



IMMANUEL NEWS

Immanuel United Church of Christ
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April 2026 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

Resurrection Hope and the Renewal of Creation

April 2026 arrives carrying a promise that speaks both to our faith and to the world around us. As winter loosens its grip and the earth begins to awaken with fresh green life, we find ourselves reflecting on two meaningful observances: the **Resurrection of Jesus Christ** and **Earth Day**. One proclaims the victory of life over death; the other calls us to care for the world God entrusted to us. Though they arise from different traditions, they share a common thread rooted deeply in Scripture, the renewing power of God.

For Christians, Easter stands as the ultimate proclamation of renewal. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not simply a historical event remembered once a year; it is the defining moment of our faith. Through the cross and the empty tomb, God revealed that death, despair, and brokenness do not have the final word. Jesus Himself described this mystery using an image drawn from nature: *“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit”* (John 12:24). Just as a seed must be buried in the soil before new life emerges, Christ entered the darkness of the tomb so that life could break forth for all creation.

The Resurrection fulfills God’s promise spoken through the prophet Isaiah: *“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”* (Isaiah 43:19). Easter morning was not merely a miracle witnessed by a few disciples; it marked the beginning of God’s renewing work in the world. Through Christ’s resurrection, our lives are transformed and our hope is renewed.

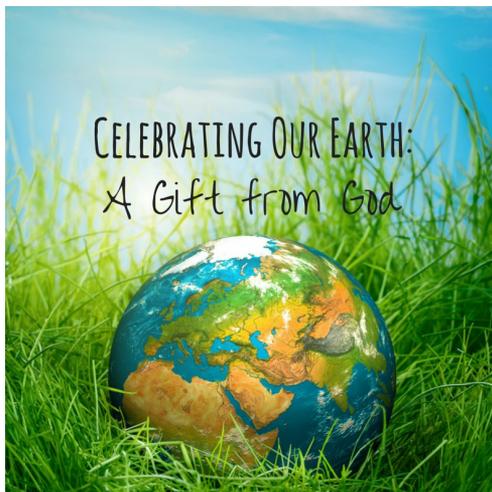
This promise of renewal also invites us to see the world around us differently. God’s word reminds us that the earth is God’s creation,

From our Pastor

and it was declared “very good” (Genesis 1:31). Earth Day, observed on April 22, can therefore remind us of our responsibility to care for what God has made. If the Resurrection reveals God’s love for the world, then our stewardship of creation becomes an expression of **gratitude** and **worship**.

As spring unfolds around us, may we remember that the empty tomb is more than a symbol, it is an invitation. It calls us to live as people of hope who believe that God is still making all things new. And as we step from the pews of the sanctuary into the soil of our communities, may we honor the Risen Christ by tending the living world He has entrusted to us, remembering that in Christ both our lives and God’s creation are continually being renewed.

Pastor Deon



Lenten Happenings

Daily - Lenten Devotional booklet

April 2—Seder Meal 6:00 pm
(arrive at 5:00pm for a Pasta House dinner and fellowship before the religious, symbolic Seder meal begins at 6:00pm)

April 3 - Good Friday Services at
1:30pm and 7:00pm.

April 5 - Easter Sunday Service at 9:30am.
Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Easter Egg Hunt immediately
following the service for all ages.



Church Council

Minutes of the Church Council Meeting March 10, 2026

Present: John Bogdajewicz, Timothy Guethler*, Kim Haynes*, Karl Klasing, Don Morice*, Nancy Remmert, Melinda Schuster, Judy Sherman, Martha Snead, (Pastor Deon McKenzie: (by phone) *Absent

The meeting was called to order by President Judy Sherman at 7:03 p.m. She shared a devotion.

The minutes were reviewed with one minor correction. It was moved and seconded (Melinda Schuster/Martha Snead) that the corrected minutes be accepted. Motion carried.

The Financial and Treasurer's reports were presented by Karl Klasing (Tim Guethler) was absent. It was moved and seconded that the Financial Reports be accepted as presented. (Martha Snead/Melinda Schuster). The motion carried. Our investment advisor, Johnathan, will be at our next meeting beginning at 6 p.m. before our regular Council meeting to review our investment portfolio.

