

# Today's Order of Service

\***BOLD PRINT** denotes when to stand if it is comfortable to do so.

WELCOME & GREETING (2 Peter 1:1-3)

PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 103:1-5)

**SINGING**

♪ #10 HB "O Worship the King"

♪ # 29 HB "Glorify Thy Name"

♪ #185 HB "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

♪ #236 CB "Make Me a Servant"

OFFERING & SPECIAL MUSIC

SMALL GROUP OVERVIEW

CHILDREN'S SONG & Dismissal to Sunday School

♪ #248 CB "What a Mighty God We Serve"

PRAYER & PRAISE

MESSAGE: *The Call & Reasons for Growing in Faith*  
(2 Peter 1:1-11, page 860/983)

**SONG OF RESPONSE:**

♪ #371 HB "Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

**BLESSING** (1 Peter 5:10-11)



**Wondering how you can contact Pastor Sweis?**

In person: At his new office inside the church building

By phone: Call him at the church: 825-1777

By email: [sweis.ubels@gmail.com](mailto:sweis.ubels@gmail.com)

# Emmanuel Congregational Christian Church

37 Gates Avenue, PO Box 1559, Middleton NS, B0S 1P0

Phone: (902) 825-1777

## Welcome to Emmanuel Church

If you are new to the area or visiting our church please be sure to sign our guest book in the front entry. We hope you will join us for some fellowship and a cup of coffee following today's service.

Since our weekly bulletins are filled with important dates and information for the coming weeks, we encourage you to take them home and post them on your fridge before recycling them.

### "Free" Worship

Emmanuel Church is a "**Scent-free and Nut-free Zone**" so that those with environmental sensitivities and allergies are able to worship in safety and without the distress of an allergic reaction.

### Prayer Ministry

Following each worship service Elders are available at the front of the sanctuary for prayer. Please do not hesitate to come for prayer if you or a loved one is having difficulties. It would be appreciated if worshippers would try to keep noise at a minimum as people are being prayed for. The pastor will greet individuals at the entry of the Fellowship Room after service.

If you, a friend or a loved one needs prayer, please feel free to contact a member of our **Prayer Chain**. These people have committed to praying for all concerns that they receive:

Evelyn Fraser (825-6902) Pat MacDougall (835-0999)

Kim Muirhead (765-4978) Penny McGuigan (825-4368)

Mildred Spinney (825-4520)

### Monthly Collections

**The first Sunday of each month** we refer to as *Food Bank Sunday*. We collect food items, as well as designated donations in the offering plate, in support of the Twelve Baskets Food Bank which serves our community.

**The last Sunday of each month** throughout the winter we collect spare change to contribute to our heating bills. This runs between October and April and is called *Minnie's Pennies*, named after the woman who began this initiative.

**For more information about who we are and what we do, check out our NEW web site: [www.emmanuelchurch.ca](http://www.emmanuelchurch.ca).**

**SMALL GROUP UPDATE:** Preparations are being made to (re)launch several small groups in January. To accommodate different needs within our community, each group will have a unique focus. What follows is a tentative list of options. Please prayerfully consider where you need to be involved. Group leaders are available to answer your questions regarding each of the groups, and sign-up sheets will be in the fellowship hall after the January 8 and 15 worship services.

\* **Noah Small Group** - This group is set to start at the home of Bob & Pat Keith on Tuesday, Jan 10th and Tuesday evenings thereafter. We are going to complete our study on John, Chapters 1-10. We will be picking up at session 6 and anticipate it will take us to the end of February to complete. That gives leeway for storm nights and the sessions where we get into much discussion and carry over to the next week. Over the coming weeks we will discuss our course of action from March through to mid May. The group is made up mainly of people who live in the Albany/Springfield area.

\* **Youth!** - This group, led by Caroline, will meet at the Ubels home. This group is open to Jr/Sr High-ish students. The focus will be on applying faith principles to real-life issues. The time & day of these meetings will be decided by partic

\* **Holy Conversation** - This group, led by Pastor Sweis, will work through the book Holy Conversation by meeting weekly to learn to talk about issues like forgiveness, redemption, etc. Participants are required to find a 'conversation partner' to practice their new found skills with. Ideally, this partner will be an unbeliever, but could be someone who does not attend church.

