

THE VISION

December, 2023



CHRISTMAS

Christmas

EVE SERVICES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

10:00 am

Morning Worship • *4th Sunday in Advent*

6:00 pm

Candlelight Service • *Christmas Eve*

IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
800 NORTH MAIN STREET
EDWARDSVILLE, ILLINOIS 62025

The Vision

A Word From Our Pastor ...

This month's newsletter will feature an article from Bishop Frank Beard. He is the bishop for the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. That is the organization that supports the work of Immanuel and many other United Methodist churches in Illinois. The article uses the same scripture we used in worship on November 19 and reminds us of the importance of generosity. If you would like to read this publication and keep up with the news of our conference, go to igrc.org/current. In the meantime, I hope this article will be uplifting and challenging. — David



“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

This is my favorite time of year. It is the time when seeds that were sown in the springtime, cultivated, nurtured, and tended during the summer, are ripe for picking. The crops are being harvested and gathered in. The leaves are changing colors, and the temperatures are getting cooler. I love Fall!

In Fall I see tangible signs of God's grace, generosity, and promise for the future. Fall is a time of thanksgiving and for celebration.

Fall is also the time in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference that our folks are the most generous. More giving occurs in the Fall than at any other time of the year. Churches explode with expressions of generosity based on the harvest they have received. Giving becomes contagious.

Here are 5 things I know about giving:

- 1. Giving should be fun.** The Scriptures encourage us to give with cheerful hearts, and to give excessively. When we follow the admonition of Scripture, we will find giving is a blessing, and not a burden.
- 2. Giving is designed to be a “double - blessing.”** As we give, we are blessed, and those who are the recipients of our generosity are also blessed. Giving oftentimes does more for those who give than it does for those who are on the receiving end of our gifts.
- 3. Giving is a reflection of gratitude.** We give because God has blessed us and enabled us to have the capacity to give. Even the poorest among us, when applying God's principles of giving, are blessed beyond measure. Our giving should always be in proportion to the blessings we have received.
- 4. Giving should make an impact today and a difference for all eternity.** When we give according to God's principles, we make a difference in the present time, and we store up treasures in heaven. Our giving really does impact today and eternity. Jesus gave a stern warning to folks that turned a blind eye towards the needs of others.

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A Word From Our Pastor...

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5. Giving is an act of love. Our giving is modeled after the One who gave to us so graciously and abundantly. "God so loved the world that God gave his one and only son so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

During this season of thanksgiving, I encourage each of you to practice extravagant generosity. In doing so you will be fulfilling one of the expectations God has set. Consider the variety of ways that you can give of your time, your talent, your treasures, and of your service.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." -Luke 6:38.

God has blessed us abundantly. Let us offer ourselves in sacrificial ways that reflect the abundant harvest that we continue to gather in.

God Bless,
Bishop Frank J. Beard



Sistahs/United Women in Faith Joint Christmas Party

The Sistahs and UWF will be hosting a joint Christmas party on Wednesday December 13 at 6:00 pm. We will start the evening with appetizers and desserts - please bring your favorite to share. We will have a gift exchange - \$5 suggested cost - be creative. We plan to play Christmas JINGO, have an offering to support gifts for local children, share some stories and songs. Everyone is welcome to join us for a joyful gathering.

Christmas Baskets

The UWF will assemble and deliver Christmas baskets to those who are 80+ years on Thursday, December 14th beginning at 9:00 am. Helpers welcome!

Christmas Decorating

If you are available on Wednesday, November 29, you are invited to help us decorate for Christmas. We will be placing aisle candles, advent candles, decorating the tree, and hanging the "greens". We plan to begin around 9:00 am. If you have any questions please contact Sharon Koenig, 618-972-5679.

Advent Choir Forming

Our Worship Leader Caleb is putting together a choir for the Advent season. If you enjoy singing, please join us! If you would like to participate, please contact the church office or speak to Caleb or David. This is open to everyone and will be a great opportunity to share in worship throughout Advent. At this time, it is thought that rehearsals will be held after church on Sundays — this is subject to change if not convenient for everyone in the group.

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Angel Tree Gifts

We have an opportunity to serve the children in our community through Angel Tree Ministries again this year! We ask you to prayerfully consider providing a gift for children on behalf of a parent who is currently incarcerated this holiday season. Gift tags are available on the small tree in the overflow room. If you select a tag, please gift wrap items and return to church by December 10 for delivery. Thank you. Call Rhonda Grammer (618) 444-4871 with any questions.

