



Journey Connection

Modified Journey Connection #9 2021

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 snowflake is one
of God's most fragile creations,
but look what they can do
when they stick together!**

**Immanuel Church; sticking together
as we continue to Shine the Light
of God's love to the World**

A note from Pastor Rich...



Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel,

Well, we made it. 2020 is behind us and 2021 is before us. Though we are not completely out of the woods, we certainly can see light at the end of the tunnel. It goes without saying (and is probably the understatement of the century) that this has been a hard year for all. But I am incredibly encouraged by your resilience, fortitude, patience, and continued support. I'm praying that God will grant you the grace to remain strong just a little longer.

This month I have another blood test to determine where I am at in regard to my upcoming transplant. I'll pass on news as soon as it is available. As always, thank you for your prayerful, loving support. It means the world to me!

In spite of the challenges we've faced, I look forward to the future in hope. I hope you'll join me there!

Grace and peace,

Rich

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>

Next Virtual Communion Sunday, January 17th, 2021

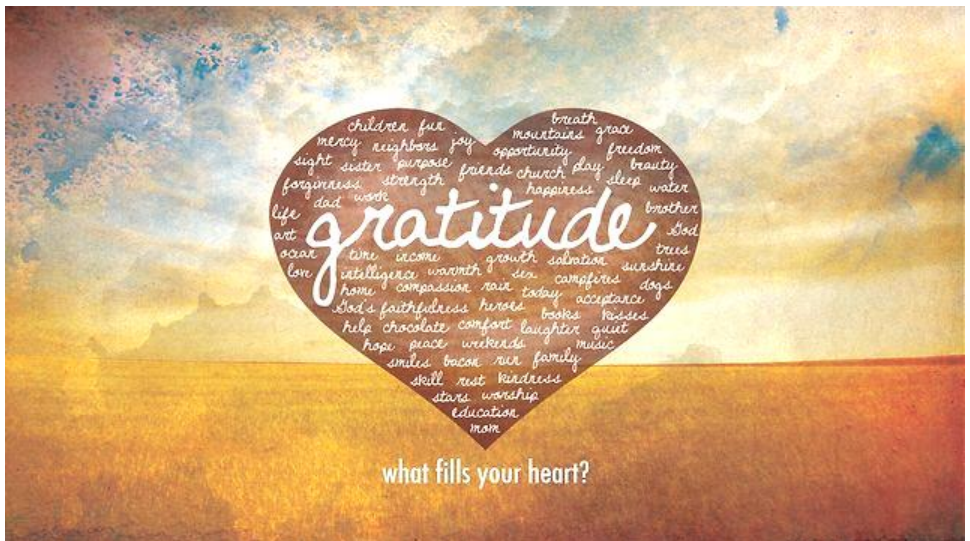
During our YouTube Worship Service on this date, Pastor Rich will invite you to provide your own elements, which he will virtually bless as he presides over the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Thoughts from our Pastoral Assistant/Director of Ministries

Happy New Year Immanuel Church Family and Friends!

It is in gratitude that I move out of 2020, not in the expected way of “good riddance”, but rather in appreciation for all the blessings that came in the storm that seemed to hover over us for nine months. I personally have so much to be thankful for, as do we, Immanuel Church! God’s faithfulness never faltered, nor did your dedication to who we are...it is in that faithfulness and dedication that I can say, with peace in my heart, that whatever 2021 holds...all will be well.

In Gratitude, In Love,
~Jenny



Highlights from December Drive Up Communion

It's always a joy to see so many of you come out for Drive Up Communion and wait patiently for your turn; in December we served 168 people and 3 dogs. In addition to partaking in the Bread and Cup, attendees were greeted by familiar smiling faces, they received a Christmas Candle to carry the Light forward, they heard beautiful music sung by beloved voices, they got a taste of delicious homemade Christmas Cookies, and were able connect with members of our finance team plus receive 2021 envelopes; what a glorious day!!





