

Immanuel United Church of Christ

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P.O. Box 87

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEPTEMBER 2025 Newsletter

Rev. Dana Caldwell

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FROM OUR PASTOR

Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
Forever in the next.

Amen.

--Reinhold Niebuhr

Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10236554282866555&id=1518095620&rdid=n566H7aXMYhazcvc# 07/30/2025

About the author: Reinhold Niebuhr is renowned for his profound influence on 20th-century political and theological discourse, particularly his development of Christian Realism and his authorship of the Serenity Prayer. He was a prominent theologian, ethicist, and social activist, known for his realistic perspective on human nature and his analysis of the complexities of social and political life. Source Google search.

I came across these well-known words at the beginning of this prayer and as I read the rest, I realized I had not ever come across the full prayer. What a great prayer for all the complexity of life! What steps of spiritual growth and maturity come from stepping beyond accepting the things you cannot change and being brave to change what you can and the wisdom to know the difference. I think it is important that as we begin our journey together, we think about the familiar parts of this prayer and how we are doing and then reflecting upon the rest of the prayer which calls us forward still in joining the adventure God presents to each of us in unique ways and times in our lives. What is Christ calling us to become as we join together? Is there a fresh untrodden path before us or familiar ground we are to lead others through? How are we doing on surrendering our will in the various aspects of our lives? And then arriving at the blessing of choosing to be happy here and now, happy in Christ, happy because of Christ, happy in sharing what we know of Christ with others. Until we reach the next chapter that promises no more tears, no more sorrow and no more mourning. Also promising a joy, a knowing and a fullness of the presence of God it will take and eternity to fill. Blessings on those who have the eyes to see and the ears to hear the word and work of God in the here and now. Hallelujah, Amen. If anything bubbles up while reading this article I would love to hear from you.

Office Hours

Tuesdays will be 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., lunch, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. I will always be available per phone or text 919-523-8187 and email dana.l.caldwell@gmail.com

Sundays Before the Service.

Please be aware that I -Pastor Dana will be very focused on greeting people and thinking about the service. If you have anything you want me to remember after the service. There will be sticky notes available on my desk for your use to drop me a note and I will respond on Tuesday. If the information is more urgent, please feel free to text me @ 919-523-8187 or email me dana.l.caldwell@gmail.com and I will respond as quickly as I can after the service, later that day or Monday.

In Case of an Emergency

If there is an emergency, and someone has to go to the hospital or a Doctors appointment that is concerning, or other family emergency or a change in health status, please be sure to let me know or instruct a family member to let me know via phone call or text at 919-523-8187. So that I am aware and able to be present as soon as possible if my presence would be helpful to you or your loved ones. It might be good to add me as a contact in your phone.

Visitation

If you have information about your loved one you would like me to know before I go to visit them the first time or any follow up visit, please feel free to speak with me *after* a service, via an appointment, via phone or text or dropping by during office hours. It might be a good idea to add me as a contact in your phone.

Pastor Dana Caldwell



CHURCH COUNCIL

The August Church Council meeting was held on August 13th, 2025.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kerry Black, Nancy Slama, Jordan Hinderman, Pam Hardt, Fritz Hirsbrunner, Sheila Siegler, Connie

Ubersox, Phil Risseeuw, Dave Sutherland, and Pastor Dana Caldwell (by phone). **Guests:** Randy Loken and Betsy Wiegel

Review and Repair of the Agenda – Leadership Project added to Old Business. Agenda approved with the change made.

Approval of Minutes – The Council approved the July minutes as submitted.

Reports -

Financial Report – The Council approved the financial report as presented.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Dana announced she is coming!

President Report – nothing new at this time.

Christian Education Committee – Joan Blaser and Janice Ruf will be teaching this year again with Sunday School beginning on Sept. 14th. Confirmation details will be discussed when Pastor Dana is here.

Building & Grounds Committee – Randy gave a report on the lightning strike of the steeple. Insurance has been notified and Randy will meet with reps this week. Need 3 lights for basement about \$60 each, Randy will purchase and replace.

