

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

May 2015

May 3 Sermon: "Even Me"

Scriptures: Acts 8:26-40, John 15:1-8

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Beverley Willoughby	Greeter
Kolton Martin	Reader/Usher
Dennis Meyer	Usher
Lavelle Requat	Guestbook/Usher

May 10 "MOTHER'S DAY"

Sermon: "Loving, Giving, Shaping"

Scripture: John 15:9-17

Mary Sue Sitton	Greeter
Whitney Cox	Reader/Usher
Alice Windmann	Usher
Aimee Wilber	Guestbook/Usher

May 17 Rite of Confirmation — Holy Communion

Sermon: "In, But Not Of"

Scriptures: John 17:6-19

Jackie Niernan Greeter/Usher

Mildred Groeper Reader/Usher

Linda Martin Usher

Betty Zuhone Guestbook/Usher

May 24 Pentecost

Sermon: "What is Going On?"

Scriptures: Acts 2:-21, John 15:26-27, 16:4-15

Terry Leap Greeter/Usher

Sharon Niemann Reader

Lee Fast & Elmer Vahle Ushers

Loretta Bierer Guestbook/Usher

May 31 Trinity Sunday

Sermon: "Born Again!"

Scriptures: John 3:1-17

Lee Fast Reader/Greeter/Usher

Richard Ramey Usher

Margaret Ramey Usher

Karen Cox 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.



FROM THE PASTOR:

On May 17 we will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation for Anthony Freund and Kolton Martin. They have been taking confirmation classes since last fall. We congratulate them and welcome them into the membership of Immanuel Church,

Confirmation is a tradition in our denomination and yet it is more than a tradition. As a tradition, the Rite of Confirmation goes back to one of the denominations that helped form the United Church of Christ. The four denominations were: Evangelical, Reformed, Congregational, and Christian Churches. So that we are not confused, the Christian Church was a denomination and the other three denominations were/are Christian in belief and practice, but the denomination called the "Christian Church" was a particular denomination.

The tradition of confirmation is connected to infant baptism when parents promise that their child will be raised in the church and in due time (usually 12-16 years of age) the child will be instructed in the Christian and join the church. Confirmation classes include instruction in Biblical history, a chronological overview of the Bible, a history of the

church, a study of Christian beliefs and a history of the local church.

I am indebted to the Adult Sunday School class for teaching the history of Immanuel, as they know the history much better than me.

When I say that Confirmation is more than a tradition (and many such traditions are wonderful), it can and should be a significant event in the confirmand's life. It is the time when they accept Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. It is also the time when the church accepts them as members and recognizes that the parents have fulfilled their promises made at baptism. Many of us who have been confirmed will remember our own confirmation and the joy of that day.

Confirmation also means that the confirmand now assumes responsibility for their faith growth and for the local church of which they are a member.

Thank God for this tradition and for the meaning connected with it.

In Christian Love,
Pastor Tom

May Stewardship Message

Stewards in Covenant:

Walking Together in All God's Ways

As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you. – Genesis 9:9

I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. – Exodus 6:7a

At its heart, covenant is about belonging. We belong to God. As the Body of Christ we also belong to each other. God commits to us and we, in turn, commit to be God's people. Covenant knits us together. God initiates covenant and never betrays the call, gifts, and promises given to God's people.

The church exists because God's Holy Spirit has called us together and bound us in covenant for the purpose of a

particular mission: "God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory." – *UCC Statement of Faith*

As disciples bound together in this covenant, we form what many call the beloved community. We have insisted, always, on the importance of "walking together in all of God's ways." As centers of hope and transformation, local churches, Associations, Conferences and national ministries. It's who we are together!

(Taken from the UCC web site)

A message from Stewards in the Household of God: a Resource for Holistic Year-round Stewardship available from United Church of Christ Resources.

God is still speaking,

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Immanuel UCC Women's Fellowship met Wed. April 1, 1:30 pm with seven members and Rev. Higgins present. Inez Trump presented the program titled "Love".

President Mildred Groeper called the meeting to order. December minutes were read and approved. Thank you's were read.

Treasurer Loretta Buescher reported a balance of

\$1858.99. Motion made, seconded, approved to give Board of Christian Education \$800.00 for camp Scholarship Fund.

Motion made, seconded, carried to ask our own church women and friends to be our guests on Wednesday, June 3.

Meeting closed with a prayer by Rev. Higgins. Delicious desserts were served by Velma LaFave and Inez Trump.

Loretta Buescher, secretary

Council Meeting – March 12, 2015

Beverley called the meeting to order and led with an opening prayer.

In attendance: Beverley Willoughby, Darrell Schmidt, Terry Leap, Lavelle Requat, Lee Fast, Mary Sue Sittton and Bud Nissen.

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

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

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

Bev mentioned that there would be an extra trash bill due to the sausage dinner and Lenten services.

Pastor's Report: No report at this time.

Building & Grounds: Looking into different issues that need to be looked at as the weather gets warmer. Planting tree in April. Checking to see if we can just seal the parking lot or if we need to resurface it and what the price would be.

Christian Workers: February attendance was 298 with an average of 75.

