

Journey Connection

Modified Journey Connection #4 JUNE 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 pastor@immanuelwestbend.org or director@immanuelwestbend.org ; we would welcome a time to connect with you!

We may not be gathering at Immanuel Church for Worship yet, but we are still open and ready to serve! Feel free to drop in for some quiet time in the Sanctuary or to just say hi; If you desire a Pastor or Pastoral Assistant visit, please call to make an appointment.

The church is still alive because WE ARE THE CHURCH!



Summer hours are:

Monday – Thursday from 9:00am to 3:00pm

A word from Jenny...

Dear Immanuel Church Family,

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

As you read on through the rest of this Journey Connection, I'd like to highlight a couple points. You will note in Pastor Rich's letter, he refers to this time that we are in as "exile"; going off that, I found this verse to reflect on...

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 (The Message)

But neither exile nor homecoming is the main thing. Cheerfully pleasing God is the main thing, and that's what we aim to do, regardless of our conditions. Sooner or later we'll all have to face God, regardless of our conditions. We will appear before Christ and take what's coming to us as a result of our actions, either good or bad.

We may be in "exile" from gathering as a community in our building, but how are we choosing to live during this time away? The above scripture says we are to cheerfully please God regardless of our conditions. This brings me to the second point...

Keep on reading the Journey Connections and see how members of our church family are cheerfully pleasing God; then, prayerfully consider if there is something you can do during our time in "exile" to serve and support one another. Also, stay spiritually connected by joining in with Pastor Rich for our Wednesday Night Bible Study and/or Sunday Worship; it's peaceful nourishment for your soul.

Keep Shining Brite and Shining Far Immanuel...God is with us!!

In Joy, In Service,

Jenny



Changes in staff email addresses



Please make the following changes...

Pastor Rich Vincent

pastor@immanuelwestbend.org

Jenny Landowski

Director of Ministries, Pastoral Assistant director@immanuelwestbend.org

Julie Glassman

Office Administrator office@immanuelwestbend.org

Cindy Komro

Financial Secretary finance@immanuelwestbend.org

Rachel Gumm

Children's Ministry excited4jam@immanuelwestbend.org

Johanna Landowski

Youth Activities Leader youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org

Chris Witt

Youth Leader shine@immanuelwestbend.org

Staying connected through social media...

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

Facebook – Immanuel United Church of Christ

YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/c/ImmanuelUCCWestBend>

Zoom with us if you'd like to chat face to face 😊



A note from Pastor Rich. . .

Greetings members and friends of Immanuel UCC. In the midst of a very difficult time, I remain overjoyed and encouraged by your loving support, kind words, and empowering actions. I have no news on the health front since my next blood draw is mid-July, but I do have a hopefully encouraging and helpful word about our present situation.



As one who desires to take our faith seriously and “live into” the sacred story we have been given, I have been searching for the “right” story through which to understand and interpret our present situation. And thankfully, through the writings of N. T. Wright, I have found what I think is the perfect biblical metaphor for what we’ve been (and continue to be) going through – “exile”.

Centuries before Christ, God’s people were taken into captivity to Babylon. In this move against their will, they lost everything they found familiar, comfortable, and important. They lost access to the Temple, the priesthood, sacred rituals and worship. All that they valued was lost. Life as they once knew it was completely changed. But in spite of all this, they never lost God. God went with them into exile and told the exiled community (through the prophets) that they must make the best of the present situation, not live in regret or anger, but rather, pray for the welfare of those around them, and continue to live faithfully, with full awareness that, one day, God would once again deliver them. The years of exile were hard. Many refused to listen to the prophets and lost their faith or gave into despair.

Continued...

We are in a similar situation – in exile from all we once found familiar, comfortable, and important. This strange new environment can be overwhelming and upsetting. Yet, rest assured: Just as the prophets of old pronounced, God remains faithful. God is with us in exile. God continues to bless us – yet in new, different ways. And one day, we will be released from exile. So, in the present, our call is to endure, and remain faithful and hopeful. At such a (strange) time as this, I am grateful to be your pastor. I am grateful to be able to proclaim good news even in hard times. I am grateful that the gospel we believe and share isn't limited to only "working" in convenient, comfortable times, but is also equally relevant in challenging times. We will get through this and we will one day speak of the God who remains faithful even in difficult times. God be with you all, my faithful and beloved flock!

Your Grateful and Hopeful Pastor,

Rich

A Penny for his thoughts...



Reminder: Pastor Rich is moving his books along to anyone who is interested in them; they are now located in the Adult Ed Room at Immanuel Church. If you find a treasure or 12, and would like to make a donation, he is asking that it be given to our Joyful Journeys House Pastor Ministry, there is a box outside the main office where contributions can be dropped off. At

this point, the books will be available through the month of July. Stop in and stock up on summer reading material!

Checks can be made out to Joyful Journeys, memo: House Pastors

A word from our President...

