



Joy in the Journey

# Journey Connection

December 2023

## 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.

## Welcome to Immanuel Church!

We at Immanuel are on a joyful journey – with Jesus – to disclose His presence in the world and His love for all people. With Humility, we invite **everyone** to join us, **regardless** of their relationship with Jesus, and even if they doubt His reality. And we invite **everyone** to join us, **regardless** of race, culture, age, sexual orientation, family status, or the brokenness of their lives. On this journey there are no judgments – just Jesus. Whoever you are, **you are welcome** to join us!

If you desire information about becoming more involved in Immanuel Church, please contact Rev. Rich Vincent [pastor@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:pastor@immanuelwestbend.org) or Jenny Landowski [director@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:director@immanuelwestbend.org) or leave a message at the church office (262) 334-2886

## Christmas Worship at Immanuel Church

Sunday, December 24th  
Christmas Eve

9:00am Worship Service  
6:30pm Family Nativity Pageant and  
Candlelight Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 31st  
New Years Eve

9:00am Worship Service  
Pajama Sunday

Virtually join us live on Facebook or watch it recorded on  
Immanuel's YouTube channel.

# A word, or two from our Pastor...

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel United Church of Christ,

As I write this, the new church year is upon us, as we enter into a new season of Advent. Once again, we cycle through the story of Jesus and his significance for us and the world.

Our readings this Advent will focus on the songs of Advent. When Luke tells his story of the Christ he does something unique: Scattered throughout his opening chapters are a number of songs – the song of Mary (the *Magnificat*), the song of Zechariah (the *Benedictus*), and the song of the Angels to the shepherds (“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will”). In essence, Luke has turned Advent into a musical.

Something strange and wonderful occurs in musicals. In the midst of the story, from out of seemingly nowhere music erupts, the orchestra swells, and a melody begins, usually accompanied with singing and dancing. These kinds of things do not happen in “real life”, but in musicals this phenomenon occurs in order to emphasize the meaning of the moment. The joyous music reminds us that underneath all our “normal” experiences, there is a song playing. In the case of Advent, it is God’s “song of salvation,” “a new song” that speaks of redemption, grace, and new life. Luke demonstrates that he is not just interested in recounting historical events, but rather, he seeks to show the deep meaning and significance of the events by attaching them to songs of freedom, joy, and love.

This year our Advent readings focus on the songs that erupt from the sacred text in a series titled, “Advent – The Musical”. I’m excited to share these stories and these songs with you, and trust that God will use them to allow you to better hear (and sing along) to the sacred song of God underlying all our experiences.

One final note: We are approaching the end of the year and it would be wonderful to end the year with no debt and all our bills paid. If you are able and willing, I encourage you to consider a year end gift to aid us to this goal. May this Advent bring us a new sense of peace, hope, joy, and love as we enter into the celebration of the coming of the Messiah. And may the beautiful melody of God’s eternal song of love move you to dance and sing.

Grace and peace,  
Rich

# On behalf of our President...

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel United Church of Christ,

At our Fall Congregational Meeting, we passed the 2024 budget. Thank you to all who worked to prepare this budget and to those who were able to attend the meeting. Please continue to prayerfully consider your giving throughout this year and into the new year.

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."  
(2 Corinthians 9:7)*

Mark your calendars for the Christmas Benefit Concert on Saturday, December 9th at 6:00. Proceeds from the concert will go towards Immanuel's general fund. Come out and enjoy a great evening of fun and fellowship, while supporting our church.

As we enter the Advent Season, I hope you will join me in reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth. I pray that we all find ways to share our greatest gifts of: hope, peace, love, and joy - not just during this season of Advent, but always.

Blessings,  
Amy



## Property Update...

Thank you to Ben Russell and Stuart Swanson for trimming some of the dead branches off of the trees in the small parking lot so they would not fall on any of the cars.

Our elevator wasn't working and a call was made to Otis and they made an adjustment on the hydraulic valve and put the elevator back in service.

Kettle Moraine Heating performed the annual maintenance on our 5 furnaces and 2 boilers. Only two things were noted, we have a faulty thermostat in the hallway near the church office. That will be replaced in spring. The second item is the expansion tank on the church house boiler. It isn't functioning properly and the technician was going to get us a price on a replacement. This also can be replaced in spring when they come in spring to service our air conditioners.



The Property Team

# Financial Secretary...

**Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

Happy December!

At the November 5<sup>th</sup> Fall Congregational Business Meeting the **2024 Budget** was passed in the amount of **\$449,768.23**. As of this writing, **pledge cards** in the amount of **\$228,711.00** have been received for 2024. If you have not had an opportunity to complete a 2024 pledge/commitment card, there are extras available in the Narthex by the Giving Church.

