



THE VISION

April 2020

Monthly Newsletter of
Immanuel United Methodist

Looking through a Different Lens for Lent

When fear and panic jump into my sidecar, thinking they are coming along for the ride, I like to dump them on the side of the road by looking at a situation from a completely different perspective. This has been helpful in allowing me to shift the focus from myself to others.

There are serious implications with regard to this pandemic. Separation from friends and loved ones, food scarcity, diminished access to medical care, vaccines, and the reality of loss of life, the inability to gather as a community of faith, cries for help falling on the deaf ears of those in power, the possibility of martial law threatening our freedom. I am reminded these are the daily struggles for 80% of the rest of the world on a daily basis and have been for years.

Perhaps we can stop asking “why is this happening” and start with the question, “what are we supposed to learn from this”.

I had a spiritual companion last year who said something that I have carried with me since our time together. She proposed the idea that our greatest commandment is to love God with our whole heart and love our neighbor, *who is ourself!!!!* Father Gregory O’Boyle states “compassion is not just our willingness to serve others but our ability to see our kinship in them—our shared humanity.

I wonder if we could view this experience as an opportunity to stretch our boundaries of compassion. To understand that we are more alike than different. We all inherently have the same desires. Maybe we can become more resistant to Western society’s emphasis on competition, achievement at the expense of others and self-servitude. Maybe we can come out on the other side kinder, gentler, remembering we all belong to each other and to God. A God who renews us, redeems us, heals us, and lovingly leads us where we need to be.

Yours in Christ,
Rhonda Grammer



We're Here to Help!

As we continue to be the church, even without our beloved building and meaningful traditions, there are those in our church community willing and able to help if you find yourself in need in the weeks to come. That need might consist of a wellness check via phone for those who live alone, a conversation for those who are feeling sad or isolated, grocery/medication delivery, online tutoring for a student, etc.

As events continue to unfold, you may e-mail the church office as Anita is working from home and will have a list of contacts. Those without e-mail should phone Pastor Jackie.

We were meant for one another!

Yours in Christ,
Immanuel Care Team

Office Change

While our state is under the "Shelter in Place" order, Anita is working from home. To get a message to her, please use the church e-mail. If you have a concern or need pastoral care, please feel free to phone Pastor Jackie at 618-531-9134.

Meet Our New Pastor!

Rev. David Roderick's first Sunday with us will be on Sunday, July 5. He currently serves as the Associate Pastor of Outreach & Missions at Troy United Methodist in Troy, Illinois.

Following is his biography published on the Troy UMC website:



Though born in Mississippi (hey y'all), I consider myself a Missourian. I spent most of my childhood in one Missouri town or another and both of my parents are from the Show-me state. I have been married to my beautiful wife Tami for nearly 25 years. We have four children, Bard, Zack, Christian and Tori. My own family is one of the main reasons I am passionate about family ministry. I love seeing the church team up with families and support them as they raise spiritually healthy children.

We look forward to meeting and getting to know Pastor David and his family as they join our family at Immanuel.

Postponements

All activities that call for a public gathering of people have been postponed. This includes all worship services, Christian Education classes, Free Lunch Friday, Sistahs, A Month of Grace + Prayer, OWL Curriculum Classes, Head Start Reading, Kid's Night Out and all meetings.

The Chicken Dinner has been rescheduled for Sunday, July 12 at the Moose Lodge.

This is from Chaplain Sarah!

Read and feel encouraged and ready for this continued reality.

It goes without saying that we are currently in the midst of uncertain times. The nature of our work in many areas of life is no stranger to stressful situations. This new normal we are in, however, is something new for many of us. The dynamics of our lives are changing every minute, hour, and day. In the meantime, I want to encourage you all to keep a few things in mind as we navigate these uncharted waters.

