

## Choosing to Believe

I am an optimist! At least that has been historically true for me. The past couple of years have put a dent in my optimism, but it has not taken it away. And I believe it will fully return in the future (see what I did there?). I am sure it is no secret that the rise and fall of COVID rates is the primary culprit for my increased negativity. The place I find myself struggling is the area of planning. For a while it felt like every time I planned something, it got canceled or pushed back. Family vacations, holiday celebrations, church services, ministry opportunities and so on. But that type of view is not helpful and I recognize the need to change. So when I look ahead to the fall of 2022, I am going to do my best to look forward with unbribled optimism and excitement for all the possibilities that it may hold.



There are reasons that my optimistic self is returning and I hope that sharing some of them will help you as well. There has been an energy level at church this week that we have not felt in a long time. The return of Vacation Bible School with its decorations, music, Bible stories and of course the kids has created an excitement that is infectious. Add to that all the great volunteers and it provides a glimpse of a return to normalcy. It also gives us a glimpse of the Fall when we return to Sunday School classes and Kids' Night Out.

In addition to our kids programming, we will also be offering Adult Bible studies on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. We are planning an all church picnic for September to help kick off our new opportunities. Our other ongoing programming will continue along with other new opportunities. Immanuel will continue to be present in our community as well. The Land of Goshen Market, Parkfest and Unity Edwardsville are all on our calendar. So stay tuned! I KNOW it is going to be a great Fall.

— David



## Kids Night Out Returns in September

Mark your calendars now for Kids Night Out, Saturday, September 17, from 5 to 8 p.m. A free, fun-filled evening for children age 4 through fifth grade, Kids Night Out includes dinner, games, crafts and a movie, and is held monthly throughout the school year. More information and a link to register will be shared shortly.

## S. A. K. Going Strong!

With three weeks remaining in our summer feeding program, so far 735 children have received 3,675 lunches. Lunches are handed out every Monday between 10 am and Noon at Immanuel, and at University Flats Mobile Home Park by volunteers from area churches. Each child receives five lunches. The final day for distributing lunches will be on Monday, August 15. The program is headed up by Sherry Buhrmester, who has done a great job of making sure that lunches are bagged up correctly, volunteers show up, and shopping every week to replenish supplies. We look forward to getting a final report for next month's newsletter. It's obvious that this program is a blessing to children in our community this summer!

## Bibles For 3rd Graders

Immanuel has a tradition of gifting children going into the 3rd grade with engraved Bibles as the new school year begins. If your child is going into 3rd grade, please let us know!

## Vacation Bible School 2022

At Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School, the kids attending had lots of fun while learning that "Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through." A huge Thank You to all of our incredible volunteers, who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School a great success:

Teresa Akers-Helle  
Lisa Allen  
Zinnia Allen  
Rhonda Grammer  
Sydney Grammer  
Gary Koenig

Sharon Koenig  
Amber Larson  
Kiffon Lewis  
Matt Lewis  
Sheila Page

Dave Rader  
Trish Rader  
David Roderick  
Tami Roderick  
Emily Spitz  
Jill Winte



*See More VBS Pictures on the Next Page...*



Immanuel United Methodist Church

## THE VISION

August, 2022

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## Goshen Market

Immanuel is having a presence at the Land of Goshen Market again this summer, representing both our church, and the Rainbow Ministry. In August, you will have two opportunities to represent Immanuel UMC and/or the Rainbow House Ministry at our tables on Saturday, August 6 (IUMC), and on Saturday, August 20 (Rainbow House Ministry). Shifts are from 7:00 am to 9:45 am, and from 9:45 am until 12:30 pm. You can sign up for the August 6th table by following this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040845A9AA29A2FA7-goshen>

If you would like to sit at our table on August 20, representing the Rainbow House, you can sign up by following this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040845A9AA29A2FA7-goshen1>

We will have handouts and share information about our church and our new Rainbow House Ministry. Help us get the word out to our community about the ways that God is reaching others through these ministries.

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## Skate Nights

It's time to get rolling. Immanuel UMC and Skate Culture are joining together to offer roller skating at Township Park. Skate rentals are available for just \$5. The purpose of the night is to build community, while promoting health and wellness. Invite friends and family and join us on August 9 and 23 from 5:30-8:00. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Rainbow House.



### What is Safe Gatherings?

Safe Gatherings is an abuse prevention and boundary awareness program. It incorporates an online application, electronic reference checks, 4 levels of background checks (including county of residence), and online abuse prevention training. Safe Gatherings makes it easy to track applicants through the process.

**Who Should Be Approved?** Everyone who works with children, youth and/or vulnerable adults should be screened and trained to work with those vulnerable populations. This includes leaders, staff and volunteers.

