



# IMMANUEL NEWS

Immanuel United Church of Christ  
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**February 2023 Newsletter**

## Lent

**Ash Wednesday  
February 22**

**Services at 1:30pm and  
7:00 pm**

### Staff:

Pastor Deon McKenzie, Pastor  
Debbie Bahr, Property Manager  
Jennifer Jansen, Financial Manager  
Carolyn Rock, Music Coordinator  
Linda Stoecklin, Parish Nurse  
Derick Winterberg, Technology

## From our Pastor

Brothers and sisters, the prayer you are to pray comes from Jabez (1 Chronicles 4:9-10). Jabez is asking God to bless him greatly, exceedingly, or abundantly. God can provide beyond all that you can imagine. Jabez is leaving it up to God as the means of blessing. So, I ask you, do you want to be extravagantly blessed by God? Are you ready to reach for the extraordinary? Friends, as we begin this journey together, let us remember that our work is not for ourselves but the work of God's kingdom.

### *My Prayer for Territory*

*(A prayer of Jabez)*

*Dear Lord, thank You for making me in Your image,  
and for preparing me for a wonderful and important destiny.*

*Forgive me for withdrawing into my own,  
meager and limiting dreams.*

*When I do this, I deny You the freedom  
to use me as Your mouth, hands, and heart.  
I want to fulfill Your world-sized dream for me,  
every day of my life.*

*And in eternity, I want to run into Your arms,  
hearing the words, "Well done!"*

*Please expand my influence and impact for You  
beyond all I can imagine.*

*I am your devoted servant.*

*Here I am, Lord, please send me!*

*Amen.*

*Pastor Dean A. McKenzie*

# **Lenten Happenings**

Ash Wednesday is February 22 and worship services will be held at 1:30pm and 7:00pm. Both services will be in the sanctuary. Holy Communion and disposition of ashes at both services.

Mid-week Lenten Bible studies will be held each Wednesday in the Chapel.

Look for more details in the Lenten mailing arriving in mid-February. The mailing will also include a Lenten devotional booklet.



# Church Council

Minutes of the Church Council  
Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Present: Charlie Miller, Charlie Wolfersberger, Walter Martinez, Don Morice, Karl Klasing, John Bogdajewicz, Doug Daniels, Nancy Remmert, Pastor Deon McKenzie, Julie Guethler on ZOOM.

President Charlie Miller called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and offered a devotion.

Minutes of the December meeting were approved by acclamation. Karl Klasing and Doug Daniels presented the financial reports. A motion to accept the reports was made by Don Morice seconded by Charlie Wolfersberger. Motion passed.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor has been in touch with Joan Neuman, who has been ill; Sheila Wedemeyer, who recently lost her brother. Policy and Personnel is working on filling the vacant staff positions. In the meantime, volunteers will help in the church office while the search for an Administrative Assistant continues. Other vacant positions will be reviewed to determine duties, hours, salary, etc.

**PROPERTY AND GROUNDS:** Don Morice reported that he and Debbie Bahr had met and compiled a list of projects that need to be considered. Most of the list are issues that need to be faced with buildings the age of Immanuel's. Priorities will be determined and projects will be done as time and money are appropriate. Emergencies will be handled as needed.

## Church Council Cont'd

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** John Bogdajewicz reported the committee is collecting input for a new job description for the Director of Christian Education/Youth Coordinator. Members are asked to submit five ideas as to what they would like to see for this position. Youth are planning to send Valentines to the home bound. John Viehmann will prepare a brief biography of each home bound member so the youth will know more about these individuals. Having Activity Bags available for young children attending worship was discussed. Lenten Devotionals will be ordered for Adults, youth ages 13-High School and younger children and distributed before Lent begins. Permission slips were discussed. The present version will be reviewed and brought into compliance with Safe Church Policy. Paula and George Hildebrand are collecting information from parents, youth and children regarding their needs and expectations about restoring Sunday School and Youth Programs at Immanuel. Once a proposal is determined, the BCE will meet with the Worship Committee.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Karl Klasing had no report at this time.