A special “thank you” to everyone who baked Christmas Cookies for us to share; they were enjoyed by many!!



And a huge shout out to the overwhelming response we had to our Advent Food Drive; pictured below is everything that came in during our Drive Up Communion!!

Your donations allowed us to serve families who came to Immanuel seeking assistance for food as well as send a generous amount of boxes to the Full Shelf Pantry. Thank you for helping keep our community nourished!!

Next Virtual Communion Sunday, January 17th



During our YouTube Worship Service on this date, Pastor Rich will invite you to provide your own elements, which he will virtually bless as he presides over the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

On behalf of our President...

An update from Immanuel's Lay Leadership

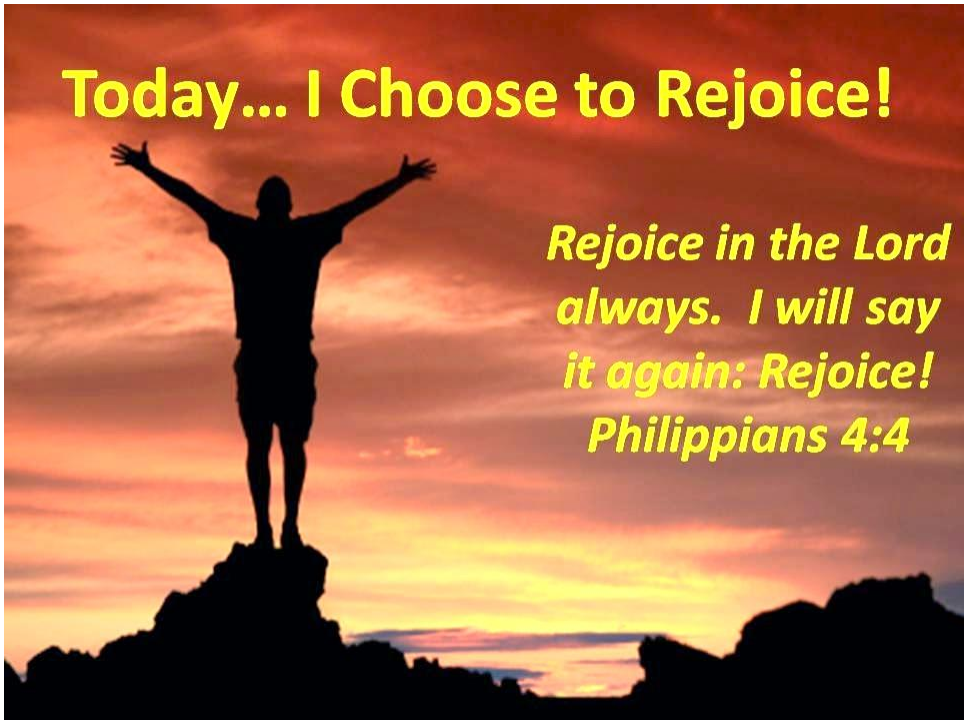
A belated Merry Christmas and hoped for Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year from Immanuel's leadership team. We look back at a challenging year, but can rejoice we have come into a new year after having been gifted with two virtual Christmas services. They were uniquely crafted to include many gifted members of our congregation celebrating the coming and birth of Our Savior. Both the traditional Christmas Eve Service and the Children's Service were fulfilling and gifts to remember and revisit as we enter the new year.

Now, we look forward to 2021. We can rejoice knowing we are surviving the exile from corporate worship, the threat of illness and the turmoil of the previous year. We are hopeful for a more peaceful and renewing year in the not-too-distant future. We can rejoice Immanuel remains strong. Our members have continued to:

- support the church even though corporate worship is suspended.
- show up for drive through communion, and in increasing numbers.
- support our local missions and the community's local missions in amazing fashion.
- maintain our physical structure in anticipation of our return to corporate worship.
- support our India mission.
- support our staff in their endeavors to keep members connected.
- supply needed support for our staff to maintain our missions.
- offer their talents to our virtual services.
- visit Immanuel to remain connected.
- Meet safely in small groups for any number of good reasons.
- conduct the business of Immanuel
- do things unknown which keeps the church strong.
- offer prayers for Immanuel and the end to our exile from corporate worship.

