

Immanuel United Church of Christ

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OCTOBER 2023 Newsletter

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Jesus Empowers Us For His Purpose

The final Commandment Christ gave to His followers, and yes, even though it is known as The Great Commission, it is a Command. This is what the Gospel of Matthew says,

¹⁶ “Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” – Matthew 28:16-20

I'm fairly sure that just about every believer knows this, but does every Christian realize what it means? Officially, the Great Commission is a faith-based mandate for believers to go out and ***“make disciples of all nations”***. It was given by Christ to His disciples following His death and resurrection, just before His ascension back to the Father. We read about this in one form or another in all four Gospels. We see it in Matthew 28:16–20; Mark 16:15–18; Luke 24:46–49; John 20:21–23, as well as in Acts 1:8.

As was prophesized so long ago and has come to pass, Jesus is the One, our promised Messiah. He was sent by God. Jesus' human life came by way of a traceable lineage from all the way back to Father Abraham, through King David, and on down to Mary and Joseph. Therefore, the Great Commission can be linked in with God's words to Abraham: that ***“all peoples on earth will be blessed through you”***. Jesus is only able to issue such an order as the Great Commission because He is The Christ. And Christ has been given all authority in heaven and on earth from God, the Father. This Divine Order is to be taken with the utmost seriousness by all of His disciples, ***“to the very end of the age”***. The motivation for the Great Commission springs from the heart of our Creator. God, the Father loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus to bring Light and Hope to the world.

From then until present, every disciple is Commanded to go out to be part of what the Father had started in the sending of his Son. Jesus brought eternal salvation to this world for all who trust in His promises. His forgiveness is freely given to everyone, everywhere around the world. The Gospel message of Jesus is truly Good News for all humankind.

As for us, the disciples of Jesus are still being sent out as workers of the Gospel. Our ability to carry out this mission is sustained by way of the Holy Spirit who is our authorizing agent. Victory in this mission, comes by the power of God's Holy Spirit because Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth, asked for the Spirit to help and guide us.

Our assignment in the Great Commission can be accomplished through our sharing of the Gospel Message of Christ's eternal salvation. May it be so as we undertake this righteous assignment. Christ is asking – no, commanding - that each of us work for sharing Christ's Divine Light in this dark and lonely world. I pray that we will accept and believe what we are

promised; that the Lord will be with us and that we will be empowered by God's Spirit as we undertake this assignment. Amen.



CHURCH COUNCIL

The September Church Council meeting was held on September 20, 2023. Members Present: Dave Sutherland, Kerry Black, Nancy Slama, Roy Berrey, Connie Ubersox and Pastor Bob Wilkins. Absent:

Fritz Hirsbrunner, Brandi Ruf-Wepking, Sheila Siegler, and Jordan Hinderman.

Repair and review agenda: Added to Old Business: Humpty Dumpty and Building Use Agreement. The Minutes from the August meeting were approved as presented.

Reports:

Financial Report – Connie Ubersox gave an update to where memorial monies are appearing on the financial report. Betsy Wiegel informed Connie that Betsy puts memorial monies in the General Account first and then moves the monies to the IUCC Memorial Funds. The Financial Report for August was approved as presented.

Pastor Report – Pastor Bob and Roy Berrey went to the Ecclesiastical Gathering last Sunday, September 17, 2023. Pastor Bob will have office hours at the church on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon each day.

Pastor Bob will be doing a children's sermon every other Sunday on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

President Report – A Thank You to the people on the Search Committee will be put in the October newsletter. Roy Berrey will contact Rich Pleva to set up a time for Rich to come to Immanuel to do a presentation on the Damascus Project. There was discussion on having someone in the church visit the shut-ins and give them communion. There was discussion on the amount that the janitor is to be paid for cleaning the church for visitations and funerals. When the visitation and funeral are on separate days, the janitor will be paid \$50.00 for each day for a total of \$100.00. When the visitation and funeral are on the same day, the janitor will be paid \$50.00 total.

Christian Education Committee – The Sunday School kids will be singing during church on September 24th. The Sunday School kids and teachers will be hosting a Fall Funday on Sunday, October 15th after church. They will be serving brats and hot dogs and playing bingo with prizes. All church members are invited to join in the fun. Thank you to Donna Wilkins for helping with Sunday School.

