



# Journey Connection

## Modified Journey Connection #1 2020

### Mission Statement of Immanuel Church

To be and to make Spirit-filled followers of Christ who shine the light of God's love to the world.

### YES...WELCOME TO IMMANUEL CHURCH, EVEN THOUGH WE ARE CURRENTLY NOT GATHERING!

We at Immanuel are on a **joyful journey** – with Jesus...regardless of the current situation, – to disclose His presence in the world...especially during this challenging time, - and His love for all people...whether they are acting irrationally or not. With humility, we invite **everyone** to join us - of course respectfully keeping your distance, **regardless** of their relationship with Jesus, and even if they doubt His reality; together we will get through this COVID-19 pandemic! And, we invite **everyone** to join us, **regardless** of race, culture, age, sexual orientation, family status, or the brokenness of their lives. Yes, even the closet hoarders are welcome! On this journey there are no judgments – just Jesus. Whoever you are, **you are welcome** to join us in Spirit!

If you desire a calming conversation during this time of hysteria or could use a peaceful prayer while wrestling with isolation, please contact Pastor Rich or Jenny Landowski at **262-334-2886**. You could also leave us an email message at [pastor2112@gmail.com](mailto:pastor2112@gmail.com) or [immanuelwbministries@gmail.com](mailto:immanuelwbministries@gmail.com); we would welcome a time to connect with you!

Christ has no body here but ours  
No hands, no feet, here on earth but ours  
Ours are the eyes through which he looks  
On this world  
With Kindness  
  
Ours are the hands through which he works  
Ours are the feet on which he moves  
Ours are the voices through which he speaks  
To this world  
With Kindness  
  
Through our love, our smile, our listening ear  
Embodied in us, Jesus is living here  
Let us go now  
Filled with the Spirit  
Into this world  
With Kindness



# A word from Jenny...

Dear Immanuel Church Family,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

After prayerfully considering how to move forward with everyone's best interest at heart in amidst the coronavirus, it has been decided to forego holding Worship Services, regular gatherings, and special events in our Immanuel Church building until further notice.

However, this does not mean that "Immanuel Church" in itself is closed, for WE are the church, and WE CAN continue to gather in Spirit and in deed. Our plan is to continue to be available to help those in need, however that may look, and to keep us connected through phone calls, emails, and different forms of social media.

The church building will be open with modified hours and staff, so if you need to come in, we encourage you to call first. 262-334-2886

It is our desire to continue to serve you throughout this time of uncertainty so together we can remain a church that shines the light of God's love to the world. How does this look? Read on and see.

In Joy, In Service,

*Jenny*

**Staying connected through social media...**

**Website** – <https://www.immanuelwestbend.org/>

**Facebook** – Immanuel United Church of Christ

**YouTube** –

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQjMFJ2pUMi79UirP8xXvLw>

# Immanuel's Helping Hands

**Carry each other's burdens, and in this way  
you will fulfill the law of Christ. *Galatians 6:2***

In an effort to be proactive about circumstances that may lie ahead, we would like to compile a list of individuals who would be willing to lend a hand with the following:

- ✓ Shopping or running errands for someone who is unable to leave their home
- ✓ Making phone calls to check in on those who are homebound
- ✓ Anything else that may arise as time goes on

Please prayerfully consider if this is something you could do to help.

**IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF HELP, PLEASE LET US KNOW!!**

Whether you are able to help or in need of help,  
please contact Jenny at:

[immanuelwbministries@gmail.com](mailto:immanuelwbministries@gmail.com) or call 262-334-2886



# Immanuel Food Pantry

**Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,  
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.**

**Hebrews 13:16**

It is our hope to have nutritional resources on hand to be able to offer to those who find themselves in need at this time, therefore **donations being brought in will remain at Immanuel** for the time being instead of taking them to the West Bend Food Pantry. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can support this. Items such as non-perishable food and beverages, paper products, yes this includes toilet paper, and even cleaning supplies that you may have excess of or could pick up during your next visit to the store can be dropped at church in the regular bins...we will handle it from there. In addition, frozen soups and dinners can be dropped off in the kitchen freezer; please be sure to label the contents.

**IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF SUCH ITEMS...**

**PLEASE CONTACT JENNY FOR ASSISTANCE!**

[immanuelwbministries@gmail.com](mailto:immanuelwbministries@gmail.com) or call 262-334-2886

We already have pantry items available for those who are without.

**SCRIP cards are available for purchase if you would like to use those to assist someone who is experiencing financial hardships. Contact Jenny for details.**



# Thoughts from our Church Treasurer & Financial Secretary



There is no question that these are unprecedented times that we are experiencing. We see panic and we see fear arising and playing out in so many forms. So what does this mean to us and our church family? This means that our faith and witness is more important than ever. Our church family needs prayer,

support, and assistance in more ways than normal.