PASTOR'S REPORT (by phone)

Pastor commented on the passing of Anita Collins and explained that funeral arrangements have not be finalized. Youth Sunday will be Sunday, March 15, 2026. While Pastor is on vacation and attending a conference, Judy Sherman will lead the Day time (11:30-12:30) Weekly Lenten Devotional. Pastor will announce if he will lead the Weekly ZOOM Lenten Devotional. Maundy Thursday, April 2, will include a light supper before the Seder Meal.

PARISH NURSE REPORT: Linda Stoecklin

Linda reported that she had made 26 phone calls, sent 12 texts and wrote 4 notes spending 24 hours on our behalf during the

Church Council Cont'd

month of February.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property and Grounds: John Bogdajewicz

John reported on several projects that are on the to/do list. The water problem in the Education Building is an ongoing situation. The Sanctuary grounds (irrigation system and new sod) will begin in April. A bid of \$4,000 from Mirelli Tuckpointing LLC was received for tuckpointing the sanctuary building and the parsonage. It was moved and seconded (Karl Klasing/Nancy Remmert) to accept the bid and that \$500 be added to the bid in case some bricks need to be replaced. The bid and the additional contingency funds were accepted. Motion carried.

Board of Christian Education: Martha Snead

At the March 3 meeting of BCE, there was no quorum so some items were postponed to next month. Six to eight people participated in February Youth Activities. Six attended the Bowling Outing. Plans for VBS were discussed. Partnership Churches have been notified of the dates for VBS: June 22-26. Families will be contacted regarding Confirmation. If families are interested in their children attending Confirmation Instruction, a teacher will need to be chosen. On Youth Sunday, March 15, 2026, Sarah Ewald will preach, and Camp information will be announced.

Christians in Action (CIA): Nancy Remmert (PROUD, NCCU, Inter-faith Dialogue)

A Breakfast will be provided by CIA on Sunday, March 22 in the Reception Room following worship.

PROUD (People Reaching Out for Unity and Diversity) is holding a Ferguson Mayoral Candidate Forum on Thursday, March 19, 2026 from 6 to 7:30p.m. at the Ferguson Library.

NCCU (North County Churches Uniting) has completed its Sum-

Church Council Cont'd

mons of Joy project. Interfaith Dialogue meets every Third Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. in Room 102 in the Education Building, their guest on March 15 will be David Cohen, Director of JCRC a Jewish organization serving the St. Louis area.

Mission Outreach: Melinda Schuster

Room at the Inn Trivia night will be held Saturday, April 18, 2026 at Shaare Emeth Congregation. A table of 8 is \$300 or individual tickets are \$40. Lydia's House dinner will be a Loaded Baked Potato Bar on Wednesday, March 18. Want to help, call Krescene Beck (618-806-9431) Or donate (\$10) or less to cover food cost. The Mission Outreach committee will meet on a ZOOM call, Tuesday, March 24, at 7 p.m.

Bridging Ministries reported that the Food Pantry has attracted 22 families so far. The group meets on the 4th Monday of the month at Church of the Master. They have dates and are making plans for an Ice Cream Social, Rummage Sale and the Christmas Concert. Zion Lutheran Church is planning a "Baby Shower". Judy Sherman will be contacting Cross Keys Baptist Church to encourage them to join Bridging Ministries.

OLD BUSINESS

Designate Charity Donations: Martha had done some research on local charities that the Council could consider supporting through our discretionary funds. The Backstoppers, Life Source Consultants, JADASA (assistance with temporary shelter), The Ferguson Youth Initiative, STL Youth Jobs, EarthDance, Aging Ahead Foundation. Decisions will be made and our funds will be distributed quarterly.

The By-laws committee will be April 21, at 6 p.m.

Council Retreat: April 11, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Church Council Cont'd

Next Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 14, 2026 the Investment Advisor will be present at 6 p.m. in advance of our meeting at 7 p.m. Martha will provide a devotion.

The following committees had no report at this time.

Police and Personnel, Worship Committee will meet Sunday, March 15. Nominating Committee, Budget & Finance, Technology, Safety & Security, Investment & Insurance, Stewardship.

