

March, 2019

THE VISION

Thriving in Darkness

As we exit the season of Winter, we can imagine the growth that each tree and plant has experienced within the root system. We can't see the growth that has happened because the roots, the very stability of the living organism has intertwined, curled around, and stretched through the dark places within the rich soil of which it is planted. While in the light, branches have continued to stand strong and present, roots have been very busy growing. This proves real work is done in the darkness.

Isaiah writes, "I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by name." —Isaiah 45:3

Barbara Brown Taylor has written the book entitled, *Learning to Walk in the Dark.* Taylor expresses, "Darkness is shorthand for anything that scares me." She addresses this fear and some of the opinions that society embraces about light and dark, always dismissing darkness to be least popular. Children need to be reminded that darkness is not always harmful. Adults need to be reminded that darkness is not always harmful. We all can take a lesson in understanding the gifts that we can find, and experience in the dark. Of course, sometimes, there is harm in the dark, however, the dark has opportunities to offer growth and healing. The darkness can be a place to thrive, allow our roots to grow deep as they intertwine, curl around and stretch forth into the darkness of our souls.

As we enter this Lenten Season, let's entertain the idea of personal growth by learning to walk in darkness. Let's explore the gifts God may give us as Isaiah refers to *the treasures of darkness and riches of hidden places.* May we be interested in leaning on God's presence to speak whispers we need to hear in the dark, promises that we can only understand with our eyes closed and our hearts open. As our hearts are gifted in the blessing of God's provision, may we (in the dark) find ourselves on bended knee, praising God with gratitude and thanksgiving. For God brings us to this place of worship with contrite hearts and tempered souls. Let's get to work on our inner selves so when the thaw breaks, we are rooted for the work of the outer world.

Pastor Jackie



Ash Wednesday

This year, all are invited and welcome to join together for a reflective, candlelit Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 pm, March 6th. We will gather into a quiet space to begin the season of Lent, wonder about this mystery named Jesus, and revisit the long road

of authentic healing. We will have imposition of ashes and holy communion. Please dress comfortably in a way this is authentically you, and we look forward to praying and healing with you on Ash Wednesday.



World Day of Prayer

This year, the women of the World Day of Prayer Committee of Slovenia call us to worship with the words: "Come—Everything is Ready." We are invited to learn about Slovenia's history and rich culture. The women share their stories of intergenerational



wisdom, traditions, and experiences of God's profound love.

The World Day of Prayer service will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 3601 Ridgeview Road in Edwardsville on Friday, March 1 at 9:15 am.

General Conference of The United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Denomination is meeting for a special General Conference from February 23—26 in St. Louis. The Council of Bishops will be offering the "One Church Plan" which includes three positions to adopt regarding issues surrounding human sexuality

and our approach to the LGBTQ+ community. We are asked to hold this Conference in prayer, that God's will be done in this moment of decision-making processes.

There is a **Post General Conference Meeting** scheduled for anyone in-

terested to get caught up to date with information after General Conference—March 9 at 10:00 am at O'Fallon United Methodist Church. People need to register only to make sure the crowd does not get too large. There is no fee. Register at www.igrc.org.

UMW Fundraiser



Immanuel United Methodist Women invite you to celebrate PI(e) Day on 3.14

We will be taking orders for delicious homemade pies.

We will have both 8 inch and 9 inch pies, priced \$10 and \$15.

Varieties include:

Apple, Chocolate, Custard, Pecan, Pineapple Cream, Strawberry and Toll House

We will be taking orders beginning Sunday, February 24 through Sunday, March 10th. The pies will be available for pick-up at the church on Thursday, March 14. Pick up times will be 11:30—1:30 and 5:00—7:00.

Mystery Dinner Theater—"Holy Taco"

Be a Dining Detective! You are invited to put on your detective hat and help Inspector Petrocelli (Doc Shear) solve a case during an interactive dinner at Immanuel UMC on Saturday, March 30, beginning at 6:00 pm. From the moment you

enter to take your seat, you are a part of the action. You witness a crime, assemble clues, interrogate suspects, and solve the crime, all before you finish your dessert! Put on your detective hat, dust off your magnifying glass, and solve

a case that will keep you guessing (and laughing) until the end. This is a fundraiser for our Senior High Youth Group, as they raise money towards their mission trip this summer. More information can be found on the flyer on Page 9.

Garage Sale Fundraiser

We will be holding a church-wide Garage Sale on Friday and Saturday, April 26 & 27 in the Journey's Inn Room to benefit our Middle School Youth Group. As you begin your Spring Cleaning, please set items aside that you no longer need. Easter is April 21, and we

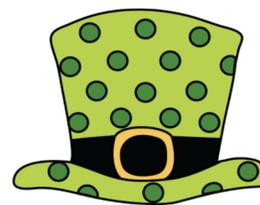
ask that you not bring items to church until the Monday following Easter. If you need the space and can't hold your items, please speak to Pastor Jackie, or Matt and Kiffon Lewis, who will be more than happy to assist you. No adult clothing, please.



