

February, 2019

THE VISION

The Way Forward

As 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 February 23-26. The One Church Plan includes three positions to adopt: 1) Changes 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, contact information for the voting delegates is as follows:

Clergy

Sylvester Weatherall, Delegation Chair, 3100 Saint Helen’s Ct, Springfield 62704-6501, sweatherall@igrc.org

Andy Adams, 312 Old Homestead Dr, Troy 62294-1295, andy@troyumc.org

Sara Isbell, 121 Christian Louis Ct, Bloomington 61701-6145, sisbell@wesley-umc.com

Chris Ritter, 731 Virginia St, Geneseo 61254-1988, c.ritter@peopleneedjesus.org

Bob Phillips, 107 Mill St, PO Box 51, Elsah 62028-0051, soulfxr@hotmail.com

Randy Robinson, Alternate, 1104 W Voorhees St, Danville 61832-1604, randyr@stjames-umc.com

Roger Ross, Alternate, 108 Kipling Way, Columbia, MO 65201-6863, rross@moumethodist.org

Janice Griffith, Alternate, 307 Boulder Creek Dr, Chatham 62629-2049, jgriffith@igrc.org

Laity

Rhonda Whitaker, 1264 Hickory Dr., Neoga, IL 62447-1212, whitakers@mchsi.com

Bunny Wolfe, P. O. Box 19207, Springfield, IL 62794-9207, bwolfe@igrc.org

Kimberly Woods, P. O. Box 171, Industry, IL 61440-0171, Kimberly.woods220@gmail.com

Steve Schonert, 125 Hawthorne Dr., Olney, IL 62450-3306, sschonert@yahoo.com

Larry Weber, 115 Cardinal Dr., Belleville, IL 62221-4310, larryweber@mychristchurch.com

Marian McCray, Alternate, 4003 Maryland Manor Ct., Granite City, IL 62040-3925, marianmccray@yahoo.com

Anish Hermon, Alternate, 16 Cloverhill Cir., Bloomington, IL 61705-3300, ahermon@gmail.com

Carol Sims, Alternate, P. O. Box 19207, Springfield, IL 62794-9207, csims@igrc.org

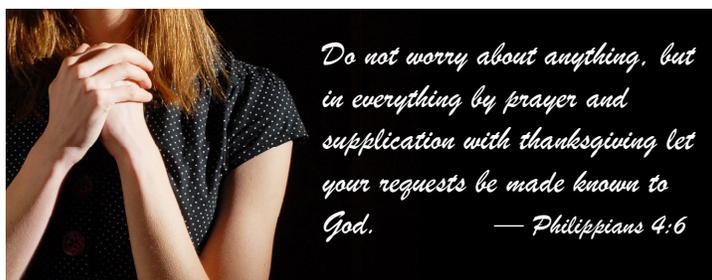


Month of Grace & Prayer

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 were assigned to a Spiritual Companion for conversational and directional purposes. IUMC had 6 individuals who participated. 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 in person 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 have questions, please contact Grace Havis (618) 567-3220, or gracehavis@gmail.com. There is a sign-up sheet in the Hospitality Room for those who would like to participate.



Prayer Ministry & Prayer Chain

We believe that there is power in prayer, power in the name of Jesus and power in the Word of God. The purpose of prayer is to intercede on behalf of others as the Spirit of God leads us. If you or a loved one is in need of immediate

prayer, you can call Evelyn Schaake (618 656-0416) or the church office to start our Prayer Chain. This gets the need out quickly to about two dozen people who will pray on behalf of your loved one. A name may also be submitted to the church office to be in-

cluded on our Prayer Ministry list in the bulletin and newsletter. Those names will be kept on the list for 4 weeks. When placing someone on our prayer ministry, please obtain their permission when giving full names and circumstances.

January Coffee Talk



This coming Sunday, January 27 immediately following our worship service, 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 falls within the responsibilities of the Trustees for Immanuel UMC. 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. Please plan to attend our fun and informational time.

Kid's Night Out

Children age 3 through those in 5th grade are invited to attend our next Kid's Night Out event on Friday, February 15, from 5:30—8:30 pm. The children share a meal together

to begin the evening, and then break out into different groups for games, crafts and other activities. The evening ends with the kids watching a movie while munching on snacks.

A reservation should be made by Wednesday, February 13 at noon. Adult helpers are always needed! Speak to Kiffon Lewis or Jill Winte for more information

Change the Game—*Souper Bowl of Caring*

More than 29 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat." Since that day, more than \$143 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is trans-

forming the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world—as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Souper Bowl Sunday.

Our youth will take a collection on Sunday, February 3 following morning worship. All monies and food donations will be given to the Glen-Ed Food Pantry.