No further business appearing, the Council was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Remmert, Secretary



Board of Christian Education

BCE Meeting Minutes 3-3-2026

Present: Pastor Deon, Peggy Nofles, Martha Snead, Jennifer Jansen, Nancy Messer

Absent: Mary Conley, Sarah Ewald, Paula Hildebrand, Sarah Klasing
We did not have a quorum and were unable to make any motions on the business presented.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

Devotion: Peggy began the meeting with a devotional entitled "Prayer" by Leonard Ravenhill.

REPORTS

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed. They will be corrected and/or approved next month.

Treasurer's Report: Review of the February report will be made next month. The balance was reported as \$7,342.68.

Pastor/Staff Report: Pastor shared that there are 2 baptisms scheduled in March during morning worship. These are events to celebrate. Youth Sunday is scheduled for March 15. Sarah E. will offer the message that morning. Lenten services continue on Wednesday with two options: 1:30pm in the Chapel or 7:00pm as a Zoom gathering. We will recognize Sunday, March 22, as Multiple Myeloma Recognition Day. As a survivor, this has very special meaning to Pastor Deon, to his family and this congregation as well. We are asked to wear burgundy that Sunday in support. Pastor shared that he and Jennifer have been learning a lot about the maintenance and upkeep of the buildings. There is much to understand and get information about. The goal is to compile what they have learned so that others can access that information now and in the future.

Board of Christian Education Cont'd

Church Council Report: Martha shared that the Council meeting centered around Building and Grounds. An audit is being arranged by the Council. Martha also reported that the Board of Christian Education by-laws were received from Laura Payer and sent to the Council members.

Youth Coordinator Report: Since Sarah was absent Pastor gave us her report. Youth attendance was reported as follows: February 6, February – 8 in the morning and 6 were present for the bowling party held that afternoon. Pastor made a request on Sarah's behalf for money to purchase supplies for the Easter Egg Hunt. On Saturday, April 4, Sarah is looking for volunteers to stuff and hide the eggs. After some discussion, it was decided to ask the Fellowship members if they can take on the task of filling the eggs during the week of March 23 either by choosing a date and getting together to fill them or by taking an amount of eggs and candy home to be filled and returned by the next Sunday. Jennifer suggested that the volunteers for the Food Pantry might also help with this project. The budget for Lenten and Easter 2026 is \$150.00. It was decided that Sarah's request for money can be approved with two signatures on the request form.

Old Business: There was much discussion about Vacation Bible School. It was decided that a general letter with dates of VBS should be sent to participating churches. We need a timeline on things to be done in preparation.

Committee Awareness:

Policy and Personnel: no report

Finance and Audit: no report

Bridging ministries: no report



Board of Christian Education Cont'd

Worship: the committee will meet after church on Sunday, March 15.

New Business: BCE will ask Kimberly and Sarah E. to give VBS update at the April meeting. We also request that when there are minutes of VBS meetings, that a copy be sent to Nancy Messer.

A discussion was also held regarding Confirmation. While 3 young people of the Immanuel congregation have been identified as eligible to go through confirmation this fall, it was decided that a letter should be sent inviting all eligible confirmation age kids to sign up.

It was stated that parents are to pay 50% of the registration for any camp experience at MoVal while the church pays the other 50% of the cost.

After some discussion it was decided that the Worship Committee would be asked to choose the gifts this year for Mothers' and Fathers' Day.

A date for Graduation Recognition Sunday needs to be set. Jennifer will find out when the most graduates might be available to attend.

Adjournment at 7:50pm

Closing: Lord's Prayer

Devotional at the next meeting: Nancy Messer

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:00pm

BCE meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of the month in the library. All church members are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Messer





IMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP

At the April Immanuel Fellowship meeting educator Barbara Kay will talk about anti-German hysteria in St. Louis after World War I.

Please consider joining the Immanuel Fellowship for its April meeting. We're going to have Paul's Market sandwiches and salsa and chips for lunch.

Thursday, April 2, 2026

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.

ROOM AT THE INN MEAL



It's time for a fiesta! Mission Outreach is going to provide fiesta foods for the evening meal at Room at the Inn on Thursday, April 30. The menu will be Beef Tacos (as the entrée), Refried Beans, Green Salad, Pico de gallo, Nachos, Fruit, Brownies and Drinks.

