

Journey Connection

Modified Journey Connection #6 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!



A note from Pastor Rich...

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel,

Just a short and (thankfully) boring report from me this month in regard to my health. I just received the findings on my latest blood work, and my numbers remain relatively stable. They are still low, but not critical, so I have the freedom to delay my transplant for at least two more months. As usual, I will have another bloodwork done in November to continue to assess the progress of my condition. Thank you for your prayers, loving support, understanding, and patience. This means more to me than I can express!

Now, in regard to the happenings of Immanuel Church, please take the time to read what our President, Doug Stewart, has to say pertaining to updates.

Grace and peace,

Rich

A Penny for his thoughts, turned into \$\$\$ for India...

Joyful Journeys thanks Pastor Rich for passing along most of his book collection to be shared with others. Donations that were received in response to people helping themselves to his reading material totaled \$495! All contributions will be given to the Joyful Journeys House Pastor Ministry in India.





Staying connected with Immanuel through social media...

Website - https://www.immanuelwestbend.org/ Facebook - Immanuel United Church of Christ YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/c/ImmanuelUCCWestBend





Join us for Drive up Communion Sunday, October 18th 2020 10:00am-noon

Please enter the large parking lot from Walnut Street and proceed into the smaller parking towards the Main Office doors; Pastor Rich and Jenny will be there to serve you.

Thoughts from our Pastoral Assistant/Director of Ministries

Dear Immanuel Church Family,

I sincerely pray you are all doing well... These certainly have been some trying times for all of us, and it doesn't look like there is an end in the near future; however enough time has gone by now since the pandemic began where we can look back over the past 6 months and see the hidden blessings within it... God IS working in and through this all to bring good; open your hearts and minds to see the Glory of our Creature's Love!!

And as you open your hearts and minds, consider asking yourself "how am I working in and through this all to bring good"? As members of Immanuel Church, we embrace a covenant that calls us to be people who have received Jesus as our Lord and Savior, reflecting His love in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Join your fellow brothers and sisters in spirit as together we reaffirm our commitment to Immanuel Church, and embrace our mission "To be and to make Spirit-filled followers of Christ who shine the light of God's love to the world"...even, and especially, during a worldwide pandemic.

In Joy, In Service, ~Jenny



Immanuel United Church of Christ Joy in the Journey Membership Covenant Following Jesus. Loving One Another. Serving West Bend & the World.

As one who has received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and accepts the Beliefs and Mission of Immanuel Church, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the church family. In doing so, I make the following Covenant with God and the other members of Immanuel Church:

I will affirm the testimony of my church:

By worshipping faithfully By living a godly life By warmly welcoming visitors

I will further the ministry of my church:

By being a student of the Scriptures By applying my spiritual gifts and talents By equipping myself to serve

I will share the responsibilities of my church:

By praying for its Mission
By participating in the fulfillment of the Great Commission
By giving consistently, proportionally, and graciously

I will uphold the unity of my church:

By acting in love toward other members
By refusing to gossip about others
By respecting the decisions of church leaders
as they are led by Christ

I will support the people of my church:

By developing a servant's heart By praying for the needs of others By seeking to ease their burdens

On behalf of our President...

An update from Immanuel's Lay Leadership

Immanuel's leadership team brings you greetings and wishes for peace and calmness during these times of illness and social unrest.

First, a brief update on the business of the church. Consistory, since March, has met on an every other month schedule to conduct the necessary business of the church. The Finance Committee has met regularly to monitor our financial situation and, as of their last meeting, started work on the 2021 budget. Church and Ministry has and will continue to meet to monitor when it is advisable to again worship in our sanctuary. Property Committee members continue to complete various projects around Immanuel. As an example, look at the new dishwasher, cabinets, and refrigerator in the Friendship Room. Joyful Journey Ministries continues to aid those in need locally and support our India ministries. hours have been established as to when the church is open for business. Small church groups such as SonShine Gals and Confirmation have resumed gathering, respectful to social distancing. Necessary religious services, such as funerals and wedding have been held. Where possible, we have allowed responsible community groups who need larger space to fulfill their missions to use parts of our building. Immanuel continues to serve and minister in these times of masks and physical distancing.

Second, Church and Ministry will meet in the near future to assess where we are in our journey toward returning to sanctuary worship. There is an undeniable longing to return to communal sanctuary worship to seek solace with one another during these uncertain times. But, this longing is coupled with the realities of everyday life in this year of COVID. Church and Ministry will again have to wrestle with the same questions from past meetings: 1. Who is at risk? 2. How safe is worship even with physical distancing and masks. 3. What would worship look like? 4. How much time and effort would be needed to drastically restructure worship? 5. Who will monitor the restricted format? 6. What reception will a very

structured, abbreviated service receive? 7. What is the health status of our pastor? And, the questions could go on.

