

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS

February 2010

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FROM YOUR PASTOR

Welcome to this season of Lent. Here is a guide to key terms for your Lenten journey. As always, I am available to assist you as well.

Lent – The period of forty week days prior to Easter, beginning with Ash Wednesday. Originally a time to prepare candidates for baptism and became a period of penitence for those who have been baptized. Now an intentional time of prayer, reflection and spiritual journey.

Journey – A term used to describe a life of faith. A key practice is prayer.

Prayer – An act of faith by humans in approaching God in praise and adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication, and intercession. It is a consciousness of God’s presence, love, direction, and grace.

Faith – This is belief, trust, and obedience to God as revealed in Jesus Christ. It is the means of eternal life. Faith affects intellect, emotions, and will. It can be the basis for the formation of a community.

Community – A group with common interests like the church.

Church – A community professing faith in Jesus Christ. The term is for both local communities and universally for all believers.

Jesus Christ – Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah and according to the Christian church the incarnate second person of the Trinity. He was crucified on a cross and raised from the dead by the power of God.

Cross – Instrument of execution which in the Christian faith is the means of salvation through Jesus Christ. The term used by Jesus indicates discipleship.

Discipleship – Used specifically for those who follow and worship Jesus Christ.

Worship – The service of praise, adoration, thanksgiving, and petition directed toward God through actions and attitudes. Christian worship is Trinitarian in form offered to God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit – The third Person of the Trinity. The Spirit inspires, makes known the saving work of Jesus Christ, and is God as present with the church.

God – The supreme-being who is creator and ruler of the universe. Christians believe God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God creates humans in divine image and loves all in Jesus Christ.

Feel free to use this guide throughout your Lenten journey or at any time. My source is the “Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms” and our experience together at Immanuel UCC.

Best wishes for Lent, *Pastor Brady*

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Pastor's Report – Immanuel United Church of Christ - Council Meeting – February 15, 2010

Worship – Communion for the month of February was Sunday February 14. Funeral service for George Hunter was held Tuesday January 19 at McLaughlin's Funeral Chapel. Ash Wednesday services here at 7:00 p.m. February 17.

Pastoral Care – Calls continue as needed.

Community Activity – Ash Wednesday is February 17. Immanuel hosts the community Lenten Breakfast and Devotion that morning with the choir providing breakfast and Kris Knight leading the devotion. Breakfast begins at 7:00 a.m. Soup collection for the "Souper Bowl" ended on Sunday February 7. Thanks to everyone for the generous donation of soup. Donation totaled 788 cans or 556 lbs. Cookies for the jail ministry have been donated. Thanks to all who shared.

Committee Meetings – The Christian Education committee and the Outreach committee met since the last council meeting. Worship and Music committee meets on February 28. Food 4 Kids is scheduled for February 22.

Congregational Activity Review – Bible study continues to meet on Tuesday nights at 6:30. Soup and chili challenge and dessert auction with the homemade chicken dinner for four will be Saturday February 20. Please plan to attend. The garage sale with baked goods and biscuits and gravy is Saturday March 6. Members of the congregation continue participating in the Sedalia Area Fitness Challenge. Confirmation classes continue at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays.

Congregational Goals for 2010 – Prayerfully continue to discern where God is calling us to be as a faith community and go to that place with focus and flexibility. Provide monthly communication with congregation (utilizing bulletin and announcements) about stewardship. **We are all stewards of God's creation.**

UCC Update – We need delegates to the Missouri Mid-South Conference (MMSUCC) meeting in Springfield June 11-13. We have had two meetings for the associate conference minister search in MMSUCC and are now receiving questions and profiles until March 15. Shirley Asmussen resigned as director of Camp MO-Val. Don Bizer is now the interim camp director.

Personal – Thanks to Reverend Ken Zindle for leading worship and providing pastoral care in my absence. Thanks to all for many hours of volunteering at Immanuel.

COUNCIL MINUTES (unapproved)

postponed from Feb. 8 due to weather)

Council President Julie Bales called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Others attending were Pastor Brady Abel, Don Barbour, Wayne Baslee, Dee Cain, Gary Case, Cindy Gerlt, Tim Harster, Carol Knight, David Moore, Kathy Smith and Carole Weese.

