



IMMANUEL NEWS

Immanuel United Church of Christ
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March 2024 Newsletter



Holy Week

Staff:

Rev. Deon A. McKenzie, Pastor

Debbie Bahr, Property Manager

Sarah Hemingway, Youth Coordinator

Jennifer Jansen, Financial Manager

Shamar Jordan, Music Coordinator

Linda Stoecklin, Parish Nurse

Derick Winterberg, Social Media Coordinator

Church Office hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00am - 1:00pm

From our Pastor

March Madness and Lent

March Madness is upon us. Even if you are not a sports fan, you know what I am talking about.

According to an article by Brenden Koerner, March Madness traces back to Illinois' statewide high-school basketball tournament, which began in 1908. In 1939, an official with the Illinois High School Association (IHSA), Henry V. Porter, wrote an article called "March Madness" for the organization's in-house magazine. Porter writes, "A little March madness may complement and contribute to sanity and help keep society on an even keel." The phrase was confined to Illinois high-school basketball until 1982, when CBS broadcaster, Brent Musburger used it during his network's National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament coverage. The tournament consists of 64 teams who are placed in four regions and given a seed position between 1 and 16 within the region. The four weeks of March consists of games and winning teams moves on to the next level. Winners of the Sweet Sixteen and the Elite Eight earn the privilege to play in the Final Four championship game.

As we delve into the history of March Madness, it becomes evident that there is more to this exhilarating event than just basketball. The upcoming March 2024 presents us with an opportunity to not only root for our favorite teams but also to contemplate the deeper meaning behind this season. Just as athletes undergo intense training to excel in their sport, we are encouraged to engage in self-reflection, sacrifice, and renewal

From our Pastor Cont'd

during Lent. This period serves as a spiritual preparation for Easter, where we seek to strengthen our connection with God and nurture our faith.

The parallels between March Madness and Lent are striking - both involve a journey of growth and dedication. While fans eagerly watch teams compete for victory on the basketball court, we are reminded to also focus on our personal journey towards spiritual fulfillment. Just as we witness athletes pushing themselves to their limits, let us use this time to push ourselves spiritually, preparing for the ultimate prize of eternal life with Jesus Christ.

So, as we cheer on our favorite teams during March Madness, let us not forget to cheer on our own spiritual growth. May this season be a time of introspection, prayer, and preparation, as we aim to emerge stronger in our faith and closer to God.

Prayer

Almighty God, as we embark on this Lenten journey, we come to You with humble hearts, seeking forgiveness for our sins and guidance on this path of self-reflection and spiritual renewal. Grant us the wisdom to recognize our faults and the courage to make amends. May this season of sacrifice and repentance bring us closer to You and help us become the best versions of ourselves. Guide us through this journey, and may it lead us to a deeper understanding of Your love, grace, and the true meaning of Easter. Amen.

Pastor Deon

Church Council

Minutes of the Church Council Meeting February 13, 2024

Present: John Bogdajewicz, Karl Klasing, Walter Martinez, Don Morice, Nancy Remmert, Melinda Schuster, Judy Sherman, Martha Snead, Pastor Deon McKenzie.

Absent : Doug Daniels

Meeting was called to order by President Don Morice at 7:01 pm. Judy Sherman shared a devotion.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Melinda Schuster and seconded by Judy Sherman to accept the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Karl Klasing reviewed all of the financial reports in Doug Daniels' absence. A motion to accept the Financial Reports was made by Nancy Remmert and seconded by Judy Sherman. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor reported that he continues to make phone calls to members. He spent some time at the hospital with members and was appalled at the condition of health care he witnessed. Others shared their concerns as well. While everyone agreed that improvements should be made, how and by whom left us with a major concern to be added to our prayer list. Pastor reported that Ash Wednesday services will be at 1:30 and 7 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. Additional Lenten services will be held in the Chapel at 11:30 a.m. on February 28 and March 13. There will be no Maundy Thursday service. Good Friday services will be at 1:30 and 7 p.m. with a live-stream option. Youth Sunday has been moved to Palm Sunday since Easter is on the Fifth Sunday. Easter worship will be at the normal 9:30 a.m. followed by an egg hunt on the Education Building lawn. There will be a High School age event at MOVAL and a Pastor's conference

Church Council Cont'd

in Chicago. Samuel UCC is having a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner details will be announced through Immanuel's mid-week announcements. Tim Guethler and Pastor attended a Habitat planning meeting. There will be a Mission Moment to encourage volunteers.

