

Immanuel United Church of Christ

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AUGUST 2025 Newsletter

Interim Pastor Jim Iliff

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PASTOR'S COLUMN
August 2025

*It is right for me to think this way about all of you,
because you hold me in your heart,
for all of you share in God's grace with me,
both in my imprisonment and in
the defense and confirmation of the gospel.
Philippians 1:7*

Paul's Letter to the Philippians is one of my favorites. It's filled with a sense of warmth and love between Paul and the church he founded in Philippi. It is in part a thank you note from Paul to the Philippians for the money they sent to support him while in prison. While there are many moments in this letter that bear witness to that warmth and love, one of my favorites is the above:

*"It is right for me to think this way about all of you,
because you hold me in your heart."*

Although most translations express this verse in the above way, it's also possible to translate it as "because I hold you in my heart." I very much like that both means are possible. It means there's "a whole lot of heart holding" going on!

By the time you read this, I'll be in the midst of a monthly-long European trip. Among the countries we'll be visiting is Switzerland, the ancestral home of many of you. I may even walk the streets where your ancestors walked many years ago! I'm not scheduled to return to Immanuel until September 14.

However, it's possible that July 13 was my last Sunday with you. At the time I wrote this, your search committee appeared to be close to naming a candidate that they would recommend to you as your next called pastor.

If that happens, I'll be glad for you, since that's been the focus of my ministry—to help bridge the gap and prepare you to receive your new pastor. But I'll feel just a bit sad, since I won't be able to be with you anymore. Like Paul, I hold you—and WILL hold you—in my heart. And I know you'll be doing the same for me. As I said a few paragraphs ago, there's been "a whole lot of heart holding" going on!

Whatever the outcome, I know God will continue to richly bless you. I know that God will guide and empower the ministry of Immanuel, whatever form it takes. And I know that the love you've had for me and the love you have for each other will continue to grow.

Thanks be to God for all the blessings that shower down upon us!

See you in church!

Pastor Jim Iliff



CHURCH COUNCIL

The July Council Meeting was held on July 9, 2025

MEMBERS: Phil Risseuw, Pam Hardt, Fritz Hirsbrunner, Sheila Siegler, Dave Sutherland, Connie Ubersox, Pastor Jim Iliff on Zoom. Absent: Kerry Black, Jordan Hinderman, Nancy Slama. Guests: Rick Pleva, Betsy Weigel.

Rich Pleva speaking on the Leadership Project – explanation of the leadership program was discussed. Also discussed the Leadership Forward pledge program wherein we can individually or as a congregation make a pledge for a certain amount of a gift, annually over a certain period of years. The Council approved tabling this matter until next month.

Review and Repair of Agenda – Council approved the agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes – The June minutes were approved as presented.

Reports:

- a. **Financial Report** – The June financial report was approved as presented.
- b. **Pastor Report** - Sunday will be Jim's last Sunday for a while.
- c. **President Report** - thanks for sidewalk work, giving brochure for wills will be added to the August agenda.
- d. **Christian Education Committee** - nothing new at this time, still looking for teachers for fall Sunday School.
- e. **Building & Grounds Committee** - concrete raising and falling in front of fellowship hall is an issue. Tentative \$800-\$1,000 plus enlarging the patio out back by door. Still working on price and contract.
- f. **Mission Team** - nothing new.
- g. **Stewardship Committee** - nothing new. Plans for fall are in the works.
- h. **EF&G Committee** - nothing new.
- i. **Endowment Committee** - nothing new.
- j. **Finance Committee Report** - nothing new.
- k. **Pastor-Parish Committee** - nothing new.
- l. **Search Committee** - Betsy Wiegel gave an update.
- m. **Women's Guild** - met at Country Club for lunch.
- n. **Worship Committee** - nothing new. Update on Pastor's coverage during time off.

2. Old Business

- a. **Church Basement Update** – we will apply for the Catalyst grant. The Council approved the cost of a dumpster for garbage clean-up. Old windows are on the Building and Grounds committee plan, they will address this.
- b. **Master Clock for Ringing the Church Bells** - Phil gave update the system is installed and working great.
- c. **Sunday School start date & Rally Day** – Sunday after Labor Day weekend, September 7th.
- d. **Confirmation Class Update** – discussed moving forward with class plans. Sheila Siegler will teach. We would like another adult to participate. Possibly Judy Huntington is interested.

- e. **Janitor Position Update** – Three possible candidates. The Council approved paying a janitor \$20 per hour, 3 hrs. maximum, unless extenuation circumstances and prior approval by supervisor is given, monthly hours must be reported to supervisor via time sheet, supervisor will approve time sheet and pay will be issued end of each month. Dave, Deb and Connie will be the supervisory committee. The Council approved the job description as submitted.

