



IMMANUEL NEWS

Immanuel United Church of Christ
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July 2024 Newsletter



Staff:

Rev. Deon A. McKenzie, Pastor

Debbie Bahr, Property Manager

Sarah Hemingway, Youth Coordinator

Jennifer Jansen, Financial Manager

Shamar Jordan, Music Coordinator

Linda Stoecklin, Parish Nurse

Derick Winterberg, Social Media Coordinator

Church Office hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00am - 1:00pm

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

In-Person Worship

Sundays at 9:30am

126 Church St.

Ferguson, MO 63135

Live-Streaming

Sundays at 9:30am

on Facebook

Our Facebook page is:



Immanuel United Church of
Christ, Ferguson MO

Immanuel United
Church of Christ,
Ferguson MO

Past Worship Services

Available on Facebook

or

on our website at

www.immanuelucc.org

(click on "Past Sermons")

Tele-Ministry (Audio only)

Listen to the latest church service by calling

314-255-1873

From our Pastor

Mental Health Care Awareness

Immanuel Family,

In recent years, the conversation around mental health has grown louder and more urgent. As we navigate the complexities of modern life, the recognition of mental health as a critical component of overall well-being has become more pronounced. Let's explore the impact of what many are calling a mental health pandemic and reflect on the timeless wisdom of biblical scriptures that emphasize the importance of faith in God as our healer and sustainer.

Mental health issues have reached alarming levels worldwide. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), depression is now the leading cause of disability globally, affecting over 264 million people. Anxiety disorders, substance abuse, and suicide rates are also on the rise, creating a public health crisis that demands immediate attention.

The economic implications of untreated mental health conditions are staggering. The global economy loses an estimated \$1 trillion each year due to reduced productivity, absenteeism, and healthcare costs related to mental illness. Mental health issues often lead to social isolation, stigmatization, and strained relationships. For students, mental health problems can severely impact academic performance and lead to higher dropout rates. Schools are increasingly called upon to provide mental health support, straining already limited resources. Mental health care services are frequently underfunded and understaffed. The pandemic has highlighted the need for robust mental health infrastructure, but many organizations still struggle to meet the growing demand for services.

Amidst these challenges, many people turn to their faith for comfort and strength. The Bible offers numerous passages that

From our Pastor Cont'd

emphasize God's role as a healer and sustainer, providing solace to those grappling with mental health issues. The Psalmist tells us, *"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit"* (34:17-18). This passage reassures us that God is ever-present, particularly in our times of distress. It underscores the importance of turning to Him for deliverance and comfort.

Also, Jesus invites those who are struggling to find rest and solace in Him. He said in Matthew's gospel, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light"* (11:28-30). This invitation highlights Christ's gentle and nurturing nature, offering a refuge for those seeking mental and emotional peace.

While faith provides a strong foundation for many, it is also essential to integrate professional mental health care. Churches and faith-based organizations can play a pivotal role by educating congregations about mental health issues and the importance of seeking help. Establishing support groups and counseling services within the community, and most notably, partnering with mental health professionals to offer comprehensive care that includes spiritual and psychological support.

So, as we face this mental health pandemic, it is crucial to address the issue holistically. Combining professional mental health care with the spiritual nourishment found in faith can offer a path to healing and restoration. Family, let us continue to support one another, raise awareness, and lean on our faith, trusting in God as our ultimate healer and sustainer.

With love,
Pastor Deon

Church Council

Minutes of the Church Council Meeting

June 11, 2024

Present: John Bogdajewicz, Doug Daniels, Karl Klasing, Walter Martinez, Don Morice, Nancy Remmert, Melinda Schuster*, Judy Sherman, Martha Snead,

Absent: Pastor Deon McKenzie

President Don Morice called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
Nancy Remmert offered a devotion.

Minutes of the May 14, 2024 meeting were reviewed and two typos were corrected. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as corrected (Martha Snead/Doug Daniels) Motion carried.

Karl Klasing and Doug Daniels gave the Financial Reports. A motion to accept the Financial Reports was made and seconded (Nancy Remmert/Judy Sherman) Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property and Grounds: John Bogdajewicz reported he had received a bid from Amazing Sewer and Drain for the work outlined to be done in the Education Building. Following discussion, additional improvements were added to the list. John will contact the company for a bid including the new additions. He will seek a second bid from another plumbing company. A contract has been signed with a Lawn Service that will provide lawn care including seeding and feeding the lawn at appropriate times during the year. We continue to contract with the Lawn Cutting and Snow Removal service on their regular schedule.