1. Keep an eye out for each other. Encourage and care for one another.
2. Don't be afraid to ask for help: You're not going through this alone. You have people in your corner who want to support you and there are resources at your disposal. Please email, or call each other if you need a listening ear. The Care Team of Immanuel UMC is composed of people who care about you.
3. Remember that we are running a marathon and not a sprint. Pace yourself and check in with yourself regularly to make sure you're physically, emotionally, and mentally healthy. If we aren't caring for ourselves, we won't be able to fully care for others.

I will leave you for now with this prayer by Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk. He called it "a prayer everyone can pray" and it is something that speaks to us all who live in uncertainty.

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Amen

-Chaplain Sarah



Gifts & Offerings

Dear Church Family,

I know that I am struggling with the lack of contact with all of you as I am sure many of you are feeling the same. We are working on becoming comfortable with what will be our new normal for the next month or so. With all these changes we are all learning new things we never thought we would have to learn; for some it's technology, for others its being an extrovert learning to live like an introvert. As a church we are learning to be a family apart but also learning ways we can still gather via zoom, Facebook, Youtube, emails and texts. It really is quite amazing how far technology has come to allow us to use these things. I saw a picture of Missy on her phone Zooming with 9 of her friends J. Emily just shared a quote from Hebrews 13:8 that reminds us even in these times "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." As Jackie would say, we have to lean into Him for comfort and strength for He is always the same and loves us always.

While we are learning to live in a new way, we are also learning how to give in a new way. Even though we are not meeting at church, the bills don't stop coming. We are still paying salaries and insurance, apportionments and benevolence as we remain faithful to our tithing. Our counters are still meeting to ensure accounts are being add to and tracked. I wanted to take a minute to share some ways that members can still tithe while they are home:

Checks, ACH & Bank Transfers:

Automatic withdrawal from your bank: Anita can take your bank information (routing number and account number) and up to twice a month the bank will deduct whatever amount you wish. This is simple and low cost, since the change to Busey Bank we have not been charged to make these transitions. Currently Free

Bill Pay – If you use your own banks bill pay you can add the church to your list of payees, Just enter the name and address of the church and put your name or your envelope number (if you know it) in the account number area. Your bank will handle the rest by mailing a check to the church. Typically Free

Regular Mail – You can always mail your check to the church. If you are not getting out, you can just put the envelope in your mailbox and the mailperson will handle the rest. J If you are out of stamps you can purchase stamps from your postal carrier. Cost of Stamp

Credit/Debit Cards

Venmo: Currently we are testing Venmo which allows the transfer of funds from your checking account directly to the church's account. This is handled by an app on a smart phone. Once we can

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confirm this works with the church, we will update with a how to. If you use the bank-to-bank or debit-card-to-bank options this is free: If you choose to use a credit card there is a 3% fee per transaction.

PayPal: We can set up a PayPal account for the church but the drawback is there is a fee of 2.2% + 0.30 per transactions. Before we set this up, we want to make sure we have enough interest. If your interested in using PayPal, please let us know.

Please know that we are aware that with all the shutdowns some members will be affected financially. This is not a call to give more in this time, it is simply an offering of new ways in which to do it.

As Always, Peace and Love in Christ,

Teresa
Finance Committee Chair

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

- † Newman Carriers is considered an essential business, so pray for all the truckers and employees of Newman Carriers
The family of Evelyn Boswell, Tennessee toddler whose remains were discovered
- †† Jill Garbs' friend is doing well following open heart surgery last week
For our community, state, nation and world as we deal with COVID-19
Phyllis Marshall, sister of Gary Koenig, healing prayers who suffered a stroke Monday evening
Prayers for the family of Kristen Sultan upon the passing of her mother, Charlene Sultan
- ††† Gary White—brother of Mary Reiter, who was put on hospice this week
Missy Carter, respiratory issues
Praise Report from Paige & Shelly Brase—they were involved in an auto accident that totaled their car, but no one was hurt!
- †††† Victims of Nashville tornado
Dale Brueggemann, father of Joanie Green, broken hip
Family of Roger Kuchta, father-in-law of Carrie Kuchta who is the daughter of Missy Carter and sister of Dan Carter
Kim Poteet, recovering from radiation

The Month of April

We are not sending an April calendar, as we are not sure what the month will look like. When the time comes that we can resume meeting together, we will then make up and distribute a calendar for the month.



- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 01 Angela Dyer | 16 Kari Prott |
| 02 June Helle | 18 Madison Emshousen |
| 06 Brittney Gilleland | Kelly Robbins |
| Randy McKeever | 19 Kris Lancaster |
| Marilyn Vignola | 24 Ashley Sullivan |
| Danielle Woods | 25 Wendy Firsching |
| 07 Amelia Anderson | 27 Sherlyn Buhrmester |
| 11 Kyle Starks | 28 Jill Winte |
| 12 Bobby Hicks | 29 Pat Davis |
| 13 Colin Robbins | Ruth Zelasko |
| 15 Alexander Schwalb | 30 Sheila Page |
| | |
| 09 Taylor & Rachelle O'Bryan | |
| 11 John & Tiffany Schwalb | |
| 21 Daniel & Tara Hodge | |
| 23 Doug & Diane McCullough | |
| 27 Kyle & Ashley Starks | |

Welcome to our New Custodian!

We wish to welcome Terri McDougal as our new custodian. Terri began working at Immanuel on March 1. Terri lives in Marine, Illinois, and also cleans at Eden UCC across the street from us. She used to clean many houses, but gave those up to clean at Immanuel. Terri was busy wiping down all of our pews and walls last week to get rid of any germs. We will all come back to a healthy and clean church when we can begin to meet again. Please give Terri a warm welcome when you see her!

Glen-Ed Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry is open during their regular hours, but are offering Curbside Service Only. If you need food due to the current COVID-19 emergency, please call 656-7506 to make an appointment and they will prepare customized bags for you. You must be a resident of Edwardsville District #7 to qualify.

The Pantry remains in need of donations! They can be dropped off during the hours they are open:

Monday	3:00—5:30 pm
Tuesday	9:00—11:30 am
Wednesday	3:00—5:30 pm
Thursday	9:00—11:30 am
Friday	9:00—11:30 am



The Pantry normally serves approximately 300 families per month. Monetary or donations of goods are in critical need. Their address is 125 5th Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025. They will be closed on Good Friday.

The items needed most at the moment are: white rice, saltines, cold cereal, oatmeal, cookies, jello and pudding, shampoo and conditioner, laundry detergent, dish soap and deodorant.

Thank you for your continued support of our local food pantry.

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 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.

Pray that this event will be able to go on as scheduled!! We will be receiving updates and will pass those along to you.

Easter Lilies/Blue Hyacinths

Due to the uncertain nature of our worship services right now, we did not place that order for Easter flowers. If you have given us a check, it will not be cashed. Let us know if you would like for us to return it, shred it, or deposit it for general expenses. Thanks!

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

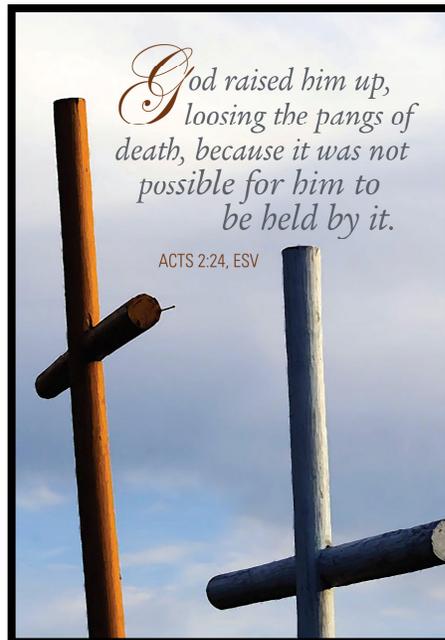
Pastor's E-mail:
pastorjackie@immanuelonmain.org

Look us up on Facebook

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

Maurice "Butch" Mestemacher
Instrument Director

Ms. Liz Ahrens
Praise Team Leader



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**8:45 am on
Sundays**

Hear a worship service live on
Immanuel's Facebook Page!