



IMMANUEL NEWS

Immanuel United Church of Christ
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Ferguson, MO 63135

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June 2026 Newsletter



138 years strong - Founded June 3, 1888

Immanuel UCC Staff:

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

Min. Kimberly McKenzie, Assistant Pastor - kimm719@icloud.com

Sarah Ewald, Youth Coordinator - youth@immanuelucc.org

Jennifer Jansen, Financial Manager - jjansen@immanuelucc.org

Shamar Jordan, Music Director - music@immanuelucc.org

Thomas Hemingway, Audio Visual Technician - techucc221@gmail.com

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

Happy Anniversary Immanuel United Church of Christ

What a blessing and what a joy it is to celebrate another year of God's faithfulness, grace, and sustaining power in the life of this beloved congregation! This anniversary is not simply about counting years, it is about celebrating lives changed, prayers answered, ministries built, and a community of faith that continues to shine as a light in Ferguson and beyond.

June 3 is more than just another date on the calendar. It is a sacred moment in the history of this church family, the day the Holy Spirit breathed the breath of life into this congregation and set into motion a legacy of worship, service, love, and witness that continues even today. What began as a vision planted in faith has become a thriving testimony of what God can do through people willing to trust God and walk together in community.

As we celebrate this milestone, we do so with deep gratitude for the faithful members who came before us. We honor the pastors, teachers, musicians, choir members, ushers, youth leaders, volunteers, and faithful servants whose sacrifices helped build and sustain this ministry through every season. They prayed in difficult times, gave generously when resources were limited, served faithfully behind the scenes, and trusted God to carry the church forward. Because of their commitment and faithfulness, Immanuel continues to stand today as a place of hope, healing, and love.

This anniversary is also a celebration of the spirit of community that makes Immanuel so special. Through worship, outreach, fellowship, mission work, and compassionate care for others, this congregation continues to live out the love of Jesus Christ in meaningful ways. Here, friendships are formed, burdens are shared, children are nurtured, lives are encouraged, and people are reminded that they are never alone on the journey of life. And the exciting news is this: God

From our Pastor

is not finished with Immanuel yet!

The same Spirit that breathed life into this congregation in the beginning is still moving among us today, opening new doors, creating new opportunities for ministry, and calling us into an even brighter future. God continues to lead us toward greater outreach, deeper relationships, stronger discipleship, and renewed purpose as we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

The future of Immanuel United Church of Christ is filled with hope, possibility, and promise. There is still ministry to do. There are still lives to touch. There are still people searching for community, encouragement, and a place to belong. And through it all, God continues to remind us that the church is alive when people come together in faith, love, and unity.

So, family as we celebrate this anniversary, let us do so with thankful hearts and joyful spirits! Let us honor the past, embrace the present, and step boldly into the future God has prepared for us.

Happy Anniversary, Immanuel United Church of Christ! May God continue to bless this congregation for generations to come!

138 YEARS

Church Council

Minutes of the Church Council Meeting May 12, 2026

Present: John Bogdajewicz, Timothy Guethler, Kim Haynes*, Karl Klasing, Don Morice, Melinda Schuster, Judy Sherman, Martha Snead, Pastor Deon McKenzie

*absent

President Judy Sherman called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Tim Guethler shared a devotion from the "Upper Room".

It was moved and seconded (Martha Snead and Don Morice) to approve the minutes of the April Council meeting. Motion carried.

Tim Guethler and Karl Klasing presented the financial reports. It was moved and seconded (Don Morice and Martha Snead) that the Financial Reports be accepted as presented. Motion carried. At this time, Tim Guethler left the meeting.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Council Member Nancy Remmert passed away May 10. Her funeral service will be on Friday, June 12 at 1 PM. There will be a visitation from noon until 1 PM on June 12. There will not be a luncheon. This Sunday Pastor will talk about grief when we lose a member of our church family. Pastor will be on vacation next week (May 20-26). He will be out of office on Sunday, May 24. Darrell Thies will bring the message. Charlie Miller will assist with the service. Jennifer Jansen will be out of office tomorrow and Thursday. Pastor will cover for her. She'll be back on Monday, May 18. Pastor is going to meet with attorney Christopher Bent on Friday about the trees that are on our property.

