



IMMANUEL NEWS

Immanuel United Church of Christ
221 Church St.
Ferguson, MO 63135

Phone: 314.521.7324

Fax: 314.522.3701

Email: immanueloffice@immanuelucc.org

Website: www.immanuelucc.org

April 2024 Newsletter



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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

In-Person Worship

Sundays at 9:30am

126 Church St.

Ferguson, MO 63135

Live-Streaming

Sundays at 9:30am

on Facebook

Our Facebook page is:



Immanuel United Church of
Christ, Ferguson MO

Immanuel United
Church of Christ,
Ferguson MO

Past Worship Services

Available on Facebook

or

on our website at

www.immanuelucc.org

(click on "Past Sermons")

Tele-Ministry (Audio only)

Listen to the latest church service by calling

314-255-1873

From our Pastor

Showers of Blessings

As the saying goes, *April showers bring May flowers*, and it couldn't be more true. With the arrival of spring, the last bit of snow melts away, and the rain starts pouring down. Don't let the rainy weather dampen your spirits, as it is the perfect time for new beginnings.

Did you know that this popular saying actually originated from the United Kingdom, where April is one of the more soggy months? But not to worry, as the lower temperatures often push back the appearance of flowers to late April and early May, giving us something to look forward to. So, the wet, dreary weather we tend to endure in early spring gives way to a beautiful array of vibrant colors and energizing scents as time passes. While the rain is not a welcome occurrence, it is necessary for the beauty that we all look forward to each year.

As we journey through this Lenten season reflecting and examining our lives, we are also celebrating the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I would like to highlight how Jesus' story parallels with the idea of sunshine following a season of gloom and sadness. Jesus' suffering and death produced new life. Throughout scripture and throughout life we are faced with the reality of frailty and brokenness.

We all have experienced showers, or seasons of gloom and sadness. We have lived through many tough situations and difficult circumstances, which can easily have a negative impact on our lives. But Ezekiel 34:26 says: *"And I will make them and the places all around my hill a blessing, and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing..."*

From our Pastor Cont'd

Just like this scripture, *April showers bring May flowers* is a reminder that even the most unpleasant of things, in this case the heavy rains of April, can bring about very enjoyable things indeed even an abundance of flowers in May.

The phrase *April showers bring May flowers* is also a lesson in patience. Many of life's greatest things come only to those who wait, and by patiently and happily enduring the clouds and dampness of April, we can find ourselves more easily able to take in the sights and smells of May if we change our outlook and keep our eyes and heart focused on Jesus and His blessings.

So my friends, be ready, grab your raincoat and umbrella, and embrace the beauty of April showers, knowing that May flowers are just around the corner.

Pastor Deon



Church Council

Minutes of the Church Council Meeting

March 12, 2024

Present: John Bogdajewicz, Doug Daniels, Karl Klasing, Don Morice, Nancy Remmert, Melinda Schuster, Judy Sherman, Pastor Deon McKenzie.

Absent: Walter Martinez, Martha Snead

Council Members gathered at 6:00 p.m. to meet with Jonathan Devers, our Edward Jones Investment Advisor. Mr. Devers reviewed our investment portfolio.

The meeting was called to order by President Don Morice at 7:12 p.m. Melinda Schuster shared a devotion based on Psalms and Isaiah.

Minutes of the February 13, 2024 meeting were reviewed and corrected (minor typos). It was moved and seconded by Judy Sherman/Melinda Schuster that minutes be accepted as corrected. Motion carried.

Karl Klasing and Doug Daniels presented the financial reports. It was moved and seconded John Bogdajewicz/Judy Sherman that the financial reports be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor has been in touch with congregants either by phone calls and pastoral visits. Ash Wednesday Services were held February 14 at 1:30 and 7:00 p.m. Palm Sunday and Youth Sunday will be combined and Communion will be offered. Easter Sunday service will include Communion. Following worship, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on the church grounds as well as in the both buildings. The live-streaming was successful on March 10. Hopefully, the problems have been resolved.

Pastor's community involvement included meeting with Affinia

Church Council Cont'd

Healthcare, Unleashing Potential and Habitat for Humanity.

St. Louis Association All-In UCC online services are open and available to any interested individuals. They are planning monthly on-line gatherings as well as in-person gatherings in public spaces in the more rural areas.