During these uncertain times I bring your greeting from Immanuel's leadership team. From the beginning of June, leadership has been deliberating the issue of re-starting some form of corporate worship in our sanctuary. It is a decision with many viewpoints all along the spectrum of should we or should we not re-enter into sanctuary worship. Speaking to these viewpoints, many protocols as to how it should be done have been developed. These and various writings from the UCC national conference, state conference and other organizations have been reviewed and debated during our meetings. Protocols were drafted and reworked during our deliberations.



After all these efforts to structure a re-entry to corporate worship the question remains: **Is it worth the risk and effort to bring forth worship in such a drastically altered format that it may please none and endangers some of our members?**

We know worship would look very much like what is seen now at every Sunday and Wednesday service as presented on You Tube. We could accommodate few members, offer a stripped down highly structured service with no singing, and offer no time for fellowship. More importantly we may be running the risk of endangering not only our beloved pastor due to his currently compromised immune system, but others in the congregation as well. Members may be able to make the decision to stay away until it is safe, but the pastor has to be present. This is an issue that leadership will continue to deliberate over the next months. As more information and data becomes available our informed decisions will continue to evolve.

Please continue to pray for Immanuel and its leadership as it continues to lead toward a re-entry to worship. I can only wish you the peace of Christ as we move through these uncertain times.

Doug Stewart
President

Thoughts from our Church Treasurer

Malachi 3:10

¹⁰Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Though we have faced many trials in the early part of this year we continue to be blessed beyond measure. The spirit of our church is alive and well! Your spirit of generosity leaves us humbles and in awe of God's presence through these difficult times. As we move forward into the unknown, please know that your continued support has provided blessing beyond what can be held within the walls of our church.

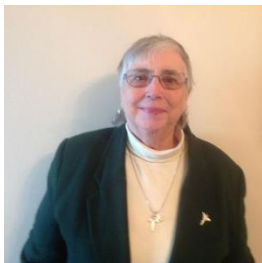
Thank you again for your generosity and continued support of our mission!

Sincerely,

Liz Ratzburg - Treasurer



Welcome New Members!



The following individual had expressed an interest in joining Immanuel Church, and through the powers that be, have now officially become a member. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Susan Kist; please join us in welcoming her into our church family!

As Susan puts it, "In joining Immanuel Church I feel like I'm returning to my roots. Susan was a member

here from 1967-1978 prior to joining Hope Community Reformed Church. She was initially drawn back into our flock after attending Wednesday Night Services and SonShine Gals, and now desires to reinstate her membership. Susan has enjoyed renewing friendships with people she has known for years and is also appreciating the new friends she is meeting here at Immanuel.

Susan Kist
1312 Redwood Street
West Bend, WI 53095

Sacrament of Baptism

Life certainly goes on, even in the midst of a world-wide pandemic, and nowhere is that clearer than in watching babies grow!



We had the joy of celebrating sweet little Olivia Grace's Baptism; she wore a baptismal gown that had been in her family for 4 generations.

Next up was Rhett Russell, who was last seen at church being carried by his dad in a car seat; on his Baptism Day he walked in ready to be blessed!



Congratulations to Jessica, Nate and Olivia Grace Valdes, and Ashley, Ben and Rhett Russell. May God's blessings shower upon both these families as they walk in the light of the Holy Spirit!

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to the individuals who have been so generous with their time as we tend to some housekeeping items around the church. From replacing bubblers and maintaining gardens, to painting halls and restrooms, we are blessed by the awesome helping hands within our midst!





THANK YOU!!



Growing in God's Love

Keeping the church family connected in love while we're apart!

"Little Shine Brites" decorated pots...



"Youthful Shine Brites" filled the pots...



"Seasoned Shine Brites" delivered the pots...



COURTNEY B. GRACE AND FAMILY

It's almost 2 months to the day that Immanuel's Courtyard was blessed with the arrival of 9 baby duckies. How exciting it has been thus far to watch Courtney B. Grace care for her nine Fruits of the Spirit...Love, Joy, Peace, Patience Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control. And my, how they've grown!!



On June 29th, Love and Kindness decided to venture out of the courtyard and into the West Bend Community; you'll know they've been doing the job of spreading their Fruit of the Spirt around when you see a smile on the face of a stranger. 😊 Jesus says, "Go and do likewise."

As for the other 7 ducks, they're stretching their wings and getting ready to go out into the world where they too can live out Immanuel's Mission to be Spirit-filled followers of Christ who shine the light of God's love to the world!



J.A.M. Time Family Resources...

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23



Faith in Christ is a gift of God, and the work of his Spirit. In Galatians 5:22-23, Jesus names the Fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. When we practice the Fruits of the Spirit we learn to abide in the unchanging self of God. Our confidence grows as we learn how to apply these gifts to our daily lives.

As a reminder of the Fruits of the Spirit, peek at our resident Immanuel Duck family below. Each duckling is named after a Fruit of the Spirit. Mama Duck has something in common with us, choosing Immanuel as our “home”.



Continued...

I encourage JAM Time families to revisit the Galatians scripture passage and discuss the Fruits of the Spirit. Share how the Fruits of the Spirit are at work. They are a good reminder for ALL of us.

Love: An overwhelming feeling or sense of commitment to a person or God. Love involves actions that go beyond kindness, that often involve self-sacrifice and doing things we do not want to.

