

December, 2018

THE VISION

IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
EDWARDSVILLE, ILLINOIS



CHRISTMAS *Christmas*

Sunday School Christmas Program

A Charlie Brown Christmas

Snacks with Santa

Sunday, December 16
8:45 am

Free Lunch Friday

Christmas Feast

Friday, December 21
11:00 am—1:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

Monday, December 24
11:00 pm



Christmas Decorating

A reminder that help is needed this Friday, November 30, beginning at 10:00 am, and this Saturday, December 1 beginning at 9:00 am, to dec-

orate our sanctuary and building for Christmas. Everyone is welcome, and your help will be appreciated.



Christmas Program Rehearsal Schedule

Immanuel's children and youth will be presenting "A Charlie Brown Christmas" at 8:45 am worship on Sunday, December 16. Rehearsals will be held during Sunday School (9:45 am—10:30 am) on December 2 and 9. On Friday,



December 14, a rehearsal will be held from 5:30—8:00 pm, with dinner being served. All children age 3 through those in high school are invited to participate. If you have any questions, speak to Kiffon Lewis or Jill Winte.

Snacks with Santa

We will have special visitors on Sunday, December 16 following our Children's Christmas presentation. If you are able to donate a finger food (fruit, cubed cheese/crackers, donut holes, sweet breads, cookies, etc.) please sign up on the sheet in the Hospitality Room. We are also in need of volunteers to help set up, serve and clean up. Thank you!

Angel Tree

All of the tags have been removed from the Angel Tree Ministry Christmas tree! Gifts should be wrapped and returned to church by Sunday, December 16. Be sure to put the tag on your gifts. The recommended cost is \$20-\$25 per child. If you have any questions, please see Rhonda Grammer.

Poinsettias

We are looking for 12 more people who would like to purchase a poinsettia to adorn our altar area this Christmas. Poinsettias are \$9.00 each, and you can place one in memory or in honor of a loved one if you wish. They can be taken home following our Christmas Eve worship service. Call the church office or sign up on the sheet in the Hospitality Room.

Re-Imagining Christmas

During the Season of Advent our Worship Services will reveal a theme of Re-imagining Christmas. We all enjoy a time of imagining the beauty of the Christmas Story. We romanticize the birth of Jesus through the eyes of a sweet baby wrapped in cuddling clothes. We imagine Mary to be accepting and submissive in complying with the plan of the Angel Gabriel. And Joseph – we don't really hear much about Joseph except there was a dream that convinced him to resist the temptation of putting Mary away in disgrace. The Angels sound beautiful in our minds. The shepherds grow more loyal every year as we imagine them in the fields. But, what if---in reality an inequality of humanity and justice existed in the time that Jesus was born? What if – Mary struggled as many women struggle today in finding voice and place? What if – Joseph wrestled in understanding responsibilities and faithfulness within God's ridiculous plan as many men wrestle today? What if --- our experiences of a sweet and cuddled baby take on the experience of an individual that turns society upside down, demands respect and dignity, and empowers the most marginalized representation of our communities? Sometimes we are called to look deeply into the birth story that invites Re-imagining Christmas!

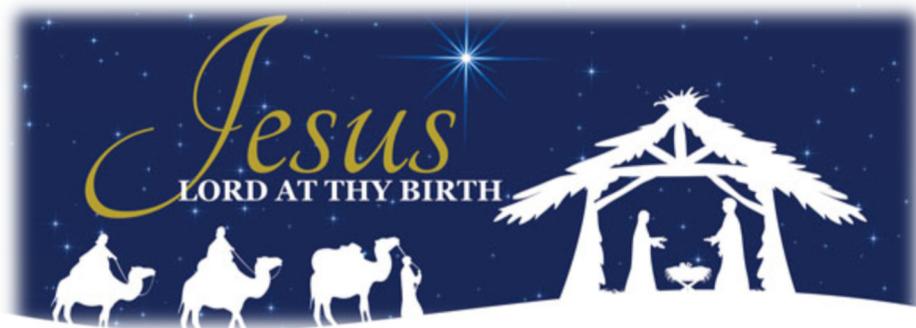
Covenant Cards

This coming Sunday, December 2nd, we hope to receive the Covenant Cards that each of you have prepared for your giving in 2019. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage each of you to commit and give with delight and boldness. Sometimes we are tempted to think that because we cannot give large amounts

of money, we should not give anything at all. During these last few weeks I have enjoyed various conversations with some of you that reflect that sentiment. But I want to encourage you that giving is not always the amount that we give, but the faith by which we give! God uses small amounts all the time to create

large promises! The same is true when we invest energy, time, space, gifts and graces toward our relationships with God and God's people. So take delight – believe in God and the work that God will complete through you and your generosity!

— Pastor Jackie



United Methodist Women

Christmas Baskets will be prepared and delivered on Thursday, December 13, beginning at 9:00 am. Baskets are delivered to Immanuel members who are 80+ years of age.

