

Immanuel United Church of Christ
141 N. Service Rd. West
Wright City, MO 63390



IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OFFICE PH. 636-745-3864

Pastor Tom Higgins Ph. 314-650-4795, email: higgins-thomas@att.net

JANUARY 2016

Jan 3 Sermon: "For Our Sake"		Betty Zuhone	Reader/Usher
Scriptures: Ephesians 1:3-14, Matthew 2:1-12		Amy Meyer	Usher
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION		Terry Leap	Guestbook/Usher
Chad Thompson	Greeter/Usher	Jan 24 Sermon: "All Are Needed"	
Aaron Wilber	Usher	Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Luke 4:14-21	
Darrell Engelage	Usher	Terry Leap	Greeter/Usher
Judy Engelage	Guestbook/Usher	Mildred Groeper	Reader
Jan 10 Sermon: "Anointed by God"		Lee Fast	Usher
Scripture: Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22		Wendell Meyer	Usher
Beverley Willoughby	Greeter/Usher	Lois Meyer	Guestbook/Usher
Richard Ramey	Reader/Usher	Jan 31 Sermon: "Love Never Ends!"	
Margaret Ramey	Usher	Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30	
Lee Fast	Guestbook/Usher	Jackie Nierman	Reader/Greeter/Usher
Jan 17 Sermon: "Gifts for Ministry"		Roger Nierman	Usher
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11		Marvin Schubert	Usher
Mary Sue Sitton	Greeter/Usher	Lavelle Requat	Guestbook/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.

Immanuel United Church of Christ – November 2015

\$27,146.96

GENERAL FUND		427,143.00
--------------	--	------------

[illegible]

\$5,848.08

\$5,512.80

\$3,526.21

PROTECT OUR CHURCH FUND

ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$10,841.25
			\$-	\$-	\$10,841.25
			\$-	\$-	\$10,841.25

\$-

\$-

\$10,841.25

BENEVOLENT FUND	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	
32	
33	
34	
35	
36	
37	
38	
39	
40	
41	
42	
43	
44	
45	
46	
47	
48	
49	
50	
51	
52	
53	
54	
55	
56	
57	
58	
59	
60	
61	
62	
63	
64	
65	
66	
67	
68	
69	
70	
71	
72	
73	
74	
75	
76	
77	
78	
79	
80	
81	
82	
83	
84	
85	
86	
87	
88	
89	
90	
91	
92	
93	
94	
95	
96	
97	
98	
99	
100	

ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$830.00
11/2/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$10.00	\$-	\$840.00
11297	Mo Mid-South Conference	Donations	\$-	\$780.00	\$60.00
11296	Agape Food Pantry	Donations	\$-	\$50.00	\$10.00
11/9/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$55.00	\$-	\$65.00
11/17/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$30.00	\$-	\$95.00
11/24/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$20.00	\$-	\$115.00
11/24/2015	Deposit	Agape Food Pantry	\$70.00	\$-	\$185.00
11/30/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$5.00	\$-	\$190.00
11/30/2015	Deposit	Christmas Fund	\$15.00	\$-	\$205.00

\$205.00

\$830.00

\$205.00

BUILDING FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$1,651.00
11/2/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$10.00	\$-	\$1,661.00
11/9/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$30.00	\$-	\$1,691.00
11/17/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$50.00	\$-	\$1,741.00
11/24/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$20.00	\$-	\$1,761.00
11/30/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$35.00	\$-	\$1,796.00
Building Fund Totals Nov 30, 2015:			\$145.00	\$-	\$1,796.00

MEMORIAL FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$6,945.00
			\$-	\$-	\$6,945.00
			\$-	\$-	\$6,945.00
Memorial Fund Totals for Nov 30, 2015:			\$-	\$-	\$6,945.00

INDIAN CAMP CEMETERY FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	\$-	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$5,843.62
			\$-	\$-	\$5,843.62
			\$-	\$-	\$5,843.62
			\$-	\$-	\$5,843.62
Indian Camp Cemetery Fund Totals for Nov 30, 2015:			\$-	\$-	\$5,843.62

SCHOLARSHIP FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$401.85
			\$-	\$-	\$401.85
			\$-	\$-	\$401.85
Scholarship Fund Totals for Nov 30, 2015:			\$-	\$-	\$401.85

PARKING LOT FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$(94.86)
11/24/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$100.00	\$-	\$5.14
Parking Lot Fund Totals for Nov 30, 2015:			\$100.00	\$-	\$5.14

MUSIC FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$505.05
			\$-	\$-	\$505.05
Music Fund Totals for Nov 30, 2015:			\$-	\$-	\$505.05

SUPER NOW CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTALS:			\$6,298.08	\$6,342.80	\$27,102.24
------------------------------------	--	--	------------	------------	-------------

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2015

GENERAL FUND

Offering	\$5334.58	
Donation--Member	500.00	
		\$5834.58

BENEVOLENT FUND

Offering	\$ 120.00	
Christmas Fund(retired Pastors)	15.00	
Agape Food Pantry	70.00	
		\$ 205.00

BUILDING FUND

Offering	\$ 145.00	
		\$ 145.00

PARKING LOT FUND

Donation--Member	\$ 100.00	
		\$ 100.00
		<hr/> \$6284.58

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Immanuel Women's Fellowship met Wednesday, December 2nd, 1:30 pm with ten members present. Mildred Groeper presented the program titled, "It's Christmas, Celebrate."