Missouri Mid-South held a Conference Youth Event for High School age individuals at Camp MoVal February 16-19, 2025. Clergy retreat scheduled April 7-9, 2024 at Shannondale for the solar eclipse. The Council for Health & Human Service Ministries held their Annual Gathering in St. Louis March 12-14, 2024. A group from MMSC plans to participate in the Selma to Montgomery Race Series, a 51-mile relay and bike ride commemorates the 1965 march led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pastor reported that the first aid kits need to be updated. The carbon monoxide detectors in the sanctuary and education buildings have been installed. Smoke detectors have been checked. A security services coordinator is needed.

PARISH NURSE REPORT

Linda Stoecklin submitted a 2-month report covering January and February. She provided 64 hours of service on our behalf during this time period: Making 96 phone calls, sending 12 emails, 30 texts and writing 10 notes. She made 3 referrals for individuals. She also reported that she will be off during the last week of March for a medical procedure.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property and Grounds: John Bogdajewicz reported the following completed projects: Outside concrete repairs, the Sanctuary Door Push bars, and additional cameras have been installed on the second floor of the Education Building. Other projects being finished: Education Building Security System, Lighting project

Church Council Cont'd

(Ameren paid \$7,297.48), Karl Klasing and Tim Payer worked on the gym lights, Reinhold Electric will come to check on lights that keep going out. A new refrigerator/freezer for the Sanctuary building has been delivered at a cost of \$1,457.00 including \$128.00 to remove the two old ones. Tim Payer has volunteered to build shelving to fill the extra space left because of the difference in size of the unit. Maintenance needs to be done: Following the Education Building elevator inspection, Allrise Elevator Company will schedule a date and give a bid to make repairs that are needed. The gym heating blower is bad and will be replaced. The Parsonage repair of the walls damaged during the plumbing repairs need to be completed.

Board of Christian Education: Karl Klasing reported that Sarah Hemingway had youth gatherings on February 11, (9 children) February 25, (8 children) March 3, (7 children) She is planning gatherings on April 14 and 28 both centered around prayer. Positions for Youth Sunday have been filled and 433 eggs are ready for the Easter Egg Hunt. There will be 2 Golden Eggs with larger prizes. The hunt will be inside and outside at both buildings.

A sign-up sheet for Pickle Ball will be in the Narthex to determine interest. Peggy Nofles met with Sarah Klasing and the tentative dates for Vacation Bible School are June 24-28. Peggy will begin distributing information about the VBS after Easter. Donations of snack items for participants and possibly canned goods for the Food Pantry will be requested. Minister Kimberly has offered an Adult VBS option this year to be held in the evenings of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. More about this later. Jennifer Jansen brought a list of items that BCE previously led or was in charge of. The list will be reviewed.

Mission Possible: Melinda Schuster reported that the Room at the Inn meal on February 29 went well. They served pizza, salad, fruit, brownies, ice cream and toppings, lemonade and iced

Church Council Cont'd

tea. They served 10 to 15 people at the shelter. On March 6, 2024, meals were served at Lydia's House and All Among Us to a total of 55 women and children who were provided with a Baked Potato Bar with various toppings, green salad, fresh fruit, beverages and desserts. These projects were possible because cash donations, food donations and volunteers made them happen. The next meals will be provided on Wednesday, June 5. Habitat for Humanity four Immanuel members attended the Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner at Samuel UCC which was a fund raiser for Habitat. The next Mission Possible meeting will be Wednesday, April 3 at 7 p.m. via ZOOM.

The following Committees had no report at this time: Stewardship, Christians in Action, Worship, Nominating, Budget and Finance, Technology, and Investment.

OLD BUSINESS: Plans for the Russell Viehmann recognition to be held in June are underway. Julie Guethler and Melinda Schuster are coordinating this event. The Church Council will meet on Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a Transformation Conference.

NEW BUSINESS: CPR and AED training. Julie Guethler and Nancy Reidy will be contacted regarding this. A new contract with Unleashing Potential has been negotiated. They have requested use of the Parsonage during their 2-week summer camp so they can separate older and younger children for this event. It was moved and seconded (Judy Sherman/Karl Klasing) that this request be granted. Motion carried.

The next Council meeting is Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 7 p.m. John Bogdajewicz will share a devotional. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Remmert, Secretary

Board of Christian Education

Minutes of Board of Christian Education Meeting 3-5-2024

Present: Jennifer Jansen, Karin Oelzen, Peggy Nofles, George Hildebrand, Laura Payer, Karl Klasing, Pastor Deon McKenzie, and Sarah Hemingway.