The UMW Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 6, beginning at 6:30 pm in the Journey's Inn Room.



Inclement Weather Policy



If the decision is made to cancel church due to a winter storm or icy parking lot, the first phone call made will be to our webmaster, Teresa Akers-Helle. She will post the closing on our webpage at

www.immanuelonmain.org

If you do not have access to the internet and are a regular church attender, you will receive a phone call that services are cancelled.

Update on The Way Forward

As many of you have already heard – The United Methodist Denomination is addressing issues surrounding human sexuality regarding our approach to the LGBTQ+ community. The One Church Plan is the proposal that the Council of Bishops will offer at the General Conference in 2019. The General Conference is a special-called conference that will be held in St. Louis, MO in February 2019. The One Church Plan includes three positions to adopt: 1) A change in language within the United Methodist Book of Discipline to exclude "homosexual behavior to

be incompatible with United Methodist beliefs," and removes restrictive language within the United Methodist Book of Discipline that bans performance of same-gender marriages. 2) Interaction and participation with the LGBTQ+ Community concerning same-gender marriages is determined by the Contextual Call of the Pastor and the Contextual Call of the Parish, and 3) Ordination of members of the LGBTQ+ community for ordained ministry is determined by Clergy Session of each Annual Conference, ours being Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference. If you have an

opinion about the way you would wish our delegates to take your vote into consideration, feel free to contact Larry Weber from Fairview Heights Christ United Methodist Church:

LarryWeber@mychristchurch.com

or Rev. Andy Adams from Troy United Methodist Church. You can contact Rev. Adams through the Troy United Methodist Website. And, if you have further questions, feel free to access Illinois Great Rivers conference website www.igrc.org.

Prayer Concerns (+ indicates weeks—call office to continue another 4 weeks)

- + Becky (Land) Anderson, hospitalized following back surgery and is having a lot of pain
Carolyn Land fell and broke her hip in two places—had surgery on Wednesday
Mary Ann Goldsmith fell and broke her wrist
Stephanie Turbiville, cousin of Sheila Page, breast cancer
Carrie Smith, cousin of Sheila Page, breast cancer
Rev. Robert Smith, husband of former pastor Elaine Smith, fell and is hospitalized
Kim Sickbert, cousin of Eileen Kreuzberg, treatments for pancreatic cancer
Donna and Janet Hardbeck for the continued processing of their parents' estate
Erica Robertson, great niece of Deloris Fisher, cancer has returned after several years
- ++ Lida Gillham, strength and healing
Antonize Anderson, undergoing chemotherapy
Jim Ebersoldt suffered heart attack and is recovering in Florida
The family of Vicki Aufdemberge, cousin of Anita Seehausen
- +++ Al Davis, continuing health issues—surgery scheduled for December 17
The family of Kurt Wilson
- ++++ The family of John Mars
The family of Ronald "Sam" Maedge, brother of Wally Maedge

Thank You Received

Immanuel Church Family -

Thank you for your willingness to be a host church for Charge Conference this year. Your hospitality was a blessing to us all. Many blessings to you as you continue to follow God's will as a church family.

D.S. Roger Russell
& Bonnie Abel

December Noisy Offering

Glen-Ed Ministerial
Alliance

UM News

Do you know what is happening throughout the global United Methodist connection? Rely on United Methodist News.

At UMNews.org, you can:

- Read online articles, features and commentaries
- Join the conversation with other United Methodists from around the world on social media
- Sign up for free email news summaries: the Daily or Weekly Digest

Articles examine what is happening in the church and how the church engages in major events and issues affecting our world. Dynamic stories explore how United Methodists around the world are demonstrating their faith. Global news coverage incorporates diverse faces and voices in appreciation of the scope of our worldwide connection. UM News reports on all sides of issues with an even-handed approach that demonstrates openness and transparency, sharing differing viewpoints through fair and objective reporting. UM News takes you around the world every day. UMNews.org

Giving to Immanuel

The way that The United Methodist Church supports their ministries is through apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the churchwide budget to conferences and local churches. Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district or annual conference ever could hope to do alone. In this way, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church's work.

Immanuel UMC has six separate accounts (funds) that you can contribute to:

Current Expense is the general operating fund, used to pay

monthly bills, insurances, salaries, minor maintenance & repair, curriculum, office supplies, etc. Our apportioned giving for 2019 from the Current Expense account will be \$1,494 monthly to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference (IGRC).

Every penny donated to the *Benevolence* account is sent to the IGRC to be used for disaster relief, ministering to the poor, advocating for justice, Special Sundays or other designated giving. In 2019 we are asked to pay \$888 each month as our share of benevolence apportionments. Special Sunday giving is in addition to this apportioned amount.

The *Property Improvement* account is used for the maintenance of our church property and buildings, and for major repairs and renovations.