We realize that our church is diverse and will feel the impact of our rapidly changing situation in different ways. Some of us are giving up long awaited vacations or gatherings. Some of us are scrambling desperately to find childcare while schools are shut down because we still must report to work. Some of us are facing the hardship of not knowing when we will see our next paycheck. Some of us live in fear of contracting a virus that has so many unknowns and could have a severe impact due to existing health issues that compromise us. Some of us are feeling like the world has gone insane. No matter where you come from it does not change that you are God's. As Pastor Rich put so well at our last service, we were just reminded of this on Ash Wednesday when our response as the ashes were being placed on our foreheads was "In life and in death I belong to God".

**So how do we show that we are God's in a world that is so rapidly changing? How do we find a new way of doing things?**

We may not be able to meet in person, but we are still a community in Spirit. We can and should PRAY for our church, our community, our nation, and our world. We are not alone in feeling this impact.

Amongst panic be at peace knowing this is all in God's hands.

Remember that God is with us and we do not walk this road alone!

*Continued...*

***Step out in faith and show God's love. Even if that means we get creative on how we "meet."***

- Call someone who might need some encouragement or that you miss seeing at church
- Check in with a neighbor to see if they need anything when you run to the grocery store.
- Try not to grumble about little things and focus on the big picture. What you're doing isn't necessarily for your good, it's for the good of others. This is a lesson in selflessness.

***Do not forget that everything we have is a gift from God.***

- Are you a good cook? – Make freezer meals for families who might need it
- Finding you overbought toilet paper? - Offer some to a neighbor
- Have extra money available from not being able to eat out or take that trip you wanted? – Consider where it might be needed.

And remember in our weakness we are strong.  
(2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

**Feeling overwhelmed by financial burdens  
and don't think you can "contribute?"  
Think again! WE NEED PRAYER**

As you consider what is all going on and monitor your personal situation consider how you can be God's hands and feet in this world. Even if it looks different than how you have in the past. You may need to get creative on how you do this, but consider this... Our church may be scattered but it does not cease to exist. There are still needs in our congregation to maintain operation and in our missions. Think about our extended family in India, and the people in our community who depend on the Circle of Friends Shoppe to provide basic clothing and needs. Think about how much more emotional support may be needed for individuals who depend on regular Sunday congregating as a source of strength to carry on through their week. Think about the many hardships that will be

brought to the church and the importance of having a benevolence fund. Think about how much more prevalent some of these needs might be for many in our church family. As you consider these things please see the list of different ways to continue to give while our church is scattered but hope to unite again in more than spirit. May God continue to be present in your lives as we work our ways through these unprecedented times.

**Last but certainly not least let us leave you with this:**

### **James 1:2-4**

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking in anything.

**We still need your support at Immanuel UCC and Joyful Journeys (India and Circle of Friends).** Remember to indicate special donations, such as Benevolence, or Building, on your check or on your envelope. Because we are not meeting at church services, here are the alternative ways for Immanuel to receive donations:

- Mail donations to Immanuel UCC, 501 Walnut Street, West Bend, WI 53095
- Donate securely online by visiting [www.immanuelwestbend.org](http://www.immanuelwestbend.org) or [www.joyfuljourneys-inc.org](http://www.joyfuljourneys-inc.org) and clicking on the “donate” link
- Contact Financial Secretary Cindy Komro at [cindy@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:cindy@immanuelwestbend.org) (she can set up online donations for you)
- Drop off donations at the church during business hours, and give to Jenny, or place in Mailbox #8

***Thank you for your continued support.***

Liz Ratzburg – Church Treasurer  
Cindy Komro – Financial Secretary



## Something to think about...

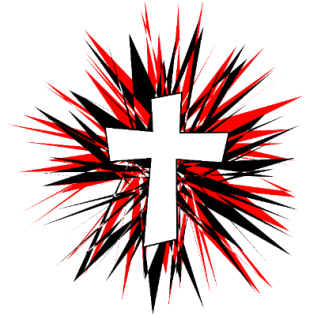
When this is over,  
May we never again take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with neighbors  
A crowded theater  
Friday night out  
The taste of communion  
A routine checkup  
A school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.

