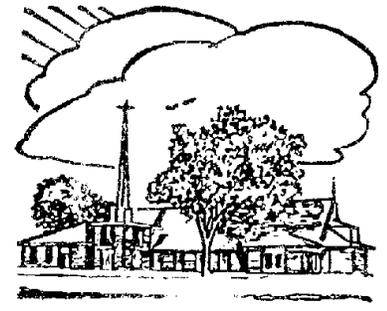




Immanuel News

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
5838 STAUNTON ROAD
EDWARDSVILLE, ILLINOIS 62025
633-2277



FALL 2020

REV. DANA SCHINDLER



*Those who wait upon
the LORD shall renew their
strength,
they shall mount up with
wings like eagles, they
shall run and not be
weary, they shall walk and
not faint.
Isaiah 40:31*

Well my friends, the year 2020 is beginning to wind down. The year that seems like 10 is almost over. Thank God! Our stay home order began during Lent. We had Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter at home. Mother's Day? At home. Father's Day? At home. Fourth of July? At home. In August

there was a glimmer of light, but then the numbers began to rise. We hope and pray we will not have to stay home again, but with flu season coming, we know the worst may be yet to come. Thanksgiving this year may be the smallest feast any of us have had in a long time. And Christmas? Who knows? Yes friends, it has been a loooong year.

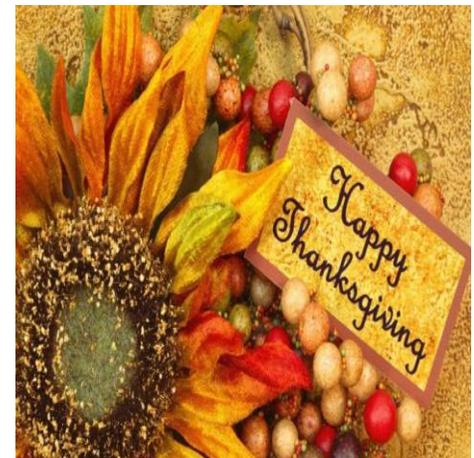
But we who with upon the Lord shall renew our strength. We shall mount up on wings like eagles, we shall run and not be weary. We shall walk and not faint.

God is with us. Always, even in the midst of pandemic, divisiveness, a bad economy, and missing some of our favorite activities, God is with us.

And so, we wait. We will try to be patient, but we must wait. And as we wait,

we will work together to make lives better for each other and our community. Prayer: Gracious God, we pray for patience to wait for that renewed strength to arrive. Keep us and our loved ones safe and healthy as we battle this illness. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Pastor Dana



COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL OUTREACH...



We now have a texting system we can use to quickly communicate with the congregation event reminders, cancellations, and other matters. It can also be used in conjunction with our Facebook page and our website. To sign up with your iPhone:

Go to your texting app
Enter the phone number
618-268-1394

Text the word “Connect”
(without the quotation marks”)

You will receive a reply and a link to a form to complete. You must complete the form.

Add this phone number to your contact list as the church so you will know who is texting you. Thanks to Dave Schindler for setting this up for us.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT...



Stewardship is often considered the “unmentionable word” in churches. But I would remind us that good stewardship is, in fact, a biblical command. We are instructed to take care of the earth and all that is in it. One of the things that is on the earth that needs our care is our church and church family. While we are not worshipping as we have always done it with many of our members worshipping from home, we need to remember to support our church. This support includes giving financially, giving of our time and talents, and prayer.

Some (many?) of our members may be experiencing loss of income during this difficult time, but we ask that you prayerfully consider your financial support. We have had one person who has given a lot of money, which has helped us to keep paying our bills and fulfilling our financial responsibility, and we are thankful. But we need to prayerfully consider how we can be more financially responsible.

Our church family is incredibly talented with many spiritual gifts. Please consider how you can contribute to the life of our church family by using those talents and gifts. When we hide our gifts and talents, we deny ourselves of the pleasure of seeing others benefit as well as denying others the opportunity to benefit. We need volunteers for specific areas:

- To help with Facebook livestreaming—see Dave
- To help with youth activities—see Barb
- To administer our website—see Ruth
- To serve on the Vision Team—see Joyce or Lynn

You may have another talent or gift to share. If so, please contact Pastor Dana.

Perhaps the most important gift you can contribute to our church’s ministry is prayer. Please pray for our church leaders, our other members, our non-members, our community, and our pastor. Please pray that we will fulfill God’s mission for us in this time and place by working together.



- To those who make our worship possible: Dave S., Karen, Ruth, Frank, Dave K., Elaine, Barb, and Larry.
- To the Vision Team & helpers with the Halloween Contest: Joyce, Lynn, Allen, Kathie, Bob, Diane S., Diane O., Frank, Sherri, Larry, Andrea, Maddie, Ally, Barb, Lori, Ruth & Dave S. (I hope I didn't forget anyone!). It was a great success!
- Our custodial team: Bill, Sam, & Max.
- Those who keep our building and grounds looking nice: Mark, Diane, Larry, Frank, Ruth, & Bob K.
- To our card ministry team: Sherri & Diane.
- To Barb and her work with Connection Point.
- To our confirmands: Ally, Max, Sami, Chloe, Hailey, & Ben for their faithful study. And to our mentors: Barb, Liz, Elaine, Sherri, Lynn, Lori, & Kathie for their dedication.