Concrete project update – update given by Randy. The Council extends a thank you to the Building and Grounds Committee for all their work over and above!

Mission Team Update – Apple pie day may be earlier than usual due to weather and apple ripeness early. Mission team will give a presentation this Sunday during church service on their recent mission trip to Biloxi.

Stewardship Committee – Pastor Dana and a member from this committee will participate in 6 on-line webinars beginning in September. Pastor Dana explained the details of the seminars, Sheila will participate with Pastor Dana. Stewardship committee is working on fall activities.

EF&G Committee – Over 80 birthday party was held today and was a success. Letters are going out to families for Sunday School participation.

Endowment Committee – nothing new at this time.

Finance Committee – nothing new at this time.

Pastor-Parish Committee – nothing at this time.

Search Committee – A letter will be sent to Pastor Jim Iliff advising we are terminating his contract and thanking him for his wonderful services to us. Nancy Slama will write the letter and give to the Council for approval.

Woman's Guild – Over 80 party today, 13 over 80 folks were present plus others. Parsonage was cleaned yesterday for Pastor Dana's arrival. Thanks to the Women's Guild for their hard work and dedication. Next meeting Sept 10th.

Worship Committee – update on services until Pastor Dana begins.

Old Business

- a. **Thrift Store Update** – Business plan, Startup Budget & Operating Costs. Discussion on documents provided to council. Pam mentioned items downstairs to be completed.

Some items need to be taken to Flaherty's for disposal. We do need a letter of recommendation from the Council for the grant. We will get one to Nancy for signature. The Council approved moving forward with purchasing paint paid for by the church and moving forward with the Thrift Store project.

- b. **RBS Shirts** – Pam brought up ordering shirts with a logo on for members to look uniform when representing the church. Tabled until next meeting.
- c. **Confirmation Class Update** – number of confirmands is between 5-7. Letters were sent to the parents of children applicable to the class, we are awaiting replies.
- d. **Building Use Agreement** – HCE meeting on Sunday, October 19, 2025, 12:00 – 3:00. The Council approved the use of the fellowship hall at the above time.
- e. **Janitor's Job Description** – “What Council will schedule:” Connie brought up the Sunday School cleaning which is stated that the Council will do the cleaning. Suggestion to have the new janitor do this. Connie will reach out to the janitor. Marjean Sutherland and Sheila Siegler cleaned the toddler's classroom, removing old toys and furniture no longer in use.
- f. **Leadership project** – Fritz suggested we the Church support this project. The Council approved giving \$1,000 per year for 5 years.

New Business

- a. **New Computer for Secretary's Office** – this was fried in the lightning strike, we have one to use until we hear from the insurance company on coverage for damage.

The next Council meeting will be September 10, 2025 at 6:15 p.m.

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

The Fall worship time is here. The time will change back to 10:00 a.m. starting September 7th.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School will start on Sept. 14th. The start time will be 9 am. The kids will sing in church and we will introduce the classes on Sept. 14th.

Teachers for the year will again be Janice Ruf and Joan Blaser. Anyone interested in helping out please let us know.

Every family will be receiving a letter with more information in the future. Anyone interested in joining Sunday school please let us know as we would love to have your child, grandchild, neighbor anyone you know of that would like to join us.

The first Sunday of each month the kids will sing in church.

The Children's Christmas program is scheduled for Dec. 14th so mark your calendars.



WOMEN'S GUILD

The September meeting has been changed to the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The date is September 17th. Jared Reuter is doing a program on Alcohol Anonymous, and the 3rd Wednesday works better for him. The program should be very informative, please invite any friends who might be interested in attending. Lunch will

be provided, and a meeting will follow Jared's program.

Debbie Loken
Guild President

BINGO

August 20th was IUCC's turn to visit the Manor Residents. We played bingo and the residents won many treats which they always enjoy. Thanks to Randy and Connie Ubersox for always being willing to help.



