to and discuss his small, but powerful book “Jesus and the Disinherited”. This book is still read and taught in seminaries. Martin Luther King Jr. often carried a copy of it with him.

Wednesday Evenings at 7PM

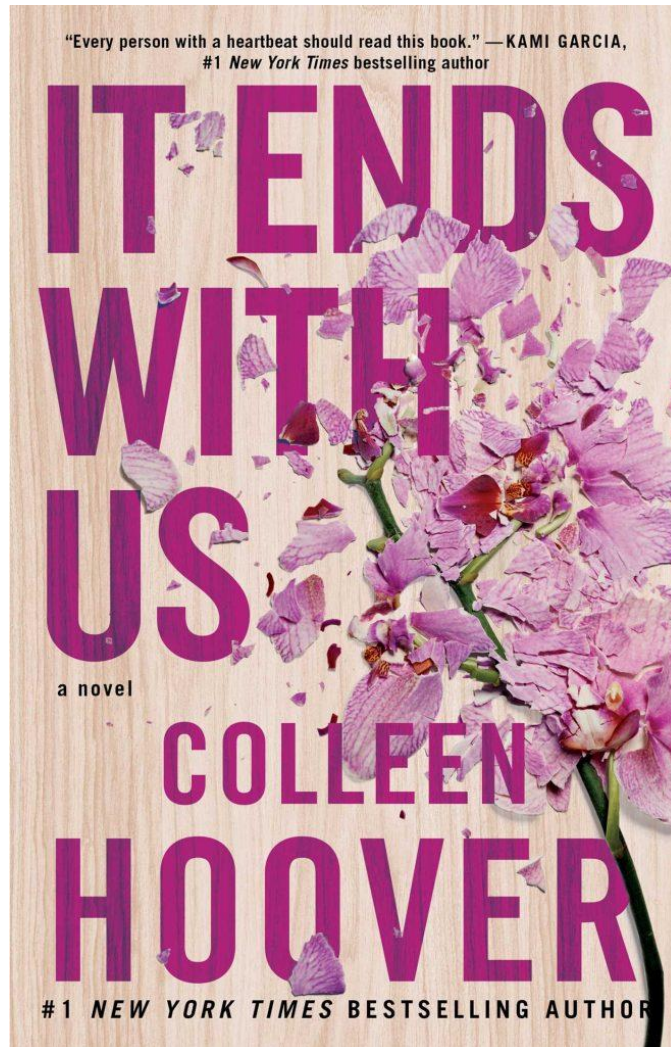
February 7 – Movie “Back Against the Wall – the Howard Thurman Story”
February 14 – Ash Wednesday service
February 21, 28, March 6, 13 & 20 – Jesus and the Disinherited.

We will meet in person in Jacobs Hall and over Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89402743938?pwd=TnVlaGk3dmZWTTliITkyU0FqMVhWQT09>

Meeting ID: **894 0274 3938** Passcode: **258717**

Readers of Emanuel



Next Meeting Sunday February 18th

The Readers of Emanuel book club is reading "It Ends with Us" by Colleen Hoover – #1 NYT best seller and winner of the 2016 Goodreads Choice Award.

This book is based on the relationship between Hoover's mother and father, Hoover described it as "the hardest book I've ever written."

We will meet after worship ~**11:45am** in **Jacobs Hall** on
Sunday February 18th

Everyone is invited for good fellowship and food.

Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes December 14, 2023

Attendees: Ken Wieboldt, Sue Wieboldt, Myron Gadoury, Marcia Melanson, Mark Melanson, Jack Gibbs, Donna Sennett, Todd Stange, Carol Johnson

Absent: Bruce Johnson, Ray Nunez

Opening Devotions

Approval of November's Council Meeting Notes: Motion to accept; Myron. Second: Pastor Stange

Finance/Treasurers Report

Gain in Thrivent Funds (Main Account) and Thrivent Endowment Accounts

Monthly giving is down

Non-budgeted spending for emergency lights in the parish house and the box spring for the family living there now

Bazaar Sales ended up at \$5984. Excess funds from the 2022 Bazaar (about \$76) were moved to the building fund. We could make a donation to a Women's cause. Donna suggested that a donation be made to Lucy's Hearth in Newport. There was a question about budget line item 501. 501-507 are separate from the budget. 520-528 are funds that have been donated for a specific purpose.

