

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 2017

Jan 1 Sermon: "They Came Looking"
 Scriptures: Ephesians 3:1-2, Matthew 2:1-12

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Roland Niemann	Greeter/Usher
Todd Bill	Reader/Usher
Darrell Engelage	Usher
Judy Engelage	Guestbook/Usher

Jan 8 Sermon: "Like One of Us"
 Scriptures: Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

Beverley Willoughby	Greeter/Usher
Betty Zuhone	Reader/Usher
Loretta Buescher	Usher
Lee Fast	Guestbook/Usher

Jan 15 Sermon: "Lamb of God"
 Scriptures: I Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

Mary Sue Sitton	Greeter/Usher
Amber Bill	Reader/Usher
Amy Meyer	Usher
Terry Leap	Guestbook/Usher

Jan 22 Sermon: "Perfectly United"
 Scriptures: I Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

Terry Leap	Greeter/Usher
Paul & Sandra Saunders	Ushers
Lois Meyer	Guestbook/Usher/Reader

Jan 29 Sermon: "Stumbling Blocks & Foolishness"
 Scriptures: I Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

Jackie Nierman	Greeter/Usher/Reader
Peggy Sherman	Usher
Roger Nierman	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.

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 2017

<u>HAPPY</u>	Leonard Pauk 5	Scott McLaughlin 13	Becky Reelitz 23
<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>	Maria Diefenbacher 7	Virginia Tomschin 13	Jim Bueneman 25
Brad & Beverley	Wayne Graeler 7	Phyllis Fulton 14	Barbara Requat 25
Willoughby 1	Billy Lee 7	Jackie Nierman 14	Abby Dreyer 26
Arthur & Margaret	John Hoeft 9	William Mikus 15	Lee Fast 26
Viehmann 20	Alice Marie Windmann 10	Cheryl Ann Jose 16	Madelyn Reelitz 27
Jack & Mary Groeper 27	Lillie Schroer 11	William Brockmeyer 18	William Wehrman 28
Gary & Cheryl Kreuger 29	Donald Zuhone 11	Rick Pettig 18	Robin Berg 29
<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	Tina Day 12	Alexander Garcia 19	Braden Engelage 29
Dorothy Merlotti 2	Mason Newcomb 12	William Groeper 19	Mary Mikus 30
Mike Schriener 3	Sarah Flesch 13	Sharyn Rugh 19	Austin Jones 31
Loretta Bierer 5	Lisa Hueffmeier 13	Bud Nissen 23	Mary Sue Sitton 31

Stewardship Moment – January 2017 **Are You in Shape Spiritually?**

"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:8

Happy New Year! Another year, another chance for a fresh start on some of those life goals we may be seeking to attain. Soon the commercials will be sharing all the many magical almost miracle ways to lose weight! Gyms will be offering special deals presenting the golden opportunity to get in better shape and improved health. What a great idea! There is only one catch, of course – you have to actually show up and do the workout, because paying the monthly fee, getting new exercise clothes and saying you belong to an exercise club won't take off a single ounce of weight or improve your health.

If you've been down this path before, you know that if you actually are diligent on a regular basis about working out and eating healthy, you will not just physically feel better but mentally too. We all know, exercise is good for us. It may not be easy and it may take discipline, but it's definitely good for us.

So, as we look to reenergize ourselves physically for the new year what about our spiritual lives? Are you in shape spiritually? So much emphasis is placed on physical fitness, but spiritual health (godliness) is even more important. Our physical health is susceptible to disease and injury, but faith can sustain us through anything. To train ourselves to be godly, we must develop our faith by using our God-given abilities in the service of the church. We must develop our spiritual muscles!

As Christians and members of Immanuel UCC, we must continue to work together to help our church grow in spirit and to sustain it physically. Every person is needed to make our congregation a whole. We mustn't neglect our gifts (time, talents and tithes) from God, but use them every day to transform our church and our lives to prepare for the *"present life and the life to come."*

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2016

GENERAL FUND

Offering	\$4884.53	
Womens Fellowship donation	400.00	
Warren County-polling place	50.00	
Donation for sandwiches & etc.	100.00	
Love Gifts (for organist & sec.)	5.00	
		\$5439.53

BENEVOLENT FUND

Offering	\$ 70.00	
Christmas Fund (retired Pastors)	73.00	
Food Pantry__Wright city	50.00	
Share Christmas	100.00	
Strengthen the Church	50.00	
		\$ 343.00

BUILDING FUND

Offering	\$ 40.00	
		\$ 40.00
		<hr/>
		\$5822.53

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Immanuel UCC Women's Fellowship met Wednesday, December 7th, 1:30 pm with seven members and Rev. Higgins present. Mildred Groeper opened with a program title "Purpose of Christmas".

President Mildred called the meeting to order. October minutes read and approved. Treasurer's report read and accepted.