PARISH NURSE REPORT was not available.

PROPERTY AND GROUNDS: John Bogdajewicz reported that the Education Building elevator is in need of repairs. The cost estimated to be \$3,000 by the All Rise company that maintains the elevator. After discussion, it was moved by Kurt Klasing and seconded by Nancy Remmert that the repairs estimate be accepted with the provision that the final cost not exceed \$4,000. Motion carried. The ice machine in the Reception Room kitchen is broken and the regular freezer is also not operating. The committee is shopping for a large refrigerator/freezer combination to replace the refrigerator, freezer and ice machine, to be placed in the location of the present refrigerator/freezer. It was moved by Judy Sherman and seconded by Melinda Schuster to replace the present appliances allowing \$2,500.00 for the purchase. Motion carried. There are several plumbing issues that should be taken care of and will be prioritized and addressed.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (BCE): Martha Snead reported BCE is going to make an announcement to see if there is interest in pickleball so they can schedule day and time to offer it. Lenten devotions were mailed to adults and teens. The devotions for children were not mailable so were handed out to families. Sarah Hemingway's Youth Activities include a Scavenger Hunt with a "Fruit of the Spirit" theme of love and kindness, a project of sending Easter cards to shut-ins, and further lessons on the "Fruits of the Spirit" patience and peace. Plans for the Easter Egg Hunt were made. Tracking attendance of all youth activities will begin to measure growth in the program. Peggy

Church Council Cont'd

Nofles has volunteered to lead the Vacation Bible School program. A committee will be formed after the Ferguson Partnership of Churches has been contacted. Dates of the VBS will be announced.

STEWARDSHIP: Karl Klasing reported that 64 pledge cards totaling \$268,789 toward the 2024 budget and 6 pledge cards with no specific amount were received. Karl compared these figures with 2023 when 23 pledge cards totaling \$232,000 and 15 pledge cards with no specific amount were received. Actual receipts in 2023 were \$310,000. Seventy-five enlisting ministry sheets were received.

CHRISTIANS IN ACTION (CIA): Nancy Remmert reported that CIA next meeting is February 20. No further report was available.

MISSION POSSIBLE: Melinda Schuster reported that the committee will be meeting quarterly by ZOOM. They have become aware of a 9-year-old girl who has been actively helping families in her neighborhood with food. They will initiate a conversation with Paris's mother. Mission Possible thought that our youth might support her efforts with a service project to help her or that Paris could do a Moment for Mission some Sunday. A meal for Room at the Inn will be February 29, the entree will be Pizza. Lydia's House and All Among Us meals will be March 6. Habitat for Humanity possible dates submitted by Tim Guethler June, September, and December for Habitat builds. Since Food Insecurity has increased 31% in the last few years, the St. Louis Area Food Bank is struggling to make demands. Mission Possible will explore ways Immanuel could help. Krescene Beck has requested brochures regarding domestic violence be placed in the restrooms in both buildings with contact information regarding available help for women in crisis.

Church Council Cont'd

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Judy Sherman reported that Pastor encouraged listening for constructive criticism, helpful encouragement and elaborate praise regarding our worship experience. Choir practice has begun on Saturday mornings during February and will be changed to Thursday evenings beginning in March. Shamar Jordan provided special guest soloists during Black History Month which were well received and appreciated.