**2024 Offering Envelopes are available for pickup at church. Just a heads up, your envelope number may have changed from previous years if it was above 150 because of the reduction in the quantity ordered.** As a reminder, if you indicated that you no longer required envelopes for 2024 but have changed your mind, please let me know. Also, let me know if you no longer require envelopes.

Blessings,

Karen

## **Immanuel UCC 2023 Annual Local Mission Budget is \$431,868**

Thank you for your continued support of Immanuel's local ministries mission of:

- providing meaningful life changing worship
- nurturing persons in their faith journey
- witnessing to our faith in service beyond ourselves

Just a reminder, when writing checks to Immanuel and Joyful Journeys please write two separate checks as this makes it easier to account for what is designated for Immanuel and what is for Joyful Journeys. Also, you can make on-line donations separately to Immanuel and Joyful Journeys via each of their websites as noted below under the **Online Giving topic**.

If you have any questions regarding Immanuel finances or would like to discuss your giving, please note my regular office hours are on Tuesdays from 9am-3pm. You can also reach me via my email, [finance@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:finance@immanuelwestbend.org) or leave a message on the church phone 262-334-2886. I welcome the opportunity to chat with you.

### **October 2023 Monthly Finance Report**

	Month	YTD
Total Income	\$26,567.67	\$318,443.94
Total Expenses	<u>\$30,587.82</u>	<u>\$347,129.61</u>
Income vs Expenses	\$ -4,020.15 Deficit	\$ -28,685.67 Deficit

## Online Giving

In case you didn't already know, both Immanuel United Church of Christ and Joyful Journeys, Inc. have the capability to receive online donations. You can set-up payment via ACH from your checking account or use a credit card. Just so you know that if you choose to use a credit card there is a small fee of about 3.1% which the service provider reduces the amount we receive. Instructions are below:

**Online Services: [immanuelwestbend.org](http://immanuelwestbend.org) or [joyfuljourneys-inc.org](http://joyfuljourneys-inc.org)**

**To set up regular or individual electronic donations for IMMANUEL, visit [immanuelwestbend.org](http://immanuelwestbend.org)**

- Click on Donate Online to get to the secure Vanco payment site

**To set up regular or individual electronic donations for JOYFUL JOURNEYS, visit [joyfuljourneys-inc.org](http://joyfuljourneys-inc.org)**

- Click on "DONATE", then scroll down to "Click Here to Donate Securely Through Vanco"

**To view your contributions, visit [immanuelwestbend.org](http://immanuelwestbend.org)**

- Click on Member Portal drop down
- Log in with your FAMILY email and password (may differ from a family member's individual password)
- Once in the Member Portal, choose the Giving History tab
- Select the Detail tab to see a list of your donations

## Offering Altar

The Offering Altar is located in the Narthex, just outside the Sanctuary. On it you will find the Giving Church; monetary donations can be slipped in through the slit on top. There is also information about Immanuel Church and its ministries along with additional contribution envelopes. If you are a visitor and would like us to contact you, please fill out the information form and drop it in the Giving Church and be sure to help yourself to a welcome packet. Also available on the Offering Altar are Prayer Request forms; prayers dropped into the Giving Church will be shared with the SonShine Gals during communal prayer time. If we can be of further assistance to you, please contact Jenny Landowski at

262-334-2886 or [director@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:director@immanuelwestbend.org)



# A NOTE FROM OUR CHOIR DIRECTOR...

## O Radiant Christ / R. Duck

*O radiant Christ, incarnate Word, Eternal love revealed in time;  
Come, make Your home within our hearts, That we may dwell in light sublime.*

*Our bartered, busy lives burn dim, Too tired to care, too numb to feel. Come, shine  
upon our shadowed world: Your radiance bathes with power to heal.*

*Your glory shone at Jordan's stream, The font where we were born anew. Attune  
Your church to know You near; Illumine all we say and do.*

*O Light of Nations, fill the earth; our faith and hope and love renew.  
Come, lead the peoples to Your peace, As stars once led the way to You.*

Welcome to December 2023!

To those in Immanuel's Adult / Christmas Eve Choir the above lyrics should be familiar, well, at least the first and fourth verse! We are looking forward to sharing this song with you on Christmas Eve this year. I invite you to sing these lyrics to the familiar tune of our Doxology, (tune Old Hundredth / L. Bourgeois). I hope you will experience a reflective December meditation! If you are present in worship with us Christmas Eve (evening) you will hear a couple of verses of this song - may your heart sing with us!

This is a season of beautiful music - it can be found all around us, and it can be found here at Immanuel Church. Come join us and celebrate in the beauty of this sacred season!

