

### **We Get A Second Act!**

During the holidays my husband and I took in a movie! It's been a while since we have gone to the movies. Wow! Now they have recliners-so comfortable! The movie we saw was, "Second Act," with Jennifer Lopez. Without giving details of the movie away, we watched Jennifer Lopez as she struggled between the history of her past and the dreams for her future. As the story continues the audience is reminded that the only thing that gets in the way of experiencing growth and courage is ourselves. We limit ourselves!

When we ask ourselves to apply this idea to our faithful living, being called by God as we seek and pray for God's will, we know we can grow in the strength of our own belief as we embrace the reality of Jesus in our lives. For the Gospel of Matthew tells us that through God, all things are possible. (Matthew 19:26) Taking this passage of scripture into context, Jesus was talking with his followers about the invitation to enter into the Kingdom of God. Jesus was making the point that through God, situations and/or people that might oppress us or marginalize us can become the very places of which we gain freedom and power—but only through God.

That was much of my message on Christmas Eve. As the light of the world was born for the world, Jesus became a prism by which a myriad of colors, lights, possibilities, dreams, accomplishments became our power of reality. The birth of Christ changed the world! All of creation shifted in a way that made things possible that have never before been. The same is true for today. For the birth of Jesus didn't have an expiration date stamped on the side of the cradle. The power that shone in the manger thousands of years ago is fresh and new and alive for us again this Christmas season as we remember and tell the stories as if they happened yesterday. During Christmas we are reminded once again that the birth of Jesus is not rehearsed year after year to remember the possibilities of 2000+ years ago, but for each of us in this time, in this space, with the people we know and love now!

The challenge we face today is to live with the immeasurable belief by which God calls and Jesus walks. We are to truly believe in our hearts that each of us has been given light by which to see and grace by which to live. And we are called to receive that bright myriad of light for our lives with gratitude, response, courage, and beauty. When the brightness of the light of the world shines in all the places of our lives, we see images and visions that are new to us, we gain clarity and understanding that may challenge us. Our journey this year is to be new to us! AND sometimes, the only thing that gets in our way is ourselves!

— *Pastor Jackie*

# Church News & Activities

## **Kid's Night Out**

All children age 3 through those in 5th grade are invited to Kid's Night Out on Friday, January 17, from 5:30—8:30 pm in the lower level of Immanuel. They children eat supper together, then play games, do crafts and various other activities. It will be a lot of fun! The evening ends with the children watching a movie and munching on snacks. A reservation is now required. You can RSVP by signing up on the sheet in the Hospitality Room, or by calling or e-mailing the church office. Adult helpers are very much needed and appreciated, because this program is **growing!**

## **Coffee Talk—Trustee Tidbits!**

On January 27th immediately following the IUMC Worship Service, each of you are invited to meet in the Journey's Inn Space downstairs. Coffee and snacks will be provided and the topic chosen to address for this Coffee Talk this time falls within the responsibilities of the Trustees for IUMC. The Trustees handle all the affairs that are related to the building and grounds of our properties. The Co-Chairs of our Trustees are Sharon Koenig and Bill Kreutzberg. A particular topic that will be addressed at this Coffee Talk will have to do with the plans for the new upstairs bathroom. This topic was initially introduced by Dustin Franke about a month ago. As we enter the new year, there will be many more plans concerning this project. Please plan to attend our fun and information time. The Coffee Talk that we had concerning the Financial details of our church was well attended and good information was discovered and shared.



## Confirmation Class 2019

Our 2019 begins with great news! Confirmation Class 2019 will officially begin the first Sunday of February 2019. The 2019 Confirmation Class will be taught during the normal Sunday School time on Sunday mornings. The third and fourth Sundays of January (during what is normally Sunday School time) Pastor Jackie and Jordan will meet with our confirmands and entertain questions they may have about God, Jesus, the church, their own personal questions about creation and humanity. Our Confirmands will experience Field Trips to various houses of worship, exposing each of us to diverse worship experiences and beliefs. Confirmands will learn about the United Methodist Church and our beliefs and reasons why we choose those beliefs. During our time of study, the students will be invited to explore their commitments to church and their interest and commitment to becoming a member of Immanuel United Methodist church. Confirmation Sunday will be determined at a later date when we are able to coincide schedules.