When this ends,  
May we find  
That we have become  
More like the people  
We wanted to be  
We were called to be  
We hoped to be  
And may we stay  
That way – better  
For each other  
Because of the worst.  
~ Laura Kelly Fanucci



# Health update from Pastor Rich

This last Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, I was finally able to give an update on my current health situation during both worship services. Knowing that not all were able to attend these services because of coronavirus concerns, I offer the following synopsis:



I have been diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome. This disorder disrupts the production of my white blood cells, so that I have about one-third of the normal count. According to my doctor, if I do nothing, I have a 50% chance of developing Acute Leukemia in the next three years. This percentage increases with time.

At the recommendation of my Doctor I am currently pursuing a Bone Marrow Transplant. There are risks to this surgery, but if it works, I could be completely cured of the Myelodysplastic Syndrome. The Transplant process would take anywhere between 1 – 3 months, depending on my body's response.

Currently, my doctor is looking for a donor. My sister and my children over 18 (Carmen, Owen) are considered first as possible candidates. If they are not a match, then we move to the "Bone Marrow Donor Bank" for possible candidates. This process alone could take some time. Meanwhile, I'll have my blood checked again in May. If my white cell count remains stable, I will forego surgery until January or June of 2021. Obviously, if my white cell count takes a dive, surgery would be sooner.

All in all, I'm in good spirits. I am grateful for the loving support, prayers, and concern of many within this congregation and beyond. I will keep you updated as progress continues. Grace and peace to you!

# “Stay home in Solitude” for Lent

Although we are currently not gathering for our typical Wednesday night “Soup and Solitude” during Lent, you can still access the Lenten Devotion on our Website or Facebook page from the comfort of your home. Pastor Rich will also continue with his study of Philippians, which he will post on our YouTube channel. You will definitely take something away from his message whether you have been following all along or are jumping in now.

## A Blessing Woven in Time

The present circumstances are guiding you to a sacred space inside you, from where you will see things more clearly. Look through the eye of the soul and you will find the answer. This card is a blessing woven in time. The time will soon come.



namaste

# Update on Immanuel Church's Lower Level

Our Property Guys have been working closely with Albiero Plumbing and Spectrum Services in the ongoing effort to resolve our flooding issues. After extensive digging, it was found that a Charter/Spectrum fiber cable penetrated our storm drain. Because of this, our pipe was clogged with debris and sediment making it nearly impossible for rainwater to flow away from our building.

A new pipe was installed, and the hole has been filled back in.

We are not 100% sure yet that this repair will rectify our problem, but as of the rainstorm on March 19<sup>th</sup>, the floor remains dry. We hope this is the answer to our prayers but keep praying just in case!!

Dave Hammen has been the driving force behind all this, and we truly give thanks for his commitment and service. He will be explaining the below pictures and review our circumstances in more detail at our next Congregation Meeting. (whenever that will be) 😊














# J.A.M. Time Bingo

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

JAM Time "Shine Brites" young and old, mark each box that you complete. Declare bingo when you have five consecutive spaces up, down or diagonally.

Challenge: Email [excited4jam@gmail.com](mailto:excited4jam@gmail.com) any other Bingo tasks you would recommend.

At dinner tonight have everyone share what they are grateful for.	Visit <a href="https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/">https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/</a> to learn more about some of God's creation	Make a card and send it to one of your friends from church. 	*Read a story from your children's bible. 	Clean your closet and make a pile of clothes to donate to a charity. 
Create a "God Loves You" sign to hang in a window of your home. 	Clean and organize your toys. Choose toys to donate to charity.	**Sing your favorite church/JAM Time songs and have a dance party! 	Spend 20 minutes working to memorize the books of the bible.	**Use household materials to make and play stringed, percussion, and wind instruments.
Read Mark 12: 30-31 How can you do this? 	*Use Legos, blocks, etc. to create the setting of a bible story/passage.		***Write a Bible passage on your sidewalk using chalk. 	Pray for: -world leaders -friends from church -family members -yourself 
You are blessed! Write a list, poem, or story about your blessings.	Remember that God is always with you. Write down or tell any worries you might have to a family member. Pray to God for guidance and strength.	***Choose a favorite bible passage and commit it to memory.	Call a grandparent, older relative, or really anyone... Ask them to teach you the words to a bible song from their childhood days.	Create a bookmark for your bible. 
Start a giving jar and collect coins to donate to one of our church missions. 	What new job or chore can you accomplish on your own? Your actions will be a blessing to others!	Easter reminds us that Jesus brought us new life. What signs of new life do you see in your yard or neighborhood?	Read John 3:16 Discuss what this means with your family.	Go outside and look around you. Thank God for his beautiful creations.



At this point all youth events are being postponed until further notice. To help us all stay connected in spirit since we are not able to meet together in body, I have come up with a little activity for us to do.

