

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP

Immanuel Presbyterian Church



*The whole body joined and knit together...
building itself up in love.
— Ephesians 4:16 —*

JANUARY 28, 2024

Who We Seek to Be

In our love for Christ and guided by God's Word we seek to be a community of

Joyful Worship, thoughtfully centered in the wonder and wisdom of the living God and celebrating the diversity of the body of Christ.

Loving Fellowship, encouraging and serving one another in the unifying love of the Holy Spirit.

Life-changing Learning, biblically-based preaching and teaching to equip children, youth, and adults to grow in their relationship with God.

Enthusiastic Service, reflecting the servant heart of Jesus as we proclaim the gospel near and far in word and deed.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

PRELUDE: *Glorify Thy Name*

Adkins/Wilhelmi

Father, we love you,
we worship and adore you
glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Jesus, we love you . . .
Spirit, we love you . . .

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We will exalt you, O God our King.

All: And bless your name forever and ever.

Pastor: This day will we bless you.

All: And praise your name forever and ever.

All: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

* INVOCATION

* OPENING HYMN: *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

HYMN 103

** Congregation stands.*

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

RON NETZEL

Leader: The psalmist testifies: Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.

People: If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Leader: But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

**People: Praise be to God, because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.**

Leader: In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.

based on Psalm 66:16, 18-20, NRSV from *The Worship Sourcebook*

SONG OF CONFESSION: *Shepherd Me, O God*

Psalm 23, adapt. M.H.

Marty Haugen

The musical notation is written on two staves in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes, and includes a double bar line at the end. The lyrics 'yond my fears, from death in-to life.' are written below the second staff. The time signature changes to 2/4 and then back to 4/4.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

* ACCLAMATION

All: To him who loves us, and frees us from our sins by his blood, to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please share God's peace with those around you.)

WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY: *Lord, You Have Searched Me*

Handel/Hopson
IMMANUEL CHOIR

Lord, you have searched me, you know all my ways;
You know my every move;
When I lie down, when I rise up,
In your wisdom you know me through and through.

You know all my thoughts from far away.
Though I be near, though I be far, through all my days, O Lord, you are there.
For you the night is bright as the day;
You are the true light upon my way.

Therefore, I sing your goodness.
You are my God forevermore.

* DOXOLOGY

Howard Whitaker

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here be-
low. Praise Him above, ye Heav'nly host; praise Father,
Son, and Holy Ghost! A - men.

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

(Children 3 years through 5th grade go downstairs to continue their worship.)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

SARAH HOLMAN

* SONG: Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Capo 1:

Chords: (D) Eb, (F#m) Gm, (G) Ab, (D/F#) Eb/G, (Em) Fm, (D) Bb

Lyrics: Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your

Chords: (DM7) EbM7, (A7) Bb7, (D) Eb, (F#m7) Gm7, (G) Ab, (D/F#) Eb/G

Lyrics: Word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where

Chords: (Em7) Fm7, (G/A) Ab/Bb, (A7) Bb7, (D) Eb, (Em7) Fm7, (D/F#) Eb/G, (G) Ab, (D/F#) Eb/G

Lyrics: love can grow and peace is un-der-stood. When my heart is hard,

Chords: (Em7) Fm7, (G/A) Ab/Bb, (A) Bb, (G) Ab, (D/F#) Eb/G, (Em7) Fm7, (G/A) Ab/Bb, (A) Bb

Lyrics: break the stone a-way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

Chords: (Bb dim7) Bdim7, (Bm) Cm, (G) Ab, (Gm/Bb) Abm/Cb, (D/A) Eb/Bb, (G/A) Ab/Bb

Lyrics: When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart,

Chords: (D) Eb, (G/A) Ab/Bb, (D/F#) Eb/G, (G/A) Ab/Bb, (Em/D) Fm/Eb, (D) Eb

Lyrics: Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text and music: Handt Hanson (b. 1950)
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GOOD SOIL

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

(Please remain standing for the reading of God's Word.)

READERS: THE ANDERSON FAMILY

* PSALM 133

¹ How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!
² It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.
³ It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the Lord bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *James 1:1-5*

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:

Greetings.

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.
⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. NIV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *In Jesus' Faith Family, Suffering Can Be Transformational*

JEFFREY LANCASTER

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *Like a River Glorious*

HYMN 699

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

TODAY

Thanks to our musicians: Mary Hopper, John Zimmerman

Thanks to Jeffrey Lancaster for bringing us God's Word this morning.

Jeffrey and Cathy Lancaster have planted churches in Oxford, MS, in New Orleans, and in Memphis. These days they are serving in Chicago, planting an EPC congregation. Jeffrey has been leading the Adult Ed class that meets in the Ministry House at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.

You can pick up the annual packet of reports in the narthex this morning to read in advance of congregational meeting on February 4.