**CIA (Christians in Action)** Nancy Remmert reported that the next CIA meeting is January 17, 2023 to plan activities and projects for 2023. Blessing Bags were prepared and distributed to the congregation in November.

**North County Churches United** will hold the awards ceremony for their Oratory Contest winners as part of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration at Florissant Valley Community College, January 17, 2023 beginning with a reception at 5 p.m. with program to follow. Contest winners will present their winning essay and be awarded \$100 and other gifts from sponsor of the event. **PROUD** (People Reaching out for Unity and Diversity) requested the use of the Reception Room on February 10 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. They will be presenting the film *The Long Shadow* followed by discussion. There will be no charge for the event. The public will be invited.

## Church Council Cont'd

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE in North County will meet on Sunday, January 15, 2023 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 204, the Guest will be Swami Chetanananta from the Vedanta Society. The meeting is informal and open to everyone. PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY continues. Prayer shawls are available for the congregation to share with elderly or ill individuals who might appreciate one. Gift cards are available.

MISSION POSSIBLE: Julie Guethler reported that funds that were available were spent to stock the shelves with appropriate items to be placed in the Blessing Box. Judy Sherman will monitor the Blessing Box. The meals that we provide for All Among Us and Lydia's House will begin again soon.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Charlie Miller had no report at this time. Committee will meet soon.

POLICY AND PERSONNEL: Charlie Wolfersberger reported that he is willing to assist Charlie Miller, Doug Daniels and Damien Lake as they work out the details of calling Pastor Deon McKenzie as our Settled Pastor. The vacant staff positions are, Administrative Assistant, (exploring the possibility of using a temporary agency to fill the position until a permanent person can be hired). Director of Church Music (a job description prepared by the Music Search Committee will be posted in January to appropriate music related sites). Parish Nurse (no action has been taken at this time). Rental Rates for the Education Building will be reviewed and updated. An inquiry from Welcome St. Louis regarding renting the Parsonage will precipitate a review of the lease agreement if and when we get more information and make a decision about the use of the Parsonage. A meeting of the Policy and Personnel Committee will be Sunday, January 29, 2023 following worship.

## Church Council Cont'd

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Charlie Wolfersberger and Julie Guethler, no report at this time.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE:** Doug Daniels reported that an Audit of the accounts should be performed. He will organize a group to complete the Audit.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Walter Martinez, no report at this time.

**INVESTMENTS:** Karl Klasing will schedule a time for the Financial Advisor to meet with the Council.

**PARISH NURSE:** Linda Stoecklin reported that she spent 33 hours during the last month making 78 contacts with individuals by telephone, texts, emails, and written notes. Her contacts were higher this month because she sent Christmas messages and was saddened by the number of families she contacted who suffered the loss of loved ones. She also sent her congratulations to Immanuel for calling Pastor Deon as our settled Pastor.

**OLD BUSINESS:** All items were handled through committee reports. A cart for the flat screen TV monitor was purchased to more easily transport the TV from building to building.

**NEW BUSINESS:** A discussion was held but no decision was made regarding the Whitling Family donation to Immanuel. Further discussion was tabled until next meeting. Also tabled was the necessity to update the Bank Signature Cards.

No further business appearing, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote of a motion by Don Morice and seconded by Karl Klasing. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Remmert, Secretary

# Board of Christian Education

**Board of Christian Education – January 3, 2023**

**Members in Attendance:** George Hildebrand, Laura Payer, Kathi Remmert, John Viehmann, Pastor Deon McKenzie, John Bogdajewicz (Jennifer Jansen called in by phone)

**Devotion** by Laura

## **Reports**

Secretary's Report from December 2022 approved.

Treasurer's Report will be available for February meeting.

Staff/Council – They are reviewing the budget and preparing for the Church meeting. Discussing open positions. Council had election of officers.

## **Old Business**

Sunday School Schedule – Looking at changing our calendar of activities. Wait until we receive more information from our meetings with the families. Expand meeting dates to January 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Valentines Service Activity on January 29 and Feb. 5 - need updated list of shut-ins. Check with Karin about details.