Pastor Brady opened the meeting with a prayer and shared scripture from Luke 6:12.

The minutes of the last meeting were presented. Pastor Brady had one correction. The minutes showed the treasurer's report reflecting benevolence giving \$25,000 above budget. The report actually stated there was \$25,000 total benevolence giving. Carol Knight moved to accept the minutes as corrected; seconded by Kathy Smith; the motion carried.

Financial reports:

OCWM—Pastor Brady reported total OCWM giving for January was \$335, compared to \$263 in January 2009.

Treasurer—Gary reported current assets of \$236,000 after \$13,000 in expenses in January. We haven't met our goal of \$2,500 income each Sunday, and gas and electric bills were high in January. We have some catching up to do.

Benevolence—Gary reported we sent just over \$1,700 to the Mid-South Conference. The congregation donated almost \$700 for the

Haiti relief fund, including \$62 the Sunday School collected between September and Jan. 1.

Memorial—Carol Knight reported we received \$ 2,318.46 in memorial contributions in January. Various donations were discussed. Balance is \$22,508.

Improvement and Maintenance—Wayne reported January income of \$205.76. Disbursements totaled \$181.58, including \$80 to Craig's Plumbing for a floor drain in the basement; \$20.43 to Lowe's for a valve for the gas stove; and \$81.15 to Sutherland's for supplies to hook up the new stove. Total funds available: \$19,672.49.

Tim moved to accept the financial reports. Don seconded; the motion carried.

Pastor's Report—Pastor Brady presented the Pastor's Report. See in Newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Fellowship—No report

Improvement & Maintenance—Wayne and Don reported a sump pump has been installed and the backboard behind the cabinets is in. Tom Smith is working on the upper cabinets. The wall has been primed and the fan switch fixed. The stove, garbage disposal and dishwasher are all working. New glass was installed on top of the tables in the lounge. Wayne will install a new closure mechanism on the double red doors at the service

building entrance. Andrew Treuner has looked at the front steps; should have a report soon.

Evangelism—No report

Outreach—Cindy reported the committee recommends splitting proceeds from the March 6 garage sale 75/25 between Immanuel's general fund and Camp Mo-Val. The Western Association doesn't have a fundraiser for Camp Mo-Val, so this will help with the \$17,000 budget deficit facing the camp's interim board of directors. The general fund will receive 75% of the proceeds, and Camp Mo-Val 25%. Cindy moved to accept the recommendation; Carol Knight seconded; it was approved.

Worship and Music—No report; will meet Feb. 28.

Stewardship—No report

Christian Education—Carole Weese reported 10 people went to the movies on Feb. 6, and said the youth lock-in is scheduled for March 12.

Health & Wellness—Julie reported the cold, snowy weather was keeping mileage down, and that fewer community teams were participating this year.

Technology—No report

Pastoral Relations—No report

(cont'd on page 4)

Food 4 Kids—Dee reported she had talked with Beth Ash, director of early childhood education at SFCC, about the possibility of one or more of their students helping with the program this summer, either as an internship or paid position. The committee meets Feb. 22.

Executive Committee—No report

Old Business—

- A presentation by Becky Stetzenbach and David Parkhurst with Insurance and Benefits Group was re-scheduled for the March 1 meeting.
- Brady reported the New Century Hymnal CDs were purchased on sale for \$438. They have arrived and are great. He already has listened to possible songs for upcoming worship services.
- Review of the congregation notification of agenda items for the congregational meetings was tabled until next month.
- Most of the old furniture from the lounge will be sold at the garage sale. Leora tried to contact Cook's Used Furniture to see if they were interested in buying any pieces (like the desk), but had no response. Tentative plans include moving the table that sat against the east wall of the lounge to the landing of the service building, and putting that table in the garage sale.

New Business:

- The Council discussed a request to buy a small vacuum for small quick clean-ups and in tight areas. Carol volunteered to check prices and report back.
- The Council discussed whether we need a sign in front of the church directing people to the handicapped ramp on the west side of the church. Tabled until March 1 meeting.
- The Council discussed Marie

Hunter's request for George's memorials to be used to start an elevator fund. Also discussed was whether it's fiscally responsible to have funds earmarked for specific uses that may never come to fruition, when those funds could be used for other more pressing needs. Pastor Brady and Julie will meet with Marie. Discussion will be continued.