PARISH NURSE REPORT: Linda Stoecklin

Linda has provided 40 phone calls, sent 24 texts, 5 emails and 22

Church Council Cont'd

notes on our behalf from March 1 to April 30, 2026.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property and Grounds: John Bogdajewicz

John gave a review of the items that are on a list to be completed. Reported on future projects. Reported on projects that have been completed. Don Morice is helping with some of the bids. It's slow progress on the sod and irrigation system outside the sanctuary. Pastor will briefly address the situation with the congregation on Sunday, May 17. Last week we had a leak in the Education Building. Service Pro (Water Disaster Cleanup Co.) brought in fans to dry up the water, cut out the wet drywall, etc. HVAC contracts are approved. The HVAC unit will be installed in the Education Building starting June 11. There are issues with the work on the HVAC in the sanctuary. According to the City of Ferguson there isn't a dwelling at 126 Church Street. We will ask a knowledgeable person to assist with getting this matter resolved. We need to dig up and replace the broken pipe outside of the quilters' room and also put in a new "clean out" for that pipe outside the building. It was moved and seconded (Karl Klasing and Martha Snead) that we approve spending up to \$3,000 if Charlie Miller gets a plumber to do these tasks in the Education Building. Motion carried.

Board of Christian Education (BCE): Martha Snead

Youth made over 100 sandwiches for All Among Us to distribute to the unhoused. Youth volunteered at the food pantry. A letter was sent to all youth that are of confirmation age. Discussion about VBS. Planning for graduation recognition on Sunday, June 14.

Mission Outreach: Melinda Schuster

We're now filling the Blessing Box every day. Julie Guethler got us permission to use the Sam's credit card that was set up for

Church Council Cont'd

the food pantry. The big advantage to using it is that we won't have to pay sales tax when we buy Blessing Box supplies. The Room at the Inn Mexican Fiesta meal on April 30 was a success. We served 35 people. The next time we provide a meal for Room at the Inn is Thursday, July 23. The Lydia's House pasta meal on Wednesday, May 6 was also a success. We served 60 people. The next time we provide a meal for Lydia's House is Wednesday, July 22. The Habitat for Humanity build is Saturday, July 11. Melinda will set up a Mission Outreach Committee meeting in June. Judy Sherman report 54 individual families (160 individuals) have visited IHOPE at least once. 22 families (60 individuals) are repeats. There is \$4,887.15 in the clearing account earmarked for IHOPE. Judy shared the following Bridging Ministries activities: Baby Shower at Unity Church in Bel Nor (May 16), Flea Market/Rummage Sale (June 14) at Christ the King Church from 9 AM until 1 PM), Fundraiser (Feed My Starving Children) at Atonement Lutheran Church (July 10-11), Ice Cream Social at Church of the Master (August 15), Blessing of the Pets at St. Ferdinand Park at Veach Pavilion (October 3).

Nominating Committee: Don Morice

Nancy Remmert was in her second year of her final term. We'll follow the Bylaws and ask the person who got the next amount of votes in the last election. Melinda Schuster, Judy Sherman and Martha Snead are serving the 3rd year of their 1st term.

Committees with no report at this time: Policy and Personnel, Stewardship, Worship, Budget and Finance, Technology, Safety and Security, Investment and Insurance.

OLD BUSINESS

Designate Charities - We discussed possible organizations. So far we have given \$750 to the Ferguson Twilight Run and \$510 to McCluer High School. Our name is on their jerseys.

Church Council Cont'd

NEW BUSINESS

There was a motion (Martha Snead and Karl Klasing) that Melinda Schuster be the Council secretary until the end of the year. Motion carried.