Friend of Emmaus Spring Festival and Quilt Auction canceled for 2017. Thanks you's received from Every Child's Hope, Neighborhood Houses and St. Louis Veteran's Home for Christmas donations. Clothing Sale

Saturday, December 10th, conducted by Velma LaFave and Alice Windmann. Margaret Ramey and Alice Windmann will prepare shut-in gifts. Mary Ackmann made motion our Fellowship buy round white tablecloths for the new round tables, seconded by Margaret Ramey, motion carried.

Next meeting February 1st, program Doris Brakensiek, serving Lila Brandes and Loretta Buescher. With no further business, meeting adjourned with a prayer by Rev. Higgins. Refreshments served by Margaret Ramey and Mary Ackmann.

Loretta Buescher, secretary



Immanuel United Church of Christ – November 2016

Beginning Balance

\$44,474.46

GENERAL FUND

[illegible]

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 Nov 30, 2016:			\$-	\$-	\$10,841.25

BENEVOLENT FUND

ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$1,030.00
11/8/2016	Deposit	Offering	\$50.00	\$-	\$1,080.00
11/8/2016	Deposit	Share Christmas	\$100.00	\$-	\$1,180.00
11/8/2016	Deposit	Strengthen the Church	\$30.00	\$-	\$1,210.00
11411	Agape	Donation	\$-	\$70.00	\$1,140.00
11409	Shriners Hospital	Donation	\$-	\$75.00	\$1,065.00
11/14/2016	Deposit	Offering	\$5.00	\$-	\$1,070.00
11/14/2016	Deposit	Food Pantry	\$20.00	\$-	\$1,090.00
11/14/2016	Deposit	Strengthen the Church	\$20.00	\$-	\$1,110.00
11410	Mo Mid-South Conference	Donation	\$-	\$885.00	\$225.00
11/21/2016	Deposit	Food Pantry	\$30.00	\$-	\$255.00
11/28/2016	Deposit	Offering	\$15.00	\$-	\$270.00
11/28/2016	Deposit	Christmas Fund	\$73.00	\$-	\$343.00
Benevolent Fund Totals for Nov 30, 2016:			\$343.00	\$1,030.00	\$343.00

BUILDING FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$(476.53)
11394	Wright City Hardware	maint. supplies - adj to Bldg Fund	\$-	\$26.20	\$(502.73)
11/8/2016	Deposit	Offering	\$25.00	\$-	\$(477.73)
11/14/2016	Deposit	Offering	\$5.00	\$-	\$(472.73)
11/28/2016	Deposit	Offering	\$10.00	\$-	\$(462.73)
			\$-	\$-	\$(462.73)
Building Fund Totals Nov 30, 2016:			\$40.00	\$26.20	\$(462.73)

MEMORIAL FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$18,829.24
11412	Edward Jones	Investment of Ruzycki memorial	\$-	\$13,678.24	\$5,151.00
			\$-	\$-	\$5,151.00
Memorial Fund Totals for Nov 30, 2016:			\$-	\$13,678.24	\$5,151.00

INDIAN CAMP CEMETERY FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$4,187.06
11413	Christopher Sadler	Lawn care - cemetery	\$-	\$50.00	\$4,137.06
			\$-	\$-	\$4,137.06
			\$-	\$-	\$4,137.06
Indian Camp Cemetery Fund Totals for Nov 30, 2016:			\$-	\$50.00	\$4,137.06

SCHOLARSHIP FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$896.85
			\$-	\$-	\$896.85
			\$-	\$-	\$896.85
Scholarship Fund Totals for Nov 30, 2016:			\$-	\$-	\$896.85

PARKING LOT FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$755.14
			\$-	\$-	\$755.14
Parking Lot Fund Totals for Nov 30, 2016:			\$-	\$-	\$755.14

MUSIC FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$319.30
			\$-	\$-	\$319.30
Music Fund Totals for Nov 30, 2016:			\$-	\$-	\$319.30

SUPER NOW CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTALS:			\$5,850.06	\$19,137.56	\$31,186.96
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COUNCIL MEETING – NOVEMBER 13, 2016

Beverley called the meeting to order with Rev. Higgins leading us in prayer. In attendance: Beverley Willoughby, Jackie Niernan, Lee Fast, Lavelle Requat, Mary Sue Sitton, Roland Niemann, Bud Nissen, Darrell Schmidt and Rev. Higgins.

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

Financial Secretary's Report: Darrell made the motion to approve the report as presented, Jackie seconded, motion carried.

General Treasurer's Report: Roland made the motion to approve the report as presented, Bud seconded, motion carried.

Pastor's Report: We will have four new members join Church and Rev. Higgins thought it might be nice to have a new member sponsor to help the new members get acquainted with our Church.

Building & Grounds: Planted ornamental grass where the tree stumps were. Fixed the lattice panels under the ramp between the Church and Fellowship Hall. Need to check the furnace filters and smoke detector batteries. Need to check the condition of the ramp carpet.

Christian Workers: October attendance was 257 with an average of 65.

Evangelism and Stewardship: Veteran's Day was very nice. Wright City Food Pantry will be at the Church of the Nazarene. Friendship Sunday will be Nov. 27th. Looking for families or people to lite the Advent candles in Church on Sunday morning.