- Don asked if the Open Door board could meet in the lounge March 15. Approval was given.

Pastor Brady led the Council in the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Dee Cain
Acting Secretary

A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped make the 3rd Annual Chili/Soup Challenge & Dessert auction a big success! There were many crock pots of delicious chili and soup! **Loretta Edwards's** potato soup was voted the favorite for the evening. **Congratulations** Loretta!! There were 50 dessert items auctioned by Sam Trelow. Thanks to Sam for his services and to all who baked and bought the desserts! Proceeds of the evening will go towards the church's general fund and Open Door.

Julie Bales



Dear Immanuel,

Thank you for your support of Engineers Without Borders! We have 4 trips planned this summer to Bolivia, Honduras, and Guatemala. I will be traveling to Honduras on a large assessment trip right after I graduate. We plan to gather all the data we need to design a water distribution system for one community and rehabilitate another community's system. We also hope to install around 20 more bio-sand filters in people's homes, guaranteeing them clean water regardless of the source. Our other projects have similar goals, but many will be on to the construction phase this summer.

Thanks,
Dustin

NOTE: See additional information on Engineers Without Borders posted on the bulletin board in Red Room.

ALERT !!

Easter Eggs are available for anyone who would like to pick up some to fill for the annual Easter Egg Hunt for the children on **Easter Sunday, April 4th**. The Easter Eggs are in the big box by the office. Please fill with individually wrapped candy or small tokens. The eggs should be returned by **Sunday, March 28th**.



6th ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

**It's that time of year again,
GARAGE SALE TIME!!!**

Saturday, March 6th -7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Bring your unwanted items to the church by Thursday, March 4th so we can price and put them out for display.

We will be selling biscuits and gravy, along with coffee and juice from 7:00 a.m. to noon. A good time to come and visit with fellow church members and friends.

Again this year we will have a baked goods sale, so get out those recipes and use your imagination and donate to the bake sale. Please price what you bring.

There are sign-up sheets in the Red Room, as we will need cashiers, floor workers and kitchen help. Also, starting Monday, March 1 we will start setting up the basement and any help would be appreciated. Any questions, please call Kathy Smith, 660-826-9233.



PARRISH NURSE NEWS

Beat the Winter Blahs

I spent most of January looking forward to spending ten days in warm, sunny Central America. The very thought of wearing shorts and sleeveless blouses in January and February kept me focused on my trip with the snow and cold weather soon to be behind me. I didn't give much thought to the fact that it would still be winter when I returned and I wouldn't be bringing back warm breezes, a golden sun and weather that would lift the spirits of even a perpetual grouch. Having been home a week I am beginning to grumble about the constant snow, slush, and frigid arctic blasts. Then I think of all those who have not had a reprieve from the winter weather.

Since we may well be in for a few more weeks of what is called winter we may as well make the best of it. Most of us are not wealthy enough to spend the winter in some distant beautiful sunny resort but we can stay active. Keeping active especially through exercise can help ward off the winter blues.

Seasonal Affective Disorder affects approximately 50% of the people in the United States with January and February being the worst months. By getting outside,

especially in the afternoon sunlight it will help prevent SAD. Yeah, it is cold outside but bundle up in layered, warm clothing and take a walk. If your walk is through the snow you get the benefit of additional calories being burned because of the increased difficulty in moving. It can be invigorating and attitude changing.

Some days I want to hibernate like the bear, but since God made me a human I need to move around all year. I may as well have fun while I am moving. Not interested in outside exercise then try an inside workout. A slight change in routine each day helps avoid boredom. There are appropriate exercises for all ages, I try different ones to find what works best for me.

Strength Training for Older Adults - "Growing Stronger"

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has a 126 page online strength training course guide for older adults that you can print out free of charge, or order a spiral-bound copy for \$9.95. http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/physical/growing_stronger/resources.htm

Need some peace?

Even in the face of winter doldrums you may be searching for serenity; that inner peace

that quiets your mind and body. As Marianne Williamson, author of *A Return to Love* says, "Just as you wouldn't leave the house without taking a shower, you shouldn't start the day without at least 10 minutes of sacred practice: prayer, meditation, inspirational reading." She also says, "first thing in the morning, that's when the mind is most open."

