

Immanuel United Church of Christ

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IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 2024 Newsletter

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The Lawgiver

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” – James 4:7-10

So, there I was, witnessing what appeared to be a woman and man arguing. She seemed to be accusing him of doing something that she thought was wrong. Over and over, it went, she, condemning and he, denying. He was not saying much, if anything at all. Her voice became louder and louder. Screaming as she stood over him in a very aggressive manner. As she brought more and more accusations against him, he just sat there, and his only responses was to meekly say something like,

“No, Ma’am, I did not. Never. I swear that nothing like that ever happened. What you are accusing me of doing is simply not true. How can I prove to you that I’m innocent?”

The more he denied, the more aggressive she became. His responses were almost soft whispers, and her accusations became louder and angrier. To me, this was a one-sided argument and, as worked-up as she was getting, I thought the disagreement was going to get out of hand real soon. Suddenly, the scene changed. He stood up, held out both hands; palms out, fingers together and pointed up, as if asking her to stop. And, then he said,

“Oh, now I remember. Yes, that was you! I saw you stealing money out of the offering plate, last Sunday in Church! I just witnessed you steal from God!”

She took a step backwards and gasped, *“No, I did not. I never did anything like that!”*

Now, it was his turn to become the aggressor and she, the meek one. He said, *“Well, I say you did, and because I say so, you are as guilty as you were telling me that I was guilty, just a moment ago. It is now up to you to prove that you did not do it. How does that feel? Do you think that I am being fair and impartial to you? Were you being fair to me?”*

Just then, the alarm clock went off, and I was awakened from this very strange little apparition. I was thankful that this was not real but just a dream. When considering James 4:11-12, can any of us honestly say that we have never falsely accused another?

“Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge

your neighbor?"

This little fable is intended to help us see how we can make us all crazy when we take on the role of accuser and judge and put blame on our sisters and brothers. This truly is acting above our level of purpose, expertise, or abilities. We are not to ever forget that we can only see what is on the outside while the true judge, Jesus, is the only One who can see directly into our thoughts and intentions, even into our very souls. It is Jesus, only Jesus who will issue divine judgment over the quick and the dead. God said so. And, if we trust and rely on Christ, the One Who sits in judgment, only then we will have a better chance of being saved and not destroyed. Praise His holy name, Christ Jesus is Lord of all. Amen.



CHURCH COUNCIL

The February Council meeting was held on February 21, 2024. Members Present: Roy Berrey, Fritz Hirsbrunner, Kerry Black, Pastor Bob Wilkins, Pam Hardt, Connie Ubersox, Jordan Hinderman, and Nancy Slama. Absent: Sheila Siegler and Dave Sutherland.

The Council approved the January meeting minutes as presented.

Reports

Financial Report – Connie Ubersox stated in the financial report that the church paid for the poinsettias. Connie stated that the money for the poinsettias was deposited in the Women's Guild account. Connie will write a check from the Guild to the church to reimburse for that expense. Motion made by Fritz Hirsbrunner to accept the January financial report, second by Pam Hardt, all in favor, motion carried. There was also discussion regarding the deficit in the 2024 budget.

Pastor Report – Pastor Wilkins is almost through visiting/introducing himself to shut-in parishioners.

President Report - There are some new Council member liaisons for the different church committees: Women's Guild - Connie Ubersox, Missions – Nancy Slama; Endowment – Pam Hardt (with Fritz Hirsbrunner), and Sunday School - Jordan Hinderman (with Sheila Siegler).

Roy Berrey will be talking with the Stewardship Committee members regarding the budget deficit.

Christian Education Committee – Jordan Hinderman reported that the children are working on memorizing a prayer and reciting it back. The children that are able to recite the prayer will receive a treat. Jordan stated that Sheila Siegler is doing a wonderful job with the children. The Council members agreed.

Building and Grounds Committee– Nothing at this time.

Mission Team – There is a clothing drive for the Back Bay Mission that is underway. There are boxes in the fellowship hall for the donations. The donations need to be into the fellowship hall by Sunday, March 3rd so that the items can be sent down to Biloxi, Mississippi.

The next fundraiser for the Mission Team is the brat/cinnamon roll sale the last weekend in April.

Stewardship Committee – Nothing new at this time.

EF & G Committee – Women's Sunday will be March 10th. Easter cards will be sent to the 80+ church members.

