



IMMANUEL NEWS

Immanuel United Church of Christ
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September 2025 Newsletter



Immanuel UCC Staff:

Rev. Deon A. McKenzie, Pastor - pastordeon@immanuelucc.org

Sarah Ewald, Youth Coordinator - youth@immanuelucc.org

Jennifer Jansen, Financial Manager - jjansen@immanuelucc.org

Shamar Jordan, Music Director - music@immanuelucc.org

Linda Stoecklin, Parish Nurse - lindapn23@me.com

Derick Winterberg, Social Media Coord. - dwinterberg@immanuelucc.org

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
and
www.immanuelucc.org
(click on "Past Sermons")

Tele-Ministry (Audio only)

Listen to the latest church service by calling
314-255-1873

Electronic Giving



From our Pastor

A New Season of Learning

The crisp air of September and the sight of school buses remind us that a new season has arrived. For some in our church family, this marks the beginning of a fresh academic year filled with new backpacks, sharpened pencils, and hearts that hold both excitement and a little apprehension.

As a church family, we have a sacred opportunity to surround our students and teachers with prayer. This is more than a tradition, it is an act of love, encouragement, and faith. Together, let's lift them up before God as they step into this new season.

For our students, we pray that God will bless them with wisdom and a genuine love for learning, remembering the words of Proverbs 4:7, *"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding."* May their minds be open and their hearts eager for discovery. We pray for courage and confidence, asking the Lord to quiet their anxieties with His peace, as scripture reminds us, and to help them shine as lights for Christ in their schools. We also pray for healthy friendships, that they would be surrounded by peers who encourage and uplift them, and that God would protect them, physically, mentally, and emotionally throughout the school year.

For our teachers and educators, we ask God to grant patience and endurance, remembering Galatians 6:9: *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."* May the Lord provide wisdom and creativity as they seek fresh ways to inspire and connect with their students. We give thanks for their heart of service, praying that their work will not only bless their classrooms but also reflect the love of Christ. And as they give so much of themselves, we pray for rest and renewal, trusting Jesus' promise in Matthew 11:28, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

From our Pastor

As this new school year begins, let us move forward with confidence, knowing that God goes before us, walks beside us, and strengthens us daily. Immanuel UCC students, may you rise each morning with courage, carry yourselves with kindness, and let your light shine brightly in every place you go. Teachers may your words plant seeds of wisdom, your patience reflect Christ's love, and your dedication shape lives for generations to come. And as a church family, may we continue to cover them in prayer, cheer them on, and stand with them, believing that with God's help, this year can be one of growth, joy, and transformation.

A Prayer of Encouragement

Gracious and Loving God, we thank You for the gift of learning and for those who guide us in knowledge and truth. Bless our students with sharp minds, strong hearts, and a spirit of courage as they begin this new year. Surround them with Your protection and fill them with joy in every discovery. Strengthen our teachers with patience, wisdom, and creativity as they pour themselves into shaping young lives. May they know that their labor is not in vain, and may they find rest in Your presence when the days are long. Lord, let Your light shine in every classroom, hallway, and playground, so that all may experience Your peace and love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Pastor Dean



Church Council

Minutes of the Church Council Meeting August 12, 2025

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

Absent: Judy Sherman

Guests: Executives from UP: Darlene and Gloria.

President Don Morice called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Don shared a devotion.

Don Morice opened the floor for the UP representatives to share their plans for the future. Because of the uncertainty of the government funding for their programs, they shared the plans to ensure that their programs will continue by reducing staff by closing some existing locations and moving the programs to Immanuel. They will combine the programs from four schools serving children in Grades 3-5 from September to May in addition to the summer program already in existence at Immanuel. The Council was open to their proceeding on their plans. We are open to their using our facilities for the "After-school program" as well as the "Summer Program" if all necessary inspections, licenses and rental contract, including cleaning, can be mutually completed satisfactorily for Immanuel and UP. It was moved and seconded (Martha Snead/Melinda Schuster) that we move forward with plans to increase the building use by UP. Motion Carried. Pastor will have to contact Narcotics Anonymous regarding their meeting on Wednesday evenings may need to adjust their time of meeting.

The Council returned to the printed agenda for the remainder of the meeting.

