

Immanuel United Church of Christ

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 2024 Newsletter

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Share With The Lord

A resolution for the new year,

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

There are many families that share "end of year" recaps of what has happened in the previous year with themselves and their families. These historical encapsulations usually come out at Christmas time or with the beginning of the new year. I have found that most of them are somewhat light-hearted and generally positive in nature. Sometimes however, they are more serious as they reveal some of the hardships and struggles the family had endured or is currently enduring.

Overall, I feel it is a good thing when we can express and share our frustrations and concerns with those who know and love us. Of course, sharing will not necessarily fix anything, but it can help to relieve some of the pressures we may be holding inside.

That is part of what prayer is, or can be: our venting out to, or sharing with someone who loves and cares for us. When we pray we are sharing with the One who wants to know what is going on within us, not just to us, and how what is happening is affecting us.

When we tell each other about what is going on in our lives, that is really all we are doing - sharing with each other. I would imagine no one really expects any real change or help to come from us venting our troubles. That is, not with our friends and neighbors. But, when we share these things with our Heavenly Father, we can, and should, do so in an expecting manner. In John 14:13-14, Jesus tells us,

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

The thing I would wish we all remember is that we are loved by a God of Love. No matter what is going on in our lives. It is vital that we never forget the many blessings and mercies which are constantly flowing over us from Jesus. He knows us and what we are going through. You can believe that because He lived as One of us.

In the coming year and for the rest of our lives, I would hope we remember that old saying, "Prayer should be our first response and not our last resort". Amen.

Rev. Bob Wilkins



CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council met on December 20, 2023. Members present at the meeting were: Roy Berrey, Kerry Black, Jordan Hinderman, Fritz Hirsbrunner, Brandi Ruf-Wepking, Sheila Siegler, Nancy Slama, Dave Sutherland, Connie Ubersox, and Pastor Bob Wilkins.

The Council approved the November 2023 minutes as presented.

Reports:

Financial report - was approved as presented. The 2024 Budget was discussed and approved to present to the congregation during the Annual Meeting.

Pastor's Report - discussed the Christmas Eve service and Sunday morning service formats. Purchased chair and chair mat for pastor's office and came in under budget.

President's Report –

1. Christmas Gifts – suggested Avon gift certificates this year. Roy Berrey will follow up.
2. OCWM Pledge – in past years we have given \$7500 dollars. The Council approved a pledge of \$7000 for 2024 to this fund. The Council approved sending only what is collected and earmarked for this fund for 2023, and to not take funds from the General Fund to make up any difference in pledge and actual dollar amounts.
3. Annual Meeting Date and Agenda – Sunday, January 28, 2024 for the Annual Meeting. Discussed agenda and additions. Packets will be available for membership 2 weeks before the Annual Meeting.
4. Darlington Chamber – The Council approved becoming a member of the Chamber for 2024. The cost is \$75.
5. UCC Join the Movement for Racial Justice – received a request to join, discussed. The Council did not feel this issue is one to accept at this time.

Christian Education Committee – We are still looking for teachers.

Building and Grounds Committee –

1. Parsonage Fireplace Cleaning – still outstanding. Pastor will follow-up.
2. Lifeline with Lindell Donation – update on purchases. Sanctuary and streaming upgrades are underway.
3. Geissbuhler donation – will be used for bushes out front of the church.

Mission Team – update given.

Stewardship Committee – Christmas ornament gifts will be handed out on Christmas Eve.

EF & G Committee – Christmas cards were sent to mature members.

Pastor-Parish Committee – meeting in January planned.

Woman's Guild – gifting \$500 toward the water softener at parsonage. Will replace and update Christmas decorations in the sanctuary for next year.

Worship Committee –

1. Great SS Christmas Program
2. Christmas Eve

Old Business

Nominations for Council – Pam Hardt will be nominated for the Board, Brandi is going off the board, Pam Hardt is nominated, Dave Sutherland is nominated to renew for another term, Nancy Slama is nominated to renew for another term. Endowment, Marjean Sutherland will need to be voted on for a second term.

New Business

None

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 6:15 p.m.



