

IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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Immanuel United Church of Christ

(Evangelical & Reformed)

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Dear members and friends of Immanuel,

“If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

everything has become new!”

2 Corinthians 5:17

In the last issue of the newsletter, I shared this scripture and share it again as I enjoy the lively activity of summer at Immanuel UCC. The birds, bunnies, chipmunks, deer, and blooming perennials I see early in the morning as I sit on the deck of the parsonage remind me to pause and be grateful for the blessings of life and its invitation to newness.

The hymn “Fill My Cup, Lord” comes to mind as I cherish these summer days to be outdoors and to savor the daily blessings of nurture and strength from God filling our hearts for each day and each new task. Summer can have its demands for those who work the land or work demanding hours in these and other

settings, yet we know that it is also a time for families to be outdoors to enjoy each other's company and the beauty of nature. It is also a time to refresh ourselves spiritually and drink deep into God's grace-filled moments.

Mary Oliver in *Why I Wake Early* gives us her poetry to describe her experience of being filled with God's holiness:

"The Wren from Carolina"

Just now the wren from Carolina buzzed
through the neighbor's hedge
a line of grace notes I couldn't even write down
much less sing.

Now he lifts his chestnut colored throat
and delivers such a cantering praise---
for what?

For the early morning, the taste of the spider,

for his small cup of life
that he drinks from every day, knowing it will refill.
All things are inventions of holiness.
Some more rascally than others.

I'm on that list too,
though I don't know exactly where.

But, every morning, there's my own cup of gladness,
and there's that wren in the hedge, above me, with his
blazing song.

Yes, we are glad we are on the list too! God refills us and lets us see life from new perspectives whatever our need or situation in life. Drink deeply of summer and treasure God's presence, a gift that continually fills you with holiness.

Thank you for your attendance at worship and your support of our summer worship services. I appreciate many of you who are able to step forward to serve as ushers, liturgists, and musicians. Your financial gifts during the summer are also greatly appreciated.

Also, remember to pray for your neighbors and people near and far who are in places of danger, suffering and recovering from disasters, both human made and those we call “natural” disasters. As the news moves off the front pages, we tend to forget about recovery efforts that go on for years and years. Remember to care deeply about issues in the world that ask for our responses as people of courage and faith. Pray, pray, pray for peace and act for God and God’s justice for people of all cultures, faiths, and political persuasions.

Call or email me if I may be present for you for your pastoral needs. I am here to support you and provide that safe place for your conversation and opportunity to grow as Christ’s disciples. If you have never experienced individual or family counseling, I’m glad to offer short-term work with you on your personal issues and/or give you an appropriate referral.

May God fill us with joy and strength, renewing our hearts and lives to serve with faithfulness and move continually to be God’s new creation in word and deed.

Treasuring God’s presence among us and drinking deeply of summer grace,

Rev. Michele Rogers Brigham

Thank You Notes sent to us:

From Eula Bender and Family....

Dear Members of Immanuel,

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. Your gift is much appreciated. We are making a donation to Hospice in Bill's memory. I have so many fond memories of our years at Immanuel---you are all so kind. Eula

From Global Ministries.....

One Great Hour of Sharing Administrator, Susan M. Sanders:

“Thank you for your gift to the United Church of Christ Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund. We recorded your gifts of \$ 777.50 on 5/7/2010.....We are grateful for partnerships which allow the UCC to be present and accompany our Haitian sisters and brothers. Through Global Ministries partners CONASPEH and House of Hope, we have been able to respond to emergency needs of communities in Port-Au-Prince and beyond. Through ecumenical partnerships with Social Services of Dominican Churches, CWS, the ACT Alliance of IMA World Health, 2,000 Haitian families in a border settlement near the Dominican border have received food, shelter, and health resources. Our partnership with CWS has also provided immense assistance to vulnerable children and people with disabilities, as we have coordinated efforts with Service Chretien d’Haiti and the Ecumenical Foundation for Peace and Justice and House of Hope. In support of earthquake survivors who are living with HIV/AIDS or at risk of infection, we are supporting a coalition of US and Haitian AIDS groups to provide access to care and essential supplies. With Agricultural Missions and the FONDAMA farmers cooperative we are supporting the provision of 100 tons of seeds, basic tools and training for 3,000 to 5,000 survivors of the earthquake who fled to rural communities. Thank you for sharing your resources and helping to change lives.”

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SAFE SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Dawn Navis (Chair), Tracy Kracht, Peter Warner, and Rev. Michele Rogers Brigham

Please read these updates for our implementation of our Safe Sanctuary Guideline to take place by October 1.

All people who work with our children and youth, regular or occasional workers, are asked to complete a volunteer form that will be given to the Committee. The forms will be available by August 1 to pick up. They should be returned in a sealed envelope to Safe Sanctuary Committee, Attention: Dawn Navis. (church mailbox for committee can be found in back of church by the other mailboxes) The forms will be reviewed by the committee and stored in a secured location in the church. Each person completing a form will have a copy of the Safe Sanctuary Guideline and be expected to be familiar with guideline.