Kid's Night Out

Kids age 3 to those in 5th grade will meet on Friday, March 15th from 5:30-8:30 pm in the lower level. They begin the evening eating a meal together, and then break up into

age-based groups for crafts, games, and other fun activities. We now require that a reservation be made. Sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall, call or email the



church office by Wednesday, March 13. We LOVE spending time with your kids!!

Confirmation Class

Pastor Jackie and Jordan Grammer began teaching a confirmation class the first of February, comprised of members of our Middle School Youth Group. On the agenda for March are trips to the Baitul Hafeez Mosque and to a Jewish Re-

formed Congregation, both in St. Louis. They will discuss worldwide religious relationships with others in preparation for these trips. Also in March they will discuss stories within the Bible, why bad things happen to good people—original

sin, grace and free will. Confirmation Sunday will be held on Easter, April 21! Being confirmed are Zinnia Allen, Shelly Brase, Ayden Hendriex, Noah Lewis, Noah and Hannah Penelton, Owen Potter, and Aryhona Radford.

Youth Group Mission Trip

Many thanks to our Senior High Youth Group, who led our worship service on Youth Sunday, February 17. These youth will go on their mission trip this summer, June 30—July 5, in Loveland, Colorado. Thirteen individuals are planning to

participate this year. 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>



Daylight Savings Time Begins

Seems like we just got back that extra hour of sleep, and we are about to lose it again! Daylight Savings Time will begin on Sunday,

March 10 at 2:00 am. If you don't have a newer "Universal" type clock, be sure to set your clocks AHEAD one hour before go-

ing to bed Saturday evening. This will ensure that you will arrive at church at the proper time, and not an hour late.

Vanco Give+ App Cancellation

Immanuel began offering the option to give through the Vanco Give+ app on your smart phone almost two years ago. We had a 24-month introductory discount for the use of this app. That discount will come to an end in June.

After reviewing the amount of money contributed on this app, comparing that to the fees that were involved, and the fact that fewer than five families were using the app, the Church Council has decided to discontinue use of this app.

As of the end of March, we will no longer have the option available to give to Immanuel through Give+. An alternative might be to check with your personal bank about any online bill paying app they might have available.

Scrip Fundraising Is Easy!

Immanuel UMC participates in the Scrip fundraising program. When you purchase scrip, you're purchasing prepaid cards that are very convenient and are used just like a debit card. You can order cards for over 750 of the most popular brands, from groceries to coffee to entertainment to gas.

Earn money for Immanuel every day on the purchases you're already making just by paying with a gift card you ordered at church. You can pick up a packet with the listing of retailers and an order form from the table in the Hospitality Room. The cards arrive in about two weeks after placing

your order. Scrip orders are collected on the last Sunday of every month. On Sunday, February 24, you are asked to place your order and check on the secretary's desk, or hand them to Pastor Jackie, as Teresa and Christal will be out of town.

Glen-Ed Pantry Emphasis for March

Immanuel—you rock at picking up items for the Glen-Ed Pantry! You always deliver—no matter the horrible weather! Thanks so much to all who participate in purchasing items for our Food Pantry.

In March, in addition to laundry detergent and dish-washing soap, we are also asking for donations of personal care items: shaving cream, razors, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, etc.

There is also a need for saline crackers, paper towels, cereal and devil's food cake mix. Thank you for remembering those in need.

Noisy Offering During March



Today it's our arms, physical and spiritual, safe and warm, that holds *Our Kids* at each of our five children and family serving agencies. *Our Conference, Our Kids Spiritual Life Endowment Campaign* was approved at the 2016 Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference to raise \$2.5 million to fund an endowment that

would perpetually benefit the spiritual life ministries of the five conference-related agencies serving children and families in the communities of our conference. As the original resolution affirmed, this is "...our collective response as a church to be in mission to offer Christ's love and healing to the 'least of these'."

UMCOR Sunday

FROM "THEY" TO "WE"
UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief, and yet they are anything but a typical committee. They are a program by the General Board of Global Ministries taking action when disaster strikes around the globe. **We will be highlighting UMCOR**

during our next Special Sunday, on March 31st. UMCOR acts as the hands and feet of Christ's church, moving towards the most vulnerable in their time of need. Helping people in their darkest days doesn't have to be something "they" do, it can be something "we" do. We hope

that you will give generously this upcoming UMCOR Sunday so that we, along with our United Methodist congregations around the globe, can share compassionate relief in the midst of devastation. Until then, let's be praying for the volunteers, the lives they touch, and for hearts to be moved.

Bathroom Update

As of Tuesday, February 19, we have received 18 pledges for the addition of a bathroom to the sanctuary level of Immanuel, in the amount of \$11,875.00. We have already received \$8,420 of that pledged amount. In addition, we have received contributions of \$1,740 from those who did not fill out a pledge. In summary, we have received \$10,160 to go towards this project, with a total of \$13,615 pledged.

The Board of Trustees has decided to move forward with the addition of this bathroom, using Randy Leitner as the contractor. They will proceed with the project *as soon as we get all the monies needed*. If you have not yet made a pledge or a contribution, you are asked to prayerfully consider doing so. You can print the pledge card found on this page and return it, or pick up a blue pledge card at church from the entryway, narthex or Hospitality Room. Contributions should be made out to Immanuel United Methodist Church, with "Bathroom Addition" written on the memo line.