All these questions and concerns need to be grappled with while in the background we see the number of infections increase across the county and state. Members of Immanuel, young, middle age and older, have been infected to varying degrees. Thankfully, all have recovered. A close personal friend of mine had members of his immediate family test positive. One of which was his pregnant daughter-in-law. Schools have re-opened but continue to identify students and staff who either test positive or exhibit symptoms. These cases have been small, but troubling as they concern children. It is against this background along with guidance from the Wisconsin Conference, Wisconsin Council of Churches and government agencies which will inform any decisions made by Church and Ministry. Please keep this group in your prayers as they continue to search for answers around re-entry to worship

Third, let us praise the staff of Immanuel who have worked to keep the church up and running, although on a stand-by capacity. Members have been contacted and their situation monitored. Needs have been identified and met. Counselling for those in need of it has continued. Cleaning and maintenance continue. Other unknown needs are tended to. All this to make sure when the time comes Immanuel is ready to serve its members in the same manner it has in a more normal time.

Lastly, should you feel the need to contact someone with questions and concerns in regard to re-entry to worship you can contact me. And, as always, we trust in our Lord and Savior to support and sustain us in these times of trouble.

Doug Stewart President 262-689-9684 das4672@charter.net

Property Updates

A heartfelt "thank you" to Cindy Komro for all the extra time she put into filing our claim with Church Mutual regarding all the flooding issues we had.

Below is a basic summery of what she sent out; now we prayerfully wait, please join us in doing so.

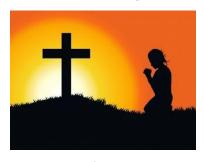
I have assembled several files with the documentation, accessible through the following link: Flood-Insurance Documentation. The documentation correctly reflects <u>out-of-pocket costs</u> related to the flooding in Immanuel United Church of Christ's basement since August 2018. I have included invoices, receipts, check stubs, as well as copies of cleared checks where possible. The spreadsheet (attached to this email) summarizes these costs, and the "Scan ID" should make it easy to view each expense or group of expenses reimbursed with one check. Please let me know if you have any questions about the details.

The documentation does not reflect the following:

- Labor: countless hours of volunteer time from our members who mopped, vacuumed water, pulled up soaked carpet, replaced moldy cabinets, repaired drywall, painted, and so one
- Donated costs: rental of equipment paid for directly by members, who did not ask for reimbursement
- Donated equipment: wet/dry vacuums and fans brought in by members for the church's use



A time for prayer...



As we maneuver through life during the craziness of our times, we often look to the wrong sources to guide us, strengthen us, fill us, and reassure us, as we seek to live lives that are meaningful and in accordance with who God has called us to be.

Recognizing the need for a sense of peace, now more than ever, we encourage you to pause...

For the next 6 weeks, join Pastor Rich and Jenny in Immanuel's Sanctuary for a time of solace and prayer. On Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning **October 5**th **through November 11**th, we invite you to this sacred space as we come together for an intimate devotion and some quiet time with our Lord. For the wellbeing of all in attendance we ask that you please respect our request to wear masks and consider maintaining social distance.

You are welcome to join us for all or one of the sessions. We will also be posting specific prayers on our Facebook page and Immanuel's Website on those designated days so you can follow along if you are not able to attend in person.

October 5th - November 11th
Each week we will meet on
Mondays - 1:00pm
Wednesdays - 6:00pm
Blessings on your Journey

Benevolence and SCRIP CARDS

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, '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.' Matthew 25:37-40



Please consider contributing to Immanuel's Benevolence Fund or purchasing SCRIP Cards, both to be used at the discretion of Pastor Rich and Jenny in serving members of Immanuel's Church Family and individuals from our community. There are countless

people who have been assisted during hard times thanks to all who have given so generously in the past; your continued support is appreciated.

Monetary donations can be included in your envelopes. Contact Jenny to purchase SCRIP Cards.

Full Shelf Pantry

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

In support of West Bend's Full Shelf Pantry, we will be collecting Cereal Products – cereal, granola bars, oatmeal



Items can be placed in the bins outside the main office, or cash/checks (payable to Immanuel) can be put in your giving envelope with notation designated to Food Pantry.

Any questions see Jenny Landowski

Boxed up (b) with Love Ministry





Immanuel's congregation includes many young adults who are transitioning on to their next phase of life, now more than ever they are probably feeling a disconnect from the church family they grew up with. Whether they are away at school or at home, we'd like to show our caring support. Currently we are simply collecting the gift cards listed below (all available through SCRIP), and cash donations to help with shipping for our "Boxed up with Love" ministry.