Coming up this month we have:

Christmas Benefit Concert: December 9<sup>th</sup>

Pre-Concert Social: 6:00 pm Concert: 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Lessons, Carols and Pageant: December 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm

Choir practices are under way and there is always room for more to join! Please contact me if you are interested in being a part of Immanuel's choirs. Want to sing with us on Christmas Eve? Pick up a folder of our music on top of the mailboxes outside the main office. Be sure to read to information letter included with the music.

Here's our schedule on Tuesday evenings:

5:00 pm Handbell Ensemble

6:00 pm Ladies Ensemble 6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:15 pm Christmas Benefit Choir

May you find unexpected beauty this month.

~ Beverly Mark

[bevbeemark@gmail.com](mailto:bevbeemark@gmail.com) 920-242-7318



**J.A.M. Time\***  
**December 3<sup>rd</sup> – December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Advent: Shepherds**



*The shepherds said to each other, "Come on, let's go to Bethlehem!  
Let's see this wonderful thing that has happened,  
which the Lord has told us about."*

**Luke 2:15**

**Cuttin' and Struttin' – Sheep Ornaments**  
**Kickin' Kitchen – Sheep Pie**  
**Pleasin' Plots – Movie: The Crippled Lamb**

**UP NEXT**

December 24 A.M.:	Family Worship – NO JAM Time
December 24 P.M.:	Nativity Pageant
December 31	Family Worship – NO JAM Time
January 7 – 21	Fruits of The Spirit
January 28	Camp Sunday!

**~Interested in our JAM Time program...Check out the JAM Time  
bulletin board for program information and volunteer opportunities.**

**Questions? Please contact Mitch Schleif at**

**[Excited4jam@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:Excited4jam@immanuelwestbend.org)**

**262-334-2886 ext. 104**

**414-491-5057**

\*Jesus and Me Time – is Immanuel's Children's Ministry program for  
children age three through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

JAM Time meets Sunday mornings September - May  
from 10:30-11:30 in Fellowship Hall.

## *Nativity/Christmas Eve Service*

Preparation is under way for our annual Christmas Eve service. It may look a little different this year than in years past, but nevertheless, it will be a meaningful worship service.

Please let Johanna Landowski or Mitch Schleif know if you plan on having your child participate in this year's pageant, please let us know by December 10<sup>th</sup>.



Johanna Landowski [office@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:office@immanuelwestbend.org)

Mitch Schleif [Excited4jam@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:Excited4jam@immanuelwestbend.org)

# SHINE

Open to anyone in grades 9-12 who's interested in laughter, forming supportive friendships, and exploring how on earth having a faith-filled life might look. We meet 10:30-11:30 on Sunday mornings in the room with all the couches at the bottom of the stairs by the elevator. We welcome visitors and new friends!

Join us in December to explore the ideas of wonder, peace, and joy!

Schedule:

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>- Wonder

Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>- Peace

Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>- Joy

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>- No Shine (Christmas Eve- Family Worship Sunday)

Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>- No Shine

(Family Worship Sunday- remember to wear your pajamas to church!)

Questions? Ask Elise!

[shine@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:shine@immanuelwestbend.org) (262) 343-1149



# Youth Group...

Thank you to all who helped with Fall Cleanup this year! We were able to help a church member cleanup their yard and get the church ready for winter!



## Youth Group End of the year Event

*Save the Date*



**Saturday December 23rd**  
**6:45am-10:15am**  
~Mr. Bob's under the bridge



*See you there!*



If you are interested in helping with Chaperoning youth activities,  
feel free to contact me at church. Johanna Landowski at  
[youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org)

# Thank you to everyone who helped Volunteer at Enchantment in the Park!

Fun was had by all, and we were able to raise \$300  
for Joyful Journeys India Christmas fund!



# Full Shelf Pantry

*"Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*

Matthew 25:37&40

In support of West Bend's Full Shelf Pantry, throughout the month of December, we encourage you to participate in a Reverse Advent Calendar. Each day add an item to a box and give thanks for your bounty. Drop off boxes at Immanuel Church before Christmas, Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm. Together we can help keep our community fed throughout the winter.

## Unable to shop??

Cash/checks (payable to Immanuel) are accepted with notation designated to Food Pantry or include it with your online giving.

Suggested donations of much needed items...