We are excited to begin this project, which will address the needs of many who cannot easily navigate the stairs.

2019 PLEDGE FOR NEW BATHROOM

The cost to install a bathroom on the sanctuary level at Immanuel United Methodist Church is \$20,000. I (we) pledge that we will contribute towards the construction of this bathroom, and that I (we) will make this contribution as soon as possible.

Name _____

Pledge \$ _____

2018 Contribution Statements

You may pick up your 2018 Contribution Statement from the table in the Hospitality Room. If you need for us to mail your statement to you, please let us know. We can either send it through the US Postal system, or e-mail it to you. We appreciate your financial support in 2018!

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

- + John Burk, who suffered a stroke on February 17
Family of Kim Sickbert, cousin of Eileen Kreutzberg, who passed away this past week
Family of Al Davis, who passed away on Monday, February 11
Phyllis Marshall, sister of Gary Koenig, broken femur and rehab
David Frazier who was hospitalized for an infection as a result of his knee replacement
Carolyn Land, now at Rosewood Nursing Home. She welcomes short visits and cards!
Rosewood Care Center, 6277 Center Grove Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025
Edwardsville New Church Start with Reverend Michael Whitaker, blessings for wisdom and inspiration
- ++ 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 process
Intentionally pray for Peace for the World
- +++ Faye Heuchert, hospitalized for brain aneurism
Mother of Bonni Burns, undergoing chemotherapy
Becky Martin, wisdom in making decision concerning health issues
Janet & Donna Hardbeck’s niece, Amelia, health issues
April Shaw and her mother-in-law, strength and healing
- ++++ Brittney Gilleland, continued health issues
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 parent’s estate
Erica Robertson, great niece of Deloris Fisher, cancer

A Loss in Our Church Family

We extend our sympathy to the family of Al Davis, who passed away on Monday, February 11, after a hard-fought battle with cancer. A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, February 16. Al will be remembered for helping at our Free Lunch Friday program, and serving as Lay Leader for a number of years. Al also set up our first web site and helped out with computer issues as they arose. Pat asks that donations be made to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, online at www.cancer.org, or to Immanuel UMC in Al’s memory.



Membership Updates

Changes of Address:

Dan & Rebekah Carter
Chloe, Leo, Addison
405 N. Douglas, St. Jacob, IL 62281

Missy Carter
305 S. Benton, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Janet Hardbeck
Cedarhurst of Bethalto
905 N. Moreland Road, Bethalto 62010

Grace Havis
1721B Mississippi
St. Louis, MO 63104

Change of Phone Number:

Floyd & Deloris Fisher
(618) 792-7418

MYSTERY DINNER THEATER

"Holy Taco"

Saturday, March 30, 2019



6:00 PM

APPETIZER BUFFET

Taco Chips ~ Queso ~ Pico de Gallo

6:30 PM

DINNER

Taco Salad

Enchiladas ~ 1 Beef ~ 1 Cheese

Mexican Rice, Refried Beans

DESSERT

Vanilla Ice Cream ~ Cinnamon & Honey

ENTERTAINMENT

Tres Amigos Mariachi Band

Matt Miller • Steven Dill

HOSTS FOR THE EVENING

Doc Shear as Inspector Petrocelli

Barb Hansen as Dolly Menendez

Rick Leitner as Louis, the Partner

COST: \$15.00/Person

Proceeds to Benefit

Sr. High Youth Group



**A SIGN-UP SHEET CAN BE FOUND
ON THE TABLE IN THE
HOSPITALITY ROOM**

The Old Church with the New Attitude

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

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

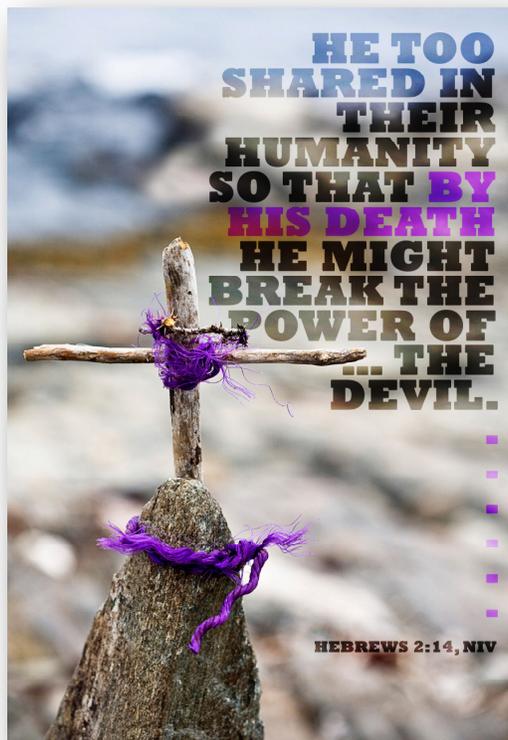
Pastor's E-mail:
pastorjackie@immanuelonmain.org

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



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
Seekers Class

Nursery Available
Until 10:45 am

Each Wednesday—8:00 pm
Contemplative Worship