The electric bill: 44% increase in usage in November. We need to watch this for a few months, and then consider renegotiating the cost with Joyful Noise. If this continues, we would need to renegotiate the split for electric cost.

The 2024 Budget Review

The changes made were as follows Payroll services was raised. Custodians number of hours per week is lowered to approximately 11 hours. Can't do an accurate budget until after December 31st. We are waiting for the Estimate of Giving. There are some reductions on Simply Giving. Some people use Givelify.

We really won't be able to finalize the budget until the January meeting, or at least a discussion of possible changes needed. The finance committee would like to keep the budget \$183,500, but it could be over \$184,500. There are not many places to cut costs in the budget.

We have underspent this year so far by **\$7,675**.

Christian Education

They are working on putting together the Christmas Pageant, which will be presented within the 10:30 service on Christmas Eve morning.

Budget requests have been made.

Property

The boiler has been reconnected. Myron has purchased temperature sensors to monitor the temperatures.

Myron received 6 quotes for plowing the parking lot, only one of the proposals included shoveling. He is going to go with that quote, but he is not too confident with them. If they do not do it correctly, a snowblower will have to be purchased and someone will need to come down to the church to clear the entrances and sidewalks (Dylan).

Everything is going well with the family who are living in the parsonage. Myron is connecting the husband with Electric Boat to try and find him employment there. He needs a job which will enable him to afford an apartment. The social worker is going to work on getting the eviction expunged from their financial record, so this will not work against them.

The shed is almost finished. It just needs the trim done.

Myron has someone coming down to look at the retaining wall along Leaf Street to see what can be done to have it repaired.

Worship and Music

Getting ready for Christmas Eve. There will not be an Epiphany Service this year because it has not been well attended previously. Sunday School kids will be helping with the service on February 4th. Easter is on March 31st. Minister of Music will be the one to make the arrangements to pay the licensing agreement. There was some discussion about playing the organ during the service. Parishioners would like to hear the organ played. People would like to hear more Christmas music during the season. We would like to also increase the use of instrumentalists.

Warming Center

The state is looking for places to use as warming centers. Donna wants to see a plan prior to considering our facility. Discussion of pros and cons of housing people. The Day Care is a consideration. Our facilities are not sufficient. After some discussion, it was decided that Emanuel property would not be a good fit to be used as a warming center, but we would be interested in working in conjunction with a facility that would be willing to host a warming center.

Constitutional Question

Seasonal Membership – We can now have seasonal members. People can have dual membership in two different congregations. They cannot vote in our church if they have voted within the last two months. Pastor read the definition of a seasonal member from the Constitution. The council would have to grant this to a person. We don't currently have any seasonal members.

Myron thinks that we need to relook at our current associate members on the roster and reevaluate the membership list. We need verbiage as to what our constitution states. Associate members are not voting members. Pastor does not delete anyone from the church database. Myron wants some definite criteria to leave persons on the rolls. For baptized people, perhaps we should leave them on the rolls through the age of 18.