Our Priority is Love

A Challenge for us as we Live out our Faith with Intention in 2019

For centuries, Christianity has been presented as a system of beliefs. That system of beliefs has supported a wide range of unintended consequences, from colonialism to environmental destruction, subordination of women to stigmatization of LGBT people, anti-Semitism to Islamophobia, clergy pedophilia to white privilege. What would it mean for Christians to rediscover their faith not as a problematic system of beliefs, but as a just and generous way of life, rooted in contemplation and expressed in compassion, that makes amends for its mistakes and is dedicated to beloved community for all? Could Christians migrate from defining their faith as a system of beliefs to expressing it as a loving way of life? . . .

For centuries, Christians have presented God as a Supreme Being who showers blessings upon insiders who share certain beliefs and proper institutional affiliation, but who punishes outsiders with eternal conscious torment. Yet Jesus revealed God as one who "eats with sinners," welcomes outsiders in, and forgives even while being rejected, tortured, and killed. Jesus associated God more with gracious pa-

rental tenderness than strict authoritarian toughness. He preached that God was to be found in self-giving service rather than self-asserting domination. What would it mean for Christians to let Jesus and his message lead them to a new vision of God? What would it mean for Christians to understand, experience, and embody God as the loving, healing, reconciling Spirit in whom all creatures live, move and have their being?

For centuries, Christianity has presented itself as an "organized religion" - a change-averse institution or set of institutions that protects and promotes a timeless system of beliefs that were handed down fully formed in the past. Yet Christianity's actual history is a story of change and adaptation. We Christians have repeatedly adapted our message, methods, and mission to the contours of our time [for example, the Second Vatican Council within Catholicism]. What might happen if we understood the core Christian ethos as creative, constructive, and forward-leaning—as an "organizing religion" that challenges all institutions (including its own) [as Jesus

did] to learn, grow, and mature toward a deepening, enduring vision of reconciliation with God, self, neighbor, enemy, and creation? . . . If such a migration is possible, how would we describe that way of life toward which we are moving?

If we are to be truly Christian, it makes sense to turn to Jesus for the answer.

Of the many radical things said and done by Jesus, his unflinching emphasis on *love* was the most radical of all. Love was the greatest commandment ... his prime directive—love for God, for self, for neighbor, for stranger, for alien, for outsider, for outcast, and even for enemy, as he himself modeled. The new commandment of love [John 13:34] means that neither beliefs nor words, neither taboos, systems, structures nor the labels that enshrined them mattered most. Love decentered everything else; love relativized everything else; love took priority over everything else—everything.

Brian McLaren

The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian (Convergent: 2016), 2-3, 42.

Mission Report—2018

| <u>Cash</u> | <u>Activity</u> |
|-------------|---|
| \$ 75.00 | Human Relations Sunday |
| 333.25 | U.M.C.O.R. (includes \$236.00 from Noisy Offering) |
| 180.00 | U.M.C.O.R. Advance Special 901670 |
| 224.31 | Souper Bowl—collected by youth on Super Bowl Sunday as part of a nationwide program to benefit local pantries (Glen-Ed) |
| 652.55 | Glen-Ed Pantry—includes \$155 from Noisy Offering, \$161.00 earmarked for school supplies and \$101.55 from Yoga class for school supplies. Items totaling 2034 pounds were donated—1744 pounds at church collection point (including 35 backpacks), 111 pounds from Yoga class, 138 pounds from 55+ Fellowship and 11 pounds from Vacation Bible School. |
| 184.00 | Faith in Action (from Noisy Offering) |
| - - - | SOLEA, formerly Shoe Man Project—collect shoes for resale (donation to provide additional sources of water in needed area—6 bags of shoes). |
| 35.00 | Peace With Justice Sunday |
| - - - | S. A. K. (Serving Area Kids) - coordinate, supervise and provide work/storage space for program that provided 5,426 lunches to low-income family children |
| 73.00 | Donated for "Tornado Tubs" |
| 184.92 | Preacher's Aid Society and Benefit Fund (from Noisy Offering) |
| - - - | Vacation Bible School—approximately 43 children and youth participated. 11 pounds of school supplies were donated to Glen-Ed Pantry |
| 187.00 | Glen-Ed Ministerial Alliance (from Noisy Offering) |
| \$110.00 | World-Wide Communion Sunday |
| - - - | Meals-On-Wheels—deliver meals in the month of August |
| 212.00 | Red Bird Mission School Scholarships—KY Advance Special 773728 (from Noisy Offering) |

Continued . . .

| <u>Cash</u> | <u>Activity</u> |
|-------------|---|
| - - - | Collect donation of unsold items at St. Louis Bread Company each Monday and deliver to Main Street Community Center |
| - - - | Free Lunch Friday program Served 5,546 free lunches Served Thanksgiving meal for 154 people Served Christmas meal for 141 people |
| 694.50 | Kids Night Out—provides structured night of fun and recreation (including meal) in a Christian-based environment. Approximately 150 children and youth participated. Program generated \$694.50 in voluntary donations from parents/guardians and other designated gifts. |
| - - - | Angel Tree Ministry—provided Christmas gifts for 25 children (10 families) with incarcerated parents |
| 515.00 | Operation Children’s Christmas Box—filled 43 Christmas boxes in program of Samaritan’s Purse and contributed \$515.00 to distribution costs. |
| 540.00 | Thanksgiving Basket donations |
| 740.00 | Our Conference Our Kids (from Noisy Offering) |

Our Senior High Group Is On the Move!

