

OFFICE PH. 636-745-3864

December 2014

Usher

Guestbook/Usher

Dec 24 Meditation: "Mystery & Wonder"

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14.

Luke 2:1-14, 15-20

Reader/Greeter/Usher

Usher

Usher

Guestbook/Usher

Dec 28 Sermon: "Answered Prayer"

Scriptures: Luke 2:22-40

Chad Thompson

Greeter/Usher

Elisabeth Thompson

Reader/Usher

Marvin Schubert

Usher

Reader/Greeter/Usher

Lavelle Requat

Guestbook/Usher

Usher

Pastor Higgins plans to be at church every Wednesday and then at other times according to the church schedule. If someone enters the hospital or there is an emergency, please notify him as soon as possible. Contact information listed above.



FROM THE PASTOR:

The Christmas Carol, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," has a verse that begins "How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given." I love this sentiment. One can just picture the stable, the holy family, the animals and the "good" smell of hay; the world going on doing its usual tasks. Amidst this picture God intervenes in human history and Jesus is born!

It should remind us that God often works this way. While the world rushes on, God does act. We are often so busy and so preoccupied with our own lives that we may miss His coming. Thank goodness we can look back and through faith see God has had a hand in our lives and in the workings of the world.

It brings peace and comfort when we realize God has been active in the world even when we are distracted by other things. Such is the story of Christmas. While the world rushes on, God is saving the world!

We need to take the time to look at events in our lives and in our communities and see where God is leading and acting.

In the midst of turmoil and confusion we may be unable to see the hand of God. Our tears may blind our vision. Our thoughts may twist our ability to be rational. Our prayer needs to be that God will show us His plan and open hearts to see His coming.

"How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given."

Peace, Pastor Tom

Remember we are having a candle lighting service of worship on Christmas Eve at 9:00 p.m. with Holy Communion!

We are trying to have a choral group sing in church once each month. If you are interested in joining us, we are practicing at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings. Currently, we have started on a couple of numbers to perform on Sunday, Dec. 21 and possibly Christmas Eve. Please join us, both men & women are needed.

Stewardship moment – December 2014

This article written by Joel Osteen tells it like it is for giving during this holiday season.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16, NIV)

Love Gives

Have you ever thought about how love affects giving? Someone once said, "You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving." Love prompts us to give of ourselves, our time, abilities and resources. The Bible tells us that God is love, and the world will know that we are His followers by the love we show. Giving is what shows our love!

We are entering into a time of the year that the world knows as the season of giving, but let's remember to take time to focus on the greatest gift of all, the gift of eternal, abundant life through Jesus. If you've never received this gift, open your heart and pray this simple prayer: "Lord Jesus, I come to You today, giving You all that I am. I repent of my sins and confess that I need You. I believe You died and rose for me. Be my Lord and Savior and make me new today. I receive Your love and Your gift of eternal life." Then, go out and share the gift of love with someone else because it's the gift that will last in eternity!

Joel & Victoria Osteen

An Invitation,

The Missouri Choral Society is having a concert on Dec. 7 at 2:30 pm at the First United Methodist Church in St. Charles, 801 First Capitol Drive. The Church is north on Capitol Drive. Take the exit for 94 off of I-70 and turn left. Stay on Capitol Drive until you come to the church. Pastor Tom has been singing in the group for 2 years. The Concert this year features Pachelbel's Magnificat and Advent and Christmas Music

Sponsor a Bulletin

If you would like to sponsor a bulletin, please fill out the info to the right & drop it in the offering plate (council member will see that it gets put on desk in office), tape to office door or put in my mail slot in quilter's room (located on top shelf of bookcase—marked "Margaret Viehmann") Please be sure to include your donation for sponsoring a bulletin. \$15.00 has been suggested for sponsoring.