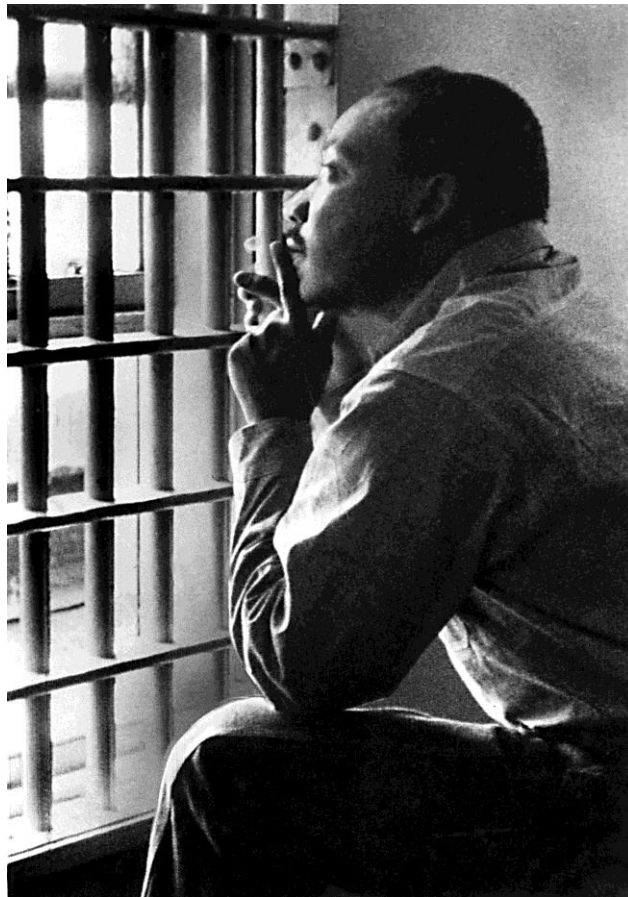
Deacons Meeting

We met and chose a different term for Deacons. The name "Lay Ministers" was chosen. The Council was informed of this.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM

Minutes are respectfully submitted,

Donna Sennett, Secretary



"The contemporary church is so often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church's often vocal sanction of things as they are. But the judgment of God is upon the church as never before. If the church of today does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authentic ring, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century. I meet young people every day whose disappointment with the church has risen to outright disgust."

Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Sunday School Children Leading Worship February 4th 10:30AM service



The Sunday school children will be helping to lead worship on Sunday February 4th at the 10:30AM worship service.

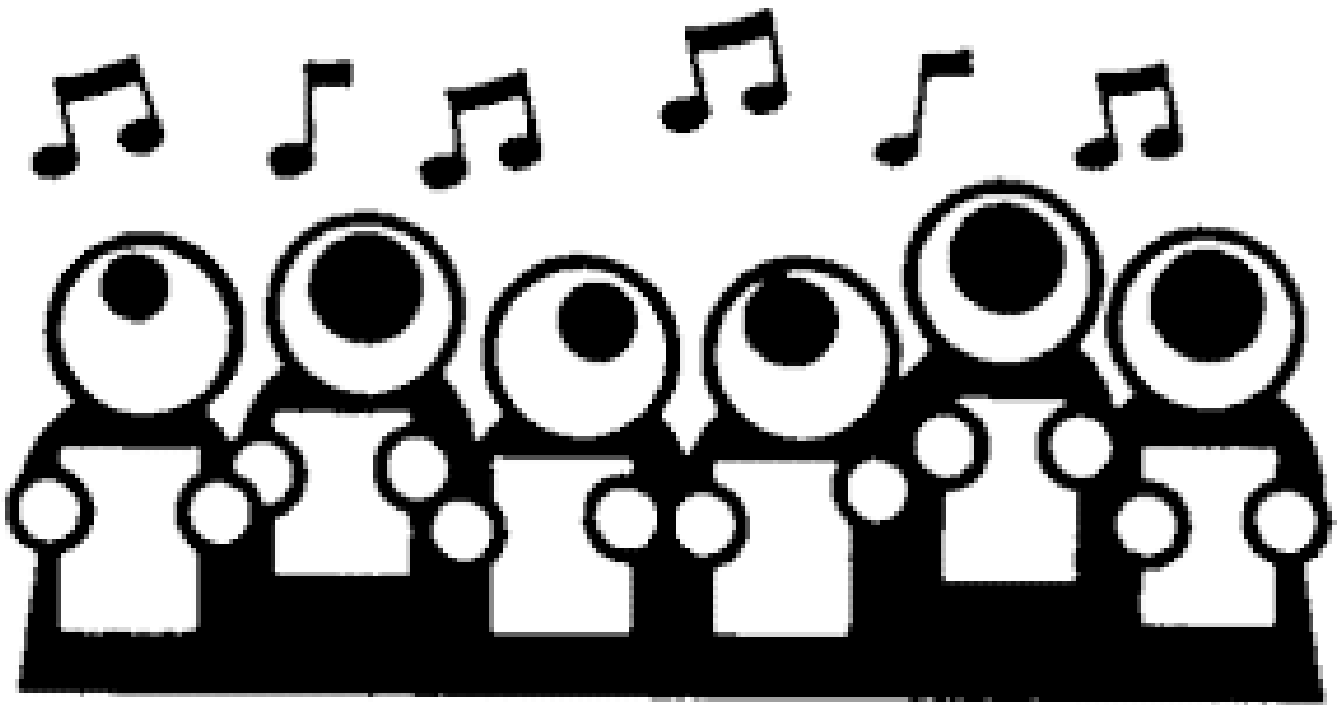
Stop & Shop "Bloomin'
for Good"
Program

Buy the "BLOOMIN" Bouquet in
January 2024

ELC FOOD PANTRY
will benefit!