Unleashing Potential Contract - Judy Sherman will meet with Charlie Wolfersberger to review the current contract and become familiar with it. Don Morice can offer guidance if Judy needs it.

We're going to designate "Summons of Joy" in memory of Nancy Remmert. The "Summons of Joy" is a holiday community initiative in Ferguson and neighboring cities, including Florissant, where police officers distribute \$100 Walmart gift cards to citizens, often during traffic stops, to foster positive engagement. Nancy always encouraged us to support this initiative.

We talked about the unhoused. No easy solutions. Maybe collaborate with the Church of the Nazarene.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM. There was no Executive session. Our next meeting will be on June 9 at 7 PM. Karl Klasing will provide the devotion.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Schuster, Secretary

Board of Christian Education

BCE Meeting Minutes 5-5-2026

Present: Sarah Ewald, Peggy Nofles, Martha Snead, Jennifer Jansen, Sarah Klasing, Paula Hildebrand and Nancy Messer.

Absent: Mary Conley and Pastor Deon

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Devotion: Paula began the meeting with a devotional from the UCC website written by Vicki Kemper.

Reports:

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the April meeting were read and reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as written. (Paula 1st/Sarah K. 2nd). Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The expenses for April and budgeted items were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the financial report (Jennifer 1st/Sarah K.2nd). Motion passed.

Staff Report: Jennifer gave us a brief summary of the clean up from the minor flooding that took place on the lower level of the educational building.

Council Report: Martha reported that the Financial Advisor who had been invited was the focus of the meeting. In addition, there was a final reading of the proposed by-laws. The Council will present them to the congregation for a vote at the end of the summer.

Youth Coordinator Report: Youth attendance was: on April 12 - 6 youth. The Youth made 100 sandwiches which the Mission Outreach committee members took to All Among Us to be given out to the unhoused. On April 26 – 4 youth restocked the shelves of the food pantry as a service project. There was discussion about how the Youth could help with the distribution of the Mothers' Day gifts.

Old Business: Confirmation letters have been sent to all families who

Board of Christian Education Cont'd

have children eligible to participate in joining the confirmation class in the Fall. Planning continues for VBS in June. Discussion was held about ways to get the word out. A motion was made to approve the payment for placing information in the Ferguson Times (Paula 1st/Sarah K.2nd). Motion passed. Jennifer will update the yard signs and put them out. The marquee will be updated as will Immanuel's Face Book page. It was also suggested that signs be put up for the Ferguson Twilight Run on Saturday, May 16. It was felt that the signs might be especially effective in the kids' Fun Run area.

Committee Awareness:

No reports from the following committees this month: Policy and Personnel, Finance and Audit, Bridging Ministries, and Worship.

Mission Outreach: next meeting will be in June. Their work continues with the Blessing Box, the Harvest of Hope Food Pantry, and providing a meal for Room at the Inn and Lydia's House.

CIA: ideas are requested for Fathers' Day gifts.

New Business: Graduation Recognition will be June 14. Discussion was held on gift ideas for the graduates. A motion was made that up to \$200 be budgeted for the collegiate gifts. (Jennifer 1st/Sarah K.2nd) Paula volunteered to order them.

Adjournment: Paula 1st/Jennifer 2nd at 7:21 pm

Closing: The Lord's Prayer

Devotional next meeting: Peggy Nofles

Next meeting: June 2, 2026, 6:00 pm

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Messer



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

College scholarship applications will be available on June 1, to church members only, for the upcoming academic year. Applicants should contact the Church Office for the applications.

Completed applications are due by Sunday, July 5. Applicants will need to meet with the Scholarship Committee on either July 6 or July 7. Applicants are asked to call the Church Office to book an available timeslot.