3. New Business –

- a. **Ladies Guild donation** for Kerrville TX disaster, \$500. Will ask the Mission Team if they would also like to make a donation at the same time. The Council approved a two weeks special offering to be taken and sent to help those in Kerrville, Tx.

The next Council meeting will be August 13, 2025 at 6:15 p.m.

PARTY FOR DONNA WILKINS

FYI to Immanuel Church Family

This coming Sunday, July 27th will Donna Wilkins last day with our congregation.



There will be a get together after church in the fellowship hall with cake and ice cream to celebrate Donna's time with us and to wish her well in her future endeavors. Donna has been a wonderful addition to our church family and will be missed greatly by all of us.

Please join us on Sunday to say goodbye to Donna and wish her well.



80+ BIRTHDAY PARTY

Just a reminder that the 80+ Birthday Party will be on August 13 at noon. Everyone 80 and older will be getting an invite in the mail to be our special guests. It will start with a luncheon followed by a short program. This year we are very lucky to have Linda Colbeck and Janette Steger to talk to us about their family trip to Switzerland this past year. Also, EVERYONE is welcome to attend

the luncheon and listen to the program. The E F and G committee is busy making final plans for the day. Hope to see you all at the party.

E F and G Committee



DONATIONS FOR KERRVILLE, TEXAS

Immanuel is collecting donations for the Kerrville, Texas flood relief. If you would like to make a donation for the people of Kerrville, please make the donation payable to Texas Flood Relief. Please mail the donation to Texas Flood Relief, Immanuel United Church of Christ, P.O. Box 87, Darlington, WI 53530. Thank you for your kindness!



Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel United Church of Christ,

As members of the Search Committee, we want to express our gratitude for the trust you have placed in us. This past week we concluded our prayer-filled process of reviewing profiles and interviewing candidates, ultimately reaching a unanimous decision. We are pleased to recommend to you our final candidate for the position of full-time Pastor, to be considered by the congregation at a special meeting on Sunday, August 3rd, following the 9 a.m. worship.

Our candidate is Reverend Dana Caldwell and below is a brief introductory note from her. You will have an opportunity to meet Pastor Dana on Saturday, August 2nd from 4-6 p.m. during an informal meet and greet session where sandwiches and light refreshments will be served, and in worship on Sunday the 3rd when Pastor Dana will lead worship and preach.

A congregational meeting following worship will offer each member an opportunity to ask questions of the Search Committee and to vote on the call to our new pastor.

We have been very blessed by and are thankful for the excellent interim leadership of Pastor Jim Iliff during the last several months.

Please try to stop by Fellowship Hall on Saturday, August 2nd from 4-6 p.m., and to attend church on Sunday, August 3rd, at 9 a.m. to hear more from the Search Committee as we present our candidate to you. We are blessed with a wonderful church community.

In Christ's name,

The Search Committee

A note from Pastor Dana –

Hello Everyone!

My name is Dana Caldwell, you can call me Dana, Pastor Dana, or Pastor whatever you are comfortable with. Beginning at the beginning, I grew up in central Illinois, in a small town--much smaller than Darlington. As I left College I spent time in Chicagoland, living and working in the suburbs before moving to Raleigh, North Carolina in the late 90's.

I lived in Raleigh working in the Mortgage Industry until I felt called to full-time ministry as a Pastor. I attended Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, NC. Graduating in 2017. Keeping a longer story short I took a detour through Chaplaincy prior to graduation and ended up being a Chaplain for over 6 years, including during Covid. By then I had completed 6 units of Clinical Pastoral Education and moved to Fond du Lac, WI by way of Fredericksburg Va (a story or two for another time). That brings us to my first pastorate in Amery, WI. I was there for 3.5 years.

Now here I am joining you on your adventure with God as individuals and as a congregation. My family consists of my little 20 lb. dog Poppy who I rescued in January of this year. She has a lot of anxiety about being left alone and she LOVES people of all sizes and ages- unless you

are on a bike. I hope to get to know every one of you and that we can share our stories with each other. I look forward to initially meeting you either Saturday the 2nd at the meet and greet or on Sunday the 3rd.

I love that the church's name is Immanuel -meaning "God with us" I truly trust that God is with me, working in and through me in relationship with all of you to provide ministry to each other and others that we encounter.

Hope this thumbnail sketch of who I am interests you and that we can get together soon one on one to have a chat. Until then –

Love, Peace and Joy in the Name of Christ,

Dana.

