

THE VISION

Immanuel United Methodist Church
800 N Main Street
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

October, 2023

"I'm no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God." I had sung those lyrics dozens of times, but for some reason on that particular morning, I heard them. They were speaking to me. Not that I do not still have fears, but I have another arrow in my quiver to help me battle those fears. It is the reminder that I am a child of God. I have been told that my whole life, but I never really believed it. Not me. I am not good enough. I have not done enough. At best, I am a lost sheep. But wait, we are reminded that even the lost sheep is loved by the shepherd. Loved enough that the shepherd would put their own life in danger to secure the lost sheep. Could God really love me that much? Could I really qualify as a Child of God? No, I couldn't. But that's the thing, in spite of not being worthy, in spite of how much I see myself as unworthy, God still loves me. God wants to free me from my fears. Fears of not being enough, of not being worthy, of not living up to my own expectations and certainly not God's expectations of me. That is what I heard that morning as we sang those words. Through my tears, I kept singing, and more importantly believing, that I am a child of God.

Music has this way of speaking to us, of telling us about life, of touching the deepest parts of us. Music helps us express ourselves when we have no other way to do it. The Bible is full of songs that tell us about the goodness of God. But it also has songs that express our fears, our joy, our grief and many other emotions and experiences. Most of us have stories about songs that have spoken to us or maybe even given us voice. I would be very interested to hear your stories of how a song has affected you. Or how it taught you something, or encouraged you, or impacted you in some way.

I want to encourage you to tell me your stories. You can write them and send them to me, you can tell them on video and share it with me. You can catch me sometime and tell them to me yourself. They can be religious stories or just stories about life. Either way, I look forward to hearing them.

David Roderick - A Child of God

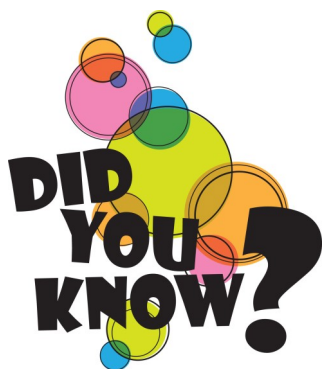




Kid's Night Out

Kid's Night Out will meet next on Saturday, October 14 from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm. All children age 4 to those who are currently in 5th grade are welcome to attend. The children eat the evening meal together, then break out into small groups for crafts, games and other fun activities, and the evening ends with everyone coming together again to watch a movie while munching on snacks.

We ask that you make a reservation for your child (plus any friends that might want to come) by emailing or calling the church office, or by signing up on the sheet in the Hospitality Room. This helps us to know how many kids to prepare for.



Kiffon Lewis and Jill Winte have served as our VBS Leaders for ten years! On Sunday, September 10, appreciation was shown to them for their years of hard work and faithfulness. These two put in hundreds of hours transforming our lower level into a rain forest, outer space, a jungle, under the sea, a deserted island, etc. all to add to the excitement of the children that attended VBS. Thank you so much, Kiffon and Jill! Your efforts are greatly appreciated! (We will be looking for some new volunteers in 2024, as they have said they are retiring).

Do you have news to share about something that is happening at Immanuel?



Rainbow House Halloween Parade

We will once again be joining with PFLAG to walk in the Edwardsville Halloween parade on October 31st. This is an opportunity to participate in our community and let others know that they are welcome at Immanuel. It is also an opportunity to highlight the ministries that we offer through Rainbow House.

To participate, meet at 5:00 pm at Woodlawn Elementary School on October 31st. Would you like to help? Contact Lisa Allen, 618-514-5224.

Operation Christmas Child

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.

It's time to finalize our purchase of items to go in shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. Lists have been made up for suggestions of appropriate items. You can pick one up from the Entryway or Hospitality Room. Shoeboxes will be available shortly. You may also Build A Shoebox Online by visiting:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>



Fall Bible Study

Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It
Led by Dawn Lambert

Overview: The 1700s were a time when English society was polarized, when the Enlightenment had led people to believe they no longer needed God, when the rich struggled with materialism, and the poor with lack of necessities. Into this world, a priest and Oxford professor named John Wesley began preaching a simple message that invited people to a passionate faith that would unite the head and the heart and the hands. His message fostered a revival of Christianity in England and across America. Today we find ourselves in a world much like Wesley's – polarized, where faith seems to falter and the gap between rich and poor widens. And many of us have a faith in need of reviving.