Usher training continues. We have “just” enough ushers to cover regular services but might need to recruit a few more. The Church Council will provide the meal for Ash Wednesday.

BUDGET/FINANCE/INVESTMENTS: Karl Klasing will meet with our Investment Counselor, Jonathan. He will arrange for Jonathan to meet with the Council at 6 p.m. on March 12 (regular Council meeting). If possible, all Council members should attend.

TECHNOLOGY: Walter Martinez has been in touch with IT people and they continue to work on reoccurring problems. Many churches are having troubles becoming “technically out there” since COVID forced this new form of worship on unprepared congregations!

POLOCY AND PERSONNEL: A new contract with UP (Unleashing Potential) is in the works.

OLD BUSINESS: Russell Viehmann recognition celebration. Plans are in the making. Melinda Schuster and Julie Guethler will coordinate the event to be held June 2, 2024. Compassionate St. Louis organization introduced to the Council by Nancy Remmert is looking for endorsers of the Charter for Compassion. The St. Louis chapter has been in existence since 1994. Copies of the Charter and a description of the St. Louis Chapter are available from Nancy Remmert. Also, the St. Louis Chapter meets by ZOOM every Second Monday of the month from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Church Council Cont'd

The object is to lift up individuals and organizations who live out the principles of the Charter for Compassion. You can learn more about this group at Compassionate-STL.org. Having considered the Charter for Compassion, it was moved by Nancy Remmert, seconded by Melinda Schuster that the Council become an endorser of Compassionate, STL. Motion carried. Nancy Remmert will compose a letter to Sister Carla Mae Streeter, leader of CSTL, expressing our desire to endorse Compassionate, STL.

NEW BUSINESS: As we continue to update our security system, cameras have been added, new crash bars have been installed in the Sanctuary building, smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are needed in both buildings and a review of when security officers should be on the premises is needed.

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Remmert, Secretary

Lenten Happenings

Daily - Lenten Devotional booklet

March 13 - Lenten Devotional Services at 11:30am in the Chapel and at 7:00pm on Zoom.

March 24 - Palm Sunday Service at 9:30am.
Sacrament of Holy Communion

March 29 - Good Friday Service at 1:30pm and 7:00pm. The Immanuel choir "Voices of Immanuel" and special musical guests at the 7:00pm service.

March 31 - Easter Sunday Service at 9:30am.
Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Easter egg hunt immediately following the service for all ages.



Board of Christian Education

Minutes of Board of Christian Education Meeting 2-7-2024

Meeting start: 6:05pm

Present: Karin Oelzen, Pastor Deon McKenzie, Laura Payer, Peggy Nofles, Melissa Lawrence, Jennifer Jansen, Martha Snead, Sarah Hemingway.

Absent: George Hildebrand

Devotion by Karen Oelzen: 40 – Song by U2

Reports

Secretary's Report: Approved by all present.

Treasurer's Report: To be sent out.

Council Report: (Martha S.): Church Council to provide meal for Ash Wednesday service. Russell Viehmann's 50th celebration is being planned.

Staff Report: (Pastor Deon) – Crash bars have been installed on the doors in the church building.

Concrete slabs at the front and back of the church building are being repaired as well as the steps to the main entrance to the educational building.

Facebook live did not work on Sunday February 4th. It is being worked on for the online audience.

An usher training was held on January 21st involving emergency situations.

Ash Wednesday February 14th services will be held at 1:30pm and 7:30pm in the sanctuary with Holy Communion and disposition of ashes at both services. A light meal will be served at 6pm.

Lenten Devotional services will be held on Wednesday, February 28th and Wednesday, March 13th. Attend in person service at

Board of Christian Education Cont'd

1:30 pm and/or a zoom service at 7:00pm.

Youth Sunday has been moved to March 24th. Palm Sunday.

Missouri Mid-South: Conference youth event for high school age kids is February 17th through 19th 2025 at Camp MoVal.