Please consider helping us spread joy! If you put money in your envelope for this, please be sure to designate it for "Boxed up with Love". If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jenny Landowski.

Gifts cards (available through SCRIP)

Starbucks ~ \$10 Domino's Pizza ~\$10 Subway ~ \$10















May we present to you Nicholas and Emma Landowski-Sancomb



Emma Landowski and Nicholas Sancomb were married on Friday, September 4th at Immanuel Church. Join us in congratulating this happy couple as they begin their new life together in Christ. Nicholas and Emma Landowski-Sancomb 3826 Shenandoah Ave. A St. Louis, MO 63110



SonShine Gals

The SonShine Gals have resumed their study on C.S. Lewis's book Mere Christianity.

They will be meeting the following Thursdays at 10:00am.

October 8 & 22, November 12 & 19, December 10 & 17

If you are interested in jumping in, please contact Jenny Landowski *masks are required at our gatherings

Immanuel's Book Share

Finding you have a little extra downtime for reading lately?

 Help yourself to a book on the shelf outside the Friendship Room.

Read a good book that you'd like to share with others?

- Leave a book on the shelf outside the Friendship Room.
- * Please do not leave more than 3 books at a time.
- **There is no specific genre to the types of books on this shelf.
- ***Books that are left are free for the taking; you will not get them back.



Confirmation



We are excited to welcome Johanna Landowski on as our new Confirmation Leader! She has faithfully served in our J.A.M. Time program for many years; therefore, she knows this group of students very well. She has also been our Youth Activities Director for the past year, a position she will continue to do.

Johanna has a passion for service, "kids", and our Lord; she's a perfect fit!

The following youth are enrolled in Confirmation...



Eliana Halfman



Noah Kaye



Kathryn Hartley



Chassidy McBeath

Youth Group Activities

Mark your calendars for some fall fun!

Saturday, October 31st

We will be having a Social Distancing Halloween Party at church from 1_{pm} to 4_{pm} .

Yes, you should plan to dress up! I look forward to seeing your costumes, masks and all !!

Isaiah 41:10

Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Friday, November 27th

Once again, we will be helping host opening night at Enchantment in the Park! It is going to look a little different this year, but it will still be a lot of FUN!

Genesis 1:14

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so.



Watch your emails for more information! Contact me with any questions: Jo Landowski ~ youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org

J.A.M. Time 2020-2021

JAM Time Families,

We all have been working hard to establish new routines this fall. Back to school schedules are in full swing. We are unfortunately not able to join together in person for JAM Time, but we CAN bring JAM Time resources to YOU!

Consumable packets of materials will be assembled for grade levels K4-6. To make these packets the most beneficial, please email Rachel Gumm the following information:

Child's Name, age, and current grade level

When your packets are ready for pick-up you will receive a phone call and/or email. It is that easy!

Continuing to grow and foster relationships with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is our mission. Don't hesitate to contact Rachel if you have any specific needs or questions.

In Service, Rachel Gumm

Rachel Gumm, Director of Children's Ministries excited4jam@gmail.com

As we are touching, tasting, smelling, and observing the changes that autumn brings, we encourage you to incorporate the gospel into your family conversations, prayers and activities.

Harvest blessing to you all!

The Pumpkin Gospel

Just like I chose my pumpkin, God chose me!

Ephesians 2:10 – For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Just like me, my pumpkin looks good on the outside, but there's a lot of yucky stuff inside that has to be cleaned out! Romans 3:23 – for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

When I confess my sins to Jesus, He is faithful to forgive me and clean out all that bad stuff.

1 John :9 – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus makes me a new creation from the inside out!

2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.

By living in me and through me, Jesus shines His light into the dark world.

Matthew 5:14-16 – You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

JAM Time Birdhouses...

Immanuel "Shine Brites" and their families worked together to assemble and decorate birdhouses that were provided in kindness by Shannon Flaherty. The houses were then collected and put into giftbags which included lots of goodies and a coupon for a special sweet treat from Pastor Rich. We are so grateful to all these families who participated in our different outreach crafts throughout the summer; their efforts certainly shined the light of God's love to our church members and beyond!





















Thank you, members of SonShine Gals and of Immanuel's Youth Group for helping to package up hygiene kits for Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge!

Over 500 packets were assembled and will be handed out to the homeless community in Milwaukee!







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, Norm Fedderly and Vera Kuckuk.