Contributions by loved ones and friends who have passed away are put into the *Memorial* fund and can be designated for a specific purpose.

The *SAK* account (Serving Area Kids) is used for our summer children's feeding program.

The *Youth* account keeps track of funds needed for the bi-annual mission trip by our youth.

DS Rose Booker-Jones to Retire

District Superintendent, Rose Booker-Jones has been on our prayer list since June of this year. Prayers have supported Rose in her healing as God is strengthening Rose every day. She will be retiring and moving back to her home in Kansas. Her Retirement Service and Celebration will be

held this Sunday, December 2nd at 2 pm at Fairview Heights Christ Church in Fairview Heights, IL. We send blessings to Rose and pray her future will continue to be filled with promises of hope and healing. As an interim period, District Superintendent Roger Russell will continue serving

as the District Superintendent of the Mississippi River District.



Ways to Give to Immanuel

Boxed Contribution Envelopes are available to all who would like to have them.

These envelopes make it easy to distinguish which fund you would like for your offerings to go. Envelopes are included for each Sunday in 2019, and are very useful if you give weekly or wish to give to more than two funds (accounts) at a time.

Pew Envelopes are available from the racks on the back of each pew. The white pew envelopes are for making contributions to Immanuel. If you do not want to have a set of boxed contribution envelopes, you will be assign a number to

use when you make a contribution. Write your name or that contribution number on the pew envelope, which has places to designate your giving up to two different funds.

Online Giving is available through the Give+ mobile app on your smart phone, or by filling out some paperwork and having the church office set up a bi-weekly or monthly draw from your bank account into Immanuel's Current Expense account. You are able to give to any of our funds through the mobile app, but can only give to the Current Expense account through the

online giving set up by the church office.

If you currently have a set of boxed contribution envelopes and would like to receive one in 2019, you don't need to do anything. *If you wish to have a set but don't currently use them, call the church office. If you currently use a boxed set, but don't wish to have one in 2019, please call the church office. The boxed sets have been received and will be set out in mid-December, **so please call asap.***

Online Shopping

Did you know that your online shopping on Amazon.com can help Immanuel UMC earn a donation for our ministry? Visit Immanuel's website and click on the *Top Gift Ideas* icon on the home page. A portion of every dollar you spend will be directed back to Immanuel.



New Tax Law & Church Giving

Reverend Ted Frost of the United Methodist Foundation says that the new tax law can help churches to increase their annual support by informing them about taking advantage of Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD). People that are 70 1/2 must take a distribution each year from their IRA accounts (required minimum distribution—RMD). This distribution is determined by an IRS formula and is subject to federal income tax. With a QCD, the IRA owner redirects the taxable distribution to the church and the distribution then is NOT federally taxable to them. This technique is becoming very popular since the new tax law (TCJA) greatly increases the standard deduction for both individual and couples. It is estimated that for approximately 95% of income tax filers, using this higher standard deduction will be more beneficial than using itemized deductions. As such, tax deductible donations they previously may have given to the church will not be tax deductible. The QCD offers church givers a way to remove up to \$100,000 per person per year of required taxable distributions on a non taxed basis. He urges anyone interested in taking advantage of these techniques to consult their financial advisor or tax consultant. If taking advantage of this strategy is right for the donor, The UM Foundation stands ready to assist you as each charity that receives a gift in this manner needs to be prepared as well. The Foundation has taken the steps to be sure that each of its Church partners has the benefit of being ready to receive these gifts in an easy and tax efficient manner.

The Current

November, 2018

Looking Ahead to January...

New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 1
Church Office closed

Senior High Youth Group Lock In

Friday & Saturday
January 4—5

Educational Seminar Sponsored by *A Guiding Light*

Saturday, January 12
10:00 am—12:00 Noon
in Sanctuary

Kid's Night Out

Friday, January 18
5:30-8:30 pm

December Yoga Schedule

Beginner to Intermediate yoga practices will be held the following two Sundays in December, beginning at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall:

Sunday, December 2 & 16



The Old Church with the New Attitude

Immanuel United Methodist Church
800 North Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

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!

Office: (618) 656-4648

Web Site:
www.immanuelonmain.org

Church E-mail:
anita@immanuelonmain.org

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

Look us up on Facebook
[www.facebook.com/
immanuelonmain.org](http://www.facebook.com/immanuelonmain.org)

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

Maurice "Butch" Mestemacher
Instrument Director

Jordan Grammer
Worship Leader



**FOR TO US
A SON IS GIVEN**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Immanuel UMC
Sunday Worship Service**
8:45 a.m.
In Sanctuary

Common Time
9:45 a.m.
Includes:
Elementary Sunday School
Middle School Sunday School
Youth Devo
Seekers Class
Wired Word Discussions

**Nursery Available
Until 10:45 am**

**Each Wednesday—8:00 p.m.
Contemplative Worship**