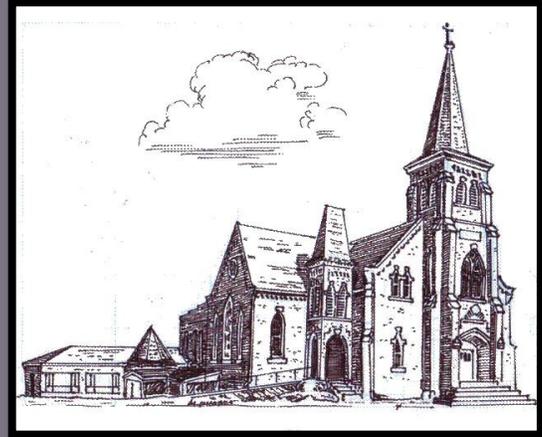


# THE VISION

March 2020

Monthly Newsletter of  
Immanuel United Methodist Church



I am overflowing with gratitude after last Sunday! We spent some wonderful time remembering the Enduring Love of God in the past at Immanuel UMC. I saw the creative spark in all of you: finger painters, writers, cooks, coordinators of the potluck, paper quilters and mosaicists and photographers to name a few. We created something beautiful together and I knew that we'd be able to do it!

What do we do now?! You might wonder...

Now we transition our focus to attending to the Enduring Love of God in this present time. While none of us are actually able to be in any other time than this present moment, it is amazing how difficult it can be to just be where we are.

It can be easier to see God in the past,  
*when we've had time to make sense of what happened,*  
or in the future,  
*where we know we need the Spirit to fulfill the extraordinary visions of our dreams.*  
But **we can only actually live in the present** -- right here, right now...  
*and we can find God in this moment, we can see God in our lives and in our church right now.*

During this season of Lent we will be reading the life story of Jesus as told in the book of Mark in a series called, "Presence in the Present." We will learn from Jesus how we can live in *this* moment, with *these* people, seeing what is immediately in our midst and centering always on God because "the kingdom of God is at hand!"

So how will we continue with our creative offerings, when the subject is the present? We give our financial offerings and our volunteer hours to God, but have we slowed down enough to give our selves in this moment to God? Can we give God our thoughts and fears and worries, our limitations and our celebrations? These responses will continue to be collected during our offering time and will be integrated into our next "Zine" at our Creative Event on April 26th.

It will be a new challenge for us, and we will learn to be brave together. But as we give ourselves to God, God is faithful and His steadfast love endures forever!

— Pastor Jewell McGhee

Enduring Love  
Past, Present, and Future  
of Immanuel

## Kid's Night Out

All children age 3 through those in 5th grade are invited to Kid's Night Out on Friday, March 20, from 5:30—8:30 pm in the lower level of Immanuel. The children eat supper together, then play games, do crafts and various other activities. It is a lot of fun! The evening ends with the children watching a movie and munching on snacks. A reservation is 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.

## Daylight Savings Time Begins!

Just when we thought winter would never end, it is exciting to think that Daylight Savings Time will begin on Sunday, March 8! If you have older clocks, you will need to remember to set them AHEAD one hour before going to bed on Saturday evening, as the time will change at 2:00 am on Sunday morning. Yes, you will lose one hour of sleep, but you will regain it on November 1, when we revert back to Central Standard Time. Another cheery thought: Spring begins on Saturday, March 20!!

## Careful Care Class

Our next After Church Sunday School class begins this Sunday, March 1. We are excited to have Alton Memorial Hospital Chaplain Pastor Sarah Dierker lead a class called "Careful Care." While these classes are primarily intended for our Care Team members, anyone who may be interested in becoming more mindful of self-care and spiritual growth are invited to attend. The classes meet each Sunday following morning worship through the month of March. Topics addressed are: Caring 101, Active Listening, Appropriate Response, Boundaries/Self Care, and Role Play/What's Next. We hope you will join us as we discuss ways to support one another in our deepest grief and greatest joys as a church family.