There are five scholarships to choose from:

The Glenn Fox Memorial Scholarship

The Brauch Memorial Scholarship

The Mary Thompson Nursing/Health Field Scholarship

The Brothers' In Christ Scholarship (Nursing)

The Brothers' in Christ Scholarship (Christian Ministry)

Scholarship awards will be presented on a Sunday in July or August. All college applicants should plan to attend the worship service once the date is determined. If there are any questions, please contact the Church Office.

The Scholarship Committee





IMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP

Laughing Bear Bakery

At the June Immanuel Fellowship meeting Kalen McAllister will do a presentation on the Laughing Bear Bakery.

Ms. McAllister is the founder of Laughing Bear. In 2015 she found a way to combine her love of baking with the ever-growing need for re-entry help for ex-offenders when they are returned to St. Louis.

At Laughing Bear, men and women who have been incarcerated receive on-the-job training in a commercial kitchen, learning to create a wide array of delicious treats that they sell across the metropolitan St. Louis area.

Nancy Remmert saw this presentation at another meeting she attended and she raved about it. Please consider joining the Immanuel Fellowship for its June meeting. We're going to have a variety of salads for lunch.

Thursday, June 4, 2026

11 AM

The Reception Room

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

9pm.

CONFIRMATION

The Board of Christian Education is considering offering a Confirmation Class this Fall. Please contact the Church Office or Pastor Deon if you are interested in enrolling a child in the class.





BON APPETIT



Bon Appetit will meet on June 14th at the home of George and Paula Hildebrand for an All Church Potluck Barbeque at 5:30pm. You do not have to be a member of Bon Appetit to attend.

The address is 12 Vicksburg Station, St. Charles. Note, we are starting early enough that those who do not like to drive at night will not have any issues as it is light that time of year until almost 9pm.

Please RSVP to Paula at 314-608-4123 or via email at hildebrandp@yahoo.com, by June 10, and let her know if you will be attending and what you plan to bring.



GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Please let the Church Office know if you and/or a family member is graduating this semester from any level of schooling (Kindergarten – PhD). We will include this information in the July newsletter. Thank you.

We plan to celebrate our graduates on Sunday, June 14.

JUNE

	MON	TUE	WED
	1	2 BCE Meeting 6:00pm, Library	3 Quilters Happy Birthdays Immanuel
7 Blood Pressure Check Coffee 9-930 and 10:30am Worship 9:30am * Communion Adult Faith Exploration 10:30 Food Pantry 11am-1pm	8	9 Church Council Meeting 7:00pm, Room 102	10 Quilters
14 GRADUATE RECOGNITION Coffee 9-930 and 10:30am Worship 9:30am Youth Event Donuts with Deon 10::30am Food Pantry 11am -1pm Bon Appetit- 5:30pm	15 Unleashing Potential summer camps begins Newsletter Deadline	16	17 Quilters
21 FATHER'S DAY  Coffee 9-930 and 10:30am Worship 9:30am Adult Faith Exploration 10:30 Food Pantry 11am -1pm Interfaith Dialogue -2-4pm	22 Bridging Ministries	23 Newsletter assembly 9:30am, Library	24 Vacation 9:00
28 Coffee 9-930 and 10:30am Worship 9:30am Youth Event Donuts with Deon 10:30am Food Pantry 11am -1pm	29	30	

2026

	THU	FRI	SAT
9 am Birthday el UCC! 	4 Immanuel Fellowship 11 a.m. Reception Room Food Pantry 11am -1pm	5	6
9 am	11 Food Pantry 11am -1pm	12 Nancy Remmert Memorial Service Visitation: Noon-1pm Service: 1pm-2pm	13 Bridging Ministries Rummage Sale @ Christ the King UCC
9 am	18 Immanuel Fellowship Exec. Meeting 10:00am Library Food Pantry 11am -1pm	19 Juneteenth Day	20
	25 Food Pantry 11am -1pm	26	27
Bible School am-Noon			

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 22-26

Greetings in the name of the Light of the World!