Job Description – DCE/YC – get our 5 big ideas sent to George. He's compiling the information.

Homebound Member Interviews – John is working on the interviews.

Bags for children attending service (Kathi & Karin)– We'll have a small table with bagged activities. The ushers can hand these out to any children.



## Board of Christian Education Cont'd

Review Permission Slip – still need more information and current samples. Put on February agenda.

### **New Business**

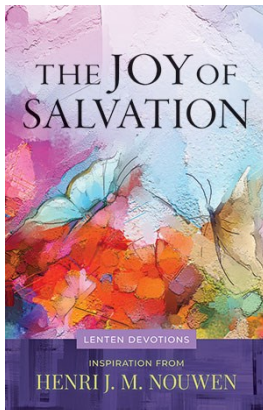
Lenten Devotionals – Reviewed and chose which devotionals to order for elementary (God's Grace is Great), teens (Tick Tock It's Lent), and college/adults (The Joy of Salvation).

Adjourned.

Next meeting is February 7<sup>th</sup> with devotion by Karin.

Minutes submitted by K. Remmert.

**PLEASE LOOK FOR YOUR LENTEN  
DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET IN THE MAIL. WE  
INVITE YOU TO READ THE DAILY MESSAGES  
AS WE PREPARE FOR EASTER.**





Immanuel welcomes our new member!

**Peggy Nofles** —I was born in Missouri. I was valedictorian at my elementary school and continued to receive scholastic honors at high school and throughout my post-secondary education and graduate school.

I took counseling examination for licensure and became a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). My score qualified me for the national Board-Certified Counselors as an NCC. My prior experience has included juvenile justice, foster/adoptive care, individual/family counseling, and residential facilities. Later, I opened a private practice at three office locations.

I volunteered at churches doing counseling, nursing homes, James S. McDonnell USO for military, and Parents Anonymous. I volunteered for Children's Defense Fund-Deaconess Foundation-Freedom School for two years in many capacities with children for seven weeks during the summer literacy program.

Mrs. Peggy Nofles  
1544 Summer Run Dr.  
Florissant, MO 63033



Love one another.

## **SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP.....**

### **ADULT FAITH EXPLORATION**

The Adult Faith Exploration group meets on the first and third Sundays in the Reception Room immediately following worship.

### **DONUTS WITH PASTOR DEON**

Donuts with Pastor Deon is every second and fourth Sunday of the month for an informal chat. If you have comments, questions, or would like clarity following the sermon, come downstairs to grab a donut, coffee, and a seat to chat with Pastor Deon.

### **Winter season is here....**

If inclement weather causes us to cancel a Sunday worship service, please check the local TV stations (Fox, CBS, NBC) for any updates. Our organization should be displayed as "Immanuel UCC - Ferguson". We are not always able to send out an email so watching the TV station is important for updates.





## **IMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP MEETING**

The IMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP meeting for February 2 is on standby mode. We are dependent on the weather. If the weather is nasty, we will cancel. But if we luck out and the weather is good, we will meet. You are invited to bring your own lunch and we will provide dessert and drinks. The meeting will be informal...but we will have plenty of time for fellowship...and perhaps a game or two.

Our meeting is on the First Thursday of each month beginning at 11 a.m. in the Reception Room on the lower level of the Sanctuary Building.

Blessings, Nancy Remmert, President

## **PRAYER AND SHARE**

The February meetings will be February 8 and 22 at 10 a.m. in the Library of the Education Building. Prayer and Share meets on the **Second and Fourth Wednesday** of each month in the library at **10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** . Our group is small but we would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

## **MISSION POSSIBLE**

Thank you Immanuel for your generosity in decorating the Mitten and Socks tree with 57 hats, 6 scarves, 28 pairs of gloves, and 22 pairs of socks! The items were given to the Ferguson Warming Center to warm the bodies and the hearts of those in need.



WE ARE HERE  
TO HELP



## **CHRISTIANS IN ACTION (CIA)**

CIA continues to maintain the Blessing Box.

CIA will meet on Feb.7 at 7:00pm in Room 204.

