

# Immanuel United Church of Christ

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
NOVEMBER 2023 Newsletter

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November, 2023

Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down In My Heart

Our heavenly Father wants our lives to be abundant with fruit of the Spirit. The more we follow in Jesus' footsteps, the more fruit we reap – such as love, peace, and many other wonderful and divine gifts. Not the least of them being joy.

***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*** –Galatians 5:22-26

The word joy (and rejoice) is found over 150 times in our Bible. We see it in just about every book of the New Testament. Jesus and joy go hand in hand. Of course, we all know that joy is much greater than “happiness” because the emotion of happiness comes and goes according to circumstances we get ourselves into or even in those times when things go beyond our control. When out of control, no one is happy.

Before Jesus was born, the angels declared that His coming would bring people great joy. John the Baptist, while still in his mother's womb, “leaped for joy,” when he heard Mary tell Elizabeth the news of her pregnancy. Joy, in no way, is limited by any kind of circumstance. Paul wrote about his great joy from a dank prison cell. The apostle's uplifting letters demonstrate the fact that joy is linked to Christ, not to changing events or situations. It is a gift from our God that can't be stolen from us unless we relinquish it. Christ taught us, by example, the high value of joy.

***“For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God,”*** – Hebrews 12:2

Above all, joy is a gift to us from our Creator.

***“you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of Joy”*** – Hebrews 1:9

When we look around, we see so many people living in conflict with what our Heavenly Father wants to give us, which are only good and pleasant things that help us throughout our lives. Who wouldn't want to live a life basking in the great joy of knowing that we have a home after this world? Our greatest challenge just might be for us to always remember what we have been given by the Holy Spirit. Share that love and you will find so many more blessings heaped upon you. Love, happiness, and joy are in unlimited supply. The more love we pass on to our brothers and sisters, the more joy we experience. Who can beat that? Amen.

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## CHURCH COUNCIL

The October Church Council meeting was held on October 18, 2023.

Members Present: Roy Berrey, Fritz Hirsbrunner, Brandi Ruf-Wepking, Sheila Siegler, Dave Sutherland, Nancy Slama, Kerry Black, Pastor Bob Wilkins, Jordan Hinderman, and Connie Ubersox.

The Council approved the Minutes from the September meeting as presented. The Council approved the Financial Report as presented.

### REPORTS:

**President Report**– Christian flag purchased by Roy Berrey and donated to the church. The Council approved displaying the American flag in the front of the sanctuary on the people's right with the Christian flag on the people's left.

Janitor Position – discussed cleaning fees for clarification. The Council approved paying the janitor \$50 per special event when cleaning is needed.

Zoom subscription has expired, do we need Zoom any longer? The Council approved not to renew at this time.

**Christian Education** – Sunday School picnic lunch and bingo was fun for all who attended. Still in need of teachers, if interested contact Brandi or Sheila.

**Building and Grounds** – finishing touches on parsonage, waiting on Allendorf to respond to our request for a bid. Cleaning of the front of the church will be completed soon.

Parsonage Fireplace and Insurance – insurance is ok with the fireplace use, we are suggesting a chimney sweep and clean, pastor will take care of this and get back to us.

Lifeline with Lindell Donation – includes speakers and TV updates. Discussion with Lindell's is still ongoing.

Landscaping, tabled.

Christmas decorations - Hardt's put up the tree. Roy Berrey will talk with them to see if they are still interested in doing this.

Banners for sanctuary – Wondering if the Sunday School kids can make a couple. Brandi and Sheila will look into this.

**Mission Team** – Pie day is Saturday!

**Stewardship Committee** – Stewardship letter will go out soon. Stewardship messages in November each Sunday by committee members.

**Endowment Committee** – Monies from yearly interest is usually donated to Iowa County, however: this year a donation was made to SUN program in Darlington.

**Pastor-Parish Committee** – order of service discussion, sermon length may be affected due to pastor condition.

**Women's Guild** – Chili supper November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Worship Committee** – Rich Pleva to speak Sunday, Nov. 5 on Leadership Forward.

### Old Business:

**Humpty Dumpty** – Nicky Goebel would like to discuss renting the space for a child care business. Radon test failed; we would need to address this.

### New Business:

**Salvation Army Bell Ringing** – Marjean Sutherland usually sets this up.

**Nominating committee** – Brandi Ruf-Wepking, Kate Black, pastor and Dave Sutherland are members. We need to replace two members in 2024. The Council approved keeping the same committee members on for this year.