Starting the day with a peaceful practice sets the tone for the day.

Find time for yourself each day, just for reflection, journal writing, reading a good book, or participating in activity you enjoy.

Spring will come and with it the warm breezes, sunshine, budding trees, blooming flowers and the greening of the earth around us.

Information written in Parish Nurse News is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice. Before beginning an exercise program consult your health care provider concerning your individual health care needs.

Leora Bremer, R.N.
Parish Nurse



Food Pantry - During the month of January 2010 Immanuel UCC collected soup for "Souper Bowl" Sunday for Open Door Food Pantry. It ran from January 1 through Sunday, February 7th. Our total was 788 cans of soup which amounted to 556 lbs of food being donated for the month of January.

As the children gather for Sunday school in March, they will focus on seeking God's goodness for themselves and others and then celebrating the assurance of God's love taught by Jesus. As they near the end of the month they will focus on participating in God's vision of new things. As the month wraps up they will celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem with the disciples and hear more Holy Week stories. The teachers in March will be Leora Bremer

Food for Open Door for 2010

January - Souper Bowl—Soup
 February - Peanut Butter & Jelly
 March - Canned vegetables
 April - Canned fruits
 May - Box dinners (Mac & cheese)
 June - Breakfast Cereals
 July - Pasta & pasta sauce
 August - Canned meats

September - Pancake mix & syrup

October - Canned fruits

November - Canned vegetables

December - Soup & Chili



SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

and Melody Swearingen.

Upcoming Events:

March 12 6:PM – March 13
 8:00AM - Lock In - Invite a friend to come with you.
 March 28 - Confirmation Sunday
 April 4 - Easter Egg Hunt
 May 1 - Roller skating
 May 23 - Sunday School Picnic
 June 5 - Ice Cream Social
 July 12-18 - VBS

The Sedalia Fitness Challenge is still underway. We have 3 teams from IUCC participating in the challenge. After four weeks the 3 teams have logged 778 miles!! The theme this year is MOVE IT MOVE IT! Even if you are not participating in the challenge you can MOVE IT MOVE IT!!

Julie Bales

THIS AND THAT

Last year, the Mo. Mid-South Conference discontinued our long-running newspaper "The Courier". In its place, we now publish a weekly email newsletter called "The eCourier". We invite you to join our mailing list by emailing a request to mms@mmsucc.org. If you are unable to receive email, then

you can still stay in touch - each church office and pastor receives our weekly newsletter which they may distribute to you. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Evans in the MMS office at (314)918-2605 or contact the church office at 660-826-3553.

A Reminder - - - Church Women United will celebrate World Day of Prayer at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 5, 2010 at First Christian Church. Be sure to enter on the north side.

They are also collecting dues of \$6.00 for the coming year. If you would be

interested in joining Church Women United, please see Joyce Williams or give her a call.

REMINDER: Please check the **flower calendar** as there are several Sundays open throughout 2010

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 3 - Melody Swearingen | 13- Alverda Hill | 16 - Meghann Hartman |
| 6 - Minerva Taylor | 14 - Dominic Brown | 25 - John Kritos |
| 11 - Don Barbour | 15 - Carol Case | 27 - James Meier |
| 12 - Helga Treuner | Matthew Cain | 30 - Marta Treuner |

ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 - Bob Haggard & Karen Smith

EVENTS FOR MARCH

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 - 7:00 pm - Council Meeting | 14 - Blood Pressure Sunday |
| 3 - 7:00 am -Lenten Breakfast–Christ & Trin. | 17 - 7:00 am -Lenten Breakfast-Brwy Presb. |
| 6 - 7:00 am - 2:00 pm - Garage Sale at Immanuel UCC | 21 - Fitness Challenge Ends |
| 7 - Communion Sunday | 22 - 5:00 pm - Missions/Outreach Meeting |
| 8 - Open Door Food Pantry | 24 - 7:00 am - Lenten Breakfast - First Baptist |
| 10 - 7:00 am-Lenten Breakfast - Wesley Meth. | 28 - Palm Sunday - Confirmation |
| 12 - Children’s Lock-In | 31 - 7:00 am-Lenten Breakfast - First Christian |