Thank You,
Kate Black



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Worship Committee would like to thank all the people who stepped up and filled in for Pastor Jim this summer, while he was traveling in Europe. Stewardship Committee did a great service

the end of June. In July and August, Pastor Larry graced us with his presence and shared God's word for 3 services. The always popular hymn sing was led by Cindy Pluemer and Nancy Slama. In August, the Mission Team gave an inspirational account of their trip to Back Bay Mission. Also, Sheila Siegler and Roy Berrey each led a service. Also, thanks to all the special music during a busy summer.

Finally, Pastor Dana Caldwell led us in worship on August 3 and we approved her as our new pastor on the recommendation of the Search Committee. She is excited to be coming to Immanuel and will start her worship ministry here on September 7. We look forward to her tenure at IUCC and expect great things for the worship service in days to come.

Roy Berrey
Worship Committee



MISSION TEAM REPORT

Hello, Immanuel United Church of Christ. What a wonderful time of the year. The weather is getting a little more comfortable than the rain and hot weather we had this summer. A nip of fall is in the air and with that apple pie day will soon be upon us. We have yet to set a date for apple pie day, but we will be sure to let the IUCC family know so you can get your orders in as we typically sell out for our 700 apple pies.

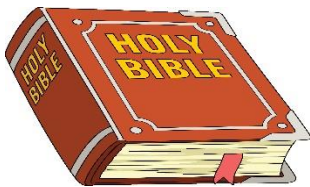
Speaking of our mission trip we took a great group of people down back in late June and early July. Their names are the following: Scott, Tara, Dante, and Sloan Glendenning, Jared, Ann, Elizabeth, Rose, and Claire Reuter, Sara, Lauren, and Maggie Gleason, Abigail and Matt King, Jenny, Brett, and Trace Jenson, Michael and Marcus Kendall, and Richie Ubersox. It was a diverse and great group of church members who did God's work while in Biloxi. We rebuilt a porch and side porch. We also made a new ramp for a house with a shut-in individual who desperately needed a ramp to get out and about. On top of that we also cleaned out the materials room for the mission house and reorganized and built new shelving for the food pantry. The people of Back Bay Mission were so delighted to have so much completed in our weeklong work camp.

Along the way we made new friendships and expanded on others. In all we really became a close-knit group of people who will always remember our times there together. My hope is to get even more people to get active with our work camp. I have a goal to take more than 20 next time. Many of the old faces and hopefully some new faces will make the decision to spend our precious time helping others. It is really worth the time put in and I feel you come away with more than you give.

So, we will keep you in the loop on our apple pie day and as always; thank you for all the support you have given our mission team over the years and hopefully many more in the future.

Blessings,

Jared and Ann Reuter / Scott and Tara Glendenning



BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday night Bible Study will resume on September 10th in the fellowship hall at 4:30 p.m. This year we will be watching *The Chosen*. After watching *The Chosen*, we will discuss what resonated with each of us and look at Scripture to see how we can apply Jesus lessons to our own lives and the world around us. You are welcome to join us any time during the year.

**Monthly
Financial
Report**



Monthly Financial Information

	July 2025	Budget	Year to Date 2025	Year to Date Budget
Contributions/Other Revenue	\$17,930	\$ 8,011	\$ 67,589	\$ 50,780
Expenses*	<u>\$ 2,787</u>	<u>\$ 4,264</u>	<u>\$ 185,862</u>	<u>\$ 42,355</u>
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$15,143	\$ 3,747	\$(118,273)	\$ (8,425)

- The down payment for the window restoration project was paid out of the General Fund (\$73,504)
- New AV equipment and bell tower control unit paid out of the General Fund (\$11,170)
- \$60,000 withdrawn from General Fund and invested in a CD

Receipts reflect additional \$7,000 from Blankenhorn Trust



PASTORAL CARE

If you know of any church member that would appreciate a pastoral visit, please let Pastor Dana Caldwell know and she will follow up with the contact. You can contact Pastor Caldwell at 919-523-8187, or at 608-776-4110.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 1 – Labor Day

Sept. 7 – Fall worship schedule starts with worship at 10:00 a.m.

