

# Immanuel United Church of Christ

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 2023 Newsletter

Pulpit Supply Pastor Bill Whitford

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March 2023

Earlier this month I attended a Clergy Retreat where the subject was Hope. As we enter this time of Lent, we have to remember to have hope and cultivate our hope. Lent is a sad time, a hard time, in the seasons of the church. Our hope is helpful to get through this time.

The message of Lent is much like the message preached by John the Baptist. We have the opportunity during Lent to change, repent, to renew our relationship with God. We can try to eliminate some of the distractions and focus on what is really important. Lent is a dark, sad journey to Holy Week and Easter. We know there is a happy ending on Easter Sunday, but most of the steps in between are not all that happy.

Jesus set the example for us. He spent 40 days in the wilderness, alone with God. He fasted and prayed about what was coming next in his life. He was tempted and he refused the temptation. He stayed loyal to God and his life mission. We celebrate Lent to remember those 40 days that Jesus experienced. Our scripture lesson reminds us how to practice our 40 days, by turning toward God as we give things up or give things away. It's an opportunity to focus on what's important for us as Christians.

I want to conclude with some words from scripture. Here is our hope, here is our opportunity to repent and turn toward God during this time of Lent (or any day, really).

1 John 1:5-10

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us."

– Pastor Bill Whitford



## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Immanuel United Church of Christ Council meeting was held on February 15, 2023. Members Present: Roy Berrey, Fritz Hirsbrunner, Kerry Black, Connie Ubersox, Brandi Ruf Wepking, Jordan Hinderman, and Nancy Slama. Absent: Sheila Siegler, Kerry Black and Dave Sutherland.

The Council approved the meeting minutes as presented from the January 18, 2023 Council meeting and the meeting on January 29, 2023 after the Annual Meeting to elect Council officers. The Financial Report was approved as presented.

### **Reports**

**President's Report** – There was discussion regarding Canoe Fest. This was tabled until the next meeting.

**Buildings & Grounds Committee** – Dave Sutherland was appointed to the committee as Council rep.

**Mission Team** - Brandi Ruf Wepking reported that there was good interest in the next mission trip. Brandi will be the Council rep to the Mission Team.

**Stewardship Committee** – Souper Bowl Sunday was a success.

**EF & G Committee** – Nancy Slama was appointed as the Council rep.

**Pastor-Parish Committee** – Fritz Hirsbrunner reported that there is nothing to update. All is going well.

**Women's Guild** – The next Women's Guild meeting will be March 9.

**Worship Committee** – The Council discussed Ash Wednesday which is next Wednesday. The Council decided to have a service with communion. We need to consult with Bill Whitford to set the time.

**Search Committee** – The Council was informed that the Search Committee recently received one profile and decided the candidate would not be a good fit.

### **Old Business**

**Humpty Dumpty** – Fritz Hirsbrunner reported that Humpty Dumpty has not finalized their programs for the next school year. Radon testing needs to be done and are awaiting details on how this must be done.

**Parsonage Renovation** – Roy Berrey will discuss with the Building and Grounds Committee the possibility of creating a sub-committee to coordinate the project.

### **New Business**

**Council Reps** – The Council reps for the various committees were confirmed as listed above.

Next Meeting will be March 15, 2023 at 6:15 p.m.

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seeing everyone.

Debbie Loken  
Guild President

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### **WOMEN'S GUILD**

The first Women's Guild meeting of 2023 will be March 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00. Lunch will be provided. We look forward to



### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

Starts on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour.

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### **January 2023 Financial Information**

	<b>January 2023</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Contributions/Other Revenue	\$12,097	\$ 7,213
Expenses	<u>\$ 4,577</u>	<u>\$ 4,963</u>
Net Excess/(Loss)	\$ 7,520	\$ 2,250



### **PASTORAL CARE**

If you know of any church member that would appreciate a pastoral visit, please let Janice Ruf know and she will follow up with the contact. You can contact Janice at 608-553-4182.

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## MEMORIAL FUND UPDATE

During the Annual Meeting there were questions regarding the Memorial Fund. Below is the updated Memorial Fund report for 2022.

### MEMORIAL FUND 2022

#### **RECEIPTS**

Memorials received	\$ 75
CD proceeds (Frieda Steiner Baxter)	\$ 31,621
Interest	\$ 55
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 31,751</u>

#### **DISBURSEMENTS**

FNB acct closed- dollars sent to UCC	
Investments	<u>\$108,497</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>\$108,497</u>

#### **MEMORIAL FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT SUMMARY**

Beginning Balance January 1, 2022	\$ 76,746
Receipts	\$ 31,751
Disbursements	<u>\$108,497</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2022	\$0

All Memorial Funds were moved from the First National Bank Money Market account to the UCC Investment Foundation

Freida Steiner Baxter funds are being tracked separately from other contributed funds.

The 12/31/2022 valuation of each portion of the investment is noted below.

Freida Steiner Baxter Memorial	\$ 87,749
General Memorials	<u>\$ 16,204</u>
Total Investments	<u>\$103,953</u>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Mar. 1** - Confirmation

**Mar. 8** - Confirmation

**Mar. 9** – Women’s Guild Meeting at noon. Lunch will be

provided.

**Mar. 12** – Daylight Savings Time begins. Turn your clocks ahead 1 hour.

**Mar. 15** – Church Council Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Confirmation

**Mar. 22** - Confirmation

**Mar. 27** – Deadline for April newsletter articles

**Mar. 29** - Confirmation

**Apr. 2** – Palm Sunday

**Apr. 6** – Maundy Thursday Service

**Apr. 7** – Good Friday

**Apr. 9** – Easter Sunday Service

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS



1<sup>st</sup> Ashley Buss  
Colton Ruf  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tara Glendenning  
4<sup>th</sup> Phil Risseuw  
5<sup>th</sup> Sheila Siegler  
6<sup>th</sup> Larry Milestone  
Keith Siegenthaler  
8<sup>th</sup> Carol Johnson  
Hudson Hinderman  
10<sup>th</sup> Roy Hardt  
12<sup>th</sup> Jada Glendenning  
Wendy Leahy  
Alan Ruf  
17<sup>th</sup> Connie Ubersox  
21<sup>st</sup> Kevin Leahy  
23<sup>rd</sup> Stacy Kammes  
26<sup>th</sup> Christine Ubersox  
28<sup>th</sup> Brandi Ruf-Wepking  
31<sup>st</sup> Kinsley Buss



### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

15<sup>th</sup> Heidi & Gary Rear  
23<sup>rd</sup> Stacy & Matt Kammes  
29<sup>th</sup> Suzanne & Brian Marx  
30<sup>th</sup> Larry & Andrea Salathe



### MARCH LITURGISTS

5 Abigail Reuter  
12 Judy Huntington  
19 Debbie Loken  
26 Steve Siegler



Deadline for the  
April newsletter  
articles is **March  
27, 2023.**