Endowment Committee – Fritz Hirsbrunner reported there was a meeting in January with the investment advisor. At that meeting, it was brought up that the Church Council has to approve all the fund transfers, if any, the Endowment Committee does. Fritz Hirsbrunner made a motion for the approval of fund exchange at Thrivent as recommended by our financial advisor, and to release the income from 2023 as listed in the Endowment resolution. Kerry Black seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

There was discussion on amending the Endowment fund investment policy and procedures, which would have to be approved by the membership. There will be a meeting of the committee to address these issues.

Pastor-Parish Committee – Nothing at this time.

Woman's Guild – The next meeting will be March 13th.

Worship Committee – There will be a Maundy Thursday service March 28th at 6:30 p.m. The Easter service will be at 10:00 a.m. There will not be a Good Friday service this year. Betty Williams is ordering the palm branches for Palm Sunday.

Old Business – Nothing at this time.

New Business – Ron Ubersox donated a picture of Jesus in memory of his mom. The picture will be hung up in the church. A Thank You will be put in the newsletter.

Next Meeting will be March 20, 2024 at 6:15 p.m.



THANK YOU

Immanuel would like to thank Ron Ubersox for donating a picture of Jesus in memory of his mother, Charolette (Berny) Ubersox. It will be placed in the church in memory of Berny.



WOMEN'S GUILD

The first Women's Guild meeting for 2024 will be Wednesday, March 13th at 12:00. There will be no program. Lunch will be provided. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Debbie Loken
Guild President



NEW MEMBER CLASS

Immanuel UCC would like to hold a new member class and asks anyone who knows of someone who may be interested in joining the church to contact Pastor Bob with contact information. We are always looking for people to join us in worshipping God, serving God's greater plan, and finding our place with God.



MISSION TEAM UPDATE

Clothing drive for the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi is underway. We ask that church members get donations in the boxes in the fellowship hall by Sunday March 3rd so we can get the items prepared to be sent down to Biloxi.

The next fundraising event is the brat/cinnamon roll sale in late April (Weekend of Darlington Garage Sales).

If you have any questions or want to know how you can help feel free to contact Jared Reuter at 608 642-2811

Submitted by Jared Reuter



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Starts on March 10th. Please remember to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour.



January 2024 Financial Information

	January 2024	Budget	Year to Date 2024	Year to Date Budget
Contributions/Other Revenue	\$ 7,888	\$ 8,008	\$ 7,888	\$ 8,008
Expenses	\$ 9,615	\$ 9,252	\$ 9,615	\$ 9,252
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ (1,727)	\$ (1,243)	\$ (1,727)	\$ (1,243)



PASTORAL CARE

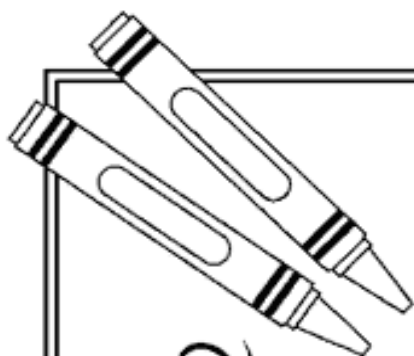
If you know of any church member that would appreciate a pastoral visit, please let Pastor Bob Wilkins know and he will follow up with the contact. You can contact Pastor Wilkins at 812-691-0907, or at 608-776-4110.

Do you sometimes see yourself in James 4:7-12?

D E D N I M - E L B U O D
 P J A N O T H E R E O D S
 W N H - E I M O U R N R U
 Y R E S I S T L K - S O B
 W M A P R H H C A M I L M
 J V R U E U E N E U N W I
 E X T R V M R J P J N A T
 V U S I I B E E S M E R N
 Y X R F G L F L D S R D E
 D P E Y W E O B N S S T M
 S E T U A A R A A N U L A
 Y E S L L R E T H G U A L
 N L I V E L I V E D I X C
 E F S - C L S J U D G E Y

ABLE	ANOTHER	BROTHERS
CLEANSE	DEJECTION	DEVIL
DOER	DOUBLE-MINDED	DRAW
EVIL	EXALT	FLEE
HANDS	HEARTS	HUMBLE
JUDGE	LAMENT	LAUGHTER
LAWGIVER	LORD	MOURN
PURIFY	RESIST	SAVE
SINNERS	SISTERS	SPEAK
SUBMIT	THERE	THEREFORE

Submit yourselves **therefore** to God. **Resist** the **devil**, and he will **flee** from you. **Draw** near to God, and he will **draw** near to you. **Cleanse** your **hands**, you **sinnners**, and **purify** your **hearts**, you double-minded. **Lament** and **mourn** and weep. Let your **laughter** be turned into **mourning** and your joy into **dejection**. **Humble** yourselves before the **Lord**, and he will **exalt** you. Do not **speak evil** against one **another**, **brothers** and **sisters**. Whoever **speaks evil** against **another** or **judges another**, **speaks evil** against the law and **judges** the law; but if you **judge** the law, you are not a **doer** of the law but a **judge**. **There** is one **lawgiver** and **judge** who is **able** to **save** and to destroy. So who, then, are you to **judge** your neighbor? (Created with LOGOS® Bible Software.)