Youth Coordinator Report: (Sarah Hemingway) February 11th was Fruits of the Spirit lesson, February 25th service project, March 3rd Fruits of the Spirit patience and peace. Youth Sunday is March 24th (Palm Sunday). March 31st is the Easter Egg Hunt.

Old Business:

Pickleball League: The congregation will be polled for interest in this event.

New Business:

VBS – We are looking for volunteers to help plan the event this summer! Please contact Peggy Nofles, Sarah Hemingway, or the Church office if you wish to help.

Adjournment – Jansen 1st, Oelzen 2nd, approved 7:32pm

Close – Lord's Prayer

Devotional Next Meeting – George

Next Meeting – Tuesday March 5th, 2024 6 p.m.

BCE Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month in the library of the educational building. All Church members are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Moore-Lawrence



From our Music Coordinator



Voices of Immanuel

All

Singers

Welcome

Ensemble
REHEARSAL

Thursdays
7pm - 8pm

SEE YOU THERE!

Choir rehearsals will move to Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 8:00pm in the Reception Room starting March 7th. All singers are welcome!

Shamar



IMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP

The Immanuel Fellowship will begin the “official new year” on March 7, 2024. Pastor Deon will provide us with our program that day. Lunch will feature a selection of Casserole Dishes, Salad and Dessert. As is our custom, a free-will offering will be accepted to defray the cost of the meal.

We will hold election of new officers and begin gathering our annual membership fee of \$20. Our membership fee is more critical at this time since we no longer have major fund-raising events. (Our Card Party and Wurstmarkt shop no longer happen.) At the end of our year (December) we distribute annual monetary gifts to the Church Staff and nine outreach programs that we support. This is only possible through the generosity of our members.

Each meeting includes an interesting program (everything from guest speakers to fun and games). Men and Women are welcome to attend. The Fellowship meets on the First Thursday of each month, from 11 a.m. to 1 or 1:30 p.m.

You are most welcome to join us!
Nancy Remmert, President

LYDIA’S HOUSE/ALL AMONG US MEAL

It's a Baked Potato Bar for Immanuel's first Lydia’s House and All Among Us meal of 2024! On Wednesday, March 6, 2024, we will be providing a meal featuring baked potatoes with a variety of toppings to choose from, green salad, desserts and beverages.

Want to help? Costs of donating are kept under \$10 to honor budgets. See Krescene Beck or call/text 618-806-9431 or email krescenebeck@gmail.com.



Youth Activities

Upcoming schedule for March:

March 3 - Youth discussion on "Patience"

March 24 - Youth Sunday (Palm Sunday)

March 31 - Easter service with Easter Egg Hunt

The youth activities are during worship at 9:30am in the Youth Room in the Ed Bldg. Adult volunteers would be very helpful. Contact Sarah H. if you can help.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class continues every Sunday at 9:30am in the Fire-side Room.

The Rite of Confirmation will be on Sunday, May 19.

Youth Sunday

Thanks to all our youth who participated in the December Youth Sunday. You were great! The next one is March 24 on Palm Sunday. Please contact Sarah H. if you can participate.

Questions

Contact Sarah Hemingway, Immanuel's Youth Coordinator, with any questions, at 314-706-1476 or youth@immanuelucc.org