IN MEMORY OF CHAROLETTE “BERNY” UBERSOX

Our deepest sympathies go out to the family of Charolette “Berny” Ubersox who passed away December 23, 2023. Our hearts and prayers go out to you. We will always remember the happy memories we have in knowing her. Berny will be affectionately remembered and sadly missed by all who knew her. May those memories bring you joy.



THANK YOU

Thank you all for everything. The church was the perfect place to have the visitation, with lots of room for friends, family, and crazy kids.

Thank you for the lantern and making the funeral bulletin. Both are special keepsakes.

We appreciate all of the wonderful food. It seems that everyone brought out their best that day for Mom. The luncheon was very nice and went so smoothly. We can't thank you enough. Mom would have been pleased and proud of a job well done!

Family of Kathryn Geissbuhler



WOMEN'S GUILD

Thank you to all Women's Guild members who made 2023 a very successful year. Our church is so blessed to have such hardworking members, we maybe small in numbers but we are mighty in getting things done.

There will be no guild meeting in January and February. First meeting of 2024 will be March 13th at noon.

Happy New Year to everyone

*Debbie Loken
Women's Guild President*



THANK YOU

The family of Keith Siegenthaler would like to extend their sincere thanks to all at Immanuel United Church of Christ and Rev. Bob Wilkins and his wife, Donna. Your prayers and concerns help us through this difficult time.

Rest in peace, Keith, we love you!

Family of Keith Siegenthaler



RETIREMENT PARTY

You are all invited to Phil Risseuw's Retirement Party on Saturday, January 20th from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at Legends Bar & Grill. No gifts please. The party is hosted by our sons, Ben and Isaac.

Tana Risseuw



THANK YOU!!

I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the following people who volunteered to be a Liturgist this past year. Everyone is always willing to take a Sunday which makes my job very easy.

Dave Sutherland
Brandi Ruf Wepking
Judy Huntington
Jordan Hinderman
Steve Siegler
Fritz Hirsbrunner
Roy Berrey
Madisyn Heim
Deb Loken
Savannah Maurer
Amy Ruegsegger
Donna Wilkins

Marjean Sutherland
Gary Martin
Sheila Siegler
Janice Ruf
Nancy Slama
Marcus Kendall
Pam Hardt
Abigail Reuter
Jared Reuter
Kerry Black
Lizzy Reuter

Thank you all for your willing participation.
Joan Blaser



THANK YOU

Immanuel congregation and the worship committee would like to thank the all the people who decorated the church, helped light the advent candles, and provided special music for the Advent and Christmas seasons. A special thank you to the Sunday school kids for their play on December 17th. The play and special piano music by the children were greatly appreciated by all in attendance. And, we must thank the parents who get their children to Sunday school for practice and help with the play.

Worship Committee



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.



November 2023 Financial Information

	November 2023	Budget	Year to Date 2023	Year to Date Budget
Contributions/Other Revenue	\$ 5,978	\$ 8,689	\$ 84,041	\$ 83,111
Expenses	<u>\$ 6,671</u>	<u>\$ 8,450</u>	<u>\$ 61,727</u>	<u>\$ 80,937</u>
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ (694)	\$ 239	\$ 22,314	\$ 2,174



UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 1 – Happy New Year
Jan. 8 – Deadline for Annual Meeting Report articles
Jan. 14 – Annual Report ready for review
Jan. 17 – Church Council Meeting at 6:15 p.m.
Jan. 22 – Deadline for February newsletter articles
Jan. 28 – Annual Meeting after worship service

2024 Usher/Greeter Schedule

January	
7	Ed & Betsy Wiegel
14	Steve & Sheila Siegler
21	Ashley & Tony Buss Family
28	Randy & Judy Huntington

February	
4	Jordan & Angie Hinderman Family
11	Sara & John Gleason Family
18	Randy & Connie Ubersox
25	Jean Stauffacher Family

March	
3	Gary & Nikki Martin Family
10	Scott & Tara Glendenning Family
17	Roy & Sheila Berrey
24	Danielle & Tyler Duerst Family
31	Steve Fromader & Karl Hirsbrunner

April	
7	Travis & Nicole Lewin Family
14	Nancy Slama & Heidi Rear
21	Roy & Pam Hardt
28	Dustin & Brandi Wepking Family