President, Mildred Groeper, called the meeting to order. October minutes read and accepted. Mildred thanked all who brought food and served Jeremy Ebert's funeral lunch. Share Christmas toy distribution will be from Agape, Warrenton location.

Mary Ackmann and Margaret Ramey will prepare Christmas trays for Shut-ins. Inez Trump and Lillie Schroer will work clothing sale, Saturday, December 12th.

Next meeting, February 3rd. Inez will have the program. Lila Brandes and Loretta will be hostesses. Mildred had a reading "Gratitude".

Meeting closed with all praying the table prayer. Loretta Buescher, secretary



FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Friends:

On November 22 when I was installed as pastor, I mentioned that I wanted to know the direction you would each like for Immanuel to grow.

I am asking Debbie Meyer to include a blank page for each of you to indicate how you would like to see our

ministry change: such as music, Christian education, youth work, etc. Please indicate how many people are responding on your page, such as wife, husband, youth, or child. You can mention any thing that you would like to see happen. You do not have to sign the page, although that might be helpful. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 314-650-4795. In Christian Love, Pastor Tom

Council Meeting – November 8, 2015

Beverley called the meeting to order with Rev. Higgins leading us in prayer.

In attendance: Beverley Willoughby, Darrell Schmidt, Lee Fast, Lavelle Requat, Jackie Niernan, Bud Nissen, Mary Sue Sitton, Chad Thompson, Terry Leap and Rev. Higgins.

Secretary's Report: Lee made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Lavelle seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report: Darrell made the motion to approve the report as presented. Mary Sue seconded. Motion carried.

General Treasurer's Report: Lee made the motion to approve the report as presented. Lavelle seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Nov. 10 is the Pastor's Eastern Association meeting in St Charles. Nov. 14 is the conference meeting in Columbia to vote on a new conference minister. Rev Higgins will be installed November 22nd.

Building & Grounds: Changed light bulbs, smoke detector and put reflectors for the speed bump and the flower bed. The three trees will be removed and the stumps ground up.

Christian Workers: October attendance was 254 with an average of 64.

Evangelism and Stewardship: Nov. 22 is ingathering and Rev. Higgins will be installed. Nov. 29 will be friendship day and the church council will sponsor a soup and sandwich lunch after the service.

We will have a chili cook off again after the annual meeting Jan. 17, 2016.

Memorial: Should have a meeting after Church Dec. 06.

Pastoral Relations: All is good.

Christian Board: Dec. 20 is the Christmas Program. Pizza

for the kids going caroling.

Women's Fellowship: Working on shut-in gifts.

Evening Circle: Putting the Christmas tree up Nov. 22 and taking it down Jan 03

New Business: Large refrigerator in fellowship hall not working. Bev has someone coming to look at it.

Old Business: Lavelle made a motion to present the Kemco Aluminum, Inc. bid to the congregation at the Nov. 22 congregational meeting. Darrell seconded. We will have a short meeting Nov. 15 before church to discuss this bid further.

With no further business to discuss Darrell made the motion to adjourn and Lee seconded. Everyone joined hands to say the Lords Prayer.

Special Council Meeting – November 15, 2015

Beverley called the meeting to order.

In attendance: Beverley Willoughby, Lee Fast, Lavelle Requat, Bud Nissen, Terri Leap, Mary Sue Sitton, Rev. Higgins and Jackie Niernan.

Jackie made a motion to move the money from Edward Jones when the roof was finished and the balance due. Lee seconded

A \$50,000.00 certificate of deposit maturing 12-02-15 at First State Community Bank should be moved to American Bank where the interest rate is better.

We might move a certificate of deposit maturing 12-16-15 at FMB Bank to American Bank to make more interest.

No further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

- ***Just a few notes.....DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER JANUARY 18***
- Sunday, January 17, 2016 is the Annual Meeting
- Therefore the **"DEADLINE"** for all annual reports is **Sunday, January 10th**. If you want to e-mail your report to me, you can send it to mviehmänn@outlook.com Thank you! Margaret
- Second Annual Chili Cook Off and Game Day, Sunday January 17th, after church & annual meeting.
- Sunday, January 31st, Pinochle Day, carry in lunch
- Sunday, February 7th, "SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY
- ALL INFO ON ABOVE LISTED ON SEPARATE SHEET

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 Viehmänn to have names added to bulletin.

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

RELATIONS COMMITTEE***

Pastor Tom will be working with the Pastor Relations committee and church council during 2016 to put together a survey for the congregation about what members like, dislike and what to see added to Immanuel's worship and activities. It is time for members of Immanuel to do some planning for our future. Members will be asked to take time to respond to the survey to help our church leaders guide our congregation. If you have any suggestions, please contact Bud Nissen, Karen Cox or Marvin Schubert.