From the above list, we can count ourselves fortunate and rejoice in this coming year. I say rejoice, for the above list shows we are a joyfully engaged and strong faith community. We can rejoice in the fact the virus, while sickening some in our congregation has not claimed any. We look forward to the distribution of a vaccine which will offer us relief from the cautious steps we have had to take this past year. In the meantime, we will continue to keep members and staff safe. Hopefully, at some point in time, we will receive guidance from the Wisconsin UCC Conference on when and how to re-enter into worship. This will not stop us from engaging in the above actions as we continue to be spirit filled followers of Christ who shine the light of God's love to the world. Finally, rejoice in the fact God loves us and sent His Son, Jesus, to save and support us in troubling times. For this to shall pass.

Doug Stewart
President
262-338-4059
das4672@charter.net



Full Shelf Pantry

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



In support of West Bend's
Full Shelf Pantry
throughout the month of January,
we will be collecting
Soup

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 or Johanna Landowski

SONSHINE GALS

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

**We will meet the following
Thursdays at 10:00 am:
January 14th and 28th**



If you are uncomfortable attending gatherings in person,
please join us **via Zoom!**

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Landowski at
director@immanuelwestbend.org or 262-334-2886.

Please note: Masks are required at our gatherings.

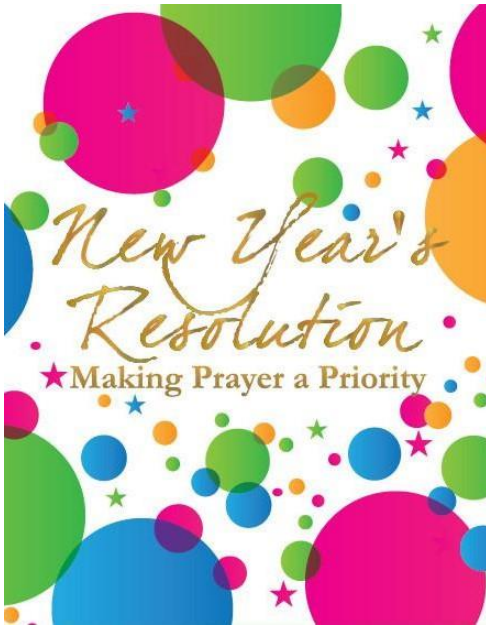
JAM Time Activity

Our J.A.M. Time families had a wonderful opportunity during the month of December to creatively decorate and assembled a wooden Nativity project! A special “thank you” to Shannon Flaherty for generously preparing each kit.





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



One small change can make a huge difference. This New Year, let's challenge our kids to resolve to pray every day and see what amazing things God will do! Praying as a family beginning with the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, The Lord's Prayer, is certainly a great way to start, then use this opportunity to find out what your children are grateful for as well as what their concerns are as they personalize their time with God. The attached chart can certainly be a helpful tool.



I CAN PRAY EVERY DAY

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| PRAY FOR: _____ _____ _____ | PRAY FOR: _____ _____ _____ | PRAY FOR: _____ _____ _____ | PRAY FOR: _____ _____ _____ | PRAY FOR: _____ _____ _____ | PRAY FOR: _____ _____ _____ |
| | | | | | SUNDAY |
| | | | | | PRAY FOR: _____ _____ _____ |

Youth Group Activities

To the tune of the *12 Days of Christmas*...

During Enchantment 2020
Immanuel's Team experienced this:

A Yearly Fun Tradition!