Absent: Melissa Lawrence

Devotion: by George. UCC Devotional for March 2nd, 2024 "The Rest Is History".

Secretary's Report: (No changes). Approved by all.

Treasurer's Report: January report approved by all. Money spent on Youth Activities and Easter. Balance \$8,447.09. No money spent in February, and report was approved by all.

Council Report: Karl reported Mission Possible looking into a charity that a local 9 year old girl runs that raises money for food for those in need. Likely do a Moment for Mission about it. Financial Rep for the church is coming 1 hour prior to meeting time for Council Meeting to discuss portfolio.

Staff Meeting: (Pastor Deon)- Crash bars on doors installed and elevators up to code. Concrete replaced. Steps to Ed Building done. Security additions done to Ed Building. Had an incident of audio going out during Facebook live stream. St. Pat's Day Dinner Sat, Mar 9th, at Samuel UCC for Habitat for Humanity. Russell Viehmann 50 year Pastor Celebration will be Sunday, June 2nd.

Youth Coordinator's Report: Sarah reported Youth Events well attended. She asking for help to hide eggs. Eggs already stuffed. There will be both a Youth and Adult Egg Hunt.

Board of Christian Education Cont'd

Old Business: PICKLEBALL—Suggestions to put info in newsletter, as a flier in bulletin, and/or announce it in church to find congregation interest (thoughts of lessons, leagues, and when to start). VBS—Peggy met with Sarah K and found out where supplies are stored, and where to locate forms on the computer. We have 9 volunteers for VBS from Immanuel at this time. Talk of collecting canned goods (kids/families donate to VBS when they attend). Peggy and Sarah K will meet again after Easter.

New Business: Kimberly McKenzie offering to lead an Adult VBS on a Mon/Wed/Fri evening, approx 1 to 1.5 hrs, at 6 or 7 pm. This was approved by the Board.

Jennifer found a past copy of The Board of Christian Ed Calendar, and presented it at this meeting. It lists month by month for the entire calendar year what tasks the Board was/is expected to complete/be responsible for.

Motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer

Next meeting is Tues, April 2nd, 6 pm. BCE meetings are held every 1st Tues of the month in the library of the Ed Building. All church members are welcome to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura K. Payer



From our Music Coordinator

 **Voices of Immanuel**

All

Singers

Welcome

Ensemble

REHEARSAL

Thursdays

7pm - 8pm

SEE YOU THERE!

Choir rehearsals continue on Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 8:00pm in the Reception Room. All singers are welcome!

Shamar

314-723-3394

music@immanuelucc.org



IMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP

**Special Guest at the April Fellowship Meeting!
Barbara Kay will present a program on:**

**Julia Ward Howe
May 27, 1819 - October 17, 1910**



Ms. Howe was a writer, lecturer, abolitionist and suffragist. Julia Ward Howe not only authored the Civil War anthem "Battle Hymn of the Republic," but she also co-founded the American Woman Suffrage Association.

**The meeting will be held on April 4 at 11 AM
in the Reception Room.**

**Please let Judy Thompson (314-355-4969)
or Nancy Valenti (314-348-1086)
know if you are planning to attend.**



MISSION POSSIBLE

The Mission Possible committee will meet on Wednesday, April 3 at 7 PM via Zoom.

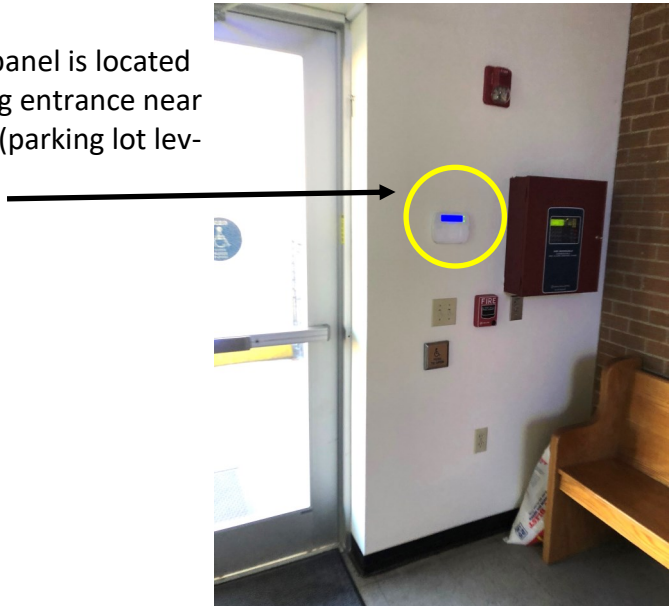
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

There is a planning meeting on Sunday, April 7 at 11:00am in the sanctuary.