10 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship Nursery Care (ages Birth-Age 7) Beginning September 12, we will conform to our guideline by having 2 adults in the back of church during worship to care for our young children during worship. This volunteer service will be on a rotational basis, so the hope is that we will have enough adults volunteer to take a turn to help with this need. Peter Warner, Elder, will coordinate the rotation in the beginning and the Elder on duty on a particular Sunday will check-in to see that the adults are in place. Please sign up to be a volunteer if you are able!

Sunday School Teacher Training Re: our Safe Sanctuary Guideline will be conducted in August at the Teacher's Meeting....Look for date!

ADULT STUDY BEGINS AGAIN SEPTEMBER 12

8:45 a.m., Sunday morning, is the opportunity for adults to gather to study scripture and have discussion about scripture, faith, life, and how we live our beliefs. We will begin the study of the Book of Acts on September 12. You are always welcome to join Adult Bible study on any Sunday!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN AGAIN ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 WITH A POTLUCK SUPPER/ORIENTATION

Parents and Mentors with 7th and 8th grade students should plan to attend. We'll have dinner and time to look over the schedule for the coming year. Let's plan to gather at 5 p.m. (Please Note: Confirmation Retreat has been set for Friday and Saturday, November 5-6. All confirmation youth are expected to attend, so mark your calendars now.)

RURAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP MISSION TRIP TO CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

This year we had one person from our church, Debi Kracht, who went with the group from Rural Church Fellowship to help with disaster relief clean up in the Cedar Rapids area, June 27-July 3. We are grateful for the monetary gift from Immanuel (\$600) to support Debi and others who went with the team to help the people with their recovery in Cedar Rapids. We'll look forward to a report on the trip in the fall.

New Opportunity Coming for ALL Members of Immanuel Church

Each Sunday we come to church and hear how we should grow into better Christians by helping others, sharing the grace of God, making a difference in this World once person at a time. Here is a chance for you to participate in a ministry that makes a difference. How about something to do on those cold days and nights of winter while staying warm in your home? We will be starting a Prayer Shawl Ministry here at Immanuel this fall. This will be open to everyone, male or female, young or old, those that have experience in knitting or crocheting, and those who would like to learn. Details are being organized. I have patterns, sample prayers, and stories of great successes with this ministry in other churches. Here is a sample of a prayer that would be given with the prayer shawl to a person in need.

May God's grace be on this shawl...

Warming, comforting, enfolding, and embracing.

May this mantle be a safe haven...a sacred place of security
and well-being...

Sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult
ones.

May the one who receives this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in
joy, graced with peace,
And wrapped in love,
Blessed be!

Please contact me if you have even the slightest interest. I'm planning to have an organizational meeting sometime in late August. Watch future newsletters or bulletins for more information. I'll also contact you directly with more information once I know you have an interest. It's a great cause and I'm sure it will be very rewarding.

Submitted by Gail Gottsacker, 565-2672

Fellowship

Thank you to those who once again hosted fellowship after church. As always anyone interested in hosting, please contact Diane Vanderkin at 467-0745. Coffee, cream, sugar, plates, and napkins are supplied. You are, however, to clean up after the fellowship. Thank you once again.

Submitted by Diane Vanderkin

German Partnership

As stated previously, 22 people are coming from Germany from October 9 through October 21. Many members from our church as well as some who have gone to Germany with us have graciously volunteered to host the people who are coming. Other arrangements are still being worked on. Anyone having questions, please call Diane Vanderkin at 467-0574. Also, by the time this letter is in your mailbox, Ashleigh Hartlaub will be in Germany as an au pair for the Matthias Schmudde family. On May 23, Andreas and Melanie Schmudde, along with their son David, welcomed twin daughters Hannah and Marah into their family. Congratulations to them!

Submitted by Diane Vanderkin

July 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9 a.m. Worship No IYF Volleyball						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9 a.m. Worship 7 p.m. - IYF Volleyball Immanuel @ St. John's (Schwarzwald)	7 p.m. Consistory Meeting				5 p.m. – Wedding Rehearsal	1 p.m. – Wedding of Tricia Neils and Travis Kelly
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9 a.m. Worship 7 p.m. - IYF Volleyball Our Shepherd @ Immanuel						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9 a.m. Worship 7 p.m. - IYF Volleyball BYE Week		Immanuel's Ice Cream Social 4-8 p.m.				

August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9 a.m. - Pam Hodgson leading Worship 12 p.m. – IYF Volleyball Tournament at Cleveland Park						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9 a.m. Worship – Rev. Mark Jaberg preaching September-October Immanuel Messenger Article Deadline VBS 5:30-7:45 p.m.	7 p.m. Consistory Meeting VBS 5:30-7:45 p.m.	VBS 5:30-7:45 p.m.	VBS 5:30-7:45 p.m.	VBS 5:30-7:45 p.m.		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9 a.m. Worship						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9 a.m. Worship						
29	30	31				
9 a.m. Worship						