## Sistahs

The next women's gathering of Sistahs will be on Wednesday, March 18 at 6:00 pm. We are invited to bring supplies for Metro-East Humane Society/Partners for Pets. Examples are paper towels, doggy blankets. They are not in need of animal food because they receive contributions from other sources.

## Pi Day Fundraiser

The United Methodist Women invite you to celebrate Pi(e) Day on 3.14. They are now taking orders for delicious home made pies, both 8" and 9", for \$10.00 and \$15.00. Varieties are apple, chocolate, custard, pecan, pineapple cream, lemon meringue, strawberry and Toll House. The Women will be taking orders after church on March 1 and 8, or you may call Penny May, 655-0706. Pick up your pies on March 14 from noon until 2:00, or by appointment with Penny.



## Month of Grace + Prayer

Go on retreat while staying at home. Explore different ways of praying, speak privately with an experienced spiritual companion and become more aware of God's presence in your life. A Month of Grace + Prayer will begin with a 90 minute group gathering of all participants on Sunday, April 19 at 2:00 pm in the Journey's Inn Room. Throughout the month each participant will be invited to pray privately each day and then meet confidentially with an experienced spiritual companion for one hour each week. Meetings with spiritual companions take place at New Bethel United Methodist Church on Wednesday mornings, afternoons or evenings, at the convenience of each participant. All participants will gather again in celebration on Sunday, May 17 from 2:00-3:30 pm at Immanuel. One may still participate in the retreat if not able to attend the opening or closing gatherings. This is an individually directed retreat tailored to your own deep desires. Committed couples also have the option to participate as a couple. Spiritual companions are not members of either co-hosting church.

Brochures and registration forms are available at church, and for even more information, visit

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

or contact Grace Havis. There is no registration fee, but retreatants are invited to share the costs of the retreat as they are able. Registration is encouraged by April 9.

## World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is celebrated on Friday, March 6 beginning at 9:30 am at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 182 Summit Avenue in Glen Carbon. You are asked to bring donations for the Glen-Ed Food Pantry. This year's service was written by the women of Zimbabwe. World Day of Prayer promotes justice and equality for women through prayer, partnerships, service and celebration.

## Global 6k for Water

Save The Date! May 16, 2020 is the Edwardsville Global 6k for water. We are partnering with Newsong Fellowship to participate in this event. Please visit the website [edwardsville6kforwater.com](http://edwardsville6kforwater.com) for more information. There will be plenty of opportunities to register. It's a lot of fun and supports a great cause for World Vision.

## Glen-Ed Pantry

Immanuel continues to support our Glen-Ed Food Pantry! The first three weeks of February, 83.4 pounds were contributed, consisting of laundry detergent, 59 dish detergents, 160 rolls of toilet paper, a backpack, pencils and pens, and a notebook. The Pantry is always in short supply of laundry and dish detergent and are always thrilled when our donations are received. A big thanks to Sherry Buhmester, who is taking our contributions to the Pantry while Evelyn Schaake is recovering. And, a big thanks to all who pick up extra personal care items, dish soap, laundry detergent, and any other items for donations to our Food Pantry.



## March Noisy Offering

Each Sunday following the Creative Moment, our children receive a “noisy offering” of your loose coins in metal buckets. Each month this offering is donated to a special cause. In March we will be donating the offering to “Our Conference, Our Kids.” The 2017 Annual Conference officially launched a \$2.5 million Our Conference, Our Kids campaign for the spiritual care programs of the five child welfare agencies in the conference—The Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children’s Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and Spero Family Services (formerly the United Methodist’s Children’s Home). Additional information can be obtained by visiting the Our Conference Our Kids website.

## The Upper Room

The March/April edition of the Upper Room is now available to pick up from the narthex or Hospitality Room. The Upper Room is a daily devotional magazine published in more than 30 languages and 100 countries around the world. The meditations are stories of real people working to live faithfully with the Bible as their touchstone. If you have not used the Upper Room in the past, Lent is a great time to begin this discipline.