Evangelism and Stewardship: One Great Hour of Sharing will be March 15. There will be an Easter Sunrise Service at Immanuel April 5 at 7:00 a.m.

Memorial: Did not meet.

Pastoral Relations: Everything is good.

Christian Board: Meeting Sunday, March 15. Bowling after church March 15. Easter egg hunt after church.

Evening Circle: Discussed Mother's Day and Lenten soup & sandwiches.

Men's Club: Sausage dinner was a big success. Wright City Meat donated half the sausage and Brad and Beverley Willoughby donated the other half. Jack Groeper owner of Economy donated all the canned goods. The Men's Club wants to "Thank" everyone who donated food and time.

New Business: It was brought up that we need to change the signature cards on Immanuel United Church of Christ checking accounts and certificate of deposits. The name of James Windmann should be removed and the name of Beverley Willoughby should be added.

With there being no more business to discuss Lavelle made the motion to adjourn and Darrell seconded.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Save the date – Sunday, May 3 Evening Circle

Evening Circle will be hosting a special lunch and program for a Mother's Day celebration on Sunday, May 3 after the morning worship service.

Everyone in the church is invited to attend. Be sure to extend invitation to others to come and join in the fun.

The program will be around "Dressing Up for the Big days" Weddings & Proms.

We will be looking for volunteers to model some of our dresses. If you can help out, contact Jackie Nierman at 636-745-3096

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY

ANNIVERSARY

Bryan & Courtney Martin 7

Roland & Sharon Niemann

9

Bill & Liz Flesch 29

Todd & Christie VanZuyen

30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Aimee Rosen 1

Jill Mueller 2

Tanya Jones 2

Betty Zuhone 3

Paul Windmann 4

Liz Flesch 5

Jordan Birkner 7

Raymond Hollenbeck 8

Katelyn Thompson 9

Korey Gerdeman 10

Arthur Viehmann 11

Mildred Groeper 11

Donald Tomschin 12

Larry LaFave 12

Marvin Schubert 12

Tom Higgins 12

Andrew Greco 14

Kathy Hintze 14

Reese Greco 14

Cara Ballard 17

Margaret Ramey 22

Mary Groeper 22

Kolton Martin 23

Douglas Rugh 24

Chad Thompson 27

Margaret Lange 31

• ***Just a few notes.....***

- Sunday, May 3 — Mothers Day Program — Wedding Dress Fashion Show, after church
- Sunday, May 17 — Confirmation
- Sunday, May 17 — Newsletter Items Due
- Wed. June 3 — Women's Fellowship "Guest Day" Ladies of the Church you are invited to spend the afternoon with the Women's Fellowship 1:30 pm.

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***

Do you have any ideas for worship topics? We continue to receive good feedback from the congregation about Pastor Tom and our services, but Pastor Tom would love to hear of your suggestions for worship topics.

Share your thoughts with committee members Bud Nissen, Karen Cox or Marvin Schubert.

The Men's Club would like to thank all the people of the Church for their hard work - cooking, baking, serving and service at the Sausage Dinner held in March. We made \$2,113.00! We served 250 people. Thanks for the large donations from Wright City Meat (Kreuger's), Economy Super Market (Groeper's) and Brad and Beverley Willoughby. Thank you so much!

Darrell Schmidt, President of the Men's Club.

We are on the WEB

Look for us at "immanuelucc.weebly.com"

Changed the name of our website last month. 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.

Immanuel United Church of Christ – March 2015

Beginning Balance \$23,734.34

GENERAL FUND

ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				-\$227.67
11224	Thomas Higgins	second half of Feb. salary	\$-	\$1,000.00	-\$1,227.67
11228	J&S Janitorial Service	February cleaning	\$-	\$276.00	-\$1,503.67
3/9/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$2,037.00	\$-	\$533.33
ACH 3/9	Ameren	Utilities	\$-	\$393.00	\$140.33
ACH 3/9	Ameren	Utilities	\$-	\$147.00	-\$6.67
ACH 3/9	Ameren	Utilities	\$-	\$155.00	-\$161.67
11230	M. Turpin Services LLC	snow removal	\$-	\$270.00	-\$431.67
ACH 3/12	GuideOne	insurance premium	\$-	\$607.28	-\$1,038.95
11129	Thomas Higgins	first half of March salary	\$-	\$1,000.00	-\$2,038.95
3/16/2015	Interest earned	Immanuel CD	\$80.14	\$-	-\$1,958.81
ACH 3/16	Wright City	Water/sewer bill	\$-	\$20.99	-\$1,979.80
3/18/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$901.00	\$-	-\$1,078.80
11231	On The Go Inc.	Extra trash pick up on 3/10	\$-	\$25.00	-\$1,103.80
11232	Copying Concepts	March thru June plus overages	\$-	\$137.17	-\$1,240.97
3/25/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$1,075.00	\$-	-\$165.97
11234	David Rohan	Furnance service, parts & labor	\$-	\$288.04	-\$454.01
11235	On The Go Inc.	March trash pick up	\$-	\$38.50	-\$492.51
3/31/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$774.00	\$-	\$281.49
11233	Thomas Higgins	second half of March salary	\$-	\$1,000.00	-\$718.51
11236	J&S Janitorial Service	March cleaning	\$-	\$276.00	-\$994.51
3/31/2015	Interest earned	accrued earning payment	\$1.00	\$-	-\$993.51
			\$-	\$-	-\$993.51
			\$-	\$-	-\$993.51
			\$-	\$-	-\$993.51
			\$-	\$-	-\$993.51
			\$-	\$-	-\$993.51
General Fund Totals for March 31, 2015:			\$4,868.14	\$5,633.98	-\$993.51