We are on the WEB

Look for us at "immanuelucc.weebly.com"

Changed the name of our website. Hopefully it will be easier to find. Let me know if there is something you would like to see on there.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

December

HAPPY

ANNIVERSARY

Brad & Beverley Willoughby 1

Art & Margaret Viehmann 20

Jack & Mary Groeper 27

Gary & Cheryl Kreuger 29

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dorothy Merlotti 2

Mike Schriener 3

Leonard Pauk 5

Loretta Bierer 5

Billy Lee 7

Maria Diefenbacher 7

Wayne Graeler 7

John Hoeft 9

Alice Marie Windmann 10

Donald Zuhone 11

Lillie Schroer 11

Tina Day 12

Lisa Hueffmeier 13

Sarah Flesch 13

Scott McLaughlin 13

Virginia Tomschin 13

Jackie Nierman 14

Phyllis Fulton 14

William Mikus 15

Cheryl Ann Jose 16

Rick Pettig 18

William Brockmeyer 18

Alexander Garcia 19

Sharyn Rugh 19

William Groeper 18

Becky Reelitz 23

Bud Nissen 23

Glenn Davis 23

Barbara Requat 25

Jim Bueneman 25

Abby Dreyer 26

Lee Fast 26

Madelyn Reelitz 27

William Wehrman 28

Braden Engelage 29

Robin Berg 29

Mary Mikus 30

Austin Jones 31

Mary Sue Sitton 31

Stewardship moment – January How would you define stewardship?

Stewardship is another way of talking about ministry—that we are accountable to God for what we do and with what he has trusted to us.

The word *stewardship* comes from the Greek word *oikonomos*, which means somebody who manages a household. A person doesn't own the household but manages it. Stewards in the ancient world were trusted with everything from seeing that the floors were clean, to the finances, to the public face of that household. Joseph is a good biblical example of that.

We are not the owners but have been trusted with resources and the care of everything—Creation, gifts and talents, money, time, the gospel—for the sake of God's purposes in the world.

However, problems can arise in the struggles of day-to-day living that cause us to lose sight of our awesome and honorable assignment as managers, or stewards, of God's property. God has divided the job among so many of us that most of us have direct responsibility for what may be only a very small amount of resources.

What resources has God asked you to manage? Of course you've got a car, maybe a house with mortgage

and possibly some money in the bank. Chances are that you don't see those things as assets you're managing on behalf of God – you see them as *your* possessions. But, are they yours?

What might happen if you were to understand that those *things* that you consider yours really belong to God? Your life would dramatically change if you were to understand that what you've thought of as yours really belongs to God, and you need to manage those things according to His values and in pursuit of His important agenda.

How can we be good stewards without feeling overwhelmed by the responsibility?

This is where worship is critical for us, because without worship we live eccentrically, and with worship we live centrally. Worship reminds us continuously that we're not God. God is God, and we are not God. And that's the critical element in not feeling overwhelmed. We're not God. We are not responsible to bring in the whole kingdom. We have accountability, responsibility, and opportunity, but we're not messiahs. Worship brings us back to that truth.

This holiday season are you searching for the perfect gift to give? You have been given a gift to share, are you using it or is it collecting dust?

Second Annual Chili Cook off and Game Day January 17th



Dig out your favorite chili recipe for our Second Annual Chili Cook Off. Sunday, January 17th will be our annual meeting day. After the meeting, everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for chili and hot dogs.

Bring in your special chili to Fellowship Hall, preferably in a crockpot so that it will stay hot until after church. Chili will be judged from 9:30 am – 10:00 am that morning. Judging is based on several items plus taste! Prizes will be awarded at lunch time. Members will be able to sample all the chili's and vote on a crowd favorite. Potato soup will be provided for the non-chili eaters.

The challenge is on to see if someone can beat last year's winner, Aaron Wilber! We will also play a game or two for fun. This event is for all ages. Come join in the fun and fellowship!

"Souper" Bowl Sunday



We are celebrating a different type of Super Bowl day with our own "SOUPER" Bowl day. Bring in cans of soup that will be donated to Agape. We need to continue to help out even after the holidays. Bring your cans of soup to church by Sunday, February 7th!

**Save the date, Sunday, January 31st!
Pinochle day at Immanuel UCC**

Anyone of any age who likes to play pinochle is invited to Fellowship hall after morning worship for an afternoon of Pinochle fun. Everyone will be divided up into groups of four to play. More detailed rules will be given out that day. Prizes to be awarded! *Come join in the fun!*



Before we start the card games, we will enjoy a carry in lunch to build up our strength for playing! Everyone (even if you aren't planning to play cards) is invited to bring a dish to share with the entire group. Those who don't wish to play cards after lunch are welcome to stay and visit while those who want to be in the game tournament begin the card games.



GROWTH IDEAS FOR IMMANUEL UCC

1. Example, MUSIC
2. Example, Christian Education
3. Example, Youth Work
4. Number of people responding, men, women, child & youth

