

A Word From Our Pastor

The key word in the world of United Methodists today is "change." Changes that have happened and changes that are to come. There's much talk about the future of the United Methodist Church as we go through this season of change. Much of the conversation has centered around disaffiliation. That is a process that many United Methodist churches are going through in order to leave the denomination. It is sad to see these churches go and it is heartbreaking to see the grief that many of the members of those churches as well as many clergy have experienced in the process. Last fall, I did a series entitled #BeUMC, where I talked about the hope for the future of our denomination. I am even more hopeful today than I was a year ago that the United Methodist denomination will come out of this time stronger and ready to fulfill its mission to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ For the Transformation of the World."

One of the changes that impacts Immanuel most immediately is the reduction of the number of districts in our conference from 10 down to 5. This became official on July 1st of this year as we became a part of the Central District. The Central District is made up of a combination of our former District, the Mississippi River District and the Sangamon River District. We are thankful to Allynn Walker who retired as our district superintendent this past July. We welcome and pray for Bradley Watkins who is our new district superintendent and will lead the Central District into the future.

As we look to the future, our next General Conference will be April 23-May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Due to the pandemic, this will be the first general conference since the special called conference in 2019. Much has happened in our denomination during this time and at the same time, much has stayed the same. One of the primary changes that may come out of this General Conference is a regionalization plan that would allow the churches within the United States more leeway in making decisions that impact our church's ability to contextualize our ministry. While at the same time, other Conferences around the world will maintain their own ability to do the same. You can read more about this here <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/regionalization-plan-heads-to-general-conference>.

For those of you who do not have a Methodist background, I know I just threw out a lot of organizational jargon that may or may not make sense. I apologize for that, but to explain that here would probably take the entire newsletter. For a better understanding, follow this link: <https://www.umc.org/en/who-we-are/structure>.

David





Kid's Night Out Resumes



Kid's Night Out meets once a month from 5 pm until 8 pm while school is in session. This is a fun night for kids age four through those in 5th grade. There is no cost to attend, and friends are welcome!

The evening begins with

the children eating a meal together, and the participants then engage in special seasonal crafts, games and other fun activities. The evening always ends with a snack and a movie.

Kid's Night Out met on Saturday, September 2, and will meet next on Saturday, October 14.

We ask that you make a reservation to assure that we have sufficient staffing, food and supplies. To make your reservation, please call or email the church office or sign up on the sheet found in the Hospitality Room at Immanuel.

Sunday School

Our Children's Sunday School staff is eager to meet your children this Fall! Learning is made fun through the use of stories designed to spark curiosity and cultivate a sense of awe and wonder about God. Fun crafts, riddles, games, and songs are also used, and children are encouraged to look for God sightings during the week to share with the group. Children's Sunday School is for children age 3 through those in 5th grade, and meet in the lower level at Immanuel at 10:00 am each Sunday morning.

(NOTE: There will be no Sunday School class on Sunday, September 3, due to the Labor Day holiday.)

CHILDREN'S
Sunday School

Did You Know?

Immanuel members and friends were involved in distributing lunches to area children through the **Serving Area Kids** program this summer. Several members went to the Glen Ed Pantry to pack and hand out lunches. In addition to providing helping hands, our congregation also contributed \$2,400.00 which was used to purchase lunch mates and snacks. The SAK program provided 7,203 lunches to children in the Edwardsville school district this summer. May God continue to bless us as we share our blessings with others. God is Good!

Do you have some news to share involving things going on at Immanuel that others might not be aware of? Help get the word out—please be sure to get that information to the church office!!



Friday Food & Fellowship

The word is getting out about our monthly community meals, and the Women in Mission are now able to host two meals each month, with a little help from our friends! Some of the outside groups that cooked for Free Lunch Friday have asked to be included—and we are happy to do that! The meals will be served on the first and third Fridays of each month—with a couple of exceptions.

Here is a schedule of meals for the rest of 2023:

September 15 & 29
October 20
November 3 & 17
December 1 & 15

Join us on these days between the hours of 11:00 am and 1:30 pm to enjoy a home-cooked meal and lots of good fellowship.

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday:

09/02 Diane Jones
09/03 Libby Metcalf
09/04 Janet Fisher
09/07 Penny May
Judy Schoettle
9/09 Stephanie Hicks
09/10 Joann Schaake
09/14 Jane Hyten
09/18 Owen Hicks
Tayla Spitze
09/19 Joanie Green



Birthdays, Continued...

09/19 Nick Schwalb
Todd Spitze
09/20 Shirley Firsching
09/21 Patrick McKeever
William Tebbe
09/24 Gage Wagner
09/25 Eddie Wentz, Jr.
09/28 Dustin Franke
Sara Pierce

Happy Anniversary:

09/07 Glenn & Cynthia Taylor
09/11 Dan & Rebekah Carter
09/26 Jerry & Sharon Prott

Did we miss your special day? Please notify the church office of your birthday and/or anniversary dates so we can all celebrate your special day with you



Embracing our COMMUNITY

Places to Serve in September

We have several opportunities in September to help Immanuel serve our surrounding communities. Please consider signing up to serve at any of the following events.

Tower Grove Pride September 23-24

Reconciling Ministry churches around St Louis will once again bring a United Methodist presence at Tower Grove Pride. This is an opportunity to show the LGBTQIA+ community that they are loved and welcomed by our faith communities. We will have a large canopy and tables set up where people can have conversations and get information about our churches. I think it would be great if we could have several Immanuel folks help with this event. Plus, I think we will be encouraged by meeting many like-minded Methodists. Please let David Roderick know if you would be willing to help with this event.