Margaret Viehmann 636-327-6081 or email:

mviehmann@hotmail.com

-----Tear Here-----

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR PHONE #:(if any questions) _____

IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY OF:

DATE of BULLETIN SPONSORED:

REASON of SPONSORSHIP: (example anniversary, birthday, just because)

August Council Mtg Sun. Aug. 6, 2014

Chairman James Windmann called the meeting to order and led with an opening prayer. In attendance: Bud, Beverley, Lavelle, Mary Sue, Terry, Lee & James.

Secretary Report: Bud motion to accept as presented. Seconded by Lee. Motion carried

Financial Secretary: Beverley motion to accept as presented. Seconded by Lee. Motion carried.

General Treasurer: Lee motion to accept as presented. Seconded by Mary Sue. Motion carried.

Building & Grounds: Insurance check for clothing building repair received & money will be sent out to pay the bill.

Christian Workers: July attendance 168 for an average of 42.

Evangelism & Stewardship: Rev. Higgins agreed to the terms of the call agreement.

Memorial: Nothing to report.

Pastoral Relations: Asked Karen Cox to help out on the committee.

Christian Board of Ed: VBS was very well attended with an average of 16 kids.

Youth: Working on stepping stones for the rock garden. Going swimming after church on Aug. 10.

Women's Fellowship: met today

Evening Circle: Meeting on Aug 17

Men's Club: nothing to report

Old Business: Getting a check from the insurance company for the less depreciation amount of \$3,136.00 from the Fellowship Hall repair from 2012. This should settle us up.

New Business: Lavelle made a motion to allow Bud to use the motorized scooter. Lee seconded. Motion carried.

Next Meeting September 14th.

With there being no more business. To discuss, Beverley motioned to adjourn. Mary Sue seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Congregational Meeting Sun. Aug. 24, 2014

Beverley called the meeting to order.

The only item on the agenda was the hiring of Rev. Thomas Higgins. There were 36 voting members present.

There was some discussion regarding his call agreement regarding travel time & mileage. Once that was clarified, Karen Cox motion to elect Rev. Higgins as our new part time pastor. David Cox seconded. All voting members were Aye votes. No Nay votes. Whitney Cox motioned to adjourn. David Cox seconded. Motion carried.

Council Meeting Sun. Sept. 14, 2014

Chairman James Windmann called the meeting to order & led with an opening prayer. In attendance: Lavelle, Beverley, Chad, Terry, Mary Sue, Jackie, James & Rev. Higgins.

Secretary Report: unavailable

Financial Secretary: Beverley motion to accept. Seconded by Mary Sue. Motion carried.

General Treasurer: Jackie motion to accept. Seconded by Chad. Motion carried.

Rev. Higgins would like us to think about Christmas Eve service. We told him that was fine. Discussed Baptism Certificates and he and Margaret can arrange those.

Building & Grounds: Need some work on the women's bathroom in fellowship hall basement. Need to check manhole covers for underflow to make sure they are not clogged and to keep from flooding church basement again. Firefighters would like to use the facility for training classes the week of October 6th. Terry & Beverley agreed to take care of opening the facility for their use.

Christian Workers: August attendance 240 with an average of 48.

Evangelism & Stewardship: back to school program going good. September 28th is a carry in dinner. 2nd Chance Choir will be here October 26th and we are to wear red for reformation Sunday. Friendship day will be November 16th. Bring a friend. Veterans Service on November 9th.

Memorial: Need to think about setting up an endowment fund. Only borrow against must be paid back. Will look into setting that up.

Christian Board of Ed: September 21st 9:30 am

Women's Fellowship: September 23rd is the Quilts of Valor at the Lions Club.

Evening Circle: Will be doing a short program at the carry in dinner.

Old Business: Parking Lot bill to Liberty Christian. After some discussion, Beverley made a motion to bill Liberty Christian \$750.00 for a year's use of the parking lot. Lavelle seconded. Motion carried.

New Business: Beverley to look into getting some internet service for Rev. Higgins to use here at the church.

Next meeting October 12th

With there being no more business to discuss, Beverley made a motion to adjourn. Chad seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Council Meeting Sun. Oct. 12, 2014

President James Windmann called the meeting to order & led with an opening prayer. In attendance: Beverley, Jackie, Lee, Lavelle, James, Mary Sue, Bud & Rev. Higgins.