This seven-week small-group study will begin with an introductory evening where participants can get to know one another. Then over the course of the remaining six weeks, we will travel (via DVD) with Adam Hamilton on location to Wesley's England, following the life of John Wesley and exploring his defining characteristics of a Wesleyan Christian.

Details: Every Sunday evening from 6:00-7:30 pm at Rainbow House, beginning October 1 and ending November 12. The study includes a six-chapter book and accompanying DVD. We will distribute books during the introductory first week. Then each subsequent week, we will cover one chapter. We will watch together the accompanying video (approx. 15 minutes), discuss events from Wesley's life, ask questions, and share thoughts about how Wesley's experiences and ideas may be relevant to our faith journey today.

Sistahs to Meet - Food Donations Needed

Sistahs will meet on Thursday, October 12 beginning at 6:00 pm in the Journey's Inn Room. Bring a crock pot full of your favorite Soup, Stew, or Crockpot meal to share, then we can package up the leftovers to put in freezer containers. Rolls, crackers, and drinks will be provided.

In lieu of a charity, this month participants are asked to bring food donations, freezer meals or money to purchase food for the family of Erika, a single mom with seven kids, who has been fighting chondrosarcoma for 3 years (cancer at the base of her skull). If anyone food preps and wants to make a few extra meals that can be put in the freezer please contact Teresa at 618-560-9562. If you want to purchase food, they could use Freezer meals, either single or family styles that the kids can take out and heat up. Frozen bags of chicken breast, chicken strips raw or precooked. Ground beef fresh or frozen. Easy cook things like Hamburger Helper, Pot Pies, and Lasagnas. And let's be honest what kid doesn't like snacks? Monetary donations will be used to purchase food items for the family.

Teresa Akers-Helle will be willing to pick up any donations, or they can be brought to Sistahs on October 12.



Erika pictured with 6 of her 7 children



Leclaire Lake Parkfest

October 15, 2023

12:00—5:00 pm

This is a great opportunity for Immanuel to be in the community and representing our congregation. If you would like to help this year, please sign up at the link below. We are looking for volunteers to set up at 9:00 am (you can come to worship after that). We are also looking for 2 shifts of workers, 11-2 and 2-5. This is always a fun event and a great time to meet new people. Link:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040845A9AA29A2FA7-leclaire2#

Friday Food & Fellowship

Word is getting out about our latest outreach project! Beginning in November, Friday Food & Fellowship will be served twice a month, thanks to some of the Free Lunch Friday volunteers who have stepped up once again. This lunch is served from 11 am until 1:30 pm. Following is a schedule of lunches for the remainder of 2023:

September—Friday, September 29

October—Friday, October 20

November—Friday, November 3 & 17

December—Friday, December 1 & 15

OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

10/04	Betty Gengler	10/15	Helen Housewright
10/05	William Clarkin	10/19	Valerie Brown
10/05	Renee Doss	10/19	Leo Carter
10/05	Rachelle O'Bryan	10/20	James Sullivan
10/06	Nancy Schwalb	10/22	Marlene Van Camp
10/07	LeeAnn Kane	10/24	Ruth Portell
10/08	Darrin Lancaster	10/24	David Rader
10/09	Breck Newman	10/25	Bridget Fisher
10/12	David Clarkin	10/25	Madison Kane
10/12	Noah Penelton	10/25	Owen Potter
10/12	Pam Spengler	10/28	Shelly Brase
10/14	John Spengler	10/28	Jacob Newman
10/15	Chloe Carter	10/30	Kurtis Emshousen

Anniversaries

10/01	Joe & Pam Newman
10/04	Teresa & Christal Akers-Helle
10/07	David & Valerie Newman
10/18	Mark & Sara Pierce
10/21	Doug & Jill Garbs
10/29	Keith & Helen Housewright





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

- + Family of Jennie Lynn Totten, who passed away on Sept 8
Starla, dear friend of Amy Sedor who has glioblastoma

- ++ Jerry Prott Sr., for strength and healing
Lisa, co-worker of Paige Brase, for strength and healing

- ++++ Dale Wilhaber, for strength and healing during cancer treatment

In Sympathy

Jennie Lynn Totten was the wife of Rev. Ralph Totten, who served as the pastor of Immanuel UMC from 1972—1986. Both are still remembered with much affection. You can view her full obituary and leave a message of condolence or share a memory at hugheyfh.com.