May	
5	Randy & Connie Ubersox
12	Jared & Ann Reuter Family
19	Phil & Tana Risseeuw
26	Steve & Sheila Siegler

June	
2	Jay & Peggy Lancaster
9	Dave & Marjean Sutherland
16	Kerry & Kate Black
23	Ron & Joan Blaser
30	Jean Stauffacher Family

July	
7	Randy & Deb Loken
14	Ron Ubersox & Amy Ruegsegger
21	Ed & Betsy Wiegel
28	Randy & Judy Huntington

August	
4	Al & Janice Ruf
11	Matt & Stacy Kammes Family
18	Sara & John Gleason Family
25	Roy & Pam Hardt

September	
1	Dave & Marjean Sutherland
8	Gary & Nikki Martin Family
15	Randy & Connie Ubersox
22	Nancy Slama & Heidi Rear
29	Steve Fromader & Karl Hirsbrunner

October	
6	Dustin & Brandi Wepking Family
13	Jordan & Angie Hinderman Family
20	Jared & Ann Reuter Family
27	Phil & Tana Risseeuw

November	
3	Roy & Sheila Berrey
10	Kerry & Kate Black
17	Ron & Joan Blaser
24	Ron Ubersox & Amy Ruegsegger

December	
1	Randy & Deb Loken
8	Travis & Nicole Lewin Family
15	Scott & Tara Glendenning Family
22	Roy & Pam Hardt
24	Dave & Marjean Sutherland
29	Steve & Sheila Siegler

Usher Duties listed on back.

Please ask other members in attendance to help with the Usher duties (if needed) or if you have any questions.

If the date assigned does not work for you, please switch with someone.

Usher Duties

Arrive at least 30 minutes before Service.

Put out the orange cones (located in janitor closet) on the street and the two reserved parking cones. (One before and after the handicapped spots)

Please greet all worship attendees and pass out bulletins. Don't forget to give out the children's bulletins (if available). You may need to assist with valet parking or helping worshippers to their seats.

Light candles 10 minutes before the service if acolytes are not present.

Turn on the sound system in the back of the church (located in cabinet in Closet). The system runs the speakers in back of church, cry room and Fellowship Hall. This should not be turned on until the adult Sunday school class is over.

Help with the handheld microphone for announcements and prayer requests from the congregation.

Count all persons attending and record in the attendance register.

Pass offering plates and come forward during the doxology. Assist in passing the communion elements.

Extinguish candles during the closing hymn if acolytes are not present.

After service – turn off the sound system and bring in the orange cones from the street and parking spots. Make sure all lights are turned off in the sanctuary.

If the date assigned does not work for you, please switch with someone. All member phone numbers and emails can be found at <https://iucc.churchtrac.com>. You just need to create an account to view.

Note to remember: You may be the first one to welcome a visitor. Your smile and friendly greeting might encourage them to come again.

1 Thessalonians 5:12–24 Teaches us how to truly be at peace.

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

ADMONISH	ALWAYS	ANOTHER
APPEAL	BECAUSE	BELOVED
BROTHERS	CHARGE	CHRIST
ENCOURAGE	ESTEEM	EVIL
FAINTHEARTED	GOOD	HELP
HIGHLY	IDLERS	JESUS
LABOR	LORD	LOVE
NONE	PATIENT	PEACE
REJOICE	REPAYS	RESPECT
SEEK	SISTERS	SPIRIT
URGE	VERY	WEAK

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. (Created with LOGOS® Bible Software.)



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2nd Ann Reuter
3rd June Hancock
Elizabeth Reuter
7th Lisa Reilly
8th Rick Ubersox
10th Judy Huntington
12th Harlow Johnson
13th John Gleason
14th Janie Gleason
15th McKenzie Reuter
19th Virginia Douglas
28th Nikki Martin

JANUARY LITURGISTS

7th Fritz Hirsbrunner
14th Donna Wilkins
21st Joan Blaser
28th Judy Huntington



Deadline for the
February
newsletter
articles is
**January 22,
2024.**



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

7th Phil & Tana Risseuw