- December 1 – box of cereal
- December 2 – peanut butter
- December 3 – jar of jelly
- December 4 – boxed potatoes
- December 5 – macaroni and cheese
- December 6 – canned fruit
- December 7 – box of granola bars
- December 8 – canned tuna
- December 9 – dessert mix
- December 10 – jar of applesauce
- December 11 – box of tissue
- December 12 – bottle of salad dressing
- December 13 – jar of salsa
- December 14 – box of crackers
- December 15 – package of rice
- December 16 – package of oatmeal
- December 17 – package of pasta
- December 18 – spaghetti sauce
- December 19 – can of soup
- December 20 – a hygiene product
- December 21 – a canned vegetable
- December 22 – package of toilet paper
- December 23 – can of baked beans
- December 24 – package of cookies



**Invite your friends to join you for...**

**COME, CELEBRATE  
SONGS OF THE SEASON  
WITH US!**

Christmas  
Benefit  
Concert

501 Walnut Street,  
West bend

Saturday, December 9th, 2023

6:00pm Social ~ Drinks & Refreshments

6:45pm Pre-Concert Music

7:00pm Concert Begins

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**FREEWILL DONATIONS SUPPORT  
IMMANUEL'S GENERAL FUND**

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# Bucket Raffle for Immanuel's General Expenses

One more week to support Immanuel's Bucket Raffle!

Drawing will take place at the

Christmas Benefit Concert

December 9th

Cost of tickets...

**\$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5**



**Snow Removal** sponsored by the **Wise Guys**

\$100 Gift Card - Sunburst Ski Hill

**General Maintenance** sponsored by our **Property Group**

\$100 Gift Card - Home Depot



**Utilities** sponsored by your **Consistory**

\$100 Gift Card – Kwik Trip

**Music** sponsored by members of the **Choir, Bells, and Worship Team**

\$100 Gift Card - The Bend



**Hospitality** sponsored by our **Goodie Gang**

\$100 in Gift Cards – Local Coffee Shops



**Christian Ed** sponsored by leaders of **JAM Time, Confirmation, & Shine**

\$100 Gift Card - Hobby Lobby



**Technical Support** sponsored by our techies in the **Sound Booth & Office**

\$100 Gift Card - West Bend Cinema



**Outdoor Property** sponsored by the **SonShine Gals**

\$100 Gift Card - Paradise Gardens Nursery



# SonShine Gals

The SonShine Gals will be sharing in a special Advent Devotion led by Rev. Emma Landowski Sancomb B.C.C. on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.

We will resume our bi-monthly meetings after the first of the year as we begin a new study on Evolution of a UCC Style by Randi J. Walker

If you have any questions or are interested in joining us, please contact Jenny Landowski

## *Wise Guys October Meeting*

Hey fellas! Wise Guys is our men's ministry that meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:00pm. You are invited to attend this social time including dinner and a short discussion. The sign-up sheet for **December 21<sup>st</sup>** is located on the bulletin board outside the main offices. Consider checking it out, and while you're at it, bring a friend!



## Deck the Halls!



THANK YOU to everyone who helped decorate our church for the holiday season.





# Consider your space...



As the snow and icy season falls upon us, we ask you to please consider your parking space.

If your physical condition allows you to securely walk across the parking lot, then we ask you to kindly park further back, leaving all the parking spaces in the small parking lot, as well as the first row of spaces closest to the back entrance available for those who might find a trek across a slippery parking lot a bit more challenging.



Thank you for your assistance and be safe! 😊



## **RAISE RIGHT GIFT CARDS (formally known as SCRIP) Shop early for Christmas Gifts!!**

Raise Right Gift Card sales benefit our Joyful Journeys Ministries; members of the India Task Force will have cards on hand on Sunday mornings; you can find them seated at the table across from the church mailboxes. They can also take your special orders; forms can be found in mailbox # 79. Completed forms with payment made out to Joyful Journeys can be dropped off on Sunday mornings or brought into the main office Monday thru Thursday between 9am-3pm.

**Orders this month will be called in on Monday, December 11th<sup>th</sup> to ensure arrival before Christmas.**



# RaiseRight™

bp



*Walgreens*

Pick n Save®

*Sendik's*  
FOOD MARKET



piggly wiggly

**KWIK  
TRIP**

Walmart

**meijer**



## The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.



As an alternative to envelopes, you may donate directly and securely through Immanuel’s website. <https://www.immanuelwestbend.org/> Please specify under Church’s Wider Mission.



# FEAST WITH FRIENDS....

It's time to sign up for Feast with Friends 2024!  
Feast with Friends is a fun and casual way to get together and  
socialize with others in our church family.  
All are welcome and encouraged to sign up.

## Here is how it works:

- Sign up on the Feast with Friends sign-up sheet on the table outside of the main office.  
You can sign up as a single, with a friend, as a couple, or as a family.
- We will then create a schedule where you are placed in a group each quarter. The first name(s) in each group will be the host. You will only host once in the calendar year.
- The host will contact others in their group to agree on a date to get together and coordinate what others can bring to the meal.
  - It's a great way to meet and get to know others in our church family in a casual setting.
  - Some ideas for a fun gathering are to meet at a restaurant (Dutch treat); have a taco bar or baked potato bar where everyone brings a topping; make your favorite casserole and others bring sides; have a Sunday brunch.
- The focus is all about meeting and socializing with others in our church family.

