

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 2016

May 1 Sermon: "Do You Want to be Healed?"

Scriptures: Acts 16:9-15, John 5:1-9

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Roland Niemann Greeter/Usher

Karen Cox Reader/Usher

Amy Meyer Usher

Aimee Wilber Guestbook/Usher

May 8 Sermon: "That We May All Be One"

Scriptures: Acts 11:1-11, John 17:20-26

MOTHER'S DAY

Beverley Willoughby Greeter/Usher

Judy & Darrell Engelage Ushers

Lois Meyer Reader/Guestbook/Usher

May 15 Sermon: "What A Day!"

Scriptures: Acts 2:1-21, John 14: 8-17

PENECOST SUNDAY

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Jackie Nierman Greeter/Usher

Mildred Groeper Reader

Roger Nierman Usher

Beverley Willoughby Guestbook/Usher

May 22 Sermon: "Peace With God...Regardless"

Scriptures: Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

TRINITY SUNDAY

Terry Leap Greeter/Usher

Amber Bill Reader/Usher

Marvin Schubert Usher

Loretta Bierer Guestbook/Usher

May 29 Sermon: "Faith of an Outsider"

Scriptures: 1 Kings 18:20-39

MEMORIAL SUNDAY

Mary Sue Sitton Greeter/Usher

Kelvin Lashley Reader/Usher

Elmer Vahle 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.

• **Just a few notes.....DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER MAY 23**

- Sun. May 15 Friends of Emmaus Festival & Quilt Auction, Emmaus Home Grounds, Marthasville, MO
- Wed. June 1 1:00 pm Guest Day at Women's Fellowship, all women of the church are invited
- Sun. June 5 SCIENCE CENTER after Church
- Sun. June 12 St. John's UCC High Hill will be having their Ice Cream Social & a special service at 2:00 pm for Pastor Tom honoring him with the title of Pastor Emeritus

*June 11th Wright City High School Alumni
Dinner Dance - All Graduates Invited
Contact: Jackie Nierman or Karen Cox*

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 pastoral relations committee Pastor Tom reported that he will be accepting new members in near future and we are to pass the word to anyone who would like to join to contact him. Pastor Tom also said that the bible study time on Wednesdays has been well

attended. Contact any committee member with suggestions or comments about Immanuel.

Bud Nissen – Chairperson

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](https://www.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.



FROM THE PASTOR:

May is a busy month: Mother's day, Pentecost, Memorial Day.

Pentecost is always the 50th Day after Easter. According to scripture, Jesus spent 40 days with his disciples after the resurrection and then on the 40th day was the Ascension when Jesus ascended to heaven. He told the disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come. This account is recorded in Acts 2. When the Spirit came, it was an incredible event!

The disciples were empowered to do astonishing things. Most of all they were to be witnesses to the works of God, especially the resurrection of Jesus. They were also to start the Christian Church throughout the world. They were to continue the works and ministry of Christ.

During these months of summer, we will be looking at how we can be empowered and do ministry in Jesus' name.

In Christian Love, Pastor Tom

Christian Board of Education:

***Thank you for being our guardian angel!
Having come to our rescue in our time of need.
Angels love people as parents love children.***

We would like to thank all who have donated to send 3 children to camp this year. Women's Fellowship, Evening Circle and the Men's Group.

This is a great accomplishment for our church to send these children to camp. With Camp costs at approximately \$400.00 per Child, this can be a strain on a family budget. Thanks again to all members for supporting the future of our church.

Youth update:

On April 17th the youth and their families enjoyed bowling after church at the O'Fallon Bowl. They had fun while they developed their bowling, and social skills.

A date to keep in everyone's calendar for the future is: SCIENCE CENTER trip June 5th, after church. We will find lunch and then explore the center. All are welcome to join in the fun.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Immanuel UCC Women's Fellowship met Wed., April 6th, 1:30 pm with nine members and Rev. Higgins present. Doris Brakensiek had the opening program titled "Faith".

President Mildred Groeper called the meeting to order. February minutes read and approved. Treasurer's report accepted. Loretta made motion to give \$800 to the Board of Education for Camp Scholarship, seconded by Doris, motion carried.

Thank you's received from Martha Sweeten for Christmas tray & prayers, Loretta Bierer & family for serving Bob's funeral lunch, and Roger & Jackie Nierman for deeds our fellowship does for the church.