Minutes of the July 8, 2025 were reviewed. It was moved and seconded (John Bogdajewicz/Melinda Schuster) that the

Church Council Cont'd

minutes be accepted as printed. Motion carried.

Financial reports were reported by Karl Klasing, in the absence of Judy Sherman. It was moved and seconded (Nancy Remmert/ John Bogdajewicz) that the financial reports be accepted as printed. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor reported that the Temple of God Church will be using the Chapel on Sundays. They have requested that they use the Sanctuary Building for a wider church meeting which will be held in the future on a Sunday afternoon. It was decided that our lack of staff to cover such an event would not work. Pastor will inform them of our decision. A towel dispenser in one of the restrooms was broken during the summer program. UP paid for the repairs. The lights in the gym are not working properly Reinhold Electric will come and assess the problem. The new cleaning company is working out well. Pastor announced that the St. Louis Association will meet on October 4, location to be decided. The Missouri-Mid-South Conference will be meeting on October 17 & 18, location to be decided. Youth Sunday will be August 24. Pastor will be on vacation from August 25 through August 31. Darrell Thies will bring the message on August 31.

PARISH NURSE REPORT: Linda Stoecklin

Linda reported for June and July. In June, she made 29 phone calls, 8 texts, and 3 emails, wrote 2 notes and assisted with one referral spending 32 hours on behalf in June. In July, she made 35 phone calls, 15 texts, wrote 3 notes and assisted with one referral spending 33 hours on our behalf during July. We are grateful for her generous support of our congregation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROPERTY AND GROUNDS: John Bogdajewicz

John reported that the Parsonage has been secured after our experience with a squatter staying in the basement. A discus-

Church Council Cont'd

sion was held as to whether the basement outside door should be eliminated or strongly secured. No one was happy with the way the evergreen trees were trimmed. John will get a bid that will include replacing the trees, installing a sprinkler system, resodding the Sanctuary lawn. Sodding should be done no later than October. John has received a contract for the maintenance of the Air Conditioning systems in both buildings. It is \$5,520 which is a sizable increase. He will investigate our options. John has found a contractor who seems qualified to make improvements to the Ladies Restroom in the Sanctuary building.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Martha Snead

BCE met on August 5, 2025. They reviewed their budget. They will have a final reading of their revised By-laws and will give them to the Council to be added to the Church By-laws presently being reviewed. They discussed the necessity to have advanced planning for all of their activities. Particularly the Vacation Bible School planning should start much earlier. This year's VBS had 16 participants plus teenage and adult volunteers. Money collected during VBS will be donated to St. Stephen's Food Pantry and the canned goods will go the Ferguson Firehouse. They will request that CIA be responsible for Mother's and Father's Day Gifts. If CIA is not willing to take on this responsibility, BCE will continue and include the cost in their budget request. There will be no Rally Day event this year. The Advent Festival will be Sunday, December 7, 2025.

MISSION OUTREACH: Melinda Schuster

Melinda reported that Room at the Inn was provided a meal of Mostaccioli, green salad, fruit, brownies, and push-up ice pops and drinks. Room at the Inn is having a field day called "Back to School Bonanza" on Wednesday, August 13. Immanuel will provide three coolers filled with ice. The ice will be used for making snow cones and keeping cans of drinks cold.

Church Council Cont'd

Krescene Beck will present a Mission Moment for Festival of Sharing on Sunday, Aug. 17. We will provide the following four packs again this year: Paper Products, Personal Hygiene, Reading and Writing and Student Dental. We will also add a Mission Family Food Box. Lydia's House will be provided a meal on Wed, Aug. 20. Menu: Nacho bar with tortilla chips, taco meat, nacho cheese, Mexican rice, shredded lettuce, diced onions, diced tomatoes, salsa and sour cream. Krescene will assemble a team of volunteers to meet at the church on August 20 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. to put the meal together. The Mission Outreach Committee will hold a ZOOM meeting on August 27 to talk about Mission Outreach projects which can be done in 2026. We can then make our Budget request to Judy Sherman in a timely manner. Our next Regular Meeting will be scheduled for October.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Tim Guethler

Tim is forming a Nominating committee to begin seek candidates.

TECHNOLOGY: Walter Martinez

Thomas Hemingway will begin being compensated for 7 hours a week for the preparations needed for Sunday services. Additional time, if needed, will be approved by Pastor.

