

THE VISION

December, 2016

IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas

at *Immanuel*

Sun., November 27

1st Sunday of Advent
Church Decorating, 2:00 pm

Sun., December 4

Christmas Cantata, 10:45 am

Sun., December 11

Children's Christmas Program, 10:00 am
Continental Breakfast with Santa, 11:15 am

Saturday, December 24

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Com-
munion**

Contemporary Worship led by
Praise Community Fellowship, 6:30 pm

Traditional Worship led by
Immanuel United Methodist Church, 11:00 pm

Sun., December 25

One Service Only—10:00 am

Sanctuary Decorating

Help is needed to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas on Sunday, November 27th beginning at 2 pm. We will trim the trees and hang the greens. Your help would be greatly appreciated!!



Christmas Cantata

Our Chancel Choir will present their Christmas Cantata, *Let Us Adore Him*, by Robert C. Lau, on Sunday, December 4th at the 10:45 am worship service. The cantata includes narration and beloved Christmas hymns and carols.

Poinsettias



We are looking for one more person who wishes to place a poinsettia on our altar in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Cost of the poinsettia is \$9.00. We had to order them from the wholesaler by November 11th, so based on the number of orders we had received by that date, we placed an order for 24 poinsettias. All but one of them have now been spoken for. Thank you to everyone who will adorn our altar area and sanctuary with a beautiful poinsettia this Christmas!

Kid's Night Out

Children age 3 through 5th graders will meet on Friday, December 16th for a meal, great Christmas games and activities, and a movie. Helpers are always needed. Please RSVP to the church office, 618-656-4648.

Children's Christmas Program

The children of Immanuel will present their Christmas Program, *Star Trip: Our Faith Awakens*, on Sunday, December 11. A new Star Wars movie will be released in December. The momentum of this movie will be used to tell another amazing story about stars ... the only difference is that this story is true!



The Magi are on a quest—following a star to find the child king foretold in prophecy. Along their journey, they encounter both the dark and the light, both good and bad. In the end they meet Jesus, the true star of their trip, and light of the world.

Rehearsals for the program will be held on Tuesdays, November 22 and 29, from 6—8:30 pm, with the dress rehearsal being held on Tuesday, December 6 from 6-8:30 pm. All children and youth are encouraged to participate.



Both of the Christmas Eve worship services will offer Holy Communion, as well as individual candles. At 6:30 pm the worship will be contemporary, and will be led solely by Praise Community Fellowship. The 11:00 pm worship service will be a traditional worship service, led solely by Pastor Jackie and Immanuel UMC musicians. Remember that Christmas Eve is a great time to ask an unchurched friend or relative to attend church with you!

Handel's 'Messiah'

The Great Rivers Choral Society will present Handel's Messiah on Saturday, December 10th at 7:30 pm and on Sunday, December 11th at 3 pm at the Evangelical United Church of Christ, 1212 W. Homer Adams Pkwy, Godfrey, Illinois. This concert is free to the public. A free-will offering will be taken. The presentation features guest soloists and chamber orchestra, along with Christmas carols and a Sing Along.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed the week after Christmas. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor Jackie's cell phone, 618-531-9134.

Prayer Ministry (+ Indicates weeks—call office to continue)

- + Lida Gillham, who broke her hip Sunday, and is now recovering from partial hip replacement surgery
Roberta Piper, recovering from knee replacement surgery
Elmer Hediger, hospitalized with heart health issues
Jake Newman, recovering from rotator cuff surgery

- ++ Frank Hanfelder, recovering from a massive stroke
Ashley Gorham, granddaughter of Floyd & Deloris Fisher, ulcer on eye; pray that her eyesight will be saved

- +++ All those who struggle with depression and mental health challenges

- ++++ Lisa Taliana, recovering from surgery at home
Chris Slaby, brother of Tyler, whose home was robbed



Outreach Opportunities

Angel Tree Ministry

We have our list from Angel Tree Ministries of children living in the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon area who have a parent in prison. We can be a blessing by providing Christmas gifts for these children on behalf of their parent and help maintain that connection during what might be a difficult holiday season.

Tags will be on the small tree in the Hospitality Room on Sunday with ages and suggestions for gifts. Angel Tree suggests the cost remain around \$25-\$30 per child. Please wrap gifts, affix the tag provided and return to the designated basket in the Hospitality Room by December 18th. Gifts will be picked up and delivered the week of Christmas.