\* **The Truth Project** - This group will be facilitated by Kim Muirhead and work through The Truth Project video curriculum. This is a 13 week course that will challenge participants to refine their Christian worldview in areas like work, media, arts, politics, etc. Perfect for people who have been Christians for a while. The group will meet at the home of Gerald & Darlene Vidito on Thursday evenings.

\* **The Nictaux group** - This group will be hosted by Bill & Pat MacDougall and focus on the practical aspect of being community with those who are going through difficult times. This will involve both study of the Scriptures, prayer and practical application of things learned. A perfect group for people who have experienced loss or would like to help those who are going through difficult times.

\* **Beacons** - This group of men and women meet on Monday mornings at 10 am in classroom 5 at the church. Besides prayer and fellowship they are currently studying the book of Ephesians. Please contact Kim Muirhead for more information.

In addition, realizing that the book "**The Purpose Driven Life**" has been of tremendous value to many of us, the elders encourage everyone to read this devotional book during the season of Lent. Pastor Sweis is planning on focusing his sermons around the themes touched on in that book during Lent, and will lead a small group for those who have never read the book. Lent this year will begin on February 22 and end on March 31.

## *News from the Elders...*

In an effort to better communicate the highlights of Elders' meetings with the congregation we will give a brief overview in the bulletins following these meetings. Here is the latest...

- **Next Elders and Deacons Meeting** – Elders and Deacons will meet on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the church.
- **Annual Meeting** - The annual meeting is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, January 29. In the case winter weather makes this impossible, the meeting will be held a week later on February 5. Also, in preparation for the annual meeting, a membership list will be posted. The elders would like your help in making sure this list is correct.
- **Missions** - At the joint session of the elders and deacons we discussed goals for our mission allocation. One idea is to build deeper ongoing partnerships with one or more mission projects. More information will follow as we continue to work out the details.
- **Nominations for Elders and Deacons** - The Elders are asking members of the church to submit names for the office of Elder and Deacon. Individuals for these offices are to be men or women who are spiritually mature members in good standing of Emmanuel and who exhibit the qualities of leadership. The offices of Elder and Deacon are such that those who are called by the congregation to serve in this capacity are servants of the church. Those who offer these ministries to the Lord do so as men and women of faith who see themselves as servants of the servants of God. Please pray for them as they carry out these vital ministries within our congregation. This year we are in need of one (1) Elder and three (3) deacons. The Elders are requesting that members of the church submit nominations for either position to the elders' board. Please refrain from telling the person about your intentions to nominate them as the elders will, after prayer and discussion, approach those individual nominees they believe will fit the role best at this time. They will explain to the nominees what the position involves and offer their help and prayers in discerning whether the nominees should let their name stand. The period for nominations will be from today, and continue for two weeks. Please give this prayerful consideration over the next weeks as we seek those whom God would have in leadership in His church.

**Look for a new update next week!**

# *What's Happening*

*For the Week of January 9 – 14, 2012 (DV)*

**MONDAY:**

**6:30pm** Elders & Deacons meetings

**TUESDAY:**

**6:00pm** Potluck & Jam Session – all are welcome!

**THURSDAY:**

**10:00am** Community Coffee Break – invite a friend or neighbour to enjoy a great time of fellowship!

\*\*\* See the insert for details about Small Group Studies! \*\*\*

***Mark Your Calendar:***

- Annual Congregational Meeting -  
Sunday, January 29, following service

***Further Notices:***

**Food Bank Donation:** Thank you for your generous contribution for the month of January. We collected 89 pounds of food items this month!

**NEW web site:** Check it out at [www.emmanuelchurch.ca](http://www.emmanuelchurch.ca) for pictures of the Christmas Pageant and the video shown on Christmas morning!

**Offering Envelopes for 2012:** With the start of a New Year, we have offering envelopes available for pick up in the Fellowship Room. If you do not have offering envelopes but would like to, please speak to either Pat Keith or Jaime Dennison.

# *Emmanuel Congregational Christian Church*

*“Honouring Jesus by Sharing His Love”*



***January 8, 2012***

**Our Pastor:** Sweis Ubels  
**Duty Deacon:** Wayne McKay