Secretary Report: August minutes motion by Bud & seconded by Lee. Motion carried. Sept. minutes motion by Jackie & seconded by Mary Sue. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary: Motion by Lee & seconded by Mary Sue. Motion carried.

General Treasurer: Motion by Beverley & seconded by Lee. Motion carried.

Building & Grounds: Project list made up. Put a list of 5 in the newsletter for anyone who would like to volunteer to help with those.

Christian Workers: 200 for September for an average of 50.

Evangelism & Stewardship: Nov 9th Veteran's Service, Nov. 16th Friendship Day, Nov 23rd ingathering & stewardship Sunday. Nov 30th first Sunday of Advent. Decided to have Christmas Eve service at 9:00 pm.

Memorial: Working on an endowment fund & how they work.

Pastoral Relations: going good

Christian Board of Ed: Christmas program Dec. 14th.



October Council Mtg Minutes cont.

Women's Fellowship: no November meeting. They are meeting every other month.

Evening Circle: meeting on September 26th to work on book binding.

Pastor's Report: 8 hours in meetings, member contact, home & hospital visits 16 hours.

With there being no more business to discuss, Beverley motioned to adjourn & closed with the Lord's Prayer.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT OCTOBER 2014

GENERAL Fund			
Offering		\$4319.00	
Building use church & F.H.		275.00	
Donation-Member		58.00	
Bulletin sponsors		60.00	
AA Serenity Group July-Dec.		150.00	
Check from Insurance Board (old claim on F.H. roof)		3151.93	
			\$8009.93
BENEVOLENT FUND			
Offering	\$	55.00	
For Food Pantry		5.00	
Neighbors in Need		233.00	
			\$ 293.00
BUILDING FUND			
Offering	\$	30.00	
			\$ 30.00
PARKING LOT Fund			
Liberty Christian School	\$	750.00	
			\$ 750.00
			<hr/>
			\$9082.93

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE JESUS CAME

Twass the night before Jesus came and all through
the house,
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care,
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

Their children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And mom in her rocker with baby on her lap,
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray,
I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY.

The light of his face made me cover my head,
It was Jesus returning just like he said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which he held in his hand,
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as he searched for my name,
When he said, "It's not here," my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love,
He gathered to take to his Father above.
With those who were ready he rose without a sound,
While all of the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late,
I waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight,
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear,
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call,
We'll find that the Bible was true after all.



Immanuel United Church of Christ – October 2014

Beginning Balance					\$12,341.36
GENERAL FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$(10,585.44)
11167	Eastern Association	Dinner at meeting	\$-	\$10.00	\$(10,595.44)
11176	Brian Walsh	Lawn service 7/31 thru 9/18	\$-	\$720.00	\$(11,315.44)
10/3/2014	Deposit	Offering	\$681.00	\$-	\$(10,634.44)
11177	On The Go Inc.	Trash service - Oct	\$-	\$38.50	\$(10,672.94)
10/6/2014	Deposit	Offering	\$1,568.00	\$-	\$(9,104.94)
10/6/2014	Interest earned	Immanuel CD	\$37.81	\$-	\$(9,067.13)
ACH 10/3	Ameren	Utilities	\$-	\$154.00	\$(9,221.13)
ACH 10/3	Ameren	Utilities	\$-	\$381.00	\$(9,602.13)
ACH 10/3	Ameren	Utilities	\$-	\$153.00	\$(9,755.13)
10/7/2014	Deposit	Insurance settlement	\$3,151.93	\$-	\$(6,603.20)
ACH 10/10	Wright City	Water bill	\$-	\$19.00	\$(6,622.20)
10/15/2014	Deposit	Offering	\$1,106.00	\$-	\$(5,516.20)
11178	Thomas Higgins	1/2 of Oct salary	\$-	\$750.00	\$(6,266.20)
10/21/2014	Deposit	Offering	\$932.00	\$-	\$(5,334.20)
10/21/2014	Debit Card debit	Office Max	\$-	\$9.99	\$(5,344.19)
11180	Creative Communications	supplies for Advent	\$-	\$151.51	\$(5,495.70)
11181	Thomas Higgins	Mileage - Sept	\$-	\$340.48	\$(5,836.18)
11179	Thomas Higgins	1/2 of Oct salary	\$-	\$750.00	\$(6,586.18)
11182	J&S Janitorial Service	Oct Cleaning	\$-	\$276.00	\$(6,862.18)
10/29/2014	Deposit	Offering	\$1,252.00	\$-	\$(5,610.18)
11183	On The Go Inc.	Trash service - Nov	\$-	\$38.50	\$(5,648.68)
10/31/2014	Interest earned	accrued earning payment	\$0.71	\$-	\$(5,647.97)
			\$-	\$-	\$(5,647.97)
			\$-	\$-	\$(5,647.97)
General Fund Totals for Oct 30, 2014:			\$8,729.45	\$3,791.98	\$(5,647.97)