Operation Christmas Child

Immanuel folks have once again responded generously to the Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry. 59 shoeboxes were prepared for children who live in poverty stricken areas of the world. Thank you to everyone who put together a shoebox this year, or who donated towards the postage needed to ship them overseas.

Free Lunch Friday Christmas Feast

Our annual FLF Christmas Feast will be held on Friday, December 16th from 11 am until 1 pm. Free Lunch Friday is an outreach program, offering a free lunch every Friday to anyone who walks in the door. Thank you to everyone who makes it possible for us to offer a "Feast" every year at Thanksgiving and Christmas. For several of our patrons, this is the only special meal they will receive during the holidays. A special thanks to those who prepare the meals each week: Sharon Koenig and crew, Penny May and crew, and Robin Black-Rubenstein and her many volunteers from St. Boniface Catholic Church.

Restore Décor Christmas Open House

Restore Décor on 2nd Street will be hosting an Open House on Saturday, December 10 from 6:00-9:00 pm. This is a way in which Restore Décor would like to thank the community for all the hard work that has been shared, and the good will that has been given. There will be carriage rides offered, and the best of holiday smells with cookies and refreshments found inside the shop. Everyone is welcome. You may join in the giving season by bringing personal hygiene items and household items to help support those in need in our community.

Meet Bishop Frank Beard



My quest to get into every District before Christmas is underway. I'm off to a great start, and am looking forward to personally meeting many more folks in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference.

I have already visited four of the ten districts. I have been amazed and overwhelmed with the wonderful ways that you have welcomed and received me.

One of the things I have been sharing with each district is EXPECTATIONS. I firmly believe that unrealistic, or understated and unstated expectations are often the root causes of confusion, chaos, and disappointment. Allow me to share a few things that I expect of you and that you can expect from me as your new Bishop.

Here are seven things that I expect of you:

1. **I expect you to do your best.** I want your "A' Game!" Paul reminds us in Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

2. **I expect you to have and utilize a Team Approach to Ministry.** One of the beauties of our denomination is that we are "connectional." We depend on one another and we count of each person's gifts in order to be successful.

3. **I expect your support of our stated vision and values both publicly and privately.** We will achieve more as we pull together in the same direction.

4. **I expect and desire your prayers.** My goal is to be the most prayed for Bishop in the denomination.

5. **I expect you to continue to be generous givers.** Both tithes and offerings should be the norm for those that love the Lord.

6. **I expect great reports of fruitful and successful growing and vibrant ministries.** The harvest is still plentiful and we are expected to participate as co-laborers with Christ.

7. **I expect you to have fun serving the Lord and working for the advance of Christ.** I read the back of the book, and we win! So, relax and enjoy serving the Lord.

Here are seven things you can expect from me:

(Continued on Page 8...)

Bishop Frank Beard, Continued...

1. **Consistency**—Just like everyone else I have good days and bad days, but you will find me to be a person of consistency.
2. **Support**—I am here to serve and support the IGRC. I am here for both laity and clergy, and I will support you with my prayers, my concern for you and the church you attend, my encouragement of your existing and emerging ministries, and with my trust.
3. **Faithfulness**—I will be faithful in my devotion to Christ and to the IGRC. You can count on me to be loyal no matter what is going on. I will honor and uphold my vows.
4. **Collaborative Leadership**—I will engage others in the decision making process. I will work with intentionality to ensure that many voices are heard.
5. **Honesty**—you can count on me to provide clarity, rationale, and perspective. There may be times for confidentiality, but you will always get an honest response from me.
6. **Generosity**. I believe that leaders set the pace and should model extravagant generosity. You can count on Melissa and me to tithe and to give above and beyond.
7. **Respect** for all voices and a genuine love and respect for the members and constituents of IGRC. I am here to be a servant-leader, and I will work to earn your respect and trust as I strive to provide Christ-like leadership.

I hope to see you and to be able to greet you soon. Thanks for all that you do to help IGRC to be a strong and vibrant Conference for Jesus. I believe the Lord expects and deserves our very best.

God bless,
Bishop Beard

Inclement Weather Policy

If the weather outside becomes frightful and you are wondering if we will be holding church services, please go to our website:

www.immanuelonmain.org

where the latest information will be posted. If services are cancelled, the first call will be to Teresa Akers-Helle, who will post that information on the website. Then those who do not have the internet available to them will be called.