So please sign up for Feast with Friends! We will then compile the groups and schedule starting in January 2024.

If you have any questions,  
please contact Tama Gluck or Jenny Landowski.

Thanks, and happy feasting!

Tama Gluck

[tsgluck@yahoo.com](mailto:tsgluck@yahoo.com)

262-808-6528



# ~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



### A letter from Novahu...

Dear Immanuel Church!

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I thank you very much for all your prayers and support.

We reached our home on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> morning, after spending two long sleepless nights. There is a lot of jet lag, so I could not write a letter immediately.

We came to comfort you after Big Bob's passing and to spend good time with you. We are home sick to see you all, after covid-19, it is a good time to see you all. Now we are very happy.

Coming to the trip, I need to thank a number of people who helped us to come to West Bend and spend time with you all and make our trip a great success. I remember Paul in Romans chapter 16, gives a list of people whom he was thankful to. but I fear by naming names I will forget some.

We thank all who gave money to help buy our plane tickets.

We pray our trip will strengthen JJM.

We are thankful to India Task Force for their constant support and encouragement. Their decisions are godly decisions that help Joyful Journeys Ministry grow. I thank each one of them.

We thank those who picked us up and dropped us off at the airport and all who helped transfer us while in West Bend.

We thank everyone who showed us a special time on different excursions. We saw amazing new things. We love the painted trees in West Bend.

We thank the people who opened their homes to special gatherings. It was good to spend time with all the different people.

We thank the participants who put together a wonderful Gala. We had great fun and enjoyed the India food. It was good to see all the support for India!

We also thank those who gave powerful testimony in the church. That moved me and I hope many people are moved by this too.

We are also thankful to SonShine Gals, Wise Guys, ArtCycle, Onward, and Cedar Ridge for hosting gatherings for me to give presentations.

We are thankful for all the new things we tried to eat. We love maple syrup.

We thank everyone who gave us items to take back to our JJM family in India.

I am thankful to preach at Immanuel and share in Lord's Supper.

Manjula expressed her gratitude for all the help and support, she enjoyed her stay.

Shekinah says that she is grateful for encouraging her to participate in singing and dancing and presenting in India Task Force meeting.

Most of all we thank you for all the love you gave us.

May God bless you and help us to continue this partnership until the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Your brother  
Novahu and Manjula and Shekinah





# Christmas in India

Christmas is right around the corner, and preparations are in the works for all the different ways we celebrate the joyous event recognizing Jesus' birth. One of those ways is bringing the Spirit of the Christ Child into the village of Madhavapatnam. Our hope is to give a gift to all who are a part of Joyful Journeys in India.

Please consider making a monetary donation to help cover costs...

\$5 ~ Student Gifts

\$25 ~ Teacher, Cooks, House Pastors, Oldsters, Scavengers, Drivers, and Childcare Provider Gifts

Donations can be sent or dropped off at Immanuel Church by December 21<sup>st</sup>. Please make checks payable to Joyful Journeys and designate for Christmas Gifts.

Online donations can be made through our secure website:

<https://joyfuljourneys-inc.org/how-you-can-help/>

Together, we can shine the Christmas Light of God's love in Madhavapatnam!

## Circle of Friends

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## Attention Shoppers!

Is the act of physically going to a store to shop something you enjoy??  
Are you someone who likes to peruse the racks??

Do you like looking for good deals?? If yes, we've got a job for you!! 😊

There are certain items that we just can't keep stocked at the COF Shoppe because of the great demand. Typically, when this happens, we shop at the local super stores to replenish so that we can best serve those coming through our doors. However, that means we're paying full price on items that would be just as appreciated if they were gently used. This is where you come into the picture... We're looking for someone who could regularly go to St. Vinnies or Goodwill in search of such items, allowing us to only buy new items as needed.

If this is a task you'd like to help with, please contact Jenny,  
[director@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:director@immanuelwestbend.org) or call 262-334-2886 if you have questions.

# Giving / S.H.U.M.S. Tree

Help us decorate the **Giving/S.H.U.M.S.** (Socks, Hats, Underwear, Mittens, & Scarves) **Tree** with much needed items for the Circle of Friends Shoppe! Pick-up a Christmas Wish Flier and consider inviting others to help restock the Shoppe with much needed items. (Printouts can be obtained on the table outside Immanuel's Main Office). Items can be dropped off now through December 24<sup>th</sup>.

Shopping not your thing?? You can give donations through our website <https://joyfuljourneys-inc.org/> or give checks payable to Joyful Journeys, and we'll gladly shop for you! Please be sure to designate COF Giving Tree.