If you would like to provide any of these items, please let Melinda Schuster (314-323-5957) know. Or if you would like to make a donation (\$10 or less to honor budgets) please see Melinda. Thanks to everyone who supports this important ministry.

BON APPETIT



Please join Bon Appetit for an organizational meeting immediately after church on April 12. We will be asking for host/hostess volunteers for each month for the remainder of 2026. It us up to the host/hostess to select whether the Bon Appetit meal will be at a restaurant or home. For more information, contact Paula Hildebrand at hildebrandp@yahoo.com or 314-608-4123.

APRIL

	MON	TUE	WED
		 <p>Holy Week</p>	1 Quilters 
5 EASTER Blood Pressure Check Coffee 9-930 and 10:30am Worship 9:30am * Communion Egg Hunt Adult Faith Exploration 10:30 Food Pantry 11am-1pm		7 BCE Meeting 6:00pm, Library	8 Quilters
12 Coffee 9-930 and 10:30am Worship 9:30am Youth Event Bon Appetit Meeting 10:30am Donuts with Deon 10::30am Food Pantry 11am -1pm	13	14 Finance Committee— 6pm, Review of Edward Jones investments, Room 102. Church Council Meeting 7:00pm, Room 102	15 Quilters Newsletter
19 Coffee 9-930 and 10:30am Worship 9:30am Adult Faith Exploration 10:30 Food Pantry 11am -1pm Interfaith Dialogue 2-4pm	20	21 Council By-law meeting 6pm, Room 102	22 Quilters
26 Coffee 9-930 and 10:30am Worship 9:30am Youth Event Donuts with Deon 10:30am Food Pantry 11am -1pm	27 Bridging Ministries 10:00am	28	29 Quilters

2026

	THU	FRI	SAT
9 am 	2 Immanuel Fellowship 11 a.m. Reception Room Food Pantry 11am -1pm Seder Meal	3 Good Friday Services 1:30pm, 7pm 	4
9 am	9 Food Pantry 11am -1pm	10	11 Council Retreat 9am-2pm
9 am ater Deadline	16 Immanuel Fellowship Exec. Meeting 10:00am Library Food Pantry 11am -1pm	17	18 Room at the Inn Trivia Night 
9 am	23 Food Pantry 11am -1pm Newsletter assembly 9:30am, Library	24	25
9 am	30 Food Pantry 11am -1pm Room at the Inn meal		



ROOM AT THE INN TRIVIA NIGHT



Room at the Inn is hosting a trivia night on Saturday, April 18 at Shaare Emeth Congregation on Ladue Rd. Doors open at 6:00pm and the Fun begins at 7:00pm.

Every ticket, table, and auction bid helps empower individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and provides pathways to stability and hope.

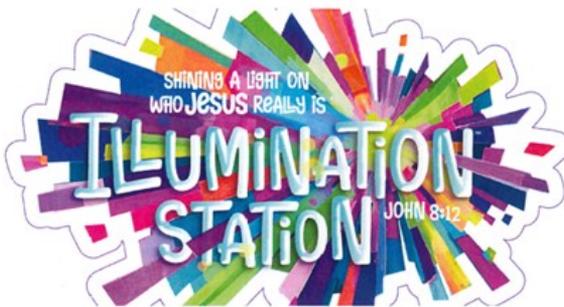
Water and soda will be provided to guests and feel free to bring your own food.

Tickets are \$40 per person or \$300 for a table of eight. Contact Melinda Schuster for questions.

SAVE THE DATES FOR VBS—JUNE 22-26

The Ferguson Partnership Vacation Bible School will be held at Immanuel on June 22– 26, 2026, from 9:00am—Noon for ages 5-15.

Please save the date as we will need many volunteers to help.



Our First Quarter of Hope

Greetings, Church Family!

What a whirlwind of grace we have witnessed since our Immanuel Harvest of Hope (IHOPE) Ribbon Cutting on January 19th. Seeing 50 attendees, from the COO of Operation Food Search to the families right next door and local media, standing together was a witness to what God can do when we say "Yes." Since opening our doors on January 22nd, we haven't just been moving groceries; we've been moving hearts.