## All-Church Picture!

You will be invited to be a part of an all-church picture to celebrate this time in our church family this coming Sunday, March 1, following morning worship.

## Reconciling Ministries Vote

Immanuel UMC took votes the last two Sundays in January. The vote reflected Yes we want to become a Reconciling Ministries Church, or No we don’t want to become a Reconciling Ministries Church. The results of the vote is 77 votes for becoming a Reconciling Ministries Church and 10 against becoming a Reconciling Ministries Church. The Core Team made up of 17 individuals of this church have been meeting once a month over this last year. The Core Team will continue to meet to determine and define next steps. Updates will continue to be shared through worship services, bulletins, newsletter articles, hand-outs, etc. If you have any questions or suggestions, please share with Teresa or Christal Akers-Helle, Isabelle Kane, or Rhonda Grammer.

All means All!

All are encouraged and welcomed to be an active and supportive part of this journey.



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

## The Bishop’s Protocol

On Tuesday, March 3 at 6:30 pm, an opportunity is provided for the Bishop’s Protocol Plan to be addressed and explained in further detail. The Bishop’s Protocol is one of the plans that will be offered at General Conference in May of 2020. This Listening Session is at Belleville Union United Methodist Church, 721 E. Main Street, Belleville, Illinois.



We welcome **Cary** and **Phyllis Tucker** as new members to Immanuel. They come to us from Smith Center, Kansas. We look forward to getting to know them!

**Sharon Prott** wants to thank everyone for all of the prayers, cards and kind thoughts. She is recovering from major surgery at home.

**Evelyn Schaake** is now recovering at Eden Care Center, 400 S. Station Road, Glen Carbon, 62034, Room 309. She welcomes very short visits!

Our long-time custodian, **Wally Maedge**, will be leaving us shortly as he follows doctor's orders to allow a hairline crack in his hip to heal. We will miss his warmth, humor and spectacular maintenance of our building.

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## Community Service Day

The third annual Community Day of Service will be held on Saturday, March 14, when we come together as the body of Christ to serve the elderly and others in need in our community. The day begins at 8:30 am at Township Park for prayer and donuts. You will then spread out to work on various projects, including painting, yard work, and small home-repair and maintenance projects. Lunch will be available at the park from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Contact Michelle at [faithcoalitionedwardsville@gmail.com](mailto:faithcoalitionedwardsville@gmail.com) to match projects with participants.

## Yard Cleanup for Seniors

Students, Faculty and Staff of the SIUE School of Pharmacy will once again be providing free yard cleanup services for senior citizens in the Edwardsville area. Services include: raking leaves, trimming hedges, removing downed limbs & pulling weeds. If you would like to register for this free service, please call Missy Auten at 618-650-5164. The services will be provided on the mornings of Saturday, March 14 and Saturday, March 28.

## UMCOR Sunday Special Offering

*Life sometimes can be overwhelming.* We read or watch on the news and see communities overwhelmed by natural disaster. We hear about humanitarian crises arising from civil unrest and war. We know that famine and drought are caused by climate change and see in our own community signs of food insecurity. It can seem like too much. How could we possibly make a difference? As followers of Jesus, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) we can make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upended by storms, wars, and displacement. Through UMCOR, we see the impact of extravagant grace through the generosity of United Methodists. We will receive a special offering for UMCOR on Sunday, March 22.

## Contributions at Immanuel

If you do not use the boxed set of contribution envelopes from Immanuel, you might not be aware that you are able to direct your contributions to different funds. The contribution envelope has lines for the following:

Current Expense is our operating fund, and this is where your contributions go if they are not marked differently. This is the account that pays all the everyday bills and salaries, plus the apportionments assigned to us by the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. The annual budget set for our Current Expense account in 2020 by the Church Council is \$213,455.

Apportionments – As highlighted above, apportionments are assigned by our Conference. In 2020, we are asked to contribute \$1,524 each month. This is money the Conference uses as their operating fund. If you would like for your contribution to be used solely to pay these apportionments, you can direct them there.