Once again this summer, we are opening our doors to students across our community for a Vacation Bible School (VBS) experience designed to move beyond the surface. In a world saturated with misinformation, we believe it is vital to help our youth see Jesus not just as a "good teacher," but as the perfect, proven, and powerful Son of God.

We cordially invite the youth to join us for:

VBS 2026: Shining a Light ON Who Jesus Is

Dates: June 22 – 26, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Theme Verse: *"I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life."* — John 8:12

To ensure every student receives age-appropriate exegesis and deep engagement, we have split our participants into two developmental tiers:

Group A (Junior Illuminators): Ages 5–9

Focusing on foundational stories and the joy of discovery.

Group B (The Reflected): Ages 10–15

Focusing on deeper apologetics, leadership development, and critical thinking.

Note: Monday–Thursday features Breakfast and "Grab 'n Go" snacks; in addition, Friday will conclude with a celebratory Pizza Lunch!

We Need Your Light! (Volunteer Opportunities)

To make this vision a reality, we are seeking passionate volunteers from our sister churches to help us charge the "spiritual batteries" of our youth. We are looking for:

STEAM Facilitators: Help students explore refraction, prisms, and the wonders of God's creation.

Storytellers/Teachers: Bring the Word to life through dramatic presentation. Lead our Junior Illuminators or reflections from the Bible study.

Shepherds: Take morning attendance, guide students through rotations, and provide restroom breaks.

Hospitality Team: Help prepare/distribute breakfast and daily snacks.

Student Volunteers: Assist facilitators, storytellers/teachers.

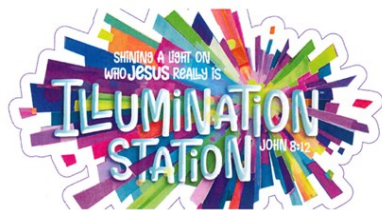
There is a place for you, no matter your age or ability, if you want to attend or volunteer, please register by June 17 using the URL address or QR code below. Paper forms will also be available in the narthex and Church Office.

<https://forms.gle/nB7CaFfsTQqQrQuy8>



Let's work together to ensure our children know exactly who Jesus is, the Light that no darkness can overcome.

If you have questions, please call the Church office at 314-521-7324.





IMMANUEL YOUTH ACTIVITIES



CAMP MO-VAL

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

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+)



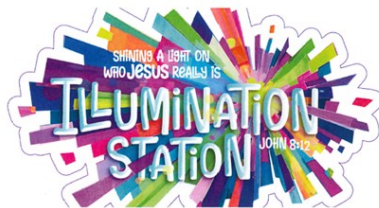


Memorials and Honorariums

In Loving Memory of Nancy Remmert

From: Shirley & Glenn Cordes

To: General Fund



VBS: June 22 –26

Belinda Lanfer's new address is (as of 5/7/26):

83 Foxgate Ct.

Saint Peter, MO 63376

New
Address!



Prayer Request



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

"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



June Birthdays

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>
Kayla Jansen	6/2
Nancy Reidy	6/2
Eleanor Hoefle	6/3
Immanuel UCC (138 years)	6/3
Donald Flesch	6/4
Karen Caguin	6/5
Dominick Randazzo	6/6
Marty Schuster	6/9
Nick Lawrence	6/10
Walter Martinez	6/11
Shirley Cordes	6/13
Jeff Remmert	6/14
Claudia Buschmeyer	6/16
Robyn Daniels	6/19
Cynthia Thies	6/20
Kristin Haynes	6/22
Debbie Wolfersberger	6/23
Sheila Wedemeyer	6/24
Stuart James	6/25
Ava Albers	6/27
Izabela Albers	6/27
Owen Albers	6/28
Michael Belcher	6/30
Karen Preis	6/30





Flowers for June



June 7 -

June 14 -

June 21 -

June 28 -

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

Lay Readers for June

June 7 - Krescene Beck

June 14 - Teddy Branom

June 21 - Kimberly McKenzie

June 28 - Tim Guethler

*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
Monday, June 15

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