Christmas for the Bailey Family

On the Angel Tree there are also some Christmas tree tags with the name of someone from the Bailey Family. On the bottom portion of the tag is a QR code that is a link directly to a gift from Amazon that is a specific wish from their Christmas list, as well as the cost of that gift. On the back side of the tag are other items they like in addition to clothes and shoe size if you would like to purchase something additional. Please purchase the gift, wrap it and attach the tag with their name on it to the gift. Please remove the lower portion of the tag as we listed their name, age, and cost of the gift for the giver's information only. If you happen to purchase more than one gift for the same person, please tag it with their name so it gets to the right person. Gifts can be left at church until December 22. If you have any questions at all contact Teresa at 618-560-9562. We will also accept monetary donations as well as food donations. We greatly appreciate your support for this family in need. Please continue to keep them all in your prayers.

-Teresa, Christal, Carrie & Jim

Glen-Ed Pantry

Dear Immanuel United Methodist Church:

Have you ever had to choose between buying food or picking up your prescription? Have you ever not had enough good to feed your whole family, so you didn't eat? As a child, did you ever have to worry about summer break because you knew there wasn't going to be enough food at home?

This is the reality for people in our community that are experiencing food insecurity. Over 225 families depend on the Glen-Ed Food Pantry every month to be able to provide nutritious food for their families.

In February of this year, Melissa found out that she had a seizure disorder and therefore lost her job as a bus driver. She has four young kids at home and turned to the pantry for support. In August, Melissa stopped by to share that she had found a new job and would not be coming back. She cried tears of joy about how thankful she was that she had the pantry when she came upon hard times.

With your help, we can provide food to people like Melissa and her four kids who needed help while she got back on her feet.

Since you are a close friend of the Pantry, you are invited to donate to the pantry in a meaningful way this holiday season. Every dollar given goes to ensure that no one in our community faces food insecurity. We cannot do this work without you. To donate please visit glenedpantry.org/donors. Thank you for your generosity and for making a difference in the lives of the people we serve.

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL/LEADERSHIP

Chairperson	Sheila Page	Young Adults	Sarah Wood
Lay Leader	Betty Gengler	Sunday School Representative	David Roderick
Lay Delegate	Penny May	Recording Secretary	Penny May
Chairperson of SPPRC	Amber Larson	Pastor	David Roderick
Chairperson of Finance	Penny May/Emily Spitze	Worship Leader	Caleb Kelahan
Trustee Representative	TBD	Worship Committee	
Treasurer	Kathy Hatton	Communications	Teresa Akers-Helle

2024

2025

2026

BOARD OF TRUSTEES—Chairperson TBD

Sharon Koenig	Emily Spitze	Penny May
Jill Winte	Gary Koenig	David Norris
Jerry Prott	Dustin Franke	

STAFF/PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE—Chair Amber Larson

Kiffon Lewis	Betty Gengler	Dawn Lambert
Amber Larson	Tom May	Paige Brase
Lay Delegate Penny May		
David Roderick		

FINANCE COMMITTEE—Co-Chairs Penny May, Emily Spitze

Teresa Akers-Helle	Todd Masinelli	Helen Housewright
	Emily Spitze	Jim Kelahan
Sheila Page	Amber Larson	
Board of Trustees representative	Lay Delegate Penny May	
Kathy Hatton	Lay Leader Betty Gengler	

LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE—Chair David Roderick

Sherry Buhrmester	Penny May	Rhonda Grammer
Peggy Worthey	Pam Newman	Matt Lewis
	Phyllis Fisher	Marc Franke
David Roderick		
Lay Leader Betty Gengler		



Prayer Concerns (+ indicates weeks—call office to continue another 4 weeks)

- + Erika Bailey for her continued cancer battle

- +++ Sherry Buhrmester, for strength and healing
Brandy Page, health concerns
Martie Webb, grandmother of Hannah Page, health concerns
Praise for God's protection of Ivy Halliquist
Jerry Prott, Sr, health issues

- ++++ Bill Base, father of Paige, has gotten a pacemaker
Megan Brase, niece of Page, and husband Patrick on their marriage



What Are Apportionments?

The way that The United Methodist Church supports their ministries is through apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the churchwide budget to conferences and local churches. Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district or annual conference ever could hope to do alone. In this way, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church's work.

Giving to Immanuel

Immanuel UMC has four separate accounts (funds) that you can contribute to:

Current Expense is the general operating fund, used to pay monthly bills, insurances, salaries, minor maintenance & repair, curriculum, office supplies, etc. Our apportioned giving for 2024 from the Current Expense account has been set at \$16,008.00 to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference (IGRC). Only funds that are marked for "Apportionments" will be directed to this. These are the apportionments referred to on Page 8.