Church Council Cont'd

Board of Christian Education: Martha Snead reported that Youth Activities will continue during the summer months. Sarah Hemmingway will plan activities two Sundays a month (Second & Fourth) and are planning a recognition of Father's Day. Pickleball will begin in August on a week night. Vacation Bible School training has gone well a few more volunteers are needed. Gifts have been purchased for the graduates for their celebration on June 23. Rally Sunday, tentatively planned for September 8, was discussed. We agreed that it should be an All-Church event as it has been the last two years. Church committees, groups, etc. should be encouraged to host a table that explains they meeting time, activities, and need for additional members. The Youth have already requested a table. Board of Christian Education will supervise this event.

Nominating Committee: Doug Daniels circulated a list of names and requested the Council to suggest others who might be willing to serve on Council or Board of Christian Education. Doug is getting an early start as he realizes that it is a difficult and time-consuming job to explain and describe the openings that need to be filled and the abilities needed to fill them. Nancy Remmert has agreed to serve on this committee.

Budget and Finance: Doug Daniels has contacted the Association/Conference to get their updated salary recommendations for Pastors and Other Church employees. He has not had heard back from them.

Technology: Walter Martinez has been in touch with Parkway UCC and had specifics of their media plan. What they have seems to be much more than Immanuel would need. He will further investigate regarding a system that is more reliable than ours and meets our needs.

Church Council Cont'd

The following Committees had no report at this time: Stewardship, CIS (Christians in Action), Mission Possible, Worship, and Investments.

OLD BUSINESS: CPR & AED Training. Karl Klasing reported that the Ferguson Fire Department has their training at the Ferguson Civic Center. If we had enough people interested in taking the training they would arrange a session at the church.

NEW BUSINESS: It is imperative to hire someone for the Property Manager Position before Debbie Bahr's last day September 12, 2024. We hope to have someone hired by August to shadow Debbie. The job description has been updated to include 20 to 25 hours a week for in-house duties (general cleaning, meeting set-up, etc.) Heavy Cleaning will be contracted to a Cleaning Company (floors, carpeting, etc.) probably twice a year. We continue to seek an Administrative Assistant to relieve Jennifer Jansen some of the office procedures.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Remmert, Secretary



Board of Christian Education

Minutes of Board of Christian Education Meeting

6-4-2024

Present: George Hildebrand, Laura Payer, Peggy Nofles, Melissa Lawrence, Martha Snead, Sarah Hemmingway, Jennifer Jansen, Karin Oelzen, Claire Lawrence (youth guest)

Absent: Pastor Deon McKenzie

Devotion by Laura Payer: Psalms 78

Reports

Secretary's Report: Approved meeting. by Karin (1st), Laura (2nd).

Treasurer's Report:

Council Report: (Martha S.):

Property and Grounds: Landscaping for the front of the church is in the planning stages. The parsonage is completed. There are plans to refurbish the bathrooms in the educational building however, the water supply will need to be shut off for a time which could affect the constant use of the building.

Staff Report: (Pastor Deon) No report at this time.

Youth Coordinator Report: (Sarah Hemingway) Monthly themes: June 9th is Sunday Fun day, June 16th is Father's Day Project. The plan is to continue meetings twice monthly throughout the summer.

Sarah attended the NASCAR races sponsored by World Wide Technology along with other youth ministry organizations and was able to invite three more youth to attend services.

Board of Christian Education Cont'd

Old Business:

Pickleball League: Unleashing Potential "UP" has the fellowship hall through July. Planning on a week night in August from 630p to 830p.

VBS: Five (5) shepherd volunteers are still needed for classrooms.

Graduate acknowledgement: Presentation to the graduates by George and Sarah on June 23rd.

Jennifer Jansen is working on a graduate poster display in the narthex.

Rally Day/Volunteer Day (All Church Ministry) September 8th. 4th Grade Bibles distributed, committee tables with poster about each, food trucks possible.

New Business: Bylaws- Planning and Review.

Scholarship- recipients notified by end of July. Youth to serve ice cream to recipients.

Adjournment – Karin (1st) Laura (2nd) 7:05 p.m.

Close – Lord's Prayer

Devotional Next Meeting – Peggy Nofles

Next Meeting - Tuesday August 6th, 2024 6 p.m.

BCE Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of the month in the library of the educational building. All Church members are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Lawrence



IMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting is Thursday, July 11 at 11:00am. See below for more details on the program:

Special Guests at Our July Fellowship Meeting!

C.H.A.M.P. Assistance Dogs

CHAMP stands for Canine Helpers Allow More Possibilities.

Jacqui Zancanata from CHAMP will be at the meeting with a furry friend. She will explain the training the dogs go through for their important jobs.

Thursday, July 11
11 AM
The Reception Room

Please let Judy Thompson (314-355-4969)
or Nancy Valenti (314-348-1086)
know if you are planning to attend.





INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Interfaith Dialogue meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 2:00pm in Room 102. Everyone is welcome to attend. The next meeting is Sunday, July 21.

PRAYER SHAWLS

Prayer Shawls are available in the Reception Room for anyone needing this healing ministry. Note cards are also available in the Reception Room to give with the prayer shawl.

Thank you to those that have knitted/crocheted shawls to support Immanuel's ministry.

MISSION POSSIBLE

The Mission Possible committee will meet on Wednesday night, July 10, at 7 PM via zoom.



Congratulation to Kyle & Brianna Wogtech on the birth of their new baby girl, Violet Ava Wogtech



From our Youth Coordinator

Hope you are enjoying your summer!

In July, we are going to start the series of the Armor of God, from Ephesians 6:10-19. On July 14th, we will study the Belt of Truth and on July 28th we will study the Breastplate of Righteous.

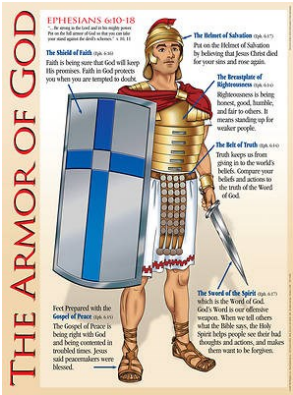
On July 21st, the youth are going to meet downstairs to prep and serve an ice cream bar for the congregation after the scholarship awards are given to the college recipients.

We are studying the Armor of God to get the youth prepared for going back to school, so they can put the Armor of God on prior to walking into the school, and to know that God is always with them to help them.

If you have any questions please feel free to call or text me at (314) 706-1476.

Have a blessed month!

Sarah Hemingway





COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

College scholarship applications are available, to church members only, for the upcoming academic year. Applicants should contact the Church Office for an application. Completed applications are due by Sunday, July 7. Applicants will need to sign-up to meet with the Scholarship Committee on July 10 or July 11. Please see the application for more details.

There are five scholarships to choose from:

The Glenn Fox Memorial Scholarship

The Brauch Memorial Scholarship

The Mary Thompson Nursing/Health Field Scholarship

The Brothers' In Christ Scholarship (Nursing)

The Brothers' in Christ Scholarship (Christian Ministry)

Scholarship awards will be presented on Sunday, July 21. All college applicants should plan to attend the July 21st worship service. If there are any questions, please contact the Church Office.

The Scholarship Committee



JULY

	MON	TUE	WED
	1	2 BCE - no meeting in July	3 Quilters 9
7 Blood Pressure Check Coffee 9-9:30 and 10:30am Worship 9:30am * Communion Adult Faith Exploration 10:30 College Scholarship forms due	8	9 Council - No meeting. Moved to July 11.	10 Quilters 9 Scholarsh 9:30-11am Scholarsh interview Library Mission P via Zoom
14 Coffee 9-9:30 and 10:30am Worship 9:30 a.m. Donuts with Deon 10:30am	15	16	17 Quilters 9 Newslett
21 Coffee 9-9:30 and 10:30am Worship 9:30am * College Scholarship Rec. Adult Faith Exploration 10:30 Interfaith Dialogue - 2pm	22	23	24 Quilters 9
28 Coffee 9-9:30 and 10:30am Worship 9:30 a.m. Donuts with Deon 10:30am	29	30	31 Quilters 9

2024

	THU	FRI	SAT
am	<p>4</p> <p>4th of July Holiday Office Closed</p> 	5	6
am ip Comm n, Library ip applicant 11-11:30am, ossible 7pm	<p>11</p> <p>Immanuel Fellowship 11a.m. Reception Rm</p> <p>Scholarship applicant interview 10-11am (Zoom) and 7-8pm (Zoom)</p> <p>Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. Room 102</p>	12	13
a.m. er Deadline	<p>18</p> <p>Immanuel Fellowship Exec Meeting 10:00am, Library</p>	19	20 Unleashing Potential Gym Reserved
a.m.	<p>25</p> <p>Newsletter Assembly 9:30am, Library</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Unleashing Potential Last day of summer camp</p>	27
a.m.			



2024 GRADUATES

Immanuel's Class of 2024 graduates were recognized in worship on June 23.



Logan, Blake, Phillip, Pastor Deon with Roland, Damian, Emma, and Kayla

Additional graduate to celebrate from last's month newsletter article....

Associate's Degree -

Phillip Martinez - Graduating from Meramec Community College with an Associate in Arts degree. He will be attending University of Missouri - Columbia in the fall to study business. His parents are Phyllis and Walter Martinez.