Youth Activities Cont'd

IMMANUEL UCC
FERGUSON

March Events









March 3-Youth Gathering-
Patience lesson

March 24-Youth Sunday-Palm
Sunday




March 31-EASTER EGG HUNT



MARCH

	MON	TUE	WED
3 Blood Pressure Check Coffee 9-9:30 and 10:30am Worship 9:30 a.m. * Communion Confirmation 9:30am Youth Event 9:30am Adult Faith Exploration 10:30	4	5 BCE Meeting 6:00pm, Library	6 Quilters 9 Lydia's H Among Us
10  Daylight Savings Time Coffee 9-9:30 and 10:30am Worship 9:30 a.m. Confirmation 9:30am Donuts with Deon 10:30am	11	12 Edward Jones financial Review 6:00pm Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. Room 102	13 Quilters 9 Lenten De Service 11:30am 7:00pm Z
17  Coffee 9-9:30 and 10:30am Worship 9:30 a.m. Confirmation 9:30am Adult Faith Exploration 10:30	18	19  First day of Spring	20 Quilters 9 <div>Newslett</div>
24 PALM SUNDAY  Coffee 9-9:30 and 10:30am Worship 9:30 am * Communion * Youth Sunday Confirmation 9:30 am Donuts with Deon 10:30am	25 UP Gym Reserved  Holy Week	26 UP Gym Reserved  Holy Week	27 UP G Quilters 9 Newslette Assembly  Holy
31 EASTER SUNDAY Coffee 9-9:30 and 10:30am Worship 9:30 a.m. * Communion Confirmation 9:30am Egg Hunt 10:30 			

2024

	THU	FRI	SAT
am house/All s meal	7 Immanuel Fellowship 11a.m. Reception Rm Choir Rehearsals 7:00-8:00pm, Reception Room	1 8	2 Gym reserved 9-11am 9 Gym reserved 9-1pm
am evotional Chapel room	14 Choir Rehearsals 7:00-8:00pm, Reception Room	15 .	16 Gym reserved 9-11am
a.m. er Deadline	21 Immanuel Fellowship Exec Meeting 10:00am, Library Choir Rehearsals 7:00-8:00pm, Reception Room	22 Gym, Room 202, 204, reserved 8-1pm	23 Gym, Room 202, 204, reserved 8-1pm Council Transformation Conference 10am-3pm Fireside Room
Gym Reserved a.m. r Crew , 9:30am	28 UP Gym Reserved Choir Rehearsals 7:00-8:00pm, Reception Room 	29 Good Friday Service 1:30pm, 7:00pm 	30 

news

In February, repairs were done to concrete slabs at one of the front entrances to the sanctuary, the rear entrance to the sanctuary, and at one of the Church St entrances to the Education Building. The concrete slabs were in need of repair and were safety hazards.

BEFORE



news



AFTER





Crash bars were added to the three sanctuary front wooden doors. The crash bars improve our safety and security by allowing us to use both doors to exit.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME CHANGE

On March 10, Daylight Savings Time begins so push the clock ahead one hour as we “spring forward” with the time change.



Dear Immanuel UCC,

I would like to sincerely thank the many members of our Immanuel family for their kind thoughts, words, cards, and donations in memory of the passing of my mother, Shirley Wood. I was very fortunate to have had her in my life for so long. We are so blessed to have the care, compassion, and support of each other. Thank you again for the love shown.

Karen Fox



Dear Friends,

We asked you to help us make the Christmas and Holiday season a little brighter for the children and families we serve - and the response we received was truly overwhelming! I want to thank Immanuel UCC for the contribution of 47 tubs of nonperishable food received on Dec. 18.

Through all of the drives and shopping activities, Christmas has been 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.

If you would like to know more about the programs offered at ECH, please feel free to contact our Development Office at 314-427-3755 or check out our website at www.everychildshope.org

Sincerely,

Julia Adami

Chief Executive Officer



Barb Bloomfield's home phone is not working. So please use her cell phone, 314-660-3641, if you need to reach her in the future.



Memorials and Honorariums

In Loving Memory of Ida Cookson

To: Immanuel General Fund

Given By: Shirley & Glenn Cordes

In Loving Memory of Shirley Wood

To: Immanuel General Fund

Given By: Shirley & Glenn Cordes

We remember:

Lois Schuette

Marilyn Reinert



Offering Options

If you prefer to give an offering electronically, instead of using offering envelopes, you can scan the QR code below to make your donation. Call the Church Office if you have any questions.



If you would like offering envelopes mailed to your home, please contact the Church Office. If you mail in your offering, please place Immanuel's offering envelope inside a plain regular white envelope.