Here's how it works... Below are Bible verses that can be used to inspire you to shine the light of God's love to the world, or even in your home, during this time of disruption and uncertainty.

Choose a Bible verse, reflect on it, put it into action, record it with a picture and then post it on our Youth Group Facebook Page along with the verse you picked. But don't stop there! Choose another and keep the love flowing!

Let's encourage each other SHINE in this darkness!

**Exodus 20:12** Honor your father and your mother so that you may live long in the land that Yahweh your God is giving you.

**Luke 3:10-11** "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

**Romans 12:13** Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

**Matthew 5:42** Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

**John 15:12** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

**Matthew 5:16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

**Hebrews 13:16** And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

As we move forward into the unknown of the upcoming weeks remember  
YOU are not alone, and I am here for you.

You know how to reach me if you want to chat! 😊

You all are in my thoughts and prayers.

*Blessings ~ Johanna*

# ~Joyful Journeys, Inc.~

An outreach ministry founded and operated  
by members of Immanuel Church.

**OUR MISSION:** *to establish and or operate programs and facilities that will assist impoverished and needy people whose lives are challenged by current life circumstances, by helping to provide for their immediate basic needs and to bring them hope and promise for a brighter future.*

**Matthew 25:40** "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

## INDIA NEWS



Letter from Novahu...

Greetings brothers and sisters at Immanuel Church West Bend,

Our India situation also very pathetic due to corona virus! No international flights coming to India and going out from India and schools are closed for at least 10 days. RED alert was declared till 31st of March so all community festivals are cancelled and elections in India are postponed. I do not know what the future of the Corona effect is on this country. Even though we gave holidays to school, we cannot send the children to out because of Corona. Our hostel children watch movies and stay in the orphanage praying and studying. It is much harder on the children who live in small homes and huts because they should not come out. Some examinations are postponed. Our students in 10th grade are scheduled to take their graduating examinations beginning from March 31st to April 17th. Please keep us all in your prayers.

We are praying for all our friends at Immanuel church, West Bend. Please take care your health and protect yourselves from this deadly virus.



Karishma and Shekinah were also sent home by their college due to Corona virus. They brought preventive homeopathic medicine with them and gave to all of us, family members and orphans too.

We are safe now. Please continue to pray for our India, we also are praying for USA.

Manjula, Karishma and Shekinah send their love to you all.

your brother in Christ,  
Novahu





Dear Friends on Facebook,

No doubt in these times of confinement, you may be spending more time on Facebook than usual. With that thought in mind, and really in general, I want to call your attention to something of great importance. There are people who are NOT connected to our Joyful Journeys Ministry but have been claiming they are as a means to try and scam money from our supporters. For your own protection and the well-being of JJM, I highly recommend that you limit your Facebook “friends” from India to the list below. (This does not apply to those who have traveled there and made connections with others while there) I suggest that if you are sent a friend request to not only decline them, but also block them. If you need help with this, please let me know as I’d be happy to assist you.

**The ONLY names that I would recommend you accepting friend requests from (in regard to JJM) would be the following...**

- ~ Novahu Valluri
- ~ Swarna Manjula Valluri
- ~ Karishma Therisa
- ~ Shekinah Valluri

**NEVER FRIEND ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

- ~ Manohar Valluri
- ~ Esther Valluri
- ~ Ravikumar Valluri

I appreciate your understanding with this. Certainly, I don’t want to deter you from being connected with our friends in India but do want you to be mindful of the “not so Shine Brite” individuals out there who are being deceitful.

In Joy, In Service,  
~Jenny



# Current Aquarium Designation

## Desk and Chair for Each Teacher

Our staff, at the Marshall School in India, works incredibly hard to provide a top-notch education for the children of Madhavapatnam and beyond. Our recent team of travelers was amazed by the skills, particularly within the English language, that the students were learning thanks to the dedication and passion of the teachers!

In order to better equip our educators with what we would see as a common basic tool, our hope is to purchase a desk and chair for each teacher so that they can have their own personal space to work. Currently they share a bench/table with their co-workers when it comes to grading papers and preparing lessons.

The cost of a desk is \$40, and a chair is \$30. Our goal is to buy 10 of each. Besides just throwing your loose change in the aquarium this month, please consider covering the cost of a desk or chair. Your generosity would be appreciated by those we've entrusted to educate the children in the Marshall School.

Checks can be made out to Joyful Journeys and either put into the aquarium, offering plate, or given to Jenny Landowski. Please be sure to note desk/chair in the memo line.