Christmas Concert

The Granite City Municipal Band will have their Christmas Concert on December 2nd at 7 pm. If you remember, Butch Mestemacher is the director of that band. They have outgrown the space in which they have traditionally performed. Their concert this year will be at Calvary Life Church in Granite City, Illinois. The exact address is 4650 Maryville Road, Granite City, IL 62040.

Commitment Sunday

Sunday, November 20 is Commitment Sunday. If you did not receive your commitment card by e-mail, you may pick one up on Sunday morning. The Finance Committee asks that you search your heart and decide what your best gift looks like, knowing that God will provide for your pledge. You've got to plan for it so that you are honoring God's plan and purpose for tithing. Then, watch how God blesses and uses you and honors His promise to bless you.

Receipts to 10/31/2016

	January	February
Contrib.	\$14,605.00	\$11,923.00
Online	1,590.00	2,085.00
Other	<u>4,294.76</u>	<u>1,594.16</u>
	\$20,489.76	15,602.16
	March	April
Contrib.	\$10,642.50	\$11,435.36
Online	1,640.00	1,640.00
Other	<u>3,306.05</u>	<u>1,945.92</u>
	\$15,588.55	15,021.28
	May	June
Contrib.	\$14,510.01	\$12,511.38
Online	1,640.00	1,665.00
Other	<u>3,567.85</u>	<u>2,797.37</u>
	\$19,717.86	16,973.75
	July	August
Contrib.	\$ 9,559.19	\$11,532.35
Online	1,690.00	2,160.00
Other	<u>2,754.06</u>	<u>2,730.85</u>
	\$15,648.49	\$18,446.60
	September	October
Contrib.	\$ 9,341.50	\$11,963.85
Online	1,690.00	1,738.00
Other	<u>1,418.99</u>	<u>5,117.67</u>
	\$12,450.49	\$18,819.52

Total needed per month to meet the budget and pay all of our Apportionments
\$17,269.00

Thank You!

We received a beautiful card from Wally Maedge, our now-retired custodian: "I'm so grateful ... for your thoughtfulness, your kindness, and your generous heart. Thank you. *Thank you Pastor Jackie and congregation for your many kind words, prayers and generous gift. Also for my many new friends I have made during my years as your custodian. May God Bless and keep you—Wally*"

Scrip Orders Due

Our Scrip gift card order will be placed on Sunday, November 27th. Remember that gift cards make great Christmas presents, and there are hundreds of stores from all over the country offering them through the Scrip program. You may visit our website for information about this easy and terrific fundraising program, or pick up a packet of information from the table in the Hospitality Room.

The Old Church with the New Attitude

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Dear

Partners

In Ministry

“But when the

fullness of the

time came, God sent

forth His Son, born of

a woman, born under the Law, In order that He might redeem

those who were under the Law, that we might receive the

adoption as sons.” (Galatians 4:4-5)

The Lord Jesus Christ was born at God’s appointed

time. At Christmas time we reflect and celebrate

the birth of Jesus Christ and meditate on its

meaning to us and the world today.

Christ’s birth is more than just another event

in the history of the world. It is one very important

event in Christ’s life lived for our salvation. It is

significant because God became man for us in order to

redeem us so we can be his sons and daughters.

We wish for you a blessed and

joyous Christmas. The

celebration of Christ’s

birth fill your

hearts and lives

with His

peace.

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Pastor Jackie Havis-Shear

& The Church Staff

**IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

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Noisy Offering

During the month of December, our
Noisy Offering will go towards the
Glen-Ed Ministerial Alliance

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

We seek to be God's people in attitude and action as we:

Experience and Share God's grace joyfully,

Live and Teach God's Word faithfully,

Accept and Serve God's people lovingly.

You are invited to join us in this mission ...

CONTACT US!

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Church E-mail:
anita@immanuelonmain.org

Pastor's E-mail:
pastorjackie@immanuelonmain.org

Look us up on Facebook

Reverend Jackie Havis-Shear
Cell Phone: (618) 531-9134

Maurice "Butch" Mestemacher
Instrument Director

David Bryant
Choral Director

Jordan Grammer
Contemporary Worship Leader



**Christmas Eve Candlelight
Worship with Holy Communion
6:30 pm & 11:00 pm**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Joint Contemporary Service
8:45 a.m.
In Sanctuary

Common Time
9:45 a.m.
Includes:
Sunday School
Middle School Study
Wired Word Discussions
Seekers Class
Coffee + More
Choir Rehearsal

Traditional Service
10:45 a.m.
In Sanctuary

**Nursery Available All
Morning**