REV. RUSSELL VIEHMANN

50 YEAR ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

We celebrated Rev. Russell Viehmann's 50-year ordination anniversary on Sunday, June 2. Immanuel appreciates your ministry and service to the Lord.



Immanuel Family,

Thank you for the sweet treats you all have graciously put together and sent my way. I just recently finished my second and last year at Meramec Community College and am very excited to head to Mizzou in the fall to study Business with an emphasis in Marketing. After these two summer classes I will be taking for Meramec, I will have graduated with my Associate in Arts Degree (General Transfer Degree). I am very excited for the upcoming semester and am looking forward to seeing you all at Immanuel until then.

Phil Martinez

Dear Friends & Fellow Members of Immanuel,

Thank you for your warm recognition of my golden ordination anniversary. The elegant crystal tribute is proudly sitting on our mantel and will serve to remind me of my life-long relationships with you. A special thanks for Pastor Deon.

It was also a treat having the reception brunch following the service. Thanks for your hard work in making the day perfect.

I think back on the lives of many Immanuel friends who have helped shaped my ministry. You will always hold a special place in my heart. The years have been good to me.

Thanks again for your many kindnesses,
Russell Viehmann



To: Immanuel

Thank you! Thank you so much for letting me go to camp MoVal. I had a wonderful time and it was because of you!!!

Ava Burke



July Birthdays!

<u>Name (First Last)</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>
Gabby Miller	7/4
Garrett Miller	7/4
Tony Wright III	7/6
Doug Daniels	7/11
Barb Krewson	7/12
Allison Jansen	7/19
Kimberly McKenzie	7/19
Sarah Klasing	7/20
Joey Bogdajewicz	7/22
George Hildebrand	7/31





Memorials and Honorariums

In Loving Memory of Bonnie White

To: Discretionary Assistance Fund

Given By: Immanuel Sewing Circle

In Honor of 50th Ordination Anniversary of

Rev. Russell Viehmann

To: Immanuel General Fund

Given By: Jan Fettig

In Loving Memory of Mary Thompson

To: Mary Thompson Scholarship Fund

Given By: Chris Struble



Offering Options

If you prefer to give an offering electronically, instead of using offering envelopes, you can scan the QR code below to make your donation. Call the Church Office if you have any questions.



If you would like offering envelopes mailed to your home, please contact the Church Office. If you mail in your offering, please place Immanuel's offering envelope inside a plain regular white envelope.



Rose Bollinger	Xander Brown	Ron Caguin
Eric Frahm	Melba Holtgrewe	Denora Lum
Carol Lewis	Nick Racker	Billy & Deanna Price
Cayden Shiadek	Carol Shinn	Les Myers
Christine Struble	John Thies Jr.	Kolene Thies
David Trudo	Barbara Thompson	Edward Viehmann
Effie Morrison	Sharon Winterberg	Shelia Wedemeyer
Pastor Deon McKenzie	Janie Walker & Family	

"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord." James 5:14



Flowers for July



July 7 - Quilters
July 14 -
July 21 -
July 28 -

*If you are interested in Sunday flowers,
please call the Church Office.*

*The Worship Committee is scheduling scripture readers. If
you would like to read scripture, please call the Church
Office or Charlie Miller.*

Lay Readers for July

July 7 - Kimberly McKenzie
July 14 - George Hildebrand
July 21 - Paula Hildebrand
July 28 - Fran Panagos



Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the newsletter is
Wednesday, July 17, 2024.

IMMANUEL UCC - MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFT FORM

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

- TO: _____ Immanuel General Fund
_____ Every Child's Hope "ECH" OPERATING FUND
_____ Emmaus Homes-OPERATING FUND
_____ Emmaus Homes-PASTORAL CARE FUND
_____ Emmaus Homes-ENDOWMENT FUND
_____ The Friends Foundation (formerly "Friends of Emmaus")
_____ Immanuel Building and Capital Improvement Fund
_____ Immanuel Endowment Fund
_____ Immanuel Good Samaritan Fund
_____ Immanuel Brothers' In Christ Fund
_____ Glenn Fox Memorial Scholarship Fund
_____ Brauch Scholarship Fund
_____ Mary Thompson Scholarship Fund
_____ Music Enhancement Fund
_____ Eden Theological Seminary
_____ Unleashing Potential (formerly Neighborhood Houses)
_____ Parish Nurse Fund
_____ Camp Scholarship Fund
_____ Bell Choir Fund *CK # _____
_____ Organ Fund *AMT \$ _____
_____ Heritage Fund *ENV # _____
_____ Accessibility Fund
_____ Habitat for Humanity
_____ Discretionary Assistance Fund
_____ Other

FROM: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP _____

ACKNOWLEDGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP _____

Put in Newsletter _____ Do NOT put in Newsletter _____

*Office Use