Thank you for prayerfully considering this request.  
.Namaste' ~ India Task Force

### Current...



### Proposed...



# Circle of Friends News

## Circle of Friends Shoppe is Temporarily Closed

Due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, we have prayerfully decided to **temporarily close the Circle of Friends Shoppe**. When we thought about the service that is being offered there, and recognizing that it is not necessarily one crucial for survival, unlike a food pantry or such, we felt it would be in the best interest of both our volunteers and our friends who come to the Shoppe if we restricted visits for the time being.

**We will also be holding off on collecting donations at this point as well.** The reasoning behind this is twofold. First, we can see us getting totally bombarded with stuff since many people will be using this time of self-quarantine to clean out their closets, and secondly, the well-being of our sorters is certainly of importance. We will keep you posted as things change.

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## *Tending the Flock*



**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE** recovering from illness or injury and our friends who are shut-ins, as well as those grieving the loss of a loved one. To brighten up their day please think about visiting or dropping a card to one or more of them.

**Shut-ins:** Mort Zulick, Bill Altschwager, Julie Pulda, Garnet Schneider, Shirley Dow, Jerry Kuckuk, Marge Bergemann, Marian Kachel, Judy Muelling, Doris Falter, Norm Fedderly and Vera Kuckuk.

**Recovering from illness, surgery, or injury:** Pastor Rich, Robert Landowski, Audrey Schowalter, Karen Miller, Sue Calhoun, Mike Bath, Bruce Kapanke, Norm Fedderly, Roy Rusch and Jeremy Walter.

**Serving in the military:** Jackson Raad, Spencer Scheunemann, Noah Moser, Rebecca Gerard Shanahan and her husband, David.

**Continuing their education:** Emily Frederick, Rebecca Kempfer-Witt, Lexi McCrillis, Simon Uecker, Owen Vincent, Ella Gustafson, Julia Stier, Evan Patten, Carmen Vincent, Ana Komro, Kiley Komro and Austin Koehler.

**Member in Discernment:** Emma Landowski

# Hear my PRAYER O Lord

Psalm 86:6

## **PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC**

based on a version written by Cameron Bellm

May we who are merely inconvenienced  
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors  
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home  
Remember those who must choose between preserving their  
health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when  
schools are closed  
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips  
Remember those that have no place to go.

May we who are losing money to the market  
Remember those who live paycheck to paycheck.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home  
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose faith, hope, love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms  
around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving  
embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

# IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

501 Walnut Street, West Bend, WI 53095 (262-334-2886)

Email address: [immanuelwboffice@gmail.com](mailto:immanuelwboffice@gmail.com)

Immanuel Website: [www.immanuelwestbend.org](http://www.immanuelwestbend.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ImmanuelWestBend/](http://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelWestBend/)

**MINISTERS:** All of us

**PASTOR:** Reverend Richard Vincent ([Pastor2112@gmail.com](mailto:Pastor2112@gmail.com))

**PASTORAL ASSISTANT/DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES:** Jenny Landowski  
([immanuelwbministries@gmail.com](mailto:immanuelwbministries@gmail.com))

**ELDERS:** Doug Stewart (President), Jan Nesladek (Vice President),  
Mary Demmon, Elaine Radzinski

**DEACONS:**, Dave Hammen, Scott Gluck, Jane Kosednar, Alan Olsen,  
Frank Miezio (Secretary), Liz Ratzburg (Treasurer), Tracy Halfman

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES:** Rachel Gumm ([excited4jam@gmail.com](mailto:excited4jam@gmail.com))

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES:** Johanna Landowski ([immanuelyg19@gmail.com](mailto:immanuelyg19@gmail.com))

**YOUTH DIRECTOR:** Chris Witt ([immanueluccyg@gmail.com](mailto:immanueluccyg@gmail.com))

**CONFIRMATION LEADER:** Chris Arndt ([confirmationiucc@gmail.com](mailto:confirmationiucc@gmail.com))

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:** Julie Glassman ([immanuelwboffice@gmail.com](mailto:immanuelwboffice@gmail.com))

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY:** Cindy Komro ([cindy@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:cindy@immanuelwestbend.org))

**ORGANIST/ BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Marlene Wondergem

**SENIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Marlene Wondergem ([studio\\_543@yahoo.com](mailto:studio_543@yahoo.com))

**WORSHIP TEAM LEADER:** Mark Uecker

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Terry Christie ([christieeric35@gmail.com](mailto:christieeric35@gmail.com))

**CHILDCARE SUPERVISORS:** Mindy Stein, Johanna Landowski, Maggie McCann,  
Kendra Lepak

*Sermons*



An audio (mp3) copy of Sunday's sermon  
will be available a few days  
after presented at:

<http://www.immanuelwestbend.org>