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship services for August 2025 will feature a wide variety of leaders. August 3 service will be led by our pastoral candidate, Dana Caldwell. Pastor Larry Balleine will lead us for the last time this summer on August 10. After a very successful mission trip to Biloxi this summer, the Mission Team will lead the service on August 17 and fill us in on all the wonderful details. August 24 service will be led by a supply pastor. And finally, the August 31 service will be led by Sheila and Steve Siegler, with an assist by Rosie Reuter. With 5 inspiring services planned for August, we encourage everyone to attend and see God's majesty in worship."

Roy Berrey, Worship Committee.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

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

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. 14 so mark your calendars.



THANK YOU!

We would like to thank Immanuel for paying for Bible Camp at First Baptist Church. Our kids Brody and Brooks, Tucker and Ryker, and Oakley and Remie loved going again this year and look forward to next year.

Thank you so much!

The Lewin, Duerst and Hinderman Families

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Immanuel is looking to have a confirmation class this fall. Children in grades 6, 7 and 8 this coming school year are eligible to attend confirmation classes. Please contact the church if your child will be attending confirmation at 608-776-4110 by August 24, 2025, or please answer the email that was sent out on July 2, 2025 to confirmation parents. Thank you!



June 2025 Financial Information

	June	Budget	Year to Date 2025	Year to Date Budget
Contributions/Other Revenue	\$ 7,759	\$ 7,011	\$ 54,633	\$ 42,769
Expenses*	<u>\$ 46,332</u>	<u>\$ 4,244</u>	<u>\$ 188,049</u>	<u>\$ 38,091</u>
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$(38,573)	\$ 2,767	\$(133,416)	\$ 4,678

- He 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
-



PASTORAL CARE

If you know of any church member that would appreciate a pastoral visit, please let Janice Ruf know, and she will follow up with the contact. You can contact Janice at 608-553-4182.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug. 2 – Meet & Greet for Pastoral Candidate Rev Dana Caldwell from 4 pm to 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Aug. 3 – Rev. Dana Caldwell leading worship. Congregational Meeting after worship to vote on Rev. Caldwell become our new pastor.

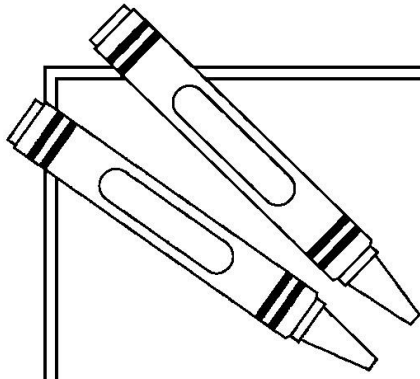
August 13 – 80+ Birthday Party at noon.

Church Council Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

August 25 – **Deadline for September newsletter articles**

September 14 – Rally Day Sunday for Sunday School. Sunday School will start at 9:00 a.m. Worship services will start at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School kids will sing during worship.





Just for **KIDS**

What Am I?

We work on gaining this all our lives. It's especially important when we're in school! Use a Bible (NIV) to look up the verses listed below. Find a word in each verse that fits in the boxes. The heavy boxes spell the answer.

1 Corinthians 8:1		N						
Philippians 1:9							H	
2 Peter 1:5								S
			A				2 Timothy 3:7	
Matthew 24:32					S			
John 7:15				R				
						I		Isaiah 33:6
2 Peter 3:18						E		
		W					Proverbs 24:5	

"By wisdom a house is built, ... through _____
its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2nd Danielle Duerst
 11th Sandi Reichling
 15th Marcus Kendall
 17th Brandon Hardt
 Jay Lancaster
 18th Jenny Jenson
 20th Peggy Moest-Lancaster
 22nd Jared Reuter
 26th LuAnn Monson



AUGUST LITURGISTS

3rd Debbie Loken
 10th Sheila Siegler
 17th Janice Ruf
 24th Nancy Slama
 31st Jaci Kammes



Deadline for
 the September
 newsletter
 articles is
**August 25,
 2025.**

AUGUST COFFEE HOUR

3rd Debbie Loken
 10th Sheila & Steve Siegler
 17th Betsy Ellefson
 24th Connie Ubersox
 31st **No coffee hour**



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

4th Matt & Jolene Ubersox
 6th Tom & Betsy Ellefson
 12th Bernie & Nancy Ruf
 14th Bruce & Jenny Jenson
 17th Steve & Sheila Siegler
 21st Eric & Dana Stauffacher
 22nd Don & Janis Ruf
 23rd Wayne & Joanne Krebs
 27th Ed & Betsy Wiegel
 28th Kerry & Kate Black



AUGUST USHERS/ GREETERS

3rd Al & Janice Ruf
 10th Matt & Stacy Kammes Family
 17th Sara & John Gleason Family
 24th Roy & Pam Hardt
 31st Steve Fromader & Karl Hirsbrunner