During Enchantment 2020
Immanuel's Team experienced this:
3 Cheerful Welcoming Greeters



**During Enchantment 2020
Immanuel's Team experienced this:
3 Helpers for the Wagon Rides**



**During Enchantment 2020
Immanuel's Team experienced this:
5 Joyful Collectors of the Goods!**



**During Enchantment 2020
Immanuel's Team experienced this:
5 Hours of Volunteering!**



During Enchantment 2020

Immanuel's Team experienced this:

3 x 100 = \$300 for Joyful Journeys India

**Thank you to all who participated at
Enchantment in the park!**

Your help was appreciated, and we hope you had fun!



Happy New Year Youth! Consider making SHINE a regular part of your weekly routine and join us each **Tuesday from 6-7pm** in the SHINE Room. Masks will be required during this time.

This year we will be addressing many topics including how we can continue to be messengers of God's Word while still being in the middle of a pandemic.

Anyone is welcome to join us as long you have completed Confirmation and have not yet graduated high school.

Any questions can be directed to me at my email:
shine@immanuelwestbend.org

Looking forward to seeing your faces again!

Chris Witt

262-745-7703

Happy Retirement Julie Glassman

After serving as Immanuel's Office Administrator for 13 years, leaving to be embrace "Grandma hood", then returning to us for another 2 years, our beloved Julie Glassman is finally retiring. Her smiling face, thoroughness, and helpful spirit has served our congregation and community well, and for this we give thanks. Julie's dedication to Immanuel has been a blessing, especially as we've maneuvered the past 9 months of COVID, coming in monthly to help with the Journey Connection and other clerical duties. Now as Julie wraps up her time with us, she is officially passing the torch to Johanna Landowski who will be serving as Interim Office Administrator. Soon she and her husband Lou will head south for a couple months to embark on this next chapter of life, please join us in wishing her the best!



Well done thy good and faithful servant!

Julie Glassman
805 Crestview Drive
West Bend, Wi 53095

~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



Bountiful Blessings!!!

A ginormous "thank you" to everyone who contributed to our S.H.U.M.S. Tree and Giving Tree this past Christmas; we were over the top amazed by your generosity!! Donations primarily supported our Circle of Friends Shoppe; however, we were also able to share some of our bounty with Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge! These ministries rely on the kindness of others in order to care for the needs of those in our community and surrounding areas; with grateful hearts we give thanks that we can enter the New Year with abundant resources.



Blankets for Mr. Bob

Mr. Bob's 
"Under the Bridge"



THANK YOU to all who brought in blankets in support of Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge; your incredible generosity was over the top!! We had the opportunity to distribute them, along with some items from the S.H.U.M.S. Tree, the Saturday before Christmas; here's what one of our youth volunteers had to say about that experience...

On Saturday December 19th, I had the privilege of going to South Milwaukee with a crew from Immanuel UCC to hand out blankets, hats, and scarves to the homeless population. Because of the generous donations from our congregation, we were able to provide a blanket/sleeping bag- or two- to everyone who needed one! It was really cool to have this experience and see the reflection of God's love through these generous donations. Everyone there was so grateful to have a little extra warmth in this cold winter, thanks to all of you.

Claire Gustafson

INDIA NEWS



Letter from Novahu...

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

I want to thank you and Joyful Journeys Inc. for supporting and supplying all the needs of Joyful Journeys in India, I appreciate your continued help in our efforts to care for the needy in our community. Here I would like to acknowledge and say a word of thanks for the money that you provided to meet the needs of the school and the hostel along with COVID issues.

In addition to sending monthly pledge so that we could continue to pay our teachers and staff, house pastors, and provide for our hostel children, you have supported us on so much more...

Your contributions to Joyful Journeys COVID Relief Fund enabled us to supply food, hygiene items and basic necessities when our village of Madhavapatnam and beyond were in desperate need. We were able to offer support to our House Pastors and give them provisions for their congregations. Hand sanitizer stands and thermometers were purchased for at the school and hostel. PPE items were purchased for all our staff. Four laptops were purchased which was a great help during this time when students were not coming to schools and teachers could not get to their homes. And through all this many came to see the grace of Jesus through Joyful Journeys Ministry unconditional love.