**Budget** - Council member to help oversee and approve the budget. Fritz Hirsbrunner has volunteered to help Betsy Wiegel come up with the new budget.

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

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### **SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE**

Sunday school will be singing in church November 19th.

No Sunday School November 26th.

The Sunday School Christmas Program during church on December 17th.

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### **OUR SYMPATHIES**

Immanuel sends its deepest sympathies to the family of Kathryn Geissbuhler who passed away October 10, 2023, and to the family of Brian Ruf who passed away October 21, 2023. Our hearts go out to you, and we will always remember the happy times we had in knowing Kathryn and Brian. May those memories bring you joy.

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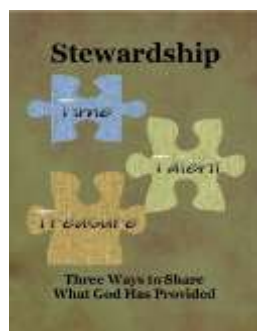
### **CHILI SUPPER REMINDER**

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Chili Supper Wednesday, November 8th starting at 4:30. Bake sale will begin at 4:00. We are still in need of Chili, Chicken Noodle soup (with no noodles), pies and monetary donations for the sandwiches. Reminder – anyone that brings in Baked Goods, please have them priced and packaged.

Thank you for everyone's contributions for another successful Chili Supper.

Debbie Loken

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***1 Peter 4:10 - Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.***

The Stewardship letter should be arriving in your mailbox very soon or you may have already received it. Please pray on what gifts you are able to share.

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**Bell Ringers  
Needed!**

### **BELL RINGING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY**

It is hard to believe that the Holidays are right around the corner and that means Salvation Army Bell Ringing. IUCC is scheduled for the weekend after Thanksgiving. We will ring bells on Friday, November 24 from 3 pm – 7 pm and Saturday, November 25 from 10 am – 2 pm. Please contact Marjean Sutherland at 608-482-0091 or [marjeans@hotmail.com](mailto:marjeans@hotmail.com) if you are able to help. We can

adjust the times a bit, so let me know what works for you.

All money raised serves the people of Lafayette County. Sheriff Reg Gill is our local contact and he and his officers work on our behalf to meet emergency needs for residents in Lafayette County.

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### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS**

Daylight Savings Time ends November 5<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Monthly Financial Report**

#### **September 2023 Financial Information**

	<b>September 2023</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Year to Date 2023</b>	<b>Year to Date Budget</b>
Contributions/Other Revenue*	\$ 1,476	\$ 8,338	\$ 72,004	\$ 65,483
Expenses	<u>\$ 6,261</u>	<u>\$ 8,705</u>	<u>\$ 50,393</u>	<u>\$ 63,908</u>
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ (4,784)	\$ (367)	\$ 21,612	\$ 1,575

\*\$'s were transferred to UCC Foundation Investment account

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### **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.

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**Wishing all of you a happy,  
healthy and safe Thanksgiving!**



**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. 5** – Rich Pleva speaking during worship on “Leadership Forward”

Daylight Savings Time ends. Turn your clocks back 1 hour on November 4th.