Sheets

Blankets

Toasters

Coffee pots

Bath Towels

Children's boots

Children's snowpants

Men's boxer shorts

Girls shirts size 5-7, 10-14

Boys t-shirts size 4-6, 10-16

Boys athletic pants size 4-7

Girls stretchy pants size 3-14

Girls winter coats size 3-10

Boys winter coats size 4-7, 12

Men's and women's ankle socks



# ONWARD “Helpers”

Onward Services is a local organization that works with adults navigating a variety of developmental, physical, and mental health obstacles. One of their primary goals is to serve in different capacities within this community. We are incredibly fortunate for our ongoing relationship with this amazing group as they volunteer at Immanuel! Some of the tasks they have helped us out with are sorting hangers and donations for the Circle of Friends Shoppe, making Hygiene Packs for Mr. Bob, organizing our contributions for the Full Shelf Food Pantry, and helping with outdoor upkeep.

Praise God for all the ways we are intertwined in serving one another!!



*Mr. Bob's*   
*"Under The Bridge"*

## Blankets for Mr. Bob

In support of the relationship, we have with Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge Ministry, we will be collecting gently used blankets during November and December to give to Mr. Bob as he serves his friends in need within the Milwaukee area. Our Youth will have the opportunity to personally hand some of these items out on Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> as they join Mr. Bob during his weekly visit to the park. What a blessing it is that our Circle of Friends Ministry and Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge have been able to support one another over the past couple years as we seek to help those who are wrestling with various struggles in life.



If you have any questions, please contact

Jenny Landowski at

[director@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:director@immanuelwestbend.org)

or Johanna Landowski at

[youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org)

If you would like to offer financial support, please make checks payable to Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge, or earmark cash donations as such



# DECEMBER



## Friday December 1<sup>st</sup>

6:30 pm NA

## Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup>

10am–noon COF Shoppe

## Communion Sunday

## Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>

First Sunday of Advent

9am and 10:30 am Worship

10am-Noon Christmas

Cookie Walk

10:30 am Isaiah's Baptism

10:30 am J.A.M. Time,

Confirmation, & Shine



## Monday December 4<sup>th</sup>

## Tuesday December 5<sup>th</sup>

5:00pm Handbell Ensemble

6:00 pm Ladies Ensemble

6:30 pm Adult Choir

## Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup>

2:30pm PEO Book Club

7 pm AA meeting

## Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup>

1pm – 3pm COF Shoppe

## Friday December 8<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm NA

## Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>

6pm Christmas Benefit Concert

## Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>

Second Sunday of Advent

9am and 10:30 am Worship

10:30 am J.A.M. Time,

Confirmation, & Shine



## Monday December 11<sup>th</sup>

12pm Boundaries

## Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>

1pm Staff meeting

5:00pm Handbell Ensemble

6:00 pm Ladies Ensemble

6:30 pm Adult Choir

## Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup>

7 pm AA meeting

## Thursday December 14<sup>th</sup>

10am SonShine Gals

5:30 pm Consistory

## Friday December 15<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm NA



**Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup>**

7am-1pm NA Breakfast with Santa  
10am–noon COF Shoppe

**Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Third Sunday of Advent**



9am and 10:30 am Worship  
10:30 am J.A.M. Time,  
Confirmation, & Shine

**Monday December 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup>**

5:00pm Handbell Ensemble  
6:00 pm Ladies Ensemble  
6:30 pm Adult Choir  
7pm PEO

**Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup>**

5pm-7pm COF Shoppe  
7 pm AA meeting

**Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup>**

6pm Wise Guys

**Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

6:30 pm NA

**Saturday December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

6:45am-10am MR. Bobs under the  
Bridge Youth Group

**Family Worship,**

**Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Christmas Eve**



9am Worship  
NO J.A.M. Time,  
Confirmation & Shine  
6:30 Family Nativity Pageant and  
Candlelight Festival of  
Lessons and Carols

**Monday December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Office Closed**



**Tuesday December 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Office Closed**

**Wednesday December 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Church office hours 9am-Noon**

7 pm AA meeting

**Thursday December 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Church office hours 9am-Noon**

**Friday December 29<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm NA

**Saturday December 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Family Worship & Pajama**

**Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup>**

9am Worship  
NO J.A.M. Time,  
Confirmation & Shine



**Are Monday – Thursday 9am – 3pm**



# *Altar Flowers*

Would you like to help beautify our worship services by donating flowers for the altar? You can celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or place them in memory of a loved one.

The **sign-up sheet** is posted outside of Pastor Rich's office. Please **fill out an order form and** return it with a check for \$30.00 to the church office. After the second service, the sponsoring member can take the flowers home.