Joy: A happy feeling about something God did or created.

Peace: Solving arguments instead of getting all upset.

Patience: Waiting for God's timing.



Kindness: An action that shows love or understanding toward others.

Goodness: Sticking to God's ways, especially when others are not.

Faithfulness: Showing you love God in front of others.

Gentleness: Treating others gently.



Self-Control: Showing discipline, especially when frustrated or angry.

Reading God's Word produces good fruit in our lives over time, by the grace of God. 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness...."

In Psalm 19 we see that it refreshes the soul, makes wise the simple, gives joy to the heart, and gives light to the eyes. These are just a few of the promises about the work of God's Word in believers'—including even young children's—lives.

If you or your family would like to expand your reading selection, we have a wide variety of Bibles and storybooks to share. Just call or email Rachel Gumm if you are interested.

Youth Group!

Mark your calendars!!



On **Tuesday, July 28th at 6pm**, we will be having a **social distancing** gathering here at church!! Prior to that date, each youth will be receiving a

Service Bingo card in the mail which they will be encouraged to complete before the 28th. Bring your card that day and be ready to play! Prizes will be awarded! We will have individual snacks and drinks for everyone as well. More information will be sent with the card.



Remember if you need anything,
I am here for you!

Looking forward to connecting
with all of you this summer!

Johanna Landowski

youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” **Joshua 1:9**

~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."

Circle of Friends News



Open and Ready to Serve!

This past month, Circle of Friends Volunteers who work at the Shoppe and sort clothes gathered to discuss the thought of reopening our ministry. It was decided that we would resume collecting items for the Shoppe and begin serving customers on June 17th. Specific policies have been implemented so that we can safely continue to serve our community during the Coronavirus. Certainly, the wellbeing of our staff as well as those we provide for is of utmost importance as we move forward in 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.

We were happy to serve 9 families,
equating to 21 people on our first night open!

Please keep those who serve within this ministry
and those who benefit from it in your prayers.

INDIA NEWS



Joyful Journeys India ~ COVID-19 Relief Fund ~

Praise God, for the outpouring of support for our JJI~CRF! Through the generous donations from member of our Immanuel Church Family as well as friends of Joyful Journeys Ministries, we've been able to stay on top of the desperate nutritional and hygiene needs arising in the village of Madhavapatnam due to the Coronavirus and also begin to make structural changes within the Marshall School and Joyful Journey Hostel as we begin to consider welcoming students back later this summer.

In the meantime, since school in India started at the beginning of June, we are looking at ways to facilitate learning with technology. The Indian Government recently began supplying families with devices so children could learn at home, we are now looking to purchase laptops for our teachers so that they can connect with their students virtually. Some of the teachers are able to come into the school and use the computers there, however there isn't enough for all of them. Our hope is to purchase 4 laptops, each costing \$537, as soon as possible so they don't fall behind with their studies.

Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers as we move forward into uncharted territories.

Donations are certainly welcomed; checks can be made out to Joyful Journeys, memo: JJI~CRF, or you can visit our Joyful Journeys Website to donate online. <https://joyfuljourneys-inc.org/>

If you would like any more information on how you can help, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email director@immanuelwestbend.org or by phone 262-334-2886.

God bless you!

Namaste'

~ Jenny

Kisses for India



While in India on a Mission Trip back in January of 2020, Kaitlin and Jordan Petrin were given a premarital blessing from members of our JJM leadership, they were then married on May 9th in Immanuel Church. While at their reception on June 13th; they invited guests to donate to Joyful Journeys in lieu of clinking glasses for a kiss. The happy couple raised **\$350** for our India Ministry!

Thank you, Kaitlin & Jordan, for your creative support!

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, Bruce Kapanke, Rosemary Seideman, Marge Rusch..

Serving in the military:

Jackson Raad, Spencer Scheunemann, 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, Kiley Komro and Austin Koehler.

Member in Discernment:

Emma Landowski

Death:

Reverend Francis (Frank) Turpin was called home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, June 9th. A memorial service for immediate family has been held. We extend our sympathy and offer our prayers, that God may comfort all who mourn his death.

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Email address: immanuelwboffice@gmail.com

Immanuel Website: www.immanuelwestbend.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ImmanuelWestBend/

MINISTERS: All of us

PASTOR: Reverend Richard Vincent (pastor@immanuelwestbend.org)

PASTORAL ASSISTANT/DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES: Jenny Landowski
(director@immanuelwestbend.org)

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

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

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Rachel Gumm
(excited4jam@immanuelwestbend.org)

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Johanna Landowski
(youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org)

YOUTH DIRECTOR: Chris Witt (shine@immanuelwestbend.org)

CONFIRMATION LEADER: Chris Arndt (confirmationiucc@gmail.com)

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Julie Glassman (office@immanuelwestbend.org)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Cindy Komro (finance@immanuelwestbend.org)

ORGANIST/ BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Marlene Wondergem

SENIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR: Marlene Wondergem (studio_543@yahoo.com)

WORSHIP TEAM LEADER: Mark Uecker

CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR: Terry Christie (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>