## **NORTH COUNTY MEALS ON WHEELS**




Many Immanuel members were faithful volunteer drivers for the North County Meals on Wheels program. Jeannie Boettcher, President of the program, reported that Meals on Wheels is in full operation after the COVID pandemic.

Volunteers are needed for drivers and also people willing to help in the MOW office. Volunteers who deliver meals have a partner so find a friend and volunteer together. If you are interested in learning more, you can reach Jeannie at 314-524-8284.

She will be happy to find an assignment for you that fits your schedule and availability. She will explain the process if you are new to this. It takes about 2 hours to pick-up the meals from Christian North West Hospital, take them to recipients and return to the office with used trays. If you have been a volunteer previously, she would happily welcome you back.



# FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
			1 Quilters 9
5 Blood Pressure Check 9:00 Coffee Hour 9-9:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Adult Faith Exp 10:30 Youth Sunday School 10:30 Handbells 10:45 Sanctuary	6	7 BCE Meeting 7:00pm Library  Christians in Action 7:00pm Room 204	8 Quilters 9 Prayer & Handbells Sanctuary
12 Coffee Hour 9-9:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Donuts w/ Deon 10:30 Youth Sunday School 10:30	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day  	15 Quilters 9  <b>Newslett</b>
19 Coffee Hour 9-9:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Adult Faith Exp 10:30 Youth Sunday School 10:30 Interfaith Dialogue 2-4pm	20 President's Day  	21 Church Council 7pm Room 204	22 Quilters 9 Prayer &   AS WEDN  Services at 1
26 Coffee Hour 9-9:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Youth Sunday School 10:30 Donuts w/ Deon 10:30	27	28	

# 2023

	THU	FRI	SAT
am	2 Immanuel Fellowship 11am Reception Room Choir 7:00pm RR	3	4
am Share 10am 7:00 /	9	10 Reception Room reserved for PROUD	11
am er Deadline	16 Immanuel Fellowship Exec Meeting, 10am Library	17	18
am Share 10am  SH ESDAY :30 and 7:00pm	23	24	25 Gym reserved for Unleashing Potential event



# *Bon Appetit*

Please join the Bon Appetit Group on  
Sunday, February 19 at noon at the

Lemp Mansion  
3322 Demenil Place  
St. Louis 63118

The cost is \$24.95 per person plus tax  
(excludes drink or dessert).

RSVP to Judy Sherman at (512) 585-1272 or jshe-  
man1940@gmail.com Nov. 11.

## **2023 Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Host</b>
<b>February 19 @ the Lemp Mansion</b>	<b>Judy Sherman</b>
<b>March TBD</b>	<b>Nancy Reidy</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>No activity</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Marion McCreary</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Hildebrand</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>Sandy Morello</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>Fran Panagos</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Teddy Branom</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Terry &amp; Karen Fox</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Bogdajewicz</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Hildebrand</b>





We plan to highlight a few of Immanuel's college students in the newsletter every month. We hope you learn a little more about them - some fun facts! We asked

them to answer a few questions about what they like to do, eat, watch, read, etc....

## Emma Klasing

University of Kansas



Favorite holiday movie - Polar Express

What are you looking forward to this holiday season? Spending time with my family without worrying about homework

Favorite restaurant in college town - the Mad Greek

Good show/movie to recommend - Heartstopper

Best place to study - 4th floor of Watson Library

## Luke Jansen

University of Kansas



Favorite holiday movie - Polar Express

Best place to study - wherever it is quiet and there's a big table

Favorite restaurant in college town - Hawaiian Brothers

Great late night snack - cereal

Good book to recommend - Boys in the Boat

Something at school that reminds you of home - poster of St. Louis skyline



# Choral Quartet

Thank you to the choir quartet and Carolyn Rock for the special music, "Agnus Dei" on January 22. We love to hear you sing!



# Camp MOVAL

MoVal has published their 2023 summer camp schedule and is shown below. Early bird registration is now open until February 28. Immanuel will help pay the cost for our campers. More information can be found on the Camp MoVal website at [campmoval.org/camp-info](http://campmoval.org/camp-info)

Please let the Church Office know if you are enrolling a camper.