Unity Fest September 30, 11am - 4 pm

Unity Edwardsville will be hosting its second annual Unity Fest at LeClaire Park. This free festival will include a main stage showcasing inspiring speakers and culturally diverse performers in promotion of the event theme: UNITY in the commUNITY. Family-friendly activities, including art projects and age-appropriate lessons on diversity and unity. Interfaith prayers will be shared from a variety of denominations and religions. Additionally, booths throughout the park will feature like-minded organizations sharing information and/or activities. Contact David Roderick if you are interested in helping with this event.

Metro-East Pride September 30, 12 pm - 9 pm

Immanuel and Rainbow House will be working together to be present at Metro-East Pride again this year. The event is held on Main Street in Belleville and we will have a booth there to hand out information about our church and Rainbow House. Like many of our events, the key to this one is just being present and showing people they are loved. Contact Caleb Kelahan to sign up.



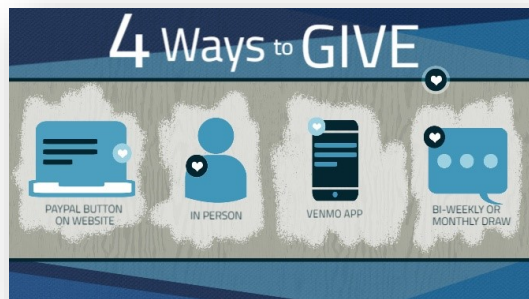
Prayer/Praise Ministry (+ indicates weeks—call office to continue another 4 weeks)

- + Dale Wilhaber, for strength and healing during cancer treatment
Gary Koenig, who was hospitalized this week with health issues
Sharon Stoeckel, mother of Christal Akers-Helle and Carrie Van Nest, whose sister, Debra, died unexpectedly
- ++ Jerry Prott Sr, for strength and healing
Those affected by wildfires in Hawaii and in our western states
- +++ Savina Major, sister of Irene Hodge and aunt of Dan and Don Hodge and Diane Jones, had a stroke and has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's
- ++++ Alex Schnarre, 4 year old diagnosed with leukemia
Linda Burnett, Dawn Lambert and family on the passing of Linda's brother-in-law, Dale Burnett

Collecting...

We are currently collecting items to place in our Samaritan's Purse shoebox gifts this Fall. Shoebox gifts go to the ends of the earth to children in some of the hardest-to-reach places—whether deep jungles, city slums, steep mountainsides, or one of 1,000 remote Pacific islands. Many of these areas are resistant to the Gospel for cultural or religious reasons, and are home to numerous unreached people groups, some of whom have never heard the Name of Jesus Christ. Check out this website for suggestions of things that are appropriate to put into shoeboxes: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child>. There is a tub in the Hospitality Room for your donations.

Do you have newspapers laying around your house? We encourage you to bring them to church and place them in the tub labeled Partners-4-Pets. The puppies and kitties



July Stewardship

Receipts:

Sunday Offerings:

07/02	1,691.00
07/09	4,890.00
07/16	2,060.00
07/23	720.00
07/30	2,205.00
	\$11,566.00

Transfer from other funds

\$ 3,300.00

Online Giving:

\$ 2,846.93

Total Receipts \$ 17,712.93

Expenses:

\$ 17,209.44



You may access our online calendar by following this link:

<https://73818207/.view-events.com>

Immanuel's Welcoming Inclusion Statement

As we recognize the value in each other, we recognize God. We embrace God's good gift of diversity and believe all persons are of sacred worth. Therefore, we welcome people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, social-economic background, family structure, and physical or mental ability into the full participation of this congregation. We are called by God to raise the level of hope for those who have been marginalized and singled out for exclusion, including our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Our passion for a wide welcome of all God's children moves us to participate in reconciling and justice ministries so that we might truly be open minds, open hearts, and open doors.

Contact Us!

Office: (618) 656-4648

Web Site:

www.immanuelonmain.org

Office e-mail:

anita@immanuelonmain.org

Pastor David Roderick

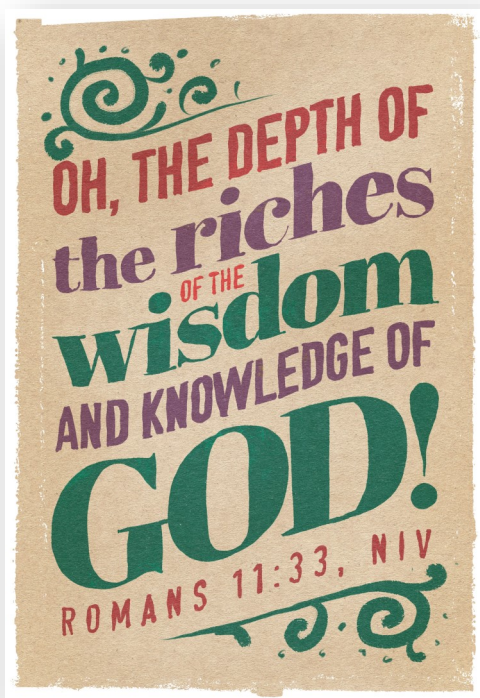
(618) 530-4679

david@immanuelonmain.org

droderick@charter.net

Caleb Kelahan

Praise Team Leader



Worship Schedule

In-Person Worship
and

Livestream on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/immanuelonmain.org/>

Children's Sunday School

10:00 am
Each Sunday

Thank You for your
continued support of our
ministries.

Immanuel United Methodist Church
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