## Month of Grace and Prayer

You might remember July 2017 those who were interested in participating in A Month of Grace and Prayer committed to praying 20 minutes each day and was assigned to a Spiritual Companion for conversational and directional purposes. IUMC had 6 individuals to participate. Each of us were blessed with the continued sense of God's presence. As we prayed and reminded ourselves we were privileged to have trained Prayer Companions, our spiritual lives were so enriched. In July 2017 our church was yoked with individuals from St. Boniface Catholic Church.

We are offering another Month of Grace and Prayer. We will begin our month by gathering on February 17th at 2 pm in the Journey's Inn Space. Our Month of Grace and Prayer will end March 17th at 2 pm with another gathering in the Journey's Inn Space. This time we are partnering with individuals from Newsong Fellowship (in town). Once again, we commit to praying 20 minutes each day and meeting once a week by phone or by meeting we will converse and pray with our Spiritual Companions. All are invited to journey this beautiful road together. Grace Havis is our contact person for this ministry. Others that participated last year include Rhonda Grammer, Brittney Gilleland, Pastor Jackie, Grace Havis, BethAnne Havis, and Kim Poteet. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Grace Havis (618) 567-3220, [gracehavis@gmail.com](mailto:gracehavis@gmail.com). Deadline for reservations \_\_\_\_\_.



## Missions & Outreach

### Glen-Ed Food Pantry

The Sundays in January will be “Sudsy Sundays”, so we are asking in particular for donations of dishwashing soap, detergent, and hand soap. Any kind of donation will be greatly appreciated. They can be brought to church and placed in the red and green boxes in the narthex.

The pantry really appreciated all our help in 2018, and so did the people that came to the pantry for food and supplies. We hope that you will continue to help us out in 2019 the same way.

### Human Relations Day

The first of the six special Sundays of the United Methodist Church is Human Relations Day, on January 20th. Human Relations Day is our day to support those living in the margins of society. All monies collected during the special Human Relations Day offering will be funneled to our United Methodist Community Development Program (57%), the United Methodist Voluntary Services Program (33%) and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program (10%). Your gift will make a world of difference.

### Restore Décor Celebrates with Fundraiser at Wildey Theatre

We hope you will help us celebrate THE STORY OF RESTORE DÉCOR on Saturday, January 26, 2019! Whether you’ve donated, volunteered, shopped with us—or all 3! - you are a part of OUR STORY and how we can make a positive change in our community together! Tickets for the event are available online at

<http://wildeytheatre.com/?nav=eventsDetails&num=1582>

We’re also looking for businesses and individuals to sponsor Restore Décor to help cover our operating costs so that we can give away even more money in 2019! Contact us if you’re interested at 618 980-2018. There’s still time for an end-of-the-year tax deduction! Thanks for a great year!

### January Noisy Offering

**U.M.C.O.R.**  
United Methodist Committee  
on Relief



We thank everyone who furnished poinsettias for our holiday display this year!!

Allen/Schott Family

*In Memory of Loved Ones*

Sherry Buhrmester

*In Memory of the Buhrmester  
and Cheney Families*

Missy Carter

*In Memory of Bob & Chloe McIntyre*

Floyd & Deloris Fisher

*In Memory of Loved Ones and  
Family Members*

Jill Garbs

*In Honor of Pastor Jackie*

Joanie Green

*In Honor of Grandchildren Noah &  
Anna Middelkamp  
In Memory of Mother Mary Belle  
Brueggemann*

Sid & June Helle

*In Memory of the Spitze Families  
In Memory of the Helle Families  
In Honor of Our Children*

Gary & Sharon Koenig

*In Memory of our son Ed, Parents,  
Family & Friends*

Matt, Kiffon & Noah Lewis

*In Memory of Tom McCarty*

Bill & Nancy Phillipe

*In Loving Memory of our son Regis*

Mike & Ruth Portell

*In Memory of Loved Ones*

Norman & Judy Schoettle

*In Memory of Family and Friends*

## Giving in 2019

Boxed Christmas offering envelopes have been prepared and may be picked up from the narthex. If you would like to have a box of these envelopes and one has not been prepared for you, please let Anita know and she will fix one up for you. These envelopes are an easy way to clearly show where you want your contributions directed if you give to more than one of our funds.