SECURITY SYSTEM

An alarm system was recently installed in the Educational Building. For most members, the alarm system will already be un-armed when you arrive. However, for any members arriving before the staff does, or on weekends, you will need a code to un-arm the system. More details will be provided in the future when the alarm is activated.

The control panel is located at the Ed Bldg entrance near the elevator (parking lot level).





From our Youth Coordinator

April 2024

We will be meeting on April 14 and 28. This month we will start to learn about Prayer, to examine, 1) Why do we pray? 2) When do we pray? 3) What do we pray for? 4) How do we pray?

We will be making prayer bottles to mind us to pray, what to pray for, how to start to pray. Also, we will be starting a Praise and Prayer wall, so we can remember and pray for those who need prayer and praise God for what we have.

We have so many fun interactive projects coming up, we would love to encourage you to come and invite a friend to come to our youth gatherings. Also, we can always use volunteers to help with the youth, it is a rewarding experience for you and them. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please contact me at (314) 706-1476 you can call or text.

Have a blessed month!

Sarah Hemingway

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class continues every Sunday at 9:30am. The Rite of Confirmation will be on Sunday, May 19, on Pentecost Sunday.



Camp Mo-Val Summer Camps

Immanuel will pay 50% of the registration cost to attend summer camp at Mo-Val. Registration is online at

<https://missourimidsouth.org/camp-moval>

Please let the Church Office know if you are interested in attending so we can provide Mo-Val with the church's 50% payment.



SUMMER *at a glance*

May	5/29 - 6/2/24 Young Adult Camp (ages 18-30)
June	6/9 - 6/12/24 Mini Camp Session (ages 7-9) 6/9 - 6/14/24 Leadership Camp (ages 14-17) 6/16 - 6/21/24 All Ages Camp (ages 8-15) 6/23 - 6/28/24 All Ages Camp (ages 8-15) 6/23 - 6/28/24 PRIDE - Summer Camp (ages 8-17) 6/30 - 7/4/24 Family Camp (all ages)
July	7/7 - 7/12/24 All Ages Camp (ages 8-15) 7/7 - 7/12/24 M.A.D.D. Camp (ages 8-17) 7/14 - 7/19/24 All Ages Camp (ages 8-15) 7/14 - 7/19/24 S.T.E.M. - Summer Camp (ages 8-17)
August	8/4 - 8/9/24 Adventures in Community (ages 18+)

APRIL

	MON	TUE	WED
	1	2 BCE Meeting 6:00pm, Library	3 Quilters 9 7:00pm M ble Zoom
7 Blood Pressure Check Coffee 9-9:30 and 10:30am Worship 9:30 a.m. * Communion Confirmation 9:30am Adult Faith Exploration 10:30 VBS Meeting - 11:00am	8	9 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. Room 102	10 Quilters 9
14 Coffee 9-9:30 and 10:30am Worship 9:30 a.m. Confirmation 9:30am Youth Event 9:30am Donuts with Deon 10:30am	15	16	17 Quilters 9 Newslett
21 Coffee 9-9:30 and 10:30am Worship 9:30 a.m. Confirmation 9:30am Adult Faith Exploration 10:30	22 Earth Day 	23	24 Quilters 9 Newslette Assembly Library
28 Coffee 9-9:30 and 10:30am Worship 9:30 am Confirmation 9:30 am Youth Event 9:30am Donuts with Deon 10:30am	29	30	

2024

	THU	FRI	SAT
am Mission Possi- meeting	4 Immanuel Fellowship 11a.m. Reception Rm Choir Rehearsals 7:00-8:00pm, Reception Room	5	6 UP - Gym reserved 9-11am
am	11 Choir Rehearsals 7:00-8:00pm, Reception Room	12	13
a.m. er Deadline	18 Immanuel Fellowship Exec Meeting 10:00am, Library Choir Rehearsals 7:00-8:00pm, Reception Room	19	20 UP - Gym reserved 9-11am
a.m. r Crew , 9:30am,	25 Choir Rehearsals 7:00-8:00pm, Reception Room	26 UP - Gym, Room 203, 204, reserved 12-4pm	27  Cookie for College Kids 9:00am, Room 102 UP - Gym, Room 203, 204, reserved 8-1pm

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Youth were busy in March with activities centered around “patience”. Glad to see our youth enjoying the Youth Room, spiritual lessons and fellowship activities together!