Recovering from illness, surgery, or injury:

Pastor Rich, Bruce Kapanke, Brian Harris, Emery Kust. Those who are personally suffering or have family members suffering from the Corona virus.

Those who are suffering from depression and/or addiction

Serving in the military:

Jackson Raad, 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

Deaths

Harvey Holler was called home to be with the Lord on Monday, August 31st.

Doris Falter died to this world and joined the Church Triumphant on Wednesday, September 30th.

~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."



Our world may look very different right now, but the core of our India Ministry remains the same-

To be the hands and feet of Christ bringing hope to impoverished people in India.

Joyful Journeys Ministry invites you to partake in our

15th Annual India Gala! Virtual Style!!

In the past, we have looked to the India Gala to grow our ministry in Madhavapatnam, more recently Gala funds have simply empowered us to continue the good works being done there.



Previously, you may have contributed to the Silent Auction by donating an item or service. Perhaps you've purchased a gift certificate to be used in the Bucket Raffle. Possibly you have donated food to defray the cost of the meal. You may have even been someone who generously made a cash donation. Conceivably you bought a ticket to attend a previous Gala, bid on auction items, bought raffle tickets, or

prayed for its success. Or maybe this is the first you're hearing about it, in which case we hope next year to be able to offer those options to you again!

In whichever manner you contributed to the Gala in recent years, it was truly appreciated! Once again, we'd like you to prayerfully consider giving our India Mission your financial support. Understand that although the event cannot happen as in previous years, the need for raising funds to maintain our current ministries is still vital.

Pastor Rich and Friends
will be offering a Rockin' Concert on
Friday, October 23rd at 7:00pm
via Immanuel Church's YouTube Channel
in support of our efforts.

Contributions can be made now through October 23rd.

Please make checks out to Joyful Journeys or contribute online through Joyful Journeys Website

The Grand Total will be given during the announcements on Sunday, October 25th.



Circle of Friends News Needed Items at the Shoppe

With the change of seasons, the Circle of Friends Shoppe is starting to pick up the pace again. We give thanks for the opportunity to serve within our community, and for all who support our efforts.

Below are some specific needs that we are running low on; if you can supply any of these items, new or gently used, it would be greatly appreciated.

Girls winter coats size 3, 4, 5, 7, 10
Girls stretchy pants size 3, 7, 8, 10
Girls long sleeve t-shirts size 3,7,10
Girls short sleeve t-shirts size 3, 5, 6
Boys winter coats size 4, 6, 7, 14
Boys athletic pants size 6 thru 14, and 18 months
Boys long sleeve t-shirts size 8

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny. If you would like to make a monetary donation so we can shop for you, make checks payable to Joyful Journeys ~ memo: COF Shoppe.

Thank you for supporting this ministry through the years!



Trick or Treat for Circle of Friends Shoppe

Although "Trick or Treat" will most likely look different this year, we would like to continue with our tradition of collecting toothbrushes and toothpaste for the COF Shoppe during this season of sweet treats and chewy candy.

Please consider dropping off one or more of these items in the "Trick or Treat" bags hanging on the doors of Immanuel Staff Members.

If you have any questions, please see Jenny Landowski.



Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Once again, there is great need throughout the world for **care** and **hope!** Our Operation Christmas Child boxes fulfill some of that need. Along with the boxes' contents, personnel from Samaritan's Purse deliver the message of Christ's love and forgiveness to people all over the globe.

Boxes and information will be in the narthex beginning October 5th. Jackie Nieman will deliver all boxes that are returned to the church by October 21st. The cost of shipping is \$9/box.

There are three different ways from which to choose to help get these boxes to the children:

- **1. Pack your own box.** If you plan to include a check to cover the shipping with your box, you should write the *check payable to* Samaritan's Purse, with OCC boxes in the memo blank.
- **2.** Help pay for the shipping of a box that someone else has packed. If you would rather not shop and pack a box, your donation to the shipping of others' boxes would be greatly appreciated. You may write a check to Immanuel United Church of Christ, and in the memo section designate the money to the Operation Christmas Child fund.
- **3.** Pack your own box and go online to purchase your mailing label. If you *make your donation online*, you can Follow Your Box and receive a special label. Attach the label to your shoebox and use the Look-up Tool to find out the country where your box will be delivered. **Go to:** samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box

Finally, knowing what NOT to include in the boxes is important, as these items will be removed before shipping. *This has changed from past years.*

Do Not Include

Candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

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 and CONFIRMATION LEADER:

Johanna Landowski (youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org)

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

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



An audio (mp3) copy of Sunday's sermon will be available a few days after presented at:
http://www.immanuelwestbend.org