INVESTMENT AND INSURANCE: Tim Guethler

Bids need to be requested for 2026 insurance needs.

The following committees had no report at this time: Stewardship, Christians in Action (CIA), Worship, Budget and Finance, Safety and Security.

The Council entered Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Remmert, Secretary

Board of Christian Education

BCE Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2025

Present: Mary Conley, Paula Hildebrand, Jennifer Jansen, Melissa Lawrence, Laura Payer, Martha Snead

Absent: Sarah Ewald, Paster Deon

Devotion: Mary Conley began the meeting with a devotion titled "Does your loved one need a miracle today?"

Reports:

Secretary's Report: Meeting minutes were reviewed. No corrections. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Melissa L. and seconded by Mary C. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report (Paula H.) A motion to accept as modified was made by Melissa L. and seconded by Mary Conley.

Council Report (Martha Snead): Painting in sanctuary and repairs in restroom downstairs are upcoming.

We are still seeking more volunteers for tech training for Facebook Live services.

Budget requests are due by October 4th.

Staff Report (Pastor Deon): A church has requested use of the chapel on Sundays.

The church has switched cleaning services and Michael Daniels is helping temporarily.

Youth Coordinator Report (Sarah Ewald): Youth attendance (no report)

VBS: 16 children and every church had volunteer helpers.

Board of Christian Education Cont'd

Old Business:

By-Laws finalization is almost complete. BCE needs to approve and send to the council. Discussion regarding Father's and Mother's Day gifts and where the budget should come from.

New Business: The Congregational Meeting is scheduled for October 19th. Sarah will check on dates for "Trunk or Treat." Rally Day/ Stewardship Sunday – what will it look like? Advent Festival is December 7th. – Laura P. to organize crafts. Christmas programming will start soon.

Adjournment – Paula (1st) Jennifer (2nd) 8:05 p.m.

Close – Lord's Prayer

Devotional Next Meeting – Paula

Next Meeting - Tuesday September 2nd, 2025 6 p.m.

BCE Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month in the library of the educational building. All Church members are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Lawrence





IMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP

Community of Hope

At the September Immanuel Fellowship meeting, Dr. Allisha Jones-Pickens will present a program on the Community of Hope. It is an organization that connects young moms with the resources they need to become self-sufficient and stable. Their mission is a healthy environment for both mother and child(ren). This organization was founded in 2020.

Please consider joining the Immanuel Fellowship for its September meeting. We're going to have pizza and salad for lunch.

Thursday, September 4, 2025

11:00 AM

The Reception Room

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



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please save the date of Sunday, October 19 for the Annual Congregational Meeting. It will start after the worship service.



BON APPETIT

Bon Appetit is looking for a host and date for September. Contact Barb Bloomfield if you would like to coordinate this event.

P.R.O.U.D (People Reaching Out for Unity and Diversity)

PROUD has announced their annual Community Dinner and Fundraiser.

EVENING IN THE GARDEN

Saturday September 13, 2025, 5 to 8 p.m.

At Earth Dance (Mueller Farm) Community Pavilion, 233 South Dade, Ferguson. *That's So Good Catering* will provide dinner and *Pieces of Chaz45 Band* will provide music.

Tickets are \$50.00

Available at www.proud-ferguson.org

LYDIA'S HOUSE MEAL

Thanks for supporting this ministry. The group provided a meal on August 20 and had fun in the process!



Nancy Valenti, Melinda Schuster, Joanne Schneider, Krescene Beck.

Not pictured: Shirley Cordes, Judy Sherman

100TH BIRTHDAY MILESTONE !!

Wanda Young will be turning 100 years young on September 8th! Wanda has been a cherished member of our church family for many years, and she deeply enjoys receiving cards and kind words from her fellow members.

Please shower her with love and well wishes as she celebrates this incredible milestone. If you'd like to send Wanda a card, please mail it to: 12400 Glencroft Drive, Sunset Hills, MO 63128





FESTIVAL OF SHARING

It's Festival of sharing Time! We rejoice in the opportunity to reflect Jesus in our world through acts of love and humble service.

Kits will be collected August 24 through September 7. All collected items will be taken to the East Region (St. Louis) Sharefest on Saturday, September 13, 2025.

Plastic zipper storage bags are available for your use.