Building and Grounds Committee – Parsonage – The parsonage looks good and the tree is gone that was in front of the parsonage. Pastor Bob reported that there is a window stuck open he cannot get shut. Also, Pastor Bob would like two short handrails installed—one from the garage into the kitchen and one going upstairs at the top of the stairs.

Parker Fitzsimons put in a bid of \$1,800 to \$2,000 to wash the front of the church and clean the gutters and wash the Fellowship Hall windows.

Lifeline in Platteville is coming to put in a TV screen in the front of the church. This will be paid with money from the Fisher/Lindell memorial monies. It was mentioned to maybe check with Fuzzy's Audio in Monroe.

Thank you to Randy Ubersox for cleaning and washing the bench. It looks great.

Roy B. mentioned that if we want to put a tree in front of the parsonage, he has a

Japanese Lilac or a red maple he will donate.

Pastor Bob would like a new office chair, floor mat and business cards. The Council decided to allow Pastor Bob to get a new office chair with a cost of up to \$300 and a floor mat for a cost of \$100.

Mission Team – Mission Trip for 2023 was a success. The Mission Team will do a presentation of their trip on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

Apple pie week is October 16th through Saturday, October 21st. The pie crust will be made October 16th through October 19th. Set up is Friday night October 20th. Pie Day is Saturday, October 21st. Signup sheets to work are on the table at the front of the Fellowship Hall. Pie order forms are there as well and need to be turned into Janette Steger. The cost of a pie is \$12.00 each until they are gone.

Stewardship Committee – Pack 'em In Sunday is coming up.

Pastor-Parish Committee – Roy B. informed Pastor Bob that the committee should meet every 3 months.

Women's Guild – There will be a Chili Supper with Bake Sale on November 8, 2023. Veterans will eat free. The cost is a free will donation.

Worship Committee – Roy B. stated that he and/or Steve Siegler will be singing during church.

Old Business:

- a. American Flag in Sanctuary – There was discussion on whether to put the American Flag in the Sanctuary. This was tabled until next month.
- b. Humpty Dumpty – this was tabled until next month.
- c. Building Use Agreement – There was discussion on whether a church member has to pay the \$100 fee for the use of the building. Church members do not have to pay for the use of the building. A good will donation is acceptable.

New Business:

None.

The next Council meeting will be October 18th at 6:15 p.m.



Highlight Wednesday, November 8 on Your Calendar

We will be having Chili Supper/Bake Sale on November 8, 2023. Menu will be Chili/Chicken Noodle Soup, sandwiches, relish tray, cheese/crackers and homemade pie. The bake sale will be set-up in the Sanctuary like last year. The supper falls during the week of Veterans Day so in honor of our veterans we will be giving a free supper to any veteran who comes to the

Chili Supper. In the next few weeks, I will be passing around a sheet for donations of food items for the supper or a money donation can also be given. Our supper last year was very successful and with the help of all of our wonderful church family I'm sure it will be again this year.

Debbie Loken
Women's Guild President



THANK YOU

Immanuel would like to thank the members of the Search Committee in finding our new pastor. They are: Marjean Sutherland, Fritz Hirsbrunner, Jared Reuter, Roy Berrey, Betsy Wiegel, Pam Hardt, JoAnn Geissbuhler, Brandi Ruf Wepking, and Joan Blaser. Your time, hard work, effort, diligence and perseverance have answered our prayers and brought us Pastor Bob Wilkins for which we are very thankful. **THANK YOU!!**



BINGO

I would like to thank MaryLou Tuescher, Connie and Randy Ubersox, and Dave and Marjean Sutherland for helping with Bingo on August 23rd at the Manor. Your help is much appreciated. The patients that joined us had lots of Bingos and got many prizes.

A good time was had by all.

*Thank you,
Kate Black*



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School kids will be singing during church the last Sunday of every month. The Sunday School kids and teachers will be hosting a Fall Funday Sunday on Sunday, October 15th after church. They will be serving brats and hot dogs and playing bingo with prizes. All church members are invited to join in the fun.

On Sunday, October 29th we will have "Trunk or Treat" in the parking lot after church. Everyone is welcome to dress up for the church service. If it's raining, we will have it in the fellowship hall after church. The Sunday School kids will also be singing in church on October 29th.



WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

The Women's Guild monthly meeting was held on September 13th. Jared Reuter gave a very informative presentation on the mission trip to Mississippi. The chili supper will be held on November 8th which is the date of our November monthly women's guild meeting date so we will not be having a monthly meeting in November. Next guild meeting will be October 11th with lunch at noon.



APPLE PIE SALE

The Mission Team is having its annual Apple Pie Sale on October 21st. The cost is \$12.00 per pie. Please get your orders in and tell your friends to get their orders in as well. The pies need to be picked up on October 21st. Please call the church at 608-776-4110 and leave a message with your name, phone number and how many pies you would like.

The pie crusts are being made October 16th thru October 19th from 8:00 a.m. to noon each day. Helpers are needed to make the pie crusts and assemble the pies. Please give of your time to help with this Mission Team fund raiser.



August 2023 Financial Information

	August 2023	Budget	Year to Date 2023	Year to Date Budget
Contributions/Other Revenue	\$ 5,247	\$ 6,714	\$ 70,528	\$ 57,145
Expenses	<u>\$ 7,017</u>	<u>\$ 8,665</u>	<u>\$ 44,132</u>	<u>\$ 55,203</u>
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ (1,770)	\$ (1,951)	\$ 26,396	\$ 1,942



OCTOBER CALENDAR

Oct. 1 – Mission Team presentation during worship of their trip to Biloxi, Mississippi.

Oct. 11 – Women's Guild meeting at noon. Lunch will be provided.

Oct. 15 – Fall Funday Sunday after worship with food & Bingo.

All are invited to join in the fun.

Oct. 16-19 – Making pie crusts from 8 a.m. to noon each day.

Oct. 18 – Church Council Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Oct. 21 – Apple Pie Sale

Oct. 23 – Deadline for November newsletter articles

Oct. 29 – Sunday School kids sing during worship

“Trunk or Treat” after church in the church parking lot. If raining, it will be in the fellowship hall. Wear your Halloween costumes.

Nov. 8 – IUCC Chili Supper & Bake Sale starting at 4:30 p.m. If you are donating an item for the bake sale, please put the price on it.



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.

Matthew 28:16–20 Is Our Great Commission From Christ Jesus

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

ALWAYS	AUTHORITY	BAPTIZING
BEEN	CAME	COMMANDED
DIRECTED	DISCIPLES	DOUBTED
EARTH	ELEVEN	EVERYTHING
FATHER	GALILEE	GIVEN
HEAVEN	HOLY	JESUS
MAKE	MOUNTAIN	NAME
NATIONS	OBEY	REMEMBER
SAID	SOME	SPIRIT
TEACHING	THEREFORE	WENT

Now the **eleven disciples went** to **Galilee**, to the **mountain** to which **Jesus** had **directed** them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but **some doubted**. And **Jesus came** and **said** to them, “All **authority** in **heaven** and on **earth** has **been given** to me. Go **therefore** and **make disciples** of all **nations**, **baptizing** them in the **name** of the **Father** and of the Son and of the **Holy Spirit**, and **teaching** them to **obey everything** that I have **commanded** you. And **remember**, I am with you **always**, to the end of the age.” (Created by LOGOS® Bible Software.)



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4th Janis Ruf
Claire Reuter

6th Janice Ruf
10th Ron Johnson
Joanie Keister
11th Amy Ubersox-Ruegsegger
15th Marjean Sutherland
17th Julie Hinderman
18th Carol Martin
19th Makayla Kammes
20th Mitchell Martin
Lowell Ruef
Mark Ruf
21st Remie Duerst
22nd Kendyl Ruf
23rd Kylie Badtke
Tyrel Douglas
Kathryn Geissbuhler
Jordan Hinderman
27th Fritz Hirsbrunner
28th Marion Ruef



OCTOBER LITURGISTS

Oct. 1st Kerry Black
Oct. 8th Fritz Hirsbrunner
Oct. 15th Madisyn Heim
Oct. 22nd Marjean Sutherland
Oct. 29th Sheila Siegler
Nov. 5th – Dave Sutherland



Deadline for the November newsletter articles is **October 23, 2023.**



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

1st Jerry & June Hancock
3rd Amy & Denny Prine
4th Randy & Judy Huntington
6th Brandi & Dustin Wepking
16th Jordan & Angie Hinderman
25th Gary & Nikki Martin
26th Tyler & Danielle Duerst
30th Jadin & Heather Ruf