Every penny donated to the **Benevolence** fund is sent to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference to be used for disaster relief, ministering to the poor, advocating for justice, Special Sundays or other designated giving. In 2024 we are asked to pay \$935.00 each month as our share of benevolence apportionments. Special Sunday giving is in addition to this apportioned amount.

Our **Property Improvement** account is used for the maintenance of our church property and buildings, and for major repairs and renovations.

Contributions by loved ones and friends of saints that have passed away are put into the **Memorial** fund and can be designated for a specific purpose.

Tracking Contributions

All contributors are assigned a contribution number at the beginning of each year. Most of these numbers are carried over from year to year. It is a good idea to write this number on your check or pew envelope to be sure it is posted correctly. If you don't know what your number is, please call the church office!

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Tracking Contributions in 2024

Boxed Contribution Envelopes are available to all who would like to have them. These envelopes make it easy for you to designate which fund you would like for your offerings to go. Envelopes are included for each Sunday, and are very useful if you are a weekly giver or if you wish to give to more than one fund (account) at a time. In keeping with our policy of cutting costs, we will again use boxed sets left over from years past in 2024. You may use the envelope as is each week or you may scratch out the date and put the correct date for your donations on the envelope. If you choose this method, your contribution number will change each year to what is on the envelopes.

Monthly Contributors may ask the office to send them 12 contribution envelopes. These are marked with our funds and your contribution number has been put on the envelopes for you.

Pew Envelopes are available from the racks on the back of each pew. You may designate which fund you want your donation to go towards on that envelope. Be sure to write your contribution number/name on the envelope!

Online Giving is available through PayPal or Venmo. You can click on the PayPal button on the our homepage of our website (www.immanuelonmain.org) or give through the Venmo app at [Venmo@Immanuel-UnitedMethodist Church](mailto:Venmo@Immanuel-UnitedMethodistChurch)

Monthly/Bi-Weekly Draw—If you would like to have your offering drawn from your account automatically, contact the church office to fill out a couple of forms. You can give either bi-weekly or monthly. The bi-weekly draw happens every other Monday, and the monthly draw comes out of your account on the 15th of the month, or the first banking day following the 15th.

Inclement Weather Policy

If the decision is made to cancel church due to a winter storm or icy parking lot, the first phone call made will be to our webmaster, Teresa Akers-Helle. She will post the closing on our webpage at

www.immanuelonmain.org.

If you do not have access to the internet and are a regular church attender, you will receive a phone call that services are cancelled.



Stay Connected to Church

We want to keep you up-to-date! Do we have your latest address, phone number, and email address?

Want to receive our weekly emails? Be sure the church office has your email address!

The Vision**November Current Expense (Operating) Contributions/Expense**

(Through 11/24/2023*)

November 1	\$ 1,105.00	+	Apportionments: \$0
November 12	\$ 2,515.00	+	Apportionments: \$100.00
November 19	\$ 1,000.00	+	Apportionments: \$0
November 26	\$		
Bi-Weekly Draws	\$ 1,630.00		
Monthly Draw	\$ 348.00	+	Apportionments: \$100.00
Venmo Deposits	\$ 550.00		
PayPal Deposits	\$ 140.90		
	\$ 7,288.90		(Does not include contributions received on 11/26)

Needed Monthly to Meet Budget: \$18,188.00

November Expenses \$14,167.22

Apportionments Received to Date for 2023 \$2,300

* These figures will be finalized and included in the January, 2024 newsletter

Anniversary

12/17 Larry & Peggy Worthey

Birthdays

12/02 Tori Roderick

12/03 Marc Franke

12/06 Mark Emshousen

12/10 Karl Larson

12/10 Noah Newman

12/12 Jennifer Fowler

12/12 Cynthia Taylor

12/15 Tara Hodge

12/18 Sydney Grammer

12/18 Donna Hardbeck



12/19 Sharon Koenig

12/21 Tony Anderson

12/23 Jill Garbs

12/24 Mary Ann Goldsmith

12/24 David Norris

12/27 Zinnia Allen

12/28 Mary Lou Grigg

12/28 Trisha Rader

12/31 Bev Schaake



The Vision

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Edwardsville, IL 62025

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CONTACT US!

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Church E-mail:
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Pastor's E-mail:
david@immanuelonmain.org

Look us up on Facebook
[www.facebook.com/
immanuelonmain.org](http://www.facebook.com/immanuelonmain.org)

Reverend David Roderick
Cell Phone: (618) 530-4679

Caleb Kelahan
Worship Leader



FOR TO US
FORGIVEN
A SON IS

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service
In-Person or Livestream
10:00 a.m.
Each Sunday

Children's Sunday School
10:00 am
Each Sunday

(No Sunday School on
Christmas Eve or
New Year's Eve)

Christmas Eve
6:00 pm Candlelight Service