YOUTH ACTIVITIES





COOKIES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Immanuel's cookie brigade is ready to send cookies, candy & treats to our college/graduate students once again to help them through spring finals. This will remind them that even if they are unable to worship with us in person, they are in our thoughts and prayers and such a vital part of our congregation.

We will be gathering in the old Music Room #102 on Saturday, April 27th at 9:00am to pack up all collected items. It usually only takes about an hour and is filled with a lot of laughter, stories and maybe just a little taste testing.

If you wish to donate any goodies (homemade or store bought), you can drop them off at the church office by Thursday, April 25th (since the office is closed on Fridays) or contact either Krescene (618-205-3188) or Brenda (314-600-7854) to make other arrangements. If you would like to help pack up all our goodies, just meet us in Room #102 at 9:00am.

PARENTS or STUDENTS: Please contact anyone of the three, Krescene, Brenda or the church office to make sure we have the updated addresses of where to send the goodie boxes. We would not want you to miss out on any sweet treats.

Thank you so very much for your continued support of this special ministry.



**YOUR COOKIE CRUSADERS
KRESCENE & BRENDA**

PICKLEBALL

The Board of BCE has purchased pickleball equipment for the youth to use. We are interested to know if other members of the congregation would like to learn the rules and also use the equipment. If there is interest, we will arrange for an instructor to come to Immanuel and give lessons.

If we have a lot of interest, we can even start a pickleball league or just create open play times.

Please indicate your interest below and return to the Church Office or offering plate. Thank you.

_____ Interested in learning the rules

_____ Interested in open play time

_____ Interested in participating in league

All pickleball activity would be in Immanuel's Fellowship Hall.





April Birthdays!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>
Sarah Rickert	4/1
Carole Weusthoff	4/6
Carol Latzel	4/14
Cassie Weber	4/14
Allyson Wroblewski	4/14
Lydia Haynes	4/16
Leah Richmond	4/16
Luke Jansen	4/17
Jerry Becker	4/22
Sandra Morello	4/22
Jeanne Belcher	4/24
John Snead	4/25
Beverly Dow	4/28
Cameron Viehmann	4/28
Harry Rahn	4/30





Memorials and Honorariums

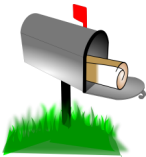
In Loving Memory of Jacqueline Morice
(Don Morice's aunt)

To: General Fund

Given By: Trish Stromlund

We Remember:

Al Conrad, Jr.



John Thies, Jr. - new address

Pleasant View Assisted Living
641 Euclid Avenue, Room 253
Hannibal MO 63401



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.

Dear Immanuel UCC,

Thank you very much for the calls, cards, and prayers. Especially, the card from Sunday School was very sweet. The prayers worked!! I am in remission!!

Barb Thompson



Thank you to all those that purchased Easter flowers. The flowers made our sanctuary extra special on Easter.



Ron Caguin
Melba Holtgrewe
Carol Lewis
Christine Struble
David Trudo
Bonnie White
Eric Frahm
Billy & Deanna Price
Dennis Preis
Mike Borchort

Joyce Gowdy
Karla King
Vicki Lucas
Johnny Thies Jr.
Edward Viehmann
Barbara Thompson
Cayden Shiadek
Sharon Winterberg
Dwayne Middendorf

Sarah Hemmingway
Tim LaFever
Carol Shinn
Kolene Thies
Sheila Wedemeyer
Nick Racker
Cyndi James
Shirley Cordes
Family of Al Conrad

“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

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.

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

The deadline for the newsletter is
Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

Thank You



Flowers for April



April 7 - Gary & Jan Batteiger

April 14 - Fran Panagos

April 21 -

April 28 -

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 April

April 7 - Karl Klasing

April 14 - Krescene Beck

April 21 - Tim Guethler

April 28 - Fran Panagos



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