Sept. 10 – Bible Study at 4:30 p.m.

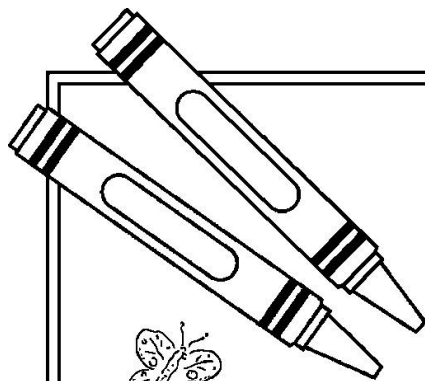
Church Council Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Sept. 14 – Rally Sunday - Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Study will start at 9:00 a.m. Sunday School kids will sing during worship.

Sept. 17 - Women's Guild Meeting at noon

Bible Study at 4:30 p.m.

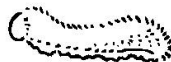
Sept. 24 - Bible Study at 4:30 p.m.



Just for

KIDS

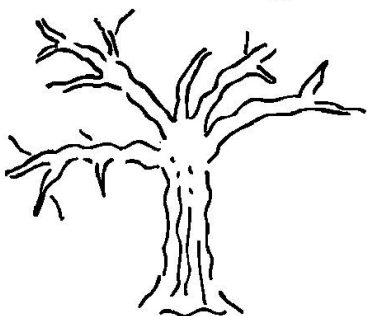
Changes



Everyone experiences changes in life.
Sometimes they make us happy – sometimes not!
What does the Bible say about this?



Find Ecclesiastes 3:1 below.
Change some letters – then read the verse.



Change:

L's to T's

J's to E's

Q's to I's

K's to S's

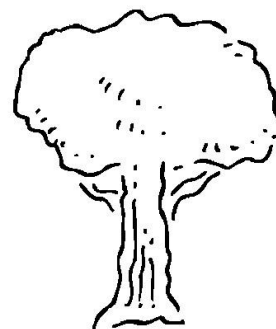
W's to N's

Z's to O's

P's to H's

X's to R's

B's to A's



“

L P J X J Q S B

L Q M J F Z X

J V J X Y L P Q W G' B W D

B K J B K Z W F Z X

J V J X Y B C L Q V Q L Y

U W D J X P J B V J W”



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st LeeAnne Ruef
 3rd Laura Huntington
 4th Dante Glendenning
 Brody Hinderman
 5th Randy Meier
 Tana Risseuw
 6th Sam Meier
 9th Joanne Krebs
 12th Christy Meier
 David Sutherland
 13th Kyson Icenogle
 Randy Loken
 15th Tyler Duerst
 17th Ryker Lewin
 18th Irving Ruef
 20th Bruce Jenson
 23rd Gary Martin
 Daphne Milestone
 24th Ron Ubersox
 25th Christa Jenson
 27th Michael Ruf
 28th MaryLou Tuescher

SEPTEMBER LITURGISTS

7th Judy Huntington
 14th Nancy Slama
 21st Jared Reuter
 28th Jordan Hinderman
 Oct. 5th – Dave Sutherland



Deadline for the
 October newsletter
 articles is
**September 22,
 2025.**



USHER/GREETER SCHEDULE

7th Dave & Marjean Sutherland
 14th Gary & Nikki Martin Family
 21st Randy & Connie Ubersox
 28th Steve & Sheila Siegler
 Oct. 5th – Dustin & Brandi Wepking
 Family

COFFEE HOUR

7th LeeAnne Ruef
 14th Pam & Roy Hardt
 21st Judy Huntington
 28th Joan Blaser & Janice Ruf
 Oct. 5th – Kate Black



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2nd Tyrel & Kristin Douglas
 4th Ann & Jared Reuter
 8th MaryLou & Bill Tuescher
 10th Dave & Marjean Sutherland
 14th Don & Peggy Rolli
 16th Randy & Christy Meier
 17th Randy & Debbie Loken
 20th Lisa & James Reilly
 29th Irving & LeeAnne Ruef