Memorial: Tables are here. Want to put up a small storage shed. Checking on prices.

Pastoral Relations: Rev. Higgins doing a fantastic job.

Christian Board: Christmas program will be Dec. 18th and they ordered new costumes.

Women's Fellowship: Have a meeting Dec. 7th.

Evening Circle: Will decorate the Church for Christmas Nov. 20th after Church.

Men's Club: Sausage Dinner 2nd Sunday in March.

Agape asked if we wanted to sponsor a family for Christmas. Share Christmas donation will go to Agape.

No further business to discuss Darrell made the motion to adjourn, Bud seconded. Everyone joined hands in the Lord's Prayer.

Third Annual Chili Cookoff – Sunday, January 15th

After the annual meeting, everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for chili and hot dogs. This is our time to see who the good chili cooks are at Immanuel. Bring in your special chili, preferably in a crockpot so that it will stay hot until after church to Fellowship hall by 9:30 am on the morning of the 15th. Chili will then be judged by our volunteer expert chili tasters. Judging will be based on several things such as spice factor, thickness as well as taste! Prizes will be awarded including the presentation of the first-place golden soup ladle. Last year's winner was Elisabeth Thompson.

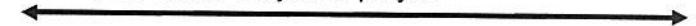
Everyone attending the lunch will also vote on a crowd favorite! Potato soup will be provided for any non-chili eaters, so everyone of all ages come join in the fun and fellowship. The challenge is on for everyone to bring in a pot of chili to the contest! The more entries, the more fun!

Just a note to our new members & anyone else. If you are getting your newsletter by mail or picking it up at church. Please let me know, if you would rather receive it by email. You can email me (Debbie Meyer) at dendebmeyer@yahoo.com

FROM THE PASTOR

Christmas is barely over and I am thinking about LENT. Ash Wednesday is March 1 and we will have our services in Fellowship Hall with soup and whatever! The theme this year is going to be centered on prayer. Many people ask me about God answering prayer and what do we do when we can't seem to pray.

Consequently, on the Wednesday nights of Lent, we will concentrate on the subject of prayer.



I would like to thank all those who remembered me with their prayers, cards, phone calls and visits during my recent hospitalization and since my return home. Thank you, also, to those who brought food to our home and to the Women's Fellowship for the fruit basket. I sincerely appreciate Rev. Tom's visits with me at the hospital.

Bill and I are grateful to be members of such a caring church family. May this New Year bring many blessings to each of you.

Vi Wehrman

• ***Just a few notes.....DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER JANUARY 18***

- Jan 8 "ALL" ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE - NO LATER
- Jan 15 ANNUAL MEETING, 3rd Annual Chili Cook Off, After Church
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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.

The Pastor Relations committee

Anyone who has any joys or concerns to share about Immanuel UCC, please contact a member of the Pastor Relations Committee so your ideas and suggestions can be presented to the council. We need to hear from you!

********Please contact me, Debbie Meyer, if there has been a change in your phone, address or email. Also, please let me know if you have any children's addresses who may have moved out of your home or are in college. We would really like to get all the addresses we can.***

You can get in touch with me by phone, 636-459-5515 or 636-745-3319. Email: dendebmeyer@yahoo.com or thru the church facebook page.

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.

Art Viehmann is our church secretary, Margaret's husband.

Art Viehmann helps his mother Lydia up the ramp into the fellowship/Christian ed building at Immanuel, Wright City. Lydia and her husband Martin donated the ramp when she began using a wheelchair. Pastor Williams' wife Grace says, "Lydia and her special gifts are a rich blessing for our church. This fall she received her 21-year pin for perfect attendance as a church school teacher in spite of being hospitalized several times during that period." Lydia also quilts every week and works at whatever church jobs she physically can. Recently that included peeling apples for the annual apple butter session.



November 1984 Courier



CONFIRMANDS RECEIVED INTO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

A very impressive service was held at the Wright City Evangelical Church on Palm Sunday morning, April 6, at which time 16 young people were admitted to church membership by rite of confirmation, after having received proper instruction in the doctrine and teachings of the Evangelical Church.

On Easter Sunday morning, at the Easter Service, these young people observed the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time. Following are the names: Colleen Strack, Doris Godt, Helen Franz, Anna Jasepring, Betty Jean Owens, August Trual, Kermit Moeller, David Groeper, Norris Kleinschmidt, Wilbert Lohman, Wilbert Schmidt, George Wiemer, Jr., Gilbert Groeper, William Groeper, Clifford Symes, Wesley Bote.

We trust that these young people have been greatly benefited and that they will remain true and faithful to their vow and confession.—K.

All copies are from Velma LaFave & Elmer Vahle Church postcard has on the back, the church completed in 1881 and remodel done in 1923. (Adding on the wings & putting basement in under main church) Three of the confirmands on right are still living Helen Franz Tochtrop, Anna Jaspering Terry & William Groeper. If someone can tell us what year that was, it would be interesting.