PROTECT OUR CHURCH FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$10,841.25
			\$-	\$-	\$10,841.25
			\$-	\$-	\$10,841.25
Protect Our Church Fund Totals for Oct 30, 2014:			\$-	\$-	\$10,841.25

BENEVOLENT FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$271.00
10/3/2014	Deposit	Food Pantry	\$5.00	\$-	\$276.00
10/6/2014	Deposit	Neighbors In Need	\$213.00	\$-	\$489.00
10/15/2014	Deposit	Offering	\$55.00	\$-	\$544.00
10/21/2014	Deposit	Neighbors In Need	\$20.00	\$-	\$564.00
10/28/2014	Deposit	Food Pantry	\$5.00	\$-	\$569.00
			\$-	\$-	\$569.00
			\$-	\$-	\$569.00
			\$-	\$-	\$569.00
			\$-	\$-	\$569.00
Benevolent Fund Totals for Oct 30, 2014:			\$298.00	\$-	\$569.00

BUILDING FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$1,506.10
10/15/2014	Deposit	Offering	\$30.00	\$-	\$1,536.10
			\$-	\$-	\$1,536.10
			\$-	\$-	\$1,536.10
Building Fund Totals Oct 30, 2014:			\$30.00	\$-	\$1,536.10

MEMORIAL FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$5,285.00
			\$-	\$-	\$5,285.00
			\$-	\$-	\$5,285.00
Memorial Fund Totals for Oct 30, 2014:			\$-	\$-	\$5,285.00

INDIAN CAMP CEMETERY FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	\$-	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$5,817.49
10/10/2014	Interest earned	Indian Camp CD	\$1.36	\$-	\$5,818.85
			\$-	\$-	\$5,818.85
			\$-	\$-	\$5,818.85
Indian Camp Cemetery Fund Totals for Oct 30, 2014:			\$1.36	\$-	\$5,818.85

SCHOLARSHIP FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$401.85
			\$-	\$-	\$401.85
			\$-	\$-	\$401.85
Scholarship Fund Totals for Oct 30, 2014:			\$-	\$-	\$401.85

PARKING LOT FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$1,214.67
\$1.67	From Liberty Christian	for use of lot	\$750.00	\$-	\$1,964.67
Parking Lot Fund Totals for Oct 30, 2014:			\$750.00	\$-	\$1,964.67

MUSIC FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$505.05
			\$-	\$-	\$505.05
Music Fund Totals for Oct 30, 2014:			\$-	\$-	\$505.05

SUPER NOW CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTALS:			\$9,808.81	\$3,791.98	\$18,358.19
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- ***Just a few notes.....***

- Sunday, November 30 — First Sunday of Advent - 5th Sunday Hymn Sing
- Friday, December 12 — Concert Arts Association will be performing "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and other Seasonal selections at Immanuel UCC
- Sunday, December 14 — CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DURING CHURCH
- Tuesday, December 16 — Newsletter items due
- Wednesday, December 24 — ***Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service at 9:00 pm***
- Thursday, December 25 — ***"MERRY CHRISTMAS"***
- Thursday, January 1 — ***"HAPPY 2015"***
- Sunday, January 18 — Annual Congregational meeting after church. The council will be hosting a chili contest and game day. Watch the December newsletter for more details.