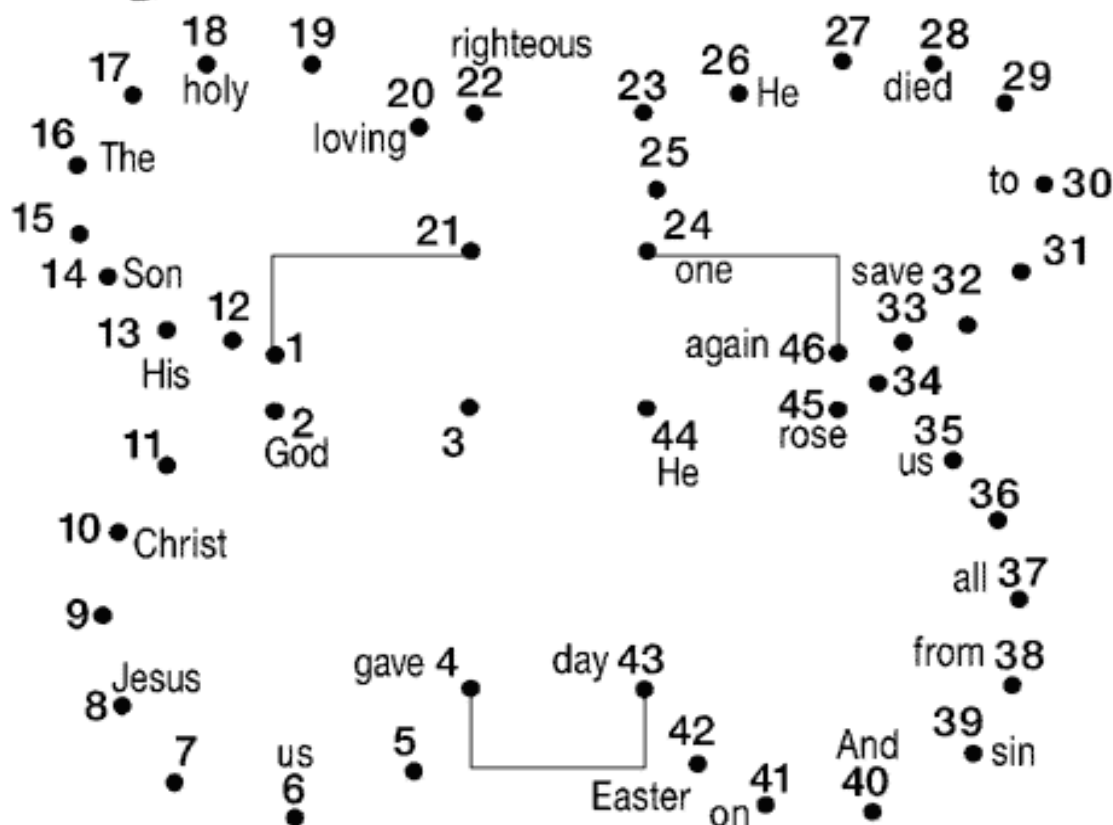


Just for KIDS



Easter Surprises!

Connect the dots to find 2 symbols of Easter.
Write the words in order on the lines below.



2	4	6	8	10	'	12	14	'
16	18	'	20	22		24		
26	28	30	33	35	37	38	39	'
40	41	42	43	44	45	46		



UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar. 6 - Evening Prayer/Bible Study group at 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 13 – Women’s Guild Meeting at noon. Lunch will be provided.

Evening Prayer/Bible Study group at 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 10 – Daylight Savings Time begins. Turn your clocks ahead 1 hour.

Mar. 20 – Church Council Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Evening Prayer/Bible Study group at 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 24 – Palm Sunday – Sunday School kids sing during worship

Mar. 25 – Deadline for April newsletter articles

Mar. 27 - Evening Prayer/Bible Study group at 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 28 – Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30 p.m.

Mar. 29 – Good Friday

Mar. 31 – Easter Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



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



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

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



MARCH LITURGISTS

3 Jared Reuter
10 Donna Wilkins
17 Marjean Sutherland
24 Elizabeth Reuter
31 Nancy Slama



Deadline for the April newsletter articles is **March 25, 2024.**