"For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in." (Matthew 25:35 KJV)

Our Impact Update

In just a few short months, the IHOPE Pantry has become a lifeline. Because of your obedience, we are sharing the love of God by serving:

- **25 Households / Totaling 90 individuals**
- **561 lbs of food** and essential personal care items were distributed.

As we move into the next quarter, our goal is to expand our reach to support even more households. We are looking to increase our supply of food and hygiene products to ensure we care for our neighbors who might need a helping hand.

A Special Note of Gratitude to Our Entire Church Family:

Thank you for answering the call. You are the reason the "Immanuel Harvest of Hope" is more than just a name; it's a reality.

In His Service,

Kimberly McKenzie, *Assistant Pastor and IHOPE Coordinator*

Judy Sherman, *Council Chair and IHOPE Coordinator*





IMMANUEL YOUTH ACTIVITIES

April Youth Events:

April 12—Lesson

April 26—Service/Food Pantry



The group had fun Bowling

Mo-Val's camp schedule is below.

Immanuel will support church members who attend camp by paying 50% of the registration fee. Please contact the Church Office as you sign up



2026 Summer Camps

6/21 – 6/26/26 High School Camp (grades 9-12)

6/28 – 7/2/26 Family Camp (all ages)

7/5 – 7/10/26 All Ages Camp #1 (grades 3-9)

7/12 – 7/17/26 All Ages Camp #2 (grades 3-9)

7/19 – 7/23/26 Adventures in Community (ages 18+)

YOUTH SUNDAY

Our youth did a great job sharing the message of “Putting the Pieces Together, Finding Your Identity in Christ” on Sunday, March 15.





Memorials and Honorariums

In Loving Memory of Anita Collins

From: Linda Stoecklin

To: General Fund



YOUR COOKIE CRUSADERS THANK YOU

Many heartfelt thanks to all of those who helped make this springs Cookies for College Students a great success! So many helping hands allows this ministry tradition to continue year after year. Your support helps remind those hard at work studying, that they are always kept in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you again so very much...

KRESCENE & BRENDA



Sacrament of Baptism



Lucas Michael Getz

and

Vivian Sandra Getz

Received the Sacrament of Baptism on March 8, 2026

Parents: Michael and Michelle (Berryman) Getz

Prayer Request



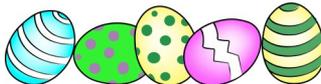
Gloria Bahr	Darla Kempf	Christine Struble
Krescene Beck	Anna Klasing	Kolene Thies
Bob Blackman	Karl Klasing	Juanita Thomas
John Bogdajewicz	Bradley Kohler	David Trudo
Beverly Bowman	Denora Lum	Jan Viehmann
Travis Brown	Sharon Ming	Russell Viehmann
George Thomas Burke	Jim Morice	Shari Vogt
Susan Casey	Bart Moy	Mary Wallis
Harrison Conley	Ann Niemczyk	Mark Wand
Nancy Edwards	Lauren Payer	Dick Watt
Dan Engelman	Louise Pennell	Paul Westcott
Joni Everett	Carol Pohl	Karen White
Marilyn Geiger	Jeff Raines	Roy White
Brackson Haid	Richard Redel	Will Williams
Bonnie Heenan	Nancy Reidy	Willie Winters
Rich Henderson	Jeff Remmert	Audrey Wittnauer
Cyndi James	Chrystal Sailor	Family of Steve Bahr
Annette Jollenbeck	Ben Samel	Family of Anita Collins
Kay Jones	Sami Stoehr Servis	

"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



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
Sandra Morello	4/22
Jeanne Belcher	4/24
John Snead	4/25
Beverly Dow	4/28
Cameron Viehmann	4/28
Harry Rahn	4/30





Flowers for April



- April 5 - Vicky Pease
April 12 - Nancy Remmert
April 19 - Fran Panagos
April 26 - Julie & Tim Guethler

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

Lay Readers for March

- Seder Meal—Krescene Beck
Good Friday 1:30pm—Tim Guethler
Good Friday 7:00pm—Paula Hildebrand
April 5 - Peggy Nofles
April 12 - Nancy Remmert
April 19 - Paula Hildebrand
April 26 - George Hildebrand

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next newsletter
Wednesday, April 15