MARCH 2010

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Lectionary Readings

March 7:

Isaiah 55:1-9
 Psalm 63:1-8
 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 Luke 13:11-9

March 14:

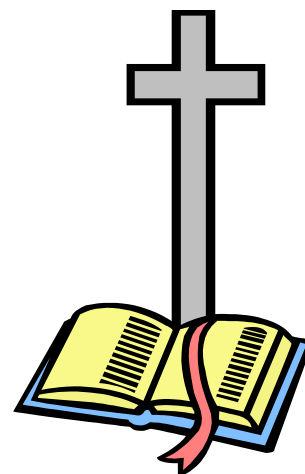
Joshua 5:9-12
 Psalm 32
 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 21:

Isaiah 43:16-21
 Psalm 126
 Philippians 3:4b-14
 John 12:1-8

March 28:

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 Luke 19:28-40
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Luke 22:14-23:56



SHARING OUR TALENTS FOR MARCH 2010

USHERS AND COMMUNION

Gary and Carol Case

LITURGISTS

March 7 - Dee Cain

March 14 - Kris Knight

March 21 - John Kritos

March 28 - Melody Swearingen

ACOLYTES

March 7 - Kylie Bales

March 14 - Paige Staus

March 21 - Megan & Allie Wilbanks

March 28 - Madison Knight

NURSERY

CAN YOU HELP IF NEEDED???

GREETERS

March 7 - Ardean Rulfs

March 14 - Steve & Dee Cain

March 21 - Kris & Carol Knight Family

March 28 - Robert & Helga Treuner

FLOWERS

March 7 - Joan Allen

March 14 - Skip & Jeff Bremer

March 21 - Gary & Carol Case

March 28 - Julie Bales

FELLOWSHIP

March 7 - Dee Cain

March 14 - Letitia Gerlt

March 21 - Julie Bales

March 28 - Christian Ed. Committee

Ernie Keele is still in Bothwell Regional Health Center and has been since the middle of January. He has been moved to a room and is now out of critical care.

Roger Hill spent several days at Bothwell having tests run. He has returned home and is now under the watchful care of Alverda.

Marge Linhardt's sister, Dorothy Brubaker, passed away in Tipton on February 3, 2010. She was given Christian burial on February 6, 2010 at Tipton. Our condolences go out to Marge and her family at this time.

Richard Lewis fell and injured his shoulder. He has returned to work, but is being very careful with that shoulder. **Gerald Holman** was hospitalized in Arizona and had a stent put in. **Joyce Williams** seems to be improving quite well and has at least gotten rid of her sling. **Tonny Cazares** has been having tests run.

CONGRATULATIONS to Eric Reasland. He was baptized on February 21, 2010 at Immanuel UCC. We celebrate with you, Eric, as you enter into God's family.

THANK YOU'S:

We would like to thank Pastor Brady for the beautiful services and Darrin Hartman for the beautiful music. Also the ladies of Immanuel UCC for the delicious meal after the funeral. A special thanks to our church family for the cards, food, memorials and prayers during the loss of our dear husband, dad, grandpa and great-grandpa.

Marie Hunter, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy in the death of my mother, Ruth Bremer. We appreciate the many visits, cards, flowers, and gifts she received from her Immanuel friends while a resident at Stoney Ridge and Rest Haven. She thoroughly enjoyed the visits, especially with the children.

Dick Bremer and family

Thanks to my church family and friends for the many cards, calls, and prayers I have received since my recent illness. Aileen Brauer

As Lent is now well underway, the following excerpt from Psalm 121 might help with our journey through these six weeks before Easter.

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>I lift up my eyes to the mountains-</i> | <i>the sun will not harm you by day,</i> |
| <i>where does my help come from?</i> | <i>nor the moon by night.</i> |
| <i>My help comes from the Lord,</i> | <i>The Lord will keep you from all harm-</i> |
| <i>the Maker of heaven and earth.</i> | <i>he will watch over your life;</i> |
| <i>The Lord watches over you-</i> | <i>the Lord will watch over your coming</i> |
| <i>The Lord is your shade at your right hand;</i> | <i>and going both now and forever.</i> |