All Saints' Day

We will be celebrating All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 5. During the worship service we will be commemorating persons in our church family and other loved ones who have passed away since last All Saints' Day. If you have a loved one who was not a member of Immanuel that you would like to honor, please call or email the church office. We would also like to have a picture of your loved one to use on All Saints' Day.

Immanuel's Online Calendar

Our online calendar is up to date and can be accessed by clicking on this link:

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

Thank You, Volunteers!

You are needed and appreciated. Thank you for offering your time and talents in service to the Lord. We praise Him for giving you the gifts you possess and the heart to share them. Thank you for being Jesus' hands and feet among us.

August Stewardship

Receipts:

Sunday Offerings:

08/06	\$2,766.00
08/13	1,280.00
08/20	1,205.00
08/27	3,800.00

Online Giving: \$ 3,193.90

Total Receipts \$ 12,244.90

Expenses: \$ 14,728.81

Ways to Give...

PayPal link on website

Venmo@Immanuel—UnitedMethodistChurch

Bi-Weekly or Monthly Draw
(set up through church office)

In-Person



SAK Report for 2023

What a wonderfully successful year! We pulled it together in time to have a strong start on June 5. With the support of the community, we finished the summer having *served 7,206 lunches*, averaging 167 lunches per week! That is over 2200 more lunches, more than 44%, than the summer of 2022. A huge thank you to all of our supporters, donors, and volunteers!

The Glen Ed Pantry is a great new home for SAK! As they share the same clientele that SAK tries to reach, we were able to spread the word and help more kids. A thank you to Jane Ahasy and Amy Poos at the Pantry, as well as the Pantry board and all its volunteers. The support, information, and mentoring they share with us has been very impactful. We look forward to working with them again next summer.

Looking towards the summer of *2024, and a budget of \$28,000*, we are planning fundraisers, and will be reaching out to businesses and individuals for donations. It would be great to have some type of fundraising campaign this winter/Christmas. We need a group of helpers to guide this. Please let us know if you have a skill set in publicity/fundraising you would be able to share or if you would just be interested in helping this part of our group! (Does not have to be professional experience!) *Having a group in place by early October would be ideal!*



Our media presence could also use some 'caretakers'. Anyone who may be interested in helping to keep our Facebook page updated and active, we would be thrilled to have you!

Continued in next column...

Finally, we would like to thank all of you who donated your time and talents to helping SAK this summer. It is an amazing group of volunteers and you are all very appreciated! A huge thank you, as well, to businesses and organizations who donated supplies or funds! It truly takes a village and we are thrilled to have you in ours!

Thank you! -Edwardsville SAK

Updated Church Directory

A limited number of directories have been printed. You are asked to please take a look at one of them to see if your contact information is correct or has been omitted. Please contact the church office about any changes or additions. We truly want to include everyone with their correct contact information.

Do You Have What it Takes?

Soundboard volunteers are needed! What does it take to be a soundboard operator? We are looking for a sound engineer who is dependable, cooperative and has a "good ear". Please speak to Bob Ahrens in the balcony each Sunday morning for more information about this important volunteer position.

Charge Conference 2023

Our 2023 Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, November 12, beginning at 2:00 pm at Belleville Union United Methodist Church. This is a reminder that all of the committee Charge Conference reports are due in the church office by Thursday, October 12.



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Contact Us!

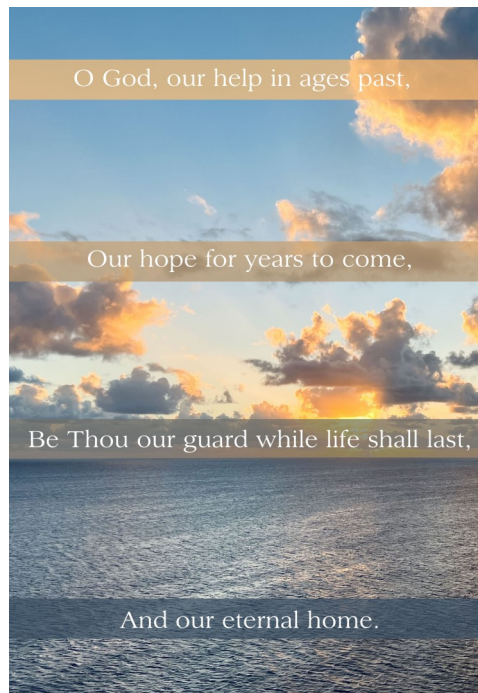
Office: (618) 656-4648

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.

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