*This month our flowers have been donated by:*

*December 3<sup>rd</sup>:*

Mitch & Jennifer Schleif

*in celebration of our 10th Wedding Anniversary today*

*December 10<sup>th</sup>:*

Al & Kathy Olsen

*Carmen M. Olesen, Al's Mother*

*December 17<sup>th</sup>:*

Kimberly Lisanby-Barber

*in loving memory of Gary Barber whose 70<sup>th</sup> birthday would have been on December 21<sup>st</sup>.*

*December 24<sup>th</sup>:*

*All who gave Poinsettias*

*December 31<sup>st</sup>:*



*THANK YOU TO  
ALL WHO SHARED POINSETTIAS  
WITH US CHRISTMAS EVE!*



*Given by* Louise Aplin Wishing everyone a joyous holiday

*Given by* Al & Kathy Olsen in celebration of the birth of our Lord

*Given by* Easter Kohler in memory of Audry Schowalter

*Given by* Ed & Judy Krepsky in honor of Val Borresen & Family

*Given by* Pat Love Wishing everyone a joyous season

*Given by* June Sommerfeld In honor of the birth of Jesus Christ who was our greatest gift of all time and in celebration of my family & friends who have helped and Prayed during my recent illness

*Given by* Elaine & Glenn Radzinski In celebration of the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ

*Given by* Jinna Lusty in memory of Dale & Jeff Thompson, Terri Tybring, Bert & Ginny Bertelsen & in Honor of Gigi Thompson

*Given by* Curtis & Jeanne Forester in memory of G. W. and Margery Forester and Walter and Lola Kletti

*Given by* Doris Lithold Hawkins in memory of John Lithold

*Given by* Carol Argabright in memory of Barbara Argabright

*Given by* Karen Zachow in memory of William & Lorraine Mueller, Clarence & Adele Schulz and William & Margaret Mueller

*Given by* Barb Barger and Family in memory of Audry Cismesia our bright star in heaven

*Given by* Susan Crysdale Kist in memory of Susannah Kist

*Given by* Cyndee Thull & the Russell Family in honor and memory of Gloria Menzel, our loving mother and grandmother

*Given by* Lynn Vegafria in memory of Dr. James & Marian Albrecht and Beverly Gail Tillsberry-Freitag

*Given by* Jenny Landowski in Memory of Big Bob, In Celebration of LOVE



# BIRTHDAYS FOR DECEMBER

Peggy Kaye 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Chassidy McBeath 4<sup>th</sup>  
Marissa Mastenbrook 7<sup>th</sup>  
Jessica Valdes 7<sup>th</sup>  
Olivia Riegel 9<sup>th</sup>  
Penny Elliott 10<sup>th</sup>  
Robert Hammen 10<sup>th</sup>  
Sue Calhoun 11<sup>th</sup>  
Noah Kaye 11<sup>th</sup>  
Robert Patten 12<sup>th</sup>  
Claire Gustafson 13<sup>th</sup>  
Jinna Lusty 13<sup>th</sup>  
Jerry Kuckuk 15<sup>th</sup>  
Esther (Oma) Kohler 16<sup>th</sup>  
Chuck Kaye 19<sup>th</sup>  
Barbara Styduhar 19<sup>th</sup>  
Eben Susnik 19<sup>th</sup>  
Brady Arndt 20<sup>th</sup>  
Al Nevala 21<sup>st</sup>  
Natalie Thielke 21<sup>st</sup>  
Nancy Naab 26<sup>th</sup>  
Marty Borresen 27<sup>th</sup>  
Graham Flaherty 27<sup>th</sup>  
Blaine Tofte 27<sup>th</sup>  
Kathryn Hartley 29<sup>th</sup>  
Jane Kosednar 29<sup>th</sup>  
Olivia Valdes 29<sup>th</sup>



# Tending the Flock



PLEASE KEEP OUR IMMANUEL CHURCH FAMILY IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS, SPECIFICALLY THOSE LISTED BELOW. CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE, OR WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE PRAYER REQUESTS.

## **Yellow Roses:**

Val Borresen, Ken Buchmeier, Sue Calhoun, Helen Keey, Carol King, Jerry Kuckuk, Karen Lewis, Judy Muelling, Charles Roemer, and Joan Stenstrup.

## **Health Concerns:**

Terry Christie, Autumn and BreAnna Gahan, Bruce Kapanke, Peggy Kaye, Ed Muelling, Jessica Rose, Fred Seefeldt, June Sommerfeld, Julia Raad, Jay Welzien, Tom Wilson, Dave Wolff, Lynn Vegafria, and Pastor Rich.

## **Those of us who are suffering from depression and/or addiction:**

## **Serving in the military:**

Jackson Raad and his wife Carlyn Raad, Rebecca Gerard Shanahan and her husband, David.

## **Continuing their education:**

Brett Bartoszewicz, Abby Frederick, Claire Gustafson, Kendra Kapanke, Kailyn Komro, Even Mastenbrook, Lexi McCrillis, Elise Patten, Evan Patten, Julia Raad, Madison Schmitt, Adam Vincent, and Rebecca Kempfer-Witt.