You can also sign up in the narthex this morning to enter your pot of Chili in the cook-off on February 17.

If you would like someone to pray with you after the service, elder **Sarah Holman** will be available near the platform.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Food Pantry open

8th - 12th graders serving homeless downtown

No regular Youth Group

This Week

Tuesday

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Women's Bible Study (*childcare*)

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Food Pantry open

Coming

Annual Congregational Meeting: Plan to be here during the education hour (9:30) on **Sunday, February 4**, for the annual meeting.

A Night of Musical Show Tunes and Chili Cook-off: Come out for the good food and fun (whether or not you want to sing) on Saturday night, February 17, from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. This family social event will feature a kid-friendly show-tune sing-along (with Disney show tunes among others). Kids or adults are welcome to come dressed as a favorite character from a musical or Disney show. We'll have chili, and pie for dessert.

SAVE THE DATE: *This summer we will host VBS the week of June 10-15, 2024.*

Candidates for Elder

Larry Funck grew up in a Christian family. He says, “My first step of faith occurred at an early age in response, with my grandmother’s encouragement, to a traditional altar call. As an adult my faith has been deepened largely by my appreciation of the magnificence of God’s creative power revealed by modern science.” At Immanuel Larry has participated on the finance committee and in the choir. As an elder he hopes to assist the spiritual growth of this local body of believers.

Carl Pickard can’t remember a time when he hasn’t known Jesus as Lord and Savior: “One of my earliest recollections of actual proactive understanding of what that means was reading and embracing Catherine Marshall’s *A Man Called Peter*. My upbringing was a mosaic of Congregational, Methodist, Baptist, and interdenominational influence. At Gordon College I embraced the Presbyterian ecumen and the Westminster Confession.” Carl and Judy joined Immanuel in 1998. Since then he has served several terms as Ruling Elder, as Interim Moderator between the pastorates of Mateen and George, on Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and as Chairman of Personnel Committee. He and Judy have been active volunteers and leaders at the food pantry since its inception in April 2012. He says, “My only goal if elected to another term as elder is to serve the IPC family and help to provide direction and counsel as needed.”

Cathy Sayer values many characteristics of Immanuel’s life and worship, especially the strong bonds wrought through inter-generational family life, the glorification of God through the sharing of artistic gifts, and the love of Christ expressed in the broader community through the Food Pantry and partnerships with other faith-based service efforts. Cathy has been a member of Immanuel since December 2021. She serves on the Adult Education Committee, has co-taught an Adult Ed class, has served as substitute teacher for the Tuesday women’s Bible study, assists monthly with Children in Worship, and volunteers at the food pantry on Tuesdays. Her favorite post-retirement occupation is spending time with her four children and five grandchildren; she also enjoys spending time in nature, reading, journaling, puzzling, watching good movies, and occasionally sewing.

Candidates for Deacon

Kathy Wetters has been a member since 2021. She and her husband, Brian, were impressed from their first visit by the traditional Bible-based worship service and genuine warmth of the congregation. They enjoy being greeters on the third Sunday each month, attending Prime Timers, and volunteering on Sundays and Tuesdays at the food pantry. The family moved to Geneva in 2000 and currently operate an in-home care agency in Batavia. Visiting their young grandchildren in Oklahoma several times per year brings them great joy.

Sharon Wolgemuth has been a member of IPC since November 2013. She and her husband, Ken, were initially drawn to Immanuel because they loved the worship, the music, and the traditional hymns. They enjoy being part of a small group that started soon after their membership class. Sharon serves as part of the Mission Team, helping to put together the International Cafes several times a year. She has been a part of Vacation Bible School. She works in the nursery and attends the Women’s Bible Study and Prime Timers. She has recently served as a Stephen Minister. The Wolgemuths have four daughters and seven granddaughters. They consider it a highlight of their week that they get to be the homeschool teachers of their two youngest granddaughters on Thursdays.

NOTES

NOTES

ELDERS

Katherine Anderson (Clerk of Session), Dan Balzer, Bill France, Sarah Holman,
Ron Netzel, Sheroll Ritchie, Leon Sinclair, Steve Westfall, Ken Wolgemuth

DEACONS

Phebe Balzer, Tim Curley, Seth Ehorn, Debby France, Ron Haydon, Dee Netzel,
Tom Nguyen, Katie Pickard, Joel Rose, Amy Treier, Becky Williams

STAFF

George A. Garrison: Senior Pastor, Annette LaPlaca, Minister of Congregational Life;
Mary Hopper, Minister of Music: Annika Durbin, Children's Minister;
Anna and Scott Scheidt, Ministers to Youth;
Barbara Lawrence, Church Secretary; Frank Lawrence, Church Sexton

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS

Bev Burch, Leon Sinclair, Angela Wisdom, Annette LaPlaca