*We have attached a pdf file with more questions and answers about Safe Gatherings. It is named SafeGatheringsFAQs.*

### 2022 Monthly Income & Expense

#### Current Expense (Operating)

Actual Expense—June	\$14,629.00
Contributions	\$13,308.00
Budgeted Expense—July	\$20,105.10

#### Benevolence (Missions/Disaster Relief)

Due by 12/31/2022	\$ 8,712.00
Received by 6/30/2022	\$ 2,575.00

**Prayer/Praise Ministry** (+ Indicates weeks—call office to continue another 4 weeks)

- + Kandy Sullivan, health issues and concerns for her family  
Nick and Aaron, brothers who are nephews of a family member of the Koenig's, both hit with sudden illness—Nick has a lesion on his brain, and Aaron has a malignant mass near his liver and gall bladder—both young men with young children
- ++ Norman and Judy Schoettle for strength and healing—Norman following a home accident, and Judy after surgery
- +++ Rev. Dr. John "Doc" Shear, treatment for stage 4 esophagus cancer  
Erika, friend of the Helle family, cancer treatments
- ++++ Ginger Little and son Chad, friends of the Grammer family  
Navider, the husband of one of Wanda Marth's friends, recovering from heart surgery  
Trevor and Hannah Page at the birth of their son, Parker

**GLEN-ED PANTRY**

The Pantry's 12 Months of Giving is highlighting "Easy Meals" donations during August. The pantry usually sees an increase in clients coming in during August as families struggle to get everything ready for back to school. Consider donating easy to prepare meals for these busy days, such as Hamburger Helper, Rice-A-Roni side dishes, instant rice or frozen meals. The Pantry is located at 125 5th Avenue in Edwardsville. Hours of operation for drop off of donations are:

Monday & Wednesday  
3:00—5:30 pm

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday  
9:00—11:30 am

**Operation Christmas Child**

There is a tub in our Hospitality Room where you can make donations to the OCC shoeboxes that will be sent to children all over the world before Christmas. Won't you please be looking for items to add to our tote? For a complete list of approved items, please follow this link:

<https://sp-comm-arkfiles.s3.theark.cloud/website/pdfs/OCC/Gift-Suggestions/2021-Gift-Suggestions-PDF.pdf>

**New Address!**

We received the above postcard from Brittney Gilleland. In case it is difficult to read, her new address is 1703 Division St SW, Olympia, WA 98502. Many blessings in your new location, Alexa and Brittney!! (And Luna, too!)

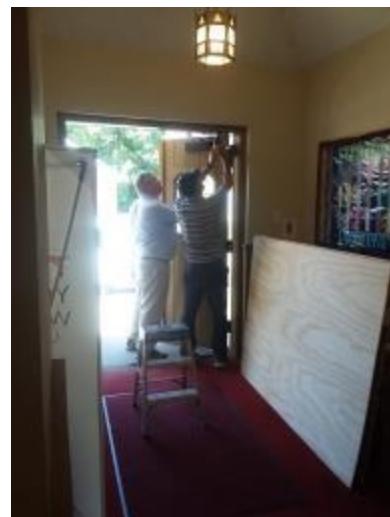


## Our Sanctuary Doors Are Once Again Beautiful!

Workers from Arkad Precision Refinishing in Belleville removed our sanctuary doors on Monday, July 11th and took them to their shop. They were returned during the week of July 17 after being refinished. Many thanks to all who helped with this project!



Our sanctuary doors had gotten damaged from the sun and weather



Two men from Arkad removing the doors



Our sanctuary with no doors!



Gary Koenig and Karl Larson preparing plywood to cover the entrance



We received several calls from neighbors wondering if something had happened to our church!



Beautiful newly restored doors!



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

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## Contact Us!

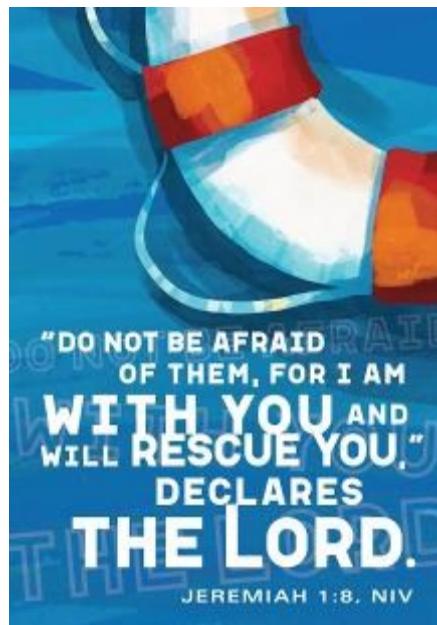
Office: (618) 656-4648

Web Site:  
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[david@immanuelonmain.org](mailto:david@immanuelonmain.org)  
[droderick@charter.net](mailto:droderick@charter.net)

Liz Ahrens  
Praise Team Leader



## Worship Schedule

In-Person Worship &  
Livestream on Facebook  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
immanuelonmain.org/](https://www.facebook.com/immanuelonmain.org/)

10:00 am  
Each Sunday

**Thank You** for your  
continued support of  
our ministries.

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