Missouri Student Dental Pack

4 child sized soft toothbrushes (in original packaging)

2 adult soft toothbrushes (in original packaging)

1 fluoride toothpaste, 6oz or larger

1 dental floss or 1 package of floss picks (any size)

* place items in a 1-gallon plastic zipper storage bag

Missouri Reading and Writing Pack

6 new pencils with eraser

1 large eraser

2 ink pens (medium point)

1 box of 24 crayons (only 24, please)

1 box 10-pack markers (only 10, please)

1 pencil holder

1 12" ruler

1 pair of child-sized metal scissors

4 folders with pockets

2 (two) 70 page spiral or tape bound notebooks (for a total of 140 pieces of paper)

* place smaller items in the pencil holder and place all items in a 2-gallon plastic zipper storage bag

Missouri Paper Products Pack

2 rolls paper towels (good quality)

2 large rectangle boxes of facial tissue

12 double rolls of toilet paper as 3 packages of 4 OR 2 packages of 6 (unable to receive 12 rolls in one package)

* place all items in a tall-sized kitchen trash bag

Missouri Personal Hygiene Pack

1 bottle skin lotion (10 – 16 oz.)

1 fluoride toothpaste (6oz. or more)

1 toothbrush (in original package)

1 bar of moisturizing soap (in package)

1 bottle shampoo (12 – 16 oz.)

1 deodorant

2 razors (disposable)

1 comb (large) or brush

1 washcloth

1 hand towel

* tighten lids and place all items in a 2-gallon plastic zipper storage bag

Missouri Family Food Box

3 boxes macaroni & cheese

3 different cans of vegetables

3 different cans of fruit

1 jar peanut butter

1 can pasta sauce (or plastic jar at Aldi)

1 pound pasta

3 cans tuna

3 cans chicken

1 box of oatmeal packets (10 count) (flavored or unflavored)

* Place items in a sturdy box (copy paper box). Please purchase low sodium/low sugar where possible.

SEPTEMBER

	MON	TUE	WED
	1 Office Closed 	2 BCE Meeting 6:00 pm, Library	3 Quilters 9
7 Blood Pressure Check Coffee 9-930 and 10:30am Worship 9:30am * Communion Adult Faith Exploration 10:30 Fest of Sharing kits due	8	9 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. Room 102	10 Quilters 9
14 Coffee 9-930 and 10:30am Worship 9:30am Youth Event Donuts with Deon 10:30am	15	16	17 Quilters 9 <div>Newslett</div>
21 Coffee 9-930 and 10:30am Worship 9:30am Adult Faith Exploration 10:30 Interfaith Dialogue 2-4pm	22 Bridging Ministries 10:00am Church of the Master	23	24 Quilters 9
28 Coffee 9-930 and 10:30am Worship 9:30am Youth Service Project Donuts with Deon 10:30am	29	30	

2025

	THU	FRI	SAT
am	4 Immanuel Fellowship 11 a.m. Reception Room	5	6
am	11	12	13 Festival of Sharing Sharefest PROUD fundraiser
am er Deadline	18 Immanuel Fellowship Exec. Meeting 10:00am Library	19	20
am	25 Newsletter Assembly 9:30am, Library	26	27



IMMANUEL YOUTH ACTIVITIES

September 14 - Youth Event

September 28 - Youth Service project

YOUTH SUNDAY

The youth participated in the worship service on Sunday, August 24. Sarah Ewald, our youth coordinator, delivered the message with the helpful assistance of our youth. Thank you to sharing your talents in worship!





YOUTH SUNDAY CONT'D





YOUTH SUNDAY CONT'D



Pastor Deon and current/former teachers blessing the youth as a new school year starts.



I want to express my thanks to Pastor Deon, Linda Stoecklin, and Friends of Immanuel for their recent prayers, cards, texts and phone calls during my recent surgery. All of your support brought me comfort, and encouragement during a difficult time during my recovery.

With much appreciation!

Shirley Cordes

Hello Immanuel Family!

I wanted to thank you all for the very generous scholarship that will be used to help pay my tuition for the 2025-2026 school year. I am going into my 4th year of college out of my 5 year plan, and my 2nd year at Mizzou. I am continuing my degree in Business with a specificity in Management and my double minor in Spanish and Health Sciences. The goal has remained the same for me after I graduate as I hope to get into Healthcare Administration. I am extremely excited for this upcoming school year as I continue to complete my degree and continue to practice my faith at a college ministry in Columbia that I was very grateful to find last year. I hope you all are well and I look forward to seeing many of you before I return to school. Many Blessings!