Benevolence is a fund used to give to missions and disaster relief. The Conference asks Immanuel to pay \$877 each month from our Benevolence account to fund projects by the Methodist Committee on Relief and other humanitarian projects.

Property Improvement is a fund used to pay for large building expenses, such as the installation of our new bathroom, tuckpointing, etc.

You can write where you want your money directed on the memo line of your check, or on the pew envelope you pick up on Sunday morning. If you would like to receive a set of the boxed contribution envelopes, please contact the church office and one will be assigned to you.

**Immanuel United Methodist Church**  
EDWARDSVILLE, ILLINOIS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Current Expenses .....	\$ _____
Benevolence .....	\$ _____
Property Improvement .....	\$ _____
Apportionments .....	\$ _____

Current Special Project (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not at worship, mail your contribution to: 307 N. Main, Edwardsville, IL 62025

## 2019 Contribution Statements

In an effort to save money on paper, envelope and copying costs, we are not printing out all of the 2019 contribution statements. In the past, it seems that we end up having to shred about half of them because they are not picked up. If you would like to receive either an electronic or paper copy of your 2019 giving statement, please e-mail or phone the church office and we will be happy to prepare one for you. Thank you for your understanding, and know that your contributions are greatly appreciated!!

## Online Giving Available

We offer the convenience of online giving through the church office. You fill out paperwork to authorize us to withdraw your contribution amount either bi-weekly, or monthly. The monthly draw comes out of your account on the 15th of the month, or the first business day following the 15th. The bi-weekly draws come out every other Monday. Once this is set up there is nothing more you have to do, and your contribution arrives no matter what the weather or even if you are out of town. You may change the amount of your draw with a one week notice to the office. There is paperwork on the table in the Hospitality Room, or speak to Anita in the church office if you have questions.

## Edwardsville Immanuel Stresses Broadening Sense of Worship to the Community

*The following article was first printed in the December 22, 2019 issue of the Alton Telegraph. It was reprinted in the February 2020 issue of The Current:*

Immanuel United Methodist Church in Edwardsville has been proudly serving lunch every Friday for the past 14 years, serving roughly 100 people each week. The Christmas feast on December 20 was no different.

A church member started the tradition to give back to those who are in need. To this day, all the food is donated or bought using donated money.

The menu on Friday was created in the spirit of Christmas and offered a full spread of homemade food for a number of visitors. The food was cooked by church member and lunch coordinator Sharon Koenig with help from her husband. Project 612, a group that donates packaged food no longer needed from District 7 school cafeterias, supplied the milk and juices, and the Junior Service Club of Glen Carbon supplied the desserts.

Koenig explained how the lunch has grown over the years to serve people well outside the city limits. "They come from all over, they ride the buses [Madison County Transit] from Highland, from Wood River, from Alton," she said. "It's just amazing where they come from."

The lunch is free, but donations are accepted. Volunteers fuel the operation and are always welcome.

"It's open to everyone, it doesn't matter age, race, whatever," she said. "We're open to everyone who wants to stop in."

Pastor Jackie Havis-Shear agreed with Koenig and talked a little more about the role the church plays. "Over the time that I have been here [14 years], what I have seen develop is a real desire to meet the needs of people in the community," she said.

"We love worship on Sunday morning, but we know that there really is more to bring Christ in the community than just coming to worship. Worship is really for a broader community and you can't meet the needs if you're not with the people enough to know the needs."

Havis-Shear said the lunch is just one program the church does to get to know, help, and understand the community.

Another program that the church is proud of is its summer lunch program. The program includes six different locations where members and volunteers serve lunch to children. All six locations are different churches that they rotate through.

The church has partnered with various businesses in the community. One partnership is with Riverbend Head Start & Family Service, located next door to the church. Havis-Shear said the church will help Head Start with any kind of drive they may have, such as the popular coat drive. "That's just another example of meeting the needs of the community in a broader space beyond just the local church building," Havis-Shear said.