PROTECT OUR CHURCH FUND

ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$10,841.25
			\$-	\$-	\$10,841.25
Protect Our Church Fund Totals for March 31, 2015:			\$-	\$-	\$10,841.25

BENEVOLENT FUND

ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$349.00
3/5/2015	Deposit	Lenten offering - Agape	\$367.00	\$-	\$716.00
3/9/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$60.00	\$-	\$776.00
3/18/2015	Deposit	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$373.25	\$-	\$1,149.25
3/18/2015	Deposit	Lenten offering - Agape	\$109.00	\$-	\$1,258.25
3/24/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$10.00	\$-	\$1,268.25
3/24/2015	Deposit	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$25.00	\$-	\$1,293.25
3/24/2015	Deposit	Lenten offering - Agape	\$82.00	\$-	\$1,375.25
3/31/2015	Deposit	Lenten offering - Agape	\$237.00	\$-	\$1,612.25
3/31/2015	Deposit	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$100.00	\$-	\$1,712.25
3/31/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$15.00	\$-	\$1,727.25
Benevolent Fund Totals for March 31, 2015:			\$1,378.25	\$-	\$1,727.25

BUILDING FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$1,731.10
3/9/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$30.00	\$-	\$1,761.10
3/24/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$10.00	\$-	\$1,771.10
3/31/2015	Deposit	Offering	\$10.00	\$-	\$1,781.10
			\$-	\$-	\$1,781.10
Building Fund Totals for March 31, 2015:			\$50.00	\$-	\$1,781.10

MEMORIAL FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$5,310.00
3/18/2015	Deposit	Dorothy Hoeft	\$125.00	\$-	\$5,435.00
3/31/2015	Deposit	Dorothy Hoeft	\$160.00	\$-	\$5,595.00
3/31/2015	Deposit	Mildred Hollenbeck	\$20.00	\$-	\$5,615.00
3/31/2015	Deposit	Ester Held	\$605.00	\$-	\$6,220.00
			\$-	\$-	\$6,220.00
Memorial Fund Totals for March 31, 2015:			\$910.00	\$-	\$6,220.00

INDIAN CAMP CEMETERY FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$5,826.05
3/18/2015	Interest earned	Indian Camp CD	\$3.34	\$-	\$5,829.39
3/26/2015	Interest earned	Indian Camp CD	\$1.11	\$-	\$5,830.50
Indian Camp Cemetery Fund Totals for March 31, 2015:			\$4.45	\$-	\$5,830.50

SCHOLARSHIP FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$401.85
			\$-	\$-	\$401.85
			\$-	\$-	\$401.85
Scholarship Fund Totals for March 31, 2015:			\$-	\$-	\$401.85

PARKING LOT FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$1,964.67
			\$-	\$-	\$1,964.67
Parking Lot Fund Totals for March 31, 2015:			\$-	\$-	\$1,964.67

MUSIC FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$505.05
			\$-	\$-	\$505.05
Music Fund Totals for March 31, 2015:			\$-	\$-	\$505.05

SUPER NOW CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTALS:			\$7,210.84	\$5,633.98	\$25,311.20
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FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT MARCH 2015

GENERAL FUND		
Offering	\$4557.00	
Building use	50.00	
Member donation	30.00	
AAA donation	150.00	
		\$4787.00
BENEVOLENT FUND		
Offering	\$ 85.00	
For Agape	795.00	
One Great Hour of Sharing	498.25	
		\$1378.25
BUILDING FUND		
Offering	\$ 50.00	
		\$ 50.00
MEMORIAL FUND		
Dorothy Hoeft	\$ 285.00	
Mildred Hollenbeck	20.00	
Ester Held	605.00	
		\$ 910.00
		<hr/>
		\$7125.25

Capsule sermons

The art of living a pleasant life is constantly adjusting to circumstances.

The Happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.

Success is more a function of consistent common sense than it is of genius.

There is a close correlation between getting up in the morning and getting up in the world.

It's a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it.

Hairbrained

There are periods when the principles of experience need to be modified...when in truth, to dare is the highest wisdom.—William Ellery Channing (1780-1842)

Do not cumber yourself with fruitless pains to mend and remedy remote effects; let the soul be erect, and all things go well.—Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82)

Mature

What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime it is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset. — Crowfoot (1830-90)

A true friend unbosoms freely, advises justly, assists readily, adventures boldly, takes all patiently, defends courageously, and continues a friend unchangeably. — William Penn (1644-1718)

It is only imperfection that complains of what is imperfect. The more perfect we are, the more gentle and sweet we become towards the defects of others. — Francois Fenelon (1651-1715)