Rose Bollinger

Melba Holtgrewe

Carol Lewis

Christine Struble

David Trudo

Bonnie White

Eric Frahm

Billy & Deanna Price

The family of Marla Martin

The family of Marilyn Reinert

The family of Lois Schuette

Ron Caguin

Karla King

Vicki Lucas

Johnny Thies Jr.

Edward Viehmann

Barbara Thompson

Cayden Shiadek

Sharon Winterberg

Joyce Gowdy

Tim LaFever

Carol Shinn

Kolene Thies

Sheila Wedemeyer

Nick Racker

Cyndi James

Shirley Cordes

Dwayne Middendorf

"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord." James 5:14



March Birthdays!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>
Ellie Costa	3/2
Kathi Remmert	3/3
Ed Viehmann Jr	3/4
Carolyn Lipski	3/5
John Bogdajewicz	3/6
Jan Batteiger	3/7
Tom Burke	3/9
Julie Guethler	3/9
Chloe Albers	3/10
Mary Tompkins	3/12
Darlene Kinderman	3/13
Krescene Beck	3/14
Leila Payer	3/14
Terry Fox	3/15
Matt Lipski	3/15
Anna Buschmeyer	3/17
Nancy Berryman	3/18
Barbara Johnson	3/18
Carol Pohl	3/18
Rev. Craig Johnson	3/19
Fran Panagos	3/20
Jamie Burke	3/23
Tim Guethler	3/23
Tim Payer	3/24
Mackenzie Moore	3/25
Madison Moore	3/25
Julie Campbell	3/26
Pam Viehmann	3/26





Flowers for March



March 3 -

March 10 -

March 17 -

March 24 -

March 31 -

Geraldine's Florist is now closed. If you are interested in Sunday flowers, please call the Church Office to discuss the different options.

The Worship Committee is scheduling scripture readers. If you would like to read scripture, please call the Church Office or Charlie Miller.

Lay Readers for March

March 3 - Kimberly McKenzie

March 10 - George Hildebrand

March 17 - Nancy Remmert

March 24 - Youth

March 31 - Paula Hildebrand



facebook

If you can't join us for in-person worship, please visit Immanuel's Facebook page for live on-line streaming of our church services.

Our facebook page is:



Immanuel United Church of Christ, Ferguson MO

Immanuel United Church of Christ, Ferguson MO

Immanuel also offers the option to listen to the latest church service by calling 314-255-1873

Call 314-255-1873
to hear our latest service



Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the newsletter is
Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

IMMANUEL UCC - MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFT FORM

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

To: _____ Immanuel General Fund
_____ Every Child's Hope "ECH" OPERATING FUND
_____ Emmaus Homes-OPERATING FUND
_____ Emmaus Homes-PASTORAL CARE FUND
_____ Emmaus Homes-ENDOWMENT FUND
_____ The Friends Foundation (formerly "Friends of Emmaus")
_____ Immanuel Building and Capital Improvement Fund
_____ Immanuel Endowment Fund
_____ Immanuel Good Samaritan Fund
_____ Immanuel Brothers' In Christ Fund
_____ Glenn Fox Memorial Scholarship Fund
_____ Brauch Scholarship Fund
_____ Mary Thompson Scholarship Fund
_____ Music Enhancement Fund
_____ Eden Theological Seminary
_____ Unleashing Potential (formerly Neighborhood Houses)
_____ Parish Nurse Fund
_____ Camp Scholarship Fund
_____ Bell Choir Fund *CK # _____
_____ Organ Fund
_____ Heritage Fund *AMT \$ _____
_____ Accessibility Fund
_____ Habitat for Humanity *ENV # _____
_____ Discretionary Assistance Fund
_____ Other

FROM: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP _____

ACKNOWLEDGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP _____

Put in Newsletter _____ Do NOT put in Newsletter _____

*Office Use