**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.

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

**Nov. 19** – Sunday School kids sing during worship

**Nov. 20** – Deadline for December newsletter articles

**Nov. 23** – Happy Thanksgiving!!!

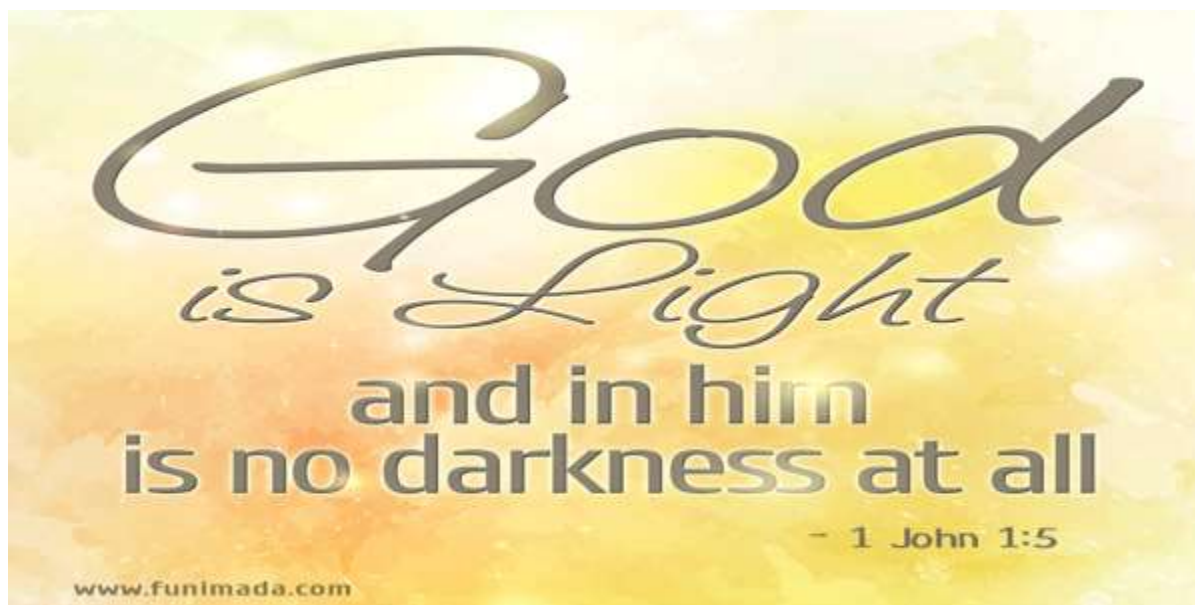
**Nov. 24 & 25** – Bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Times are Friday, November 24 from 3 pm – 7 pm and Saturday, November 25 from 10 am – 2 pm. If you are able to help, please contact Marjean Sutherland at 608-482-0091, or [marjeans@hotmail.com](mailto:marjeans@hotmail.com).

**Nov. 26** – **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Dec. 13** – Women’s Guild Christmas Party Potluck at noon

**Dec. 17** – Sunday School Christmas Program during worship

**Dec. 24** – Christmas Eve Service





## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st Diane  
Bredeson

6th Sloan Glendenning  
Bernie Ruf  
8th Roy Berrey  
10th Leta Hirsbrunner  
Don Ruf  
11th Sheila Berrey  
15th Randy Huntington  
Brett Jenson  
Trace Jenson  
Jean Stauffacher  
22nd Madison Reilly  
23rd Bruce Geissbuhler  
Larry Salathe  
24th Randy Ubersox  
28th Betty Merriam  
30th Tucker Lewin



## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1st Chuck & Joanie Keister  
Alan & Janice Ruf  
16th Joan & Ron Blaser



## NOVEMBER LITURGISTS

Nov. 5 Dave Sutherland  
Nov. 12 Donna Wilkins  
Nov. 19 Sheila Siegler  
Nov. 26 Nancy Slama  
Dec. 3 – Jordan Hinderman



Deadline for the  
December  
newsletter articles  
is **November 20,**  
**2023.**

**The Fruit of the Spirit Brings Great Joy For All Who Follow Jesus**

R T I R I P S G N I H T K  
 G N I K O V O R P E A C E  
 N G R I T S I R H C U S E  
 I P E E S S E N D O O G P  
 Y C O N C E I T E D D D A  
 V L O R T N O C - F L E S  
 N U G N O L E B Y N R S S  
 E F K D T U E I S U U I I  
 R N F B H F B N T S O R O  
 E I R E E H C A E A K E N  
 H S U C R T N J P S P S S  
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BECOME  
 CONCEITED  
 EACH  
 FRUIT  
 JESUS  
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 OTHER  
 PEACE  
 SINFUL  
 SUCH

BELONG  
 CRUCIFIED  
 ENVYING  
 GENTLENESS  
 KEEP  
 LOVE  
 PASSIONS  
 PROVOKING  
 SPIRIT  
 THERE

CHRIST  
 DESIRES  
 FAITHFULNESS  
 GOODNESS  
 KINDNESS  
 NATURE  
 PATIENCE  
 SELF-CONTROL  
 STEP  
 THINGS

But the **fruit** of the **Spirit** is **love**, joy, **peace**, **patience**, **kindness**, **goodness**, **faithfulness**, **gentleness** and **self-control**. Against **such things** there is no law. Those who **belong** to **Christ Jesus** have **crucified** the **sinful nature** with its **passions** and **desires**. Since we **live** by the **Spirit**, let us **keep** in **step** with the **Spirit**. Let us not **become conceited**, **provoking** and **envying each other**.  
 (Created with LOGOS® Bible Software.)