**Camp MoVal 2023**  
Summer Program

**ALL AGES CAMPS**  
Ages 8-18  
June 11-18  
June 18-23  
June 25-30  
July 16-21  
July 23-28  
(Mini Camps are available these weeks for ages 7-9)

**M.A.D.D. Camp**  
(Music/Arts/Dance/Drama)  
Ages 8-18  
June 4-9

**S.T.E.M. Camp**  
(Science/Tech./Engin./Math)  
Ages 8-18  
July 9-14

**ADVENTURES IN COMMUNITY**  
Ages 18+  
July 30-Aug. 4

**HIGHSCHOOL LEADERSHIP CAMP**  
Completed Grades 9-12  
June 11-16

**FAMILY CAMP**  
Any Age  
July 5-7

**MINI CAMPS**  
Ages 7-9 (Sunday Wednesday & Th)  
Available during All Ages Camp

**Camp MoVal SINCE 1967**

Dear Pastor McKenzie,

We asked you to help make the Christmas and Holiday season a little brighter for the children and families we serve—and the response we received was truly overwhelming! From donating gift cards, shopping for children’s wish lists, participating in donation drives, and making financial contributions... we had a variety of ways to get involved this year.

I want to thank Immanuel UCC for its contribution of 49 tubs full of non-perishable food items.

Through all of the drives and shopping activities, Christmas will be a little brighter for ECH children this holiday season, and we cannot thank you enough for your part in this. Beyond our Christmas activities, Every Child’s Hope is essential in the lives of over 1,400 children across Missouri each year, which is only possible because of the generous support of donors like you.

We thank you for being a part of our ongoing mission, especially as we anticipate the new challenges and needs that will arise in the new year. If you would like more information about ECH’s programs, please call 314-427-3755 or visit our website at [www.everychildshope.org](http://www.everychildshope.org)

Sincerely,

Michael P. Brennan, CEO





## Church Office

We are open Monday thru Thursday  
from **9 am to 1 pm.**

Please leave a message if we don't  
answer and we will return you call.

Don't Miss the

**DEADLINE!**

The deadline for the January newsletter is  
Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Thank you!

# **Council/BCE Installation**

On January 15, the Church Council and Board of Christian Education members were installed. Thank you for your willingness to serve and your dedication to Immanuel.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL 2023**

Charlie Miller – President

Don Morice – Vice President

Nancy Remmert - Secretary

Doug Daniels - Treasurer

Karl Klasing – Financial Secretary

John Bogdajewicz

Julie Guethler

Charlie Wolfersberger

Walter Martinez

## **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2023**

John Viehmann - Chairperson

Karin Oelzen – Vice Chairperson

Laura Payer - Secretary

George Hildebrand - Treasurer

Kathi Remmert

Jennifer Jansen



## February Birthdays!

<u>Name</u>		<u>Birth Date</u>
Susie	Burkhardt	2/2
Joseph	Henke	2/2
Nancy	Valenti	2/3
John	Viehmann	2/3
Sharon	Ming	2/4
Paula	Hildebrand	2/9
Dorothy	Kohler	2/13
Pastor	Deon	2/15
Rich	Henderson	2/19
Lynn	Winterberg	2/19
Juli	Duncan	2/20
Dennis	Bahr	2/21
Stephen	Duncan	2/22
Gus	Menk	2/26
Michele	Boatright	2/27
Paul	Buschmeyer	2/28
Nancy	Vortmeier	2/28



## Flowers for February



Feb 5 -

Feb 12 - Craig & Alice Johnson

Feb 19 -

Feb 26 -

*Geraldine's Florist is still in business but they are closing in the near future. You can still order flowers and they will deliver to Immanuel. Please let the Church Office know when you have ordered and we will put it in the bulletin and newsletter.*

***If you would like to read scripture, please call the Church Office.***

## Lay Readers for February

Feb 5 - Teddy Branom

Feb 12 - Fran Panagos

Feb 19 - Karen Fox

Feb 26 - Phyllis Martinez