The Senior High Youth Mission Trip 2019 is scheduled June 30—July 5 for Loveland, Colorado. Thirteen individuals are planning to participate this year. This will be the last Mission Trip that the Senior High Youth Group will take while still attending high school. February 17th we will celebrate Youth Sunday, the young people will lead worship and there will be special offering envelopes available for

each of us to contribute to the good work of which they are participating and supporting. If you are interested in learning more about the site to which they are going, feel free to log in:

<http://groupmissiontrips.com/pc/Immanuel-United-Methodist-Church-Edwardsville>



Scrip Orders Taken on Sunday!

This Sunday, January 27, is the next opportunity you have to purchase Scrip gift cards. These cards can be used to do your regular daily shopping, but also can be used to put

into a card as a nice gift. Immanuel receives a percentage back of every dollar you spend on items that you are already purchasing. Order forms and shopping lists can be picked

up from the table in the Hospitality Room. If you have questions about this program, please speak to Teresa or Christal Akers-Helle.

Sudsy Sundays

The Sundays in January and February have been designated as "Sudsy Sundays" as we ask you to especially remember to pick up dishwashing

soap and laundry detergent for the Glen-Ed Food Pantry. Your donations can be placed in the box in our narthex each Sunday.



Thank You Notes

Barb Taliana sends a big THANKS and KUDOS to **Mary Lou Grigg, Betty Lou Gengler, and Tom & Penny May** who picked up and delivered bread from Panera's on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. They are truly blessings for our outreach ministry.

Anita Seehausen wishes to thank whoever is responsible for the terrific new **office chair**. What a wonderful surprise and a blessing this chair is, as it has so many adjustments. Thank you so much to whoever donated this chair!!

Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering collected during the month of February will be donated to Faith in Action, a volunteer-based ecumenical organization providing services for seniors in our community.

All-District Training

On February 17th, 2-4:30 pm there will be an All-District Training at St. Matthews United Methodist Church in Belleville, Illinois. There will be 5 breakout sessions on the following topics:

- Prayer
- SPPRC
- Finance
- Trustees
- Church Growth

Please note that all pastoral staff are expected at this event AND all church leadership that can benefit from any of the breakout sessions are encouraged to attend.

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

- + David Frazier, recovering from hip replacement
 Brittney Gilleland, continued health issues
 Carolyn Land, now in Rosewood Nursing home, out of quarantine. She welcomes short visits and cards.
 Bruce Tuley, brother of Barb Taliana, health problems
 Janet Hardbeck for strength
 Maya Mendez, Liberty Middle School student battling leukemia
 Lois Ann Rodenbaugh, close friend of Sid & June Helle and Barb Taliana, strength and healing
 Marge May, hospitalized with diagnosis of double pneumonia—Marge’s address is
 8505 Flying Cloud Drive, Apt. 315, Eden Prairie, MN 55433
 Friends of Judy Schoettle, Opel Lang experiencing health issues and her parents, Priscilla and Tyler
 Edwardsville New Church Start with Reverend Michael Whitaker, blessings for wisdom and
 inspiration

- ++ Family of Betty Funston, close friend of Barb Taliana
 Logan Fuller, friend of Brittney Page, going into basic training January 28—prayers for safety

- +++ Al Davis recovering from surgery at Meridian Village—prayers for strength and healing
 The District Superintendent asks our congregation to pray at noon every day until the end of February
 concerning the United Methodist Denomination that Gods’ will be done in this moment of the
 decision-making processes
 Intentionally pray for Peace for the World

- ++++ Kim Sickbert, cousin of Eileen Kreutzberg, is now on hospice care
 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

2018 Contribution Statements

Contribution Statements for 2018 have been prepared and are available for you to pick up from the table in the Hospitality Room. The statements were mailed to those who live out of the area. If you live out of town and have not yet received your statement, please call Anita at 618 656-4648. Thank you to all who contributed to the ministries of Immanuel United Methodist Church in 2018!



Informational Meeting for Seniors and Their Families

Informational meetings are held the first Thursday of the month for seniors and their families from 4—5:00 pm at the Main Street Community Center, 1003 N. Main Street in Edwardsville. These meetings are for the purpose of sharing all you need to know about caring for seniors. The meetings are sponsored by MSCC & A Guiding Light Senior Living Placement Assistance.

On Thursday, February 7, *Financial Planning* will be the topic under discussion.

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

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

Maurice "Butch" Mestemacher
Instrument Director

Jordan Grammer
Worship Leader

IF WE LOVE
ONE ANOTHER,
GOD
LIVES IN US

AND



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 Confirmation
Youth Devo
Seekers Class

Nursery Available
Until 10:45 am

Each Wednesday—8:00 pm
Contemplative Worship