## **Four Way Covenant Pastor:**

Rev. Jim Schleif

## **Prayer Requests**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ~Philippians 4:6

If you have a special prayer that you would like lifted up on your behalf, feel free to fill out one of the Prayer Request forms located on the Offering Alter and deposit it into the Giving Church or email it to Jenny at

[director@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:director@immanuelwestbend.org).

The SonShine Gals will respectfully include your joys and concerns within their prayers.



# THANK YOU FOR SERVING & LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE THIS MONTH!

## **GREETERS:**

- December 3 9:00am Carol Argabright, Pat Sommer  
10:30am Dave & Lynn Hammen
- December 10 9:00am Maggie Seideman, Max Sommerfeld  
10:30am Fred & Barb Seefeldt
- December 17 9:00am Darleen Baerenwald, Georgia Kletti  
10:30am Mary jo Norgel, Kent Scheuerell
- December 24 9:00am Nancy Naab, Esther Kohler
- December 31 9:00am Dan, Rachel, Sam, & Nora Gerard

## **USHERS: Head Usher: Gary McCrillis**

- December 3 9:00am Max Sommerfeld, Maggie Seideman, Rich Gerner  
10:30am Gene Kreis
- December 10 9:00am Michael Bath  
10:30am Elaine Radzinski
- December 17 9:00am Mike Soener, Pat Love  
10:30am Ben & Ashley Russell
- December 24 9:00am Wayne & Rosemary Seideman
- December 31 9:00am Al Nevala, Jackie Nieman

## **READERS:**

- |             |                     |                            |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| December 3  | 9am Russ Demmon     | 10:30 Jim Schleif          |
| December 10 | 9am Kent Scheuerell | 10:30 Karen Grace Strobach |
| December 17 | 9am Kari Lutter     | 10:30 Elaine Radzinski     |
| December 24 | 9am Mona Anderson   |                            |
| December 31 | 9am Michael Bath    |                            |

## **COFFEE MAKERS:**

- Dec. 3 Bonnie Gerner
- Dec. 10 Jim & Anne Mari Peters
- Dec. 17 **WE STILL NEED SOMEONE**
- Dec. 24 Mary Demmon
- Dec. 31 **WE STILL NEED SOMEONE**

## **Fellowship Hour:**

- Dec. 3 Christmas Cookie Walk
- Dec. 10 Mona & Jim
- Dec. 17 Twyla & Michael Bath
- Dec. Merry Christmas!
- Dec. 31 Christmas Cookies

## **MINISTRY OF MUSIC:**

- Dec. 3 Ladies Ensemble
- Dec. 10 Larry Wheelock and special  
guests, The EcuMen
- Dec. 17 Handbell Ensemble
- Dec. 24 Handbell Ensemble
- Dec. 31 Larry Wheelock

## **Communion Servers: Dec. 3**

- 9:00 – Jennifer & Mitch Schleif
- 10:30 – Brenda & Nader Raad

## 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>

### IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Email address: [office@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:office@immanuelwestbend.org)

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 ([pastor@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:pastor@immanuelwestbend.org))

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

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:** Johanna Landowski ([office@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:office@immanuelwestbend.org))

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY:** Karen Zachow ([finance@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:finance@immanuelwestbend.org))

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES:** Mitch Schleif

([excited4jam@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:excited4jam@immanuelwestbend.org))

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES and CONFIRMATION LEADER:**

Johanna Landowski ([youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org))

**DIRECTOR OF SHINE:** Elise Susnik ([shine@immanuelwestbend.org](mailto:shine@immanuelwestbend.org))

**ORGANIST/ MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Beverly Mark [bevbeemark@gmail.com](mailto:bevbeemark@gmail.com)

**ARTIST IN RESIDENCE:** Larry Wheelock [lwheels@icloud.com](mailto:lwheels@icloud.com)

**WORSHIP TEAM LEADER:** Emilie Nieman Witt [emilie51288@gmail.com](mailto:emilie51288@gmail.com)

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

**CUSTODIAN:** Sophia Landowski

**CHILDCARE:** Tobias Halfman, Madison Schmitt

### CONSISTORY ELDERS:

Amy Schmitt – President, Jan Nesladek – Vice-President

Elaine Radzinski, and Mitchell Schleif

### CONSISTORY DEACONS:

Christopher Arndt, Tracy Halfman, Becky Kay – Secretary, Gary McCrillis,

Ben Russell – Treasurer, and Charlene Swanson

**Finance Committee:** Karen Zachow - Financial Secretary,

Ben Russell – Treasurer, Julie Feit, Tama Gluck, Dave Hammen, Doug Stewart

## Immanuel's Team