Phil Martinez



Dear Immanuel United Church of Christ,
I am truly grateful for the financial and spiritual support that Immanuel continues to provide me during college. Your generosity is a huge blessing and is making college more affordable and less stressful. I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of such a supportive and caring community. Thank you again for your kindness and encouragement.

Sincerely,
Allison Jansen

Dear Immanuel members and scholarship committee,
Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to receive the Glenn Fox scholarship. I am so delighted to have been awarded this honor and am extremely thankful for your generosity. Your support and contribution to my future means a lot!

Izabela Albers

Dear Immanuel congregation and scholarship committee,
I am immensely grateful to have been presented with the privilege of receiving the Glenn Fox scholarship. It means so much to me that there are people around me who support my educational ambitions and dreams. Your contribution to my education will allow me to go towards opportunities that weren't possible before. Truly, thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely,
Ava Albers

*thank
you*

Prayer Request

Ruth Benner	Anne Brittain	Travis Brown
Ron Caguin	Susan Casey	Angelo Castenada
Joanne Collins	Shirley Cordes	Julie Crawshaw
Robyn Daniels	Cheryl Doggett	Dan Engelman
Joni Everett	Nancy Gent	Kim Haynes
Rich Henderson	George Hildebrand	Melba Holtgrewe
Emma Jackson	Annette Jollenbeck	Darla Kempf
Anna Klasing	Barbara Krewson	Denora Lum
Phil Lum	Ron McAlister	Linda Meyer
Sharon Ming	Charlie Miller	Ann Niemczyk
Chris Orr	Steve Payer	Glenn Pennell
Louise Pennell	Jeff Raines	Richard Redel
Nancy Remmert	Darlene Ring	Carolyn Rock
Mark Schuler	Cindy Sexton	Christine Struble
John Thies Jr.	Kolene Thies	Charlene Trachte
David Trudo	Joan Uthe	Jan Viehmann
Mark Wand	Sheila Wedemeyer	Robert White
Roy White	Don Wischmeyer	Ian McAllister
Sharon Winterberg	John Bogdajewicz	Baby Bristol
Tim Fry	Baby Henry and Family	Bonnie Heenan
Family of Edward Viehmann		Family of Mike Bryan
Jesse, Colleen, Logan Brandt		

New Address!



Jan Viehmann's mailing address has changed.
Please send Jan's mail to her son, Brian, at:

Jan Viehmann
209 Toussaint Landing Dr
O'Fallon, MO 63368



Memorials and Honorariums

In Loving Memory of Edward D. Viehmann

To: Every Child's Hope

Given By:

Jan Fettig

Ken & Mary Klasing

Cathy & Charlie Miller

Melinda Schuster

To: Music Enhancement Fund

Given By:

Linda Stoecklin

To: The Viehmann Fund

Given By:

Mary Conley

Virginia & Russell Viehmann

Richard & Janet Viehmann

Brian & Vicky Viehmann

The Viehmann Family



September Birthdays

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>
Linda Stoecklin	9/2
Kate Tocco	9/5
Richard Harting	9/6
Wanda Young	9/8
Brenton Winterberg	9/11
Debbie Bahr	9/12
John Vortmeier	9/15
Sarah Henson	9/16
Carolyn Rock	9/17
Anna Klasing	9/20
Olivia Klasing	9/20
Heather Lanfer	9/21
Matt Lanfer	9/22
Linda Bangert	9/23
Karen Fox	9/24
Scott Oelzen	9/24
Mary Conley	9/25
Arthur Rinderknecht Jr	9/25
Susan Deuser	9/29
Cathy Miller	9/29





Flowers for September



September 7 - The Schuster Family;

- Wanda Young's Family

September 14 - Shirley Joellenbeck

September 21 -

September 28 -

*If you are interested in Sunday flowers,
please call the Church Office.*

Lay Readers for September

September 7 - Melinda Schuster

September 14 - Karen Fox

September 21 - Kimberly McKenzie

September 28 - Teddy Branom

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

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next newsletter
is
Wednesday, September 17

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