COVENTRY STOP & SHOP

Choir at Emanuel



**Sundays at 9AM
in the sanctuary.**

**All who like to make
music are welcome.**

Bible Readings for Sunday January 21st

First Reading

Mark 5:1-13

Jesus travels to the territory on the other side of the lake. There he ministers to foreigners, and he has the power to cast out unclean spirits even there.

¹ They came to the other side of the lake, to the country of the Gerasenes. ² And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. ³ He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him anymore, even with a chain; ⁴ for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; ⁷ and he shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.' ⁸ For he had said to him, 'Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!' ⁹ Then Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?' He replied, 'My name is Legion; for we are many.' ¹⁰ He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; ¹² and the unclean spirits begged him, 'Send us into the swine; let us enter them.' ¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the lake, and were drowned in the lake.

Second Reading

Mark 5:14-20

Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is sent out to give testimony to what Jesus has done for him.

¹⁴ The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. ¹⁷ Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood. ¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹ But Jesus refused, and said to him, 'Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you.' ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

How do the Bible readings speak to you?

On-line Worship at Emanuel Sundays at 10:30AM



What to Do - if You would Like to Come to On-line Worship

Just click on the Zoom link below on Sunday at 10:30AM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/93690864460?pwd=cHZ5RVNsdnFYcDhhNVdMKzA2VENlQT09>

You can also join us by phone by calling (929) 205-6099 and entering Meeting ID: 936 9086 4460 and Password: 933328

A video of the service will be posted on Emanuel's website and Facebook group page later in the day.

Offerings to Emanuel



Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has been mailing in their offering or giving through Simply Giving and Givelify.

Offerings can be mailed to:

Emanuel Lutheran Church
9 New London Avenue
West Warwick, RI 02893

OR you can use either the Simply Giving program, which allows you to automate the giving of an offering from a checking account, or Givelify, which is online app that allows giving through a debit or credit card.

If you would like to find out more about either of these, please let Emanuel's Treasurer, Carol Johnson, or Pastor Todd know. Thank you.

You can give to Emanuel through Givelify by clicking on the DONATE button on Emanuel's website OR by clicking here: [Donate](#)

www.emanuelww.org

**Please keep these children of God
in your prayers this week:**

For Comfort & Healing: Gayle Vincent, Rob Sterns (friend of Laurie Phillips)

For Grieving: the family & friends of Erik Nelson (friend of Mary Schabek), the family & friends of Erica Stacy (Elaine Johnson's daughter)

Worship Assistants

	<i>Serving January 21</i>	<i>Serving January 28</i>
Counter:	Mary Schabek	Song Edwards
	8:00AM	8:00AM
Lector	Kathy Garriott	Kathy Marco
	10:30AM	10:30AM
Lay Minister:	Langdon Clough	Bruce Johnson
Acolyte	Antonio Montecalvo	Alyssa Andersen
Ushers	Ray & Linda Nunez	Mark & Marcia Melanson
Lector:	Diane Gadoury	Elaine Johnson
Coffee Hour	volunteer needed	Annual Meeting Potluck Lunch

January's Memorial Candle



The Memorial Candle for January is given in loving memory of
Sonja & David Johnson from Disa & Eric Johnson.

Upcoming Commemorations

Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, died 1156 Friday, January 19, 2024

When Erik, King of Sweden, determined to invade Finland for the purpose of converting the people there to Christianity, Henry went with him. Henry is recognized as the patron saint of Finland.

Agnes, martyr, died around 304 Sunday, January 21, 2024

Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.

Conversion of Paul Thursday, January 25, 2024

The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.

Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries Friday, January 26, 2024

These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith Saturday, January 27, 2024

Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

Double click on link below to see Emanuel's online calendar:

[Emanuel's Online Calendar](#)

The calendar is on Emanuel's web site.