Inez Trump & Lillie Schroer will work clothing sale, Sat. April 9th. Agape will have an Open House Thurs. April 21st, 3-6 pm at 713 Powell Street, Warrenton for people to take a tour and see the work that is being done and

hear the future plans. May 15th Friends of Emmaus Festival and Quilt Auction, Marthasville Emmaus Home grounds. There's talk of changing Emmaus Home name to "Bethel Community". June 12th, St. John's UCC, High Hill will have their Ice Cream Social with a special service at 2:00 pm, giving Rev. Higgins the title of Pastor Emeritus. June 11, 2017 Rev. Higgins will celebrate 50th Ordination Anniversary. Sometime in September the Warren County Historical Society will conduct a walk through a portion of the Wright City Cemetery with speakers telling about family ancestors.

Next meeting will be June 1st, Guest Day. It was decided to invite all Immanuel Women and friends of our members for a 12:00 noon luncheon.

With no further business, Rev. Higgins closed with a prayer. Loretta Buescher, secretary

COUNCIL MEETING – MARCH 2, 2016

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

In attendance: Beverley Willoughby, Roland Niemann, Jackie Nierman, Lee Fast, Lavelle Requat,

Terri Leap, Mary Sue Sitton, Darrell Schmidt, Bud Nissen and Rev. Higgins.

Secretary's Report: Lee made the motion to approve the January 13 minutes and the February 03 financial meeting minutes as presented as our February 14 meeting had been cancelled due to snow and no Church. Lavelle seconded, motion carried.

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

General Treasurer's Report: Lee made the motion to approve the report as presented, Mary Sue Sitton seconded, motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Higgins would like to start a Bible study on Wednesday, April 06 at 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. The High Hill Church is giving Rev. Higgins the title of Pastor Emeritus on the afternoon of Sunday, June 12th. Rev. Higgins has some people interested in becoming new members.

Building & Grounds: It was brought to their attention that their 2015 annual report had not been put in the newsletter as stated at the annual meeting. Brad and Beverley Willoughby put a new water heater in Fellowship Hall basement. Jackie was going to check with Brad Nierman to see if he could make a black sign with white letters to place in our old sign in front of the Church that had been vandalized.

Christian Workers: January attendance was 310 with an average of 78 and February attendance was 258 with an average of 86. (Church was cancelled Feb. 10 due to snow)

Evangelism and Stewardship: One Great Hour of Sharing had a good response. Jackie is looking for any ideas for Evangelism and Stewardship. April 24 the children will be leading the morning service.

Memorial: Planning a meeting for March 30 at 5:00 P.M. to talk about getting round tables for the Fellowship Hall basement.

Pastoral Relations: Rev. Higgins had some concerns about his health and if we had any plans for the future for when he does retire. He is going to a UCC Ministerial Alliance meeting the 2nd Tuesday in April and he would talk with some of the ministers there.

Christian Board: Easter egg hunt after Church. They have 4 children who are interested in going to Church camp and it will cost almost \$400.00 per child.

Women's Fellowship: They will meet in April.

Evening Circle: Bought and donated to the Church the 2 new coffee pots in Fellowship Hall basement. Plan to sponsor a child to go to Church camp. Are making plans to honor Mother's on Mother's Day one year and Father's on Father's Day the next year.

Men's Club: Sausage Dinner was a success and they cleared around \$1400.00. They plan to sponsor a child to Church camp and to sponsor a baseball team.

New Business: Jackie made the motion to give the Christian Board \$400.00 to go towards a child going to Church camp and the remaining offering from the Lenten Services to go to the Warren County Senior Center for "Meals On Wheels". Lee seconded, motion carried.

Old Business: We had 2 bids for mowing the Church lawn and Indian Camp Cemetery. After some discussion Lavelle made the motion to accept Chris Sadler's bid for \$50.00 each week for the Church's lawn and \$50.00 bi-weekly for the Cemetery. Lee seconded, motion carried.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned with everyone joining hands in the Lord's Prayer.



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.



ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

MAY

HAPPY

ANNIVERSARY

Bryan & Courtney Martin 7

Roland & Sharon Niemann 9

Tom & Margaret Bill 11

William & 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

Pastor Tom Higgins 12

Andrew & Reese Greco 14

Kathy Hintze 14

Cara Ballard 17

Gene Bilyeu 19

Margaret Ramey 22

Mary Groeper 22

Kolton Martin 23

Douglas Rugh 24

Chad Thompson 27

Margaret Lange 31

Thank you Mrs. Ackmann for the lovely quilt you made for Marvin. We already have a place for it. May God bless you, Marvin & Rosalee Schubert

Thank you to the Quilting Ladies for the wonderful job you did on my sunflower quilt. May you be richly blessed, Rosalee Schubert

Treasures Within – Stewardship moment for May 2016

We are each given opportunities, abilities and resources. It is not how many we have that matters, it is how we make use of them.

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels..."
(2 Corinthians 4:7, NKJV)

You have treasures deep inside of you! As a believer in Jesus, the greatest treasure of all is within you—the Spirit of God. You carry the most valuable treasure in the universe inside of you! He has also deposited many other treasures on the inside of you as well. You may not even see these treasures yet, but God has given you gifts and abilities that are tied to your purpose. He has fully equipped you to succeed in life.

Today, draw out those treasures inside of you by speaking words of faith. Connect to the heart of Almighty God. Stir up the gift inside of you by praying in the Spirit and thanking Him in worship. As you seek the Lord and submit yourself to His leading, you will discover the great treasures within!

There once was a man named George Thomas, pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit. Eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak....

"I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked, "What do you have there, son?" "Just some old birds," came the reply. "What are you going to do with them?" I asked. "Take 'em home and have fun with'em," he answered. "I'm gonna tease'em and pull out their feathers to make'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?" "Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy. "They like birds. I'll take'em to them." The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?" "Huh??!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!" "How much?" the pastor asked again. The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10?"

The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a \$10 dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free. Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit, and then the pastor began to tell this story:

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. "Yes, sir, I just caught a world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!" "What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked. Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"

"And what will you do when you are done with them" Jesus asked? "Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly. "How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked. "Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you. You don't want those people!!" "How much? He asked again. Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your blood, tears and your life." Jesus said, "DONE!" Then He paid the price.

The pastor picked up the cage and walked from the pulpit.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I thank God every day for my blessed life. I have a roof over my head, clothes on my back, food on my table, a family that loves me, and lifelong friends to get me through. I'd say I have a lot to be thankful for. Have you counted your blessings today?

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT MARCH 2016

GENERAL FUND		
Offering	\$5138.55	
Lent service	327.00	
Building Use	50.00	
Interest-American Bank of Missouri	579.81	
Donation for lenten meals	20.00	
Initial offering	2.00	
		\$6117.36
BENEVOLENT FUND		
Offering	\$ 105.00	
One Great Hour of Sharing	705.00	
Agape Food Pantry	35.00	
Schminers Hospital	25.00	
		\$ 870.00
BUILDING FUND		
	80.00	
		\$ 80.00
MEMORIAL FUND		
Bob Bierer	\$ 180.00	\$ 180.00
		\$7247.36

BUILDING FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$(278.78)
3/1/16	Deposit	Offering	\$10.00	\$-	\$(268.78)
3/8/16	Deposit	Offering	\$55.00	\$-	\$(213.78)
3/22/16	Deposit	Offering	\$25.00	\$-	\$(188.78)
			\$-	\$-	\$(188.78)
Building Fund Totals for March 31, 2016:			\$90.00	\$-	\$(188.78)

MEMORIAL FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$6,935.00
3/8/16	Deposit	Bob Bierer	\$35.00	\$-	\$6,970.00
3/15/16	Deposit	Bob Bierer	\$120.00	\$-	\$7,090.00
3/22/16	Deposit	Bob Bierer	\$25.00	\$-	\$7,115.00
			\$-	\$-	\$7,115.00
			\$-	\$-	\$7,115.00
Memorial Fund Totals for March 31, 2016:			\$180.00	\$-	\$7,115.00

INDIAN CAMP CEMETERY FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$4,769.47
3/18/2016	Earned Interest	Indian Camp CD	\$3.37	\$-	\$4,772.84
3/25/2016	Earned Interest	Indian Camp CD	\$1.12	\$-	\$4,773.96
Indian Camp Cemetery Fund Totals for March 31, 2016:			\$4.49	\$-	\$4,773.96