If you currently give online either bi-weekly or monthly through the Bank of Edwardsville and wish to make a change in 2019, be sure to have new paperwork filled out and given to Anita by Monday, January 7th.

Online giving is also available through the Give+ App, using your credit or debit card.

For those wishing to use the pew envelopes, a contribution number will be assigned to you to use on those envelopes. Check the table in the narthex by the boxed contribution envelopes to see what your number is.

**2019 Covenant Cards** are still available for you to pick up, fill out and return to Immanuel.

## Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to change our outdoor sign. You can see what a vital job this is, as we are still telling our neighbors about our Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 16!!! This is not a difficult job, but it takes up a fair amount of time. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet found on the table in the Hospitality Room. Thanks!!

## Inclement Weather Policy

If the weather is questionable, the leaders of Immanuel UMC will make a determination if our service should be cancelled. If that happens, the cancellation will be posted on our website immediately. If you are a regular attender but do not have access to the internet, you will receive a phone call informing you that services are cancelled.

[www.immanuelonmain.org](http://www.immanuelonmain.org)

### Prayer Ministry († indicates weeks—call office to continue another 4 weeks)

- † Al Davis will have surgery tomorrow, January 7  
The District Superintendent asks our congregation to pray at noon every day until the end of February concerning the United Methodist Denomination that, God's will be done in this moment of decision-making processes  
Intentionally pray for Peace for the World
- †† Kim Sickbert, cousin of Eileen Kreutzberg, treatments for pancreatic cancer  
Stephanie Turbiville, cousin of Sheila Page, breast cancer  
Carrie Smith, cousin of Sheila Page, breast 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
- ††† Family of Lida Gillham  
Carolyn Land, back at Meridian, but still on antibiotics and quarantined  
Bruce Tuley, brother of Barb Taliana, health problems  
Janet Hardbeck for strength  
Antonize Anderson, chemotherapy

### Thank You Received



Dear Reverend Havis-Shear,

Thank you and the members of Immanuel United Methodist Church for helping provide coats for the children enrolled in our Edwardsville Head Start location.

Your generous gift made it possible for children to arrive at school warm, prepared to learn and ready to succeed in school. Without you, they would be cold.

We thank you!

Sincerely,  
Eugene A. Howell, MPA  
President and CEO



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse in the amount of \$515.00.

In all that we do, our goal is to share God's love and the hope of the Gospel with people who need to hear. As the angel told Joseph, *"she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:21). I hope you had a wonderful Christmas. May God bless you.

Sincerely,  
Franklin Graham

Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you for your gifts to support the following missionaries and ministries of the General Board of Global Ministries:

UMCOR US Disaster Response	\$100.00
Red Bird Christian School	212.00

When giving through The Advance, the designated giving channel of The United Methodist Church, 100% of your contribution is applied to the designated project(s) or to missionary support. Thank you for joining with us in God's mission.

May God grant you a sense of hope and joy as you continue your support for mission.

Roland Fernandes  
General Treasurer, General Board of Global Ministries

Dear Pastor,

Thank you for your generous contribution to our Thanksgiving basket collection! With help from fourteen local churches and several individual donations, we exceeded our goal again this year! Two hundred and fifty baskets of food have been distributed to clients of the GlenEd Pantry, to bless those who are in need in our community. ...

May God continue to bless our efforts to bless others!

Joe Russo, President, Faith Coalition  
Rev. Oliver Beans, President, GlenEd Ministerial Alliance  
Judy Moody, Executive director, GlenEd Pantry

## IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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### CONTACT US!

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Pastor's E-mail:  
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Look us up on Facebook

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

Maurice "Butch" Mestemacher  
Instrument Director

Jordan Grammer  
Worship Leader

Now  
you are the



of Christ and  
individually  
members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27, NRSV

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Immanuel UMC 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**