Prayer List

Please keep all of our members in your prayers, especially the ones who are not able to attend services or those who are facing health issues. Alice Windmann is in charge of Immanuel's Care Committee. She sends notes or makes calls to members when she knows they are in hospital or having health concerns. Pastor Tom will be glad to make visits to anyone but will need your help to know who would appreciate a visit or call. Contact Pastor Tom at 314-650-4795.

Also, members in need of prayers for any reason are listed in our weekly bulletins. Contact Margaret Viehmann to have names added to bulletin.

*****A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

RELATIONS COMMITTEE***

We are starting to see growth in our attendance and hearing very positive feedback from members and visitors. Everyone is encouraged to relay joys or concerns to our committee so that they may be shared with Rev. Higgins or the council as needed. Please feel free to pass along thoughts and ideas to committee members Bud Nissen, Marvin Schubert, Karen Cox or Kathy Hintz.

We are on the WEB

Look for us at "iucc.weebly.com"

Please pass on this website to others who may not receive a newsletter, all of the past several months of newsletters & other information is posted.

Don't forget Our Church is on FACEBOOK

Go to: **Facebook.com**

Search for Immanuel United Church of Christ

There is already some information on it for you and you can see the friends who have signed on. It also provides links to the UCC website and more. Become a fan and leave your own message on the wall.

Elisabeth Thompson, Debbie Meyer, Whitney Cox, Jackie Nierman & Beverley Willoughby are the administrators of this sight. You can send info to these people to put on our page.

"Bad Weather Alert"

Members please keep in mind for the upcoming winter months that if the weather is severe there is the possibility of church being cancelled. If the weather gets rough where it isn't safe for people to be out, church cancellation will be turned in to our local radio station, KWRE and to News Channel 5. Council members will try to call members, but it is possible someone may get missed on calls so please do not rely solely on call and listen to the radio or check the TV.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

In keeping with our new tradition of having families or groups lighting the advent candles, here is this years list.

Nov 30 1st Candle, "Peace of Christ" Kolton Martin & Anthony Freund

Dec 7 2nd Candle, "Pardon of Christ" Cheryl Esslinger & family

Dec 14 3rd Candle, "Presence of Christ" Aaron & Aimee Wilber & family

Dec 21 4th Candle, "Power of Christ" (Yet to fill)

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY

ANNIVERSARY

Dennis & Debbie Meyer 3
Bill & Pat Brockmeyer 10
Richard & Margaret Ramey
13
George & Linda Jaeger
Tony & Jane Blanton 22
Ann & Melvin Meyer 22
Brenda & Roger Wilkins 24
Terri & Richard Baker 27

Bill & Mary Mikus 27

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Emmet Brakensiek 1
Angus Maloney 2
Jesse Hollenbeck 2
David Vohsen 3
Jack Jaspering 3
Karen Cox 3
Sherry Hollenbeck 3
Richard Maloney 7
Jason Case 9

Kenneth Niemann 13

Jacob Boyd 14

Robert "Cole" Bote 14

Taylor Windmann 17

Kody Martin 18

Marilyn Benson 18

Lori Murry 19

Rebecca Schriener 19

Jack Groeper 25

Robert Borgers 25

Patricia Krueger 26

Sadie & Sofie Case 26

Whitney Schmitt 27

William Niemann 27

Philip Viehmann 28

Phyllis Gentry 28

Treesa Reckamp 28

William Creech 28

Raymond James Requat 29

Jerry Johnson 31

Ronald Pauk 31

Marilyn Benson has moved, her new address is:

c/o Linda Gebhardt

34240 Highway T

Salisbury, MO 65281



MERRY CHRISTMAS



TO ALL



TO ALL



HAPPY

NEW YEAR