SCHOLARSHIP FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$401.85
			\$-	\$-	\$401.85
			\$-	\$-	\$401.85
Scholarship Fund Totals for March 31, 2016:			\$-	\$-	\$401.85

PARKING LOT FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$755.14
			\$-	\$-	\$755.14
Parking Lot Fund Totals for March 31, 2016:			\$-	\$-	\$755.14

MUSIC FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$505.05
			\$-	\$-	\$505.05
Music Fund Totals for March 31, 2016:			\$-	\$-	\$505.05

SUPER NOW CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTALS:			\$8,227.01	\$5,831.61	\$29,371.11
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Immanuel United Church of Christ – March 2016					
Beginning Balance					\$26,975.71
GENERAL FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$5,640.61
3/1/16	Deposit	Offering	\$809.00	\$-	\$6,449.61
11339	J & S Janitorial Service	February cleaning	\$-	\$276.00	\$6,173.61
11338	Thomas Higgins	Balance of February salary	\$-	\$1,050.00	\$5,123.61
ACH 3/4	GuideOne	Insurance Premium	\$-	\$773.91	\$4,349.70
11341	On The Go Inc	March trash pick up	\$-	\$38.50	\$4,311.20
3/8/16	Deposit	Offering	\$1,426.20	\$-	\$5,737.40
ACH 3/8	Ameren UE	Utilities	\$-	\$355.00	\$5,382.40
ACH 3/8	Ameren UE	Utilities	\$-	\$190.00	\$5,192.40
ACH 3/8	Ameren UE	Utilities	\$-	\$247.00	\$4,945.40
ACH 3/11	Centurylink	Phone/Internet Service	\$-	\$164.82	\$4,780.58
ACH 3/11	Wright City	Water bill	\$-	\$20.27	\$4,760.31
3/15/16	Deposit	Offering	\$897.95	\$-	\$5,658.26
11340	Thomas Higgins	1st half of March salary	\$-	\$1,050.00	\$4,608.26
11343	Copying Concepts	3/10 thru 6/9 plus overage	\$-	\$141.41	\$4,466.85
3/22/16	Deposit	Offering	\$1,478.99	\$-	\$5,945.84
11342	Thomas Higgins	Balance of March salary	\$-	\$1,050.00	\$4,895.84
11344	Creative Communications	Holiday bulletins	\$-	\$74.70	\$4,821.14
3/29/16	Deposit	Offering	\$1,987.22	\$-	\$6,808.36
3/31/16	Interest Earned	Accrued Earning Payment	\$1.16	\$-	\$6,809.52
			\$-	\$-	\$6,809.52
			\$-	\$-	\$6,809.52
			\$-	\$-	\$6,809.52
			\$-	\$-	\$6,809.52
			\$-	\$-	\$6,809.52
			\$-	\$-	\$6,809.52
			\$-	\$-	\$6,809.52
General Fund Totals for March 31, 2016:			\$6,600.52	\$5,431.61	\$6,809.52

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

BENEVOLENT FUND					
ID	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$373.00
3/1/16	Deposit	Offering	\$10.00	\$-	\$383.00
3/1/16	Deposit	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$26.00	\$-	\$409.00
3/1/16	Deposit	Lenten Offering	\$119.00	\$-	\$528.00
3/8/16	Deposit	Offering	\$45.00	\$-	\$573.00
3/8/16	Deposit	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$650.00	\$-	\$1,223.00
3/8/16	Deposit	Lenten Offering	\$110.00	\$-	\$1,333.00
3/15/16	Deposit	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$55.00	\$-	\$1,388.00
3/15/16	Deposit	Shriners Hospital	\$25.00	\$-	\$1,413.00
3/15/16	Deposit	Lenten Offering	\$127.00	\$-	\$1,540.00
3/22/16	Deposit	Offering	\$50.00	\$-	\$1,590.00
3/22/16	Deposit	Agape	\$20.00	\$-	\$1,610.00
3/22/16	Deposit	Lenten Offering	\$90.00	\$-	\$1,700.00
11346	Christian Board of Education	From Lenten Offering-Camp/VBS	\$-	\$400.00	\$1,300.00
3/29/16	Deposit	Offering	\$10.00	\$-	\$1,310.00
3/29/16	Deposit	Agape	\$15.00	\$-	\$1,325.00
Benevolent Fund Totals for March 31, 2016:			\$1,352.00	\$400.00	\$2,277.00