Over the last nine months, when our expenses weren't normal, we managed the budgeted money you sent to help with much needed repairs and upkeep on our buildings such as painting, general maintenance, cement and plaster work, and plumbing repairs caused by rats in our bathroom and kitchen drainage system. We were able to purchase two modems, one for at the hostel and the other for the school, now we have good net connection. New generators were installed to help supply more power to our school, computer center and church. This was all very helpful for us, but it also allowed us to offer our space, while the school was not

operating at full capacity, to our Government Officials for them to use for conducting their competitive examinations.

I'm so much thankful for the Christmas money too. Even though in this season of COVID-19 and churches not gathering, still our Immanuel church is so gracious to send Christmas money and gifts to all our staff members, teachers, students, oldies, pastors, and village scavengers.

On this occasion I take this opportunity to say a words of thanks from the bottom of our hearts (me, Manjula, Karishma and Shekinah).

On this occasion at the start of a New Year, I thank God the way that he connected us with Immanuel church and all the friends that are connected to Immanuel church. Bible says Psalms 103: 1-2, Bless the Lord O my soul , and forget not all his benefits...

Friends, may all your homes be filled with laughter and happiness. We wish you a very happy blessed New Year!!!

I have many reasons to be thankful for you and to God.

Our JJM family India is so much thankful for all you do for the upliftment of the poor.

Thank you for being our greatest blessing.

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

Love,
Your brother in Christ,
Novahu



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 and Norm Fedderly.

Recovering from illness, surgery, or injury:

Pastor Rich, Bruce Kapanke, Kris Zulick, Tom Wilson, Max Sommerfeld, Emilie Nieman-Witt, Jessica Frederick, Charles & Arlene Roemer, Gary Barber, and Karen Tonn.

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



Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ

Dear Immanuel UCC,

In the aftermath of yesterday's mob activity in Washington DC, many of us are feeling sorrow, shock and shame. We wonder anxiously if our society is teetering on a dangerous edge. Together we are alarmed by the threat to legislators in session, and we are infuriated by such violence perpetrated on the very grounds of our Capital. We grieve the damage, desecration, injuries and deaths resulting from a destructive demonstration that turned into an ugly insurrection. Thankfully, last evening, order was restored while the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives resumed their business, tempered their objections, ratified the Electoral College results and resolutely moved us toward a peaceful transfer of presidential power.

As people of faith, we condemn such violence and we call upon the highest leaders of our land to uphold the democratic principles and constitutional integrity of our government. As people of faith, we also acknowledge that words matter, and that political (and religious) leaders of every persuasion have particular responsibilities never to incite violence and never to promote anarchy. Leaders who fail to live up to these high standards share culpability for such tragic events and ought to be held accountable.

Many have raised questions about tolerance levels afforded to predominantly white protestors, especially in the wake of hundreds of racial justice rallies this past summer. This is yet another dimension to our confession and understanding of white privilege, and an example of the systemic bigotry that yet exists in our country. Over a half century ago, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. taught us about pursuing justice through non-violent expressions. In the midst of yesterday's melee we witnessed a sweet irony . . . the Rev. Raphael Warnock, who serves as prophetic preacher in King's former pulpit at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, was elected to the United States Senate!

And, amidst all of yesterday's political tumult, Christians celebrated Epiphany – the day ending Christmastide when we recognize our spiritual calling to share the light and love of Jesus Christ with the world. Today, we may feel sadness, but we can encourage each other to make some bold faith choices. We can choose kindness, forgiveness and grace. We can choose to work for personal healing and societal justice. We can choose to look for beauty in the eyes of strangers and foster peace in small neighborly ways. We can choose to exemplify the life of Christ through random acts of compassion and – despite all despair – place our hope in the God of love who remains our strength and shield!

Let us – in this Uniting Church of Christ – come together around these convictions and offer our deepest prayers for a nation in turmoil, and for ALL her people!

Faithfully yours,

The Ministerial Staff of the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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),
Rob Sheehy, 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:
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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, 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>