For anyone interested in helping with the Friday lunches, Koenig suggested to stop by on Fridays during the lunch, 11 am to 1 pm and ask for Sharon or how to get involved. The program runs every Friday except major holidays.

"We really focus here on 'all are welcome' and as we gather and as we build relationships and get to know each other, I want people to know that we will do everything we can to meet those needs," Havis-Shear said.

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

- † Praise report that Immanuel UMC Congregation has been on the Prayer List of our DS last week—we appreciate all prayers ☺  
Prayers for everyone who has and is experiencing the illness going from person to person  
Wally Maedge, healing for a hairline crack in his hip
- †† Family of Jim Bazillion, grandfather & step-father to Kiffon Lewis & Jill Winte in his passing
- ††† Marlene VanCamp, recovering from knee replacement  
Haydon Grammer, recovering from surgery  
Family of Mindy, friend of Emily Spitze, who passed away on January 28
- †††† Evelyn Schaaake, recovering at Eden Care Center  
Granny Ruth—Grandmother of the Havis children—recovery from a heart attack  
Praise Report—Cindy Cameron has retired! Errick has not—he is still doing what he loves!  
Family of David Grotefeldt in his passing

### Thank You!

The Board of Trustees would like to give a big *Thank You* to any and all persons of the church who were so kind and caring that helped us to be able to purchase a new dishwasher for our church kitchen. All groups use this machine for meals—various groups, youth and more. Any and all thoughts, prayers and monetary donations have been appreciated.

Thank you!!!

— The IUMC Board of Trustees

The Preacher's Aid Society and Benefit Fund wishes to express their deepest thanks for your gift of \$161.07 given in 2019. It will support hundreds of retired ministers and their dependents.

Souper Bowl of Caring raised \$227 to donate to the Glen-Ed Food Pantry. Thank you to all who made donations!!

We want to extend a big "Thank You!" to **Bob Ahrens** and **Pastor Jewell McGhee** for all of the work they did for our Creative Event last Sunday, February 23, as we took a look at the past history of Immanuel UMC. Bob put together the video used at worship as well as the special Power-Point presentation that was run in the lower level. We are thankful to Pastor Jewell for all the time she spent getting things ready for the Creative Event as well as her powerful sermon.

Thanks to Bob also for framing and matting the historical picture of the 1952-53 Women's Society of Christian Service, and for the work he did on the Sermons page of our website.

We are blessed by both of you and your special talents used for the glory of God.

**IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

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**CONTACT US!**

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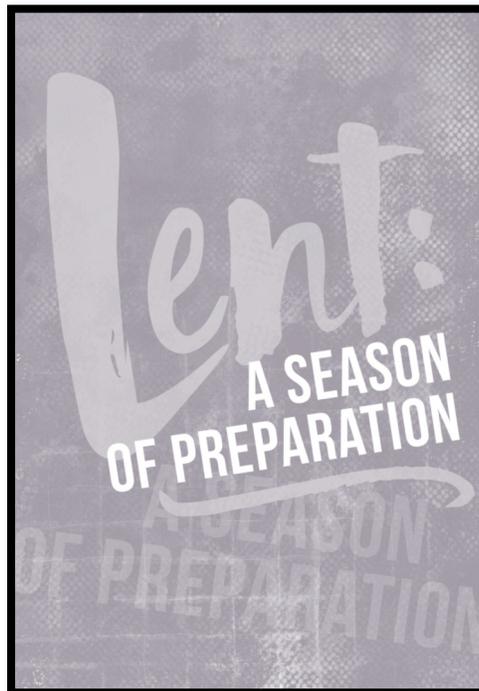
Pastor's E-mail:  
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Look us up on Facebook

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

Maurice "Butch" Mestemacher  
Instrument Director

Ms. Liz Ahrens  
Praise Team Leader



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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

**Christian Education**  
9:45 a.m.  
Elementary Sunday School  
Middle School Sunday School  
Seekers Class

**Nursery Available  
Until 10:45 am**