- To those who offer encouraging words of support and prayer as we muddle through this challenging time.
- To those who work with the food pantry: Dave K., Jan, Larry.
- To those who support the ministries of the church.
- To our annual conference delegates Rev. Allen and Lynn.
- To Dave S. who attends webinars to learn more about using social media to help us grow our church and to enhance our worship.
- Rev. Dana: Your ministry and guidance

Congratulations
Karen on 25 years
as our organist!



Dear Immanuel Members and Friends,
Thank you for the gift cards and plaque to commemorate my 25 years of service as your church organist!!!! It has been a privilege, honor, and joy to work with such a wonderful and supportive congregation! I look forward to providing more music in the years ahead.
Thank You!
Karen Cain



GIVING THANKS...

As Thanksgiving approaches, let us remember that even though 2020 has been a year of great challenge, it has also been a year of great opportunity for change. I hope that this Thanksgiving we can all recognize God's blessings as well as the challenges.

Thanksgiving Table

Grace:

Gracious God, we give you thanks for your overflowing generosity to us. Thank you for the blessings of the food we eat, for our home, family, and friends, both near and far. Thank you for our health, our work, and our play. Please send help to those who are hungry, alone, sick and suffering war and violence. Open our hearts to your love. We ask your blessing through your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.



Connection Point...

Each year Connection Point adopts kids from Kindercottage for Christmas. We need your help to continue this project. Connection Point has made ornaments again this year. For a donation of \$10 we will send you a wooden ornament shown below. Contact Barb if you would like to donate. Thank you in advance!



Apple Butter....



Apple butter not sold thru advance orders or at our cancelled chicken dinner were offered for sale. Thanks to those who bought apple butter before October 25th deadline. The remaining 29 pints were donated to the Bread of Life Food Pantry.

Perhaps people will enjoy our apple butter with their Thanksgiving meal. We are now ready for a fresh start making apple butter in fall of 2021.

4th ANNUAL HAMEL GIVING TREE



Immanuel will participate in the GIVING TREE. Toys donated to "Toys for Tots" will be given to support the Hamel Giving Tree. Toys can be unwrapped. The toys will be wrapped and labeled saying girl or boy and age. The gift will be placed in a clear wrap to protect from wet weather conditions. Toys will be placed at the Giving Tree at Hamel Village Hall from November 25th until December 25th. Families needing help to give their children a gift can take a gift. Let's make this a special Christmas for children in our area. If you are unable to bring a gift to church, we can schedule a "porch pick up" time for your toy donation. Contact Dave Kalish @ 618-656-4828.

CONSTITUTION CHANGE...

At the conference annual meeting we changed the conference constitution to add doing meetings via virtual platforms. Conference Minister Shana Johnson suggested all churches do the same. We will present this for vote at our annual congregational meeting in January.

VACATION...

Pastor Dana will be off Thanksgiving week Nov. 22-28 and Dec. 25-Jan 2. Eden student Drew McCausland will provide pulpit supply on Nov. 29th and December 27th.



COMING EVENTS...

- **Advent Devotional/Discussion**
Nov. 29-Dec 23 at 7 pm on Zoom
All are invited to a 15-30 minute devotional time each evening during Advent. Missing a meeting wouldn't be a problem. The devotional is copyrighted material, so it cannot be posted to Facebook. No preparation is required.
- **Longest Night Service/Blue Christmas**
Monday, December 21st at 7 pm on Zoom
Traditionally these services are done for those who are grieving because they have lost loved ones and feel grief that makes the celebration difficult. This year many of us will be grieving because this will not be a typical Christmas.
- **Children's Christmas Program**
December 20th during the morning service at 9 am

This year's program has been prerecorded and will be broadcast during the service.

- **Christmas Eve**
Thursday, December 24th at 6:30 pm
We plan to worship in the sanctuary as well as on Facebook at this time. Worship will end with those in the sanctuary going outside to stand around the nativity scene with masks still on to sing Silent Night. Those at church will have Facebook on our phones so the service includes all.

Totenfest Service...



In remembrance of the loved ones lost this past year.

Ted Frisbie, Janice Harbison, Dave Grotfendt, Angela Witcher, Arnold Sommerfeldt, Wilma Becker, Mieke Prince and Michael Conwray.

October Quarterly Meeting

OPEN MEETING:

Rev. Schindler opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's Report: A motion to accept the secretary's report from the quarterly meeting date of August 9, 2020 was made by Joyce Towner with a second made by Janet Wilkening. Motion carried. (report attached)

Treasurer's Report: Barb Bloemker read the treasurer's report. A motion to accept the report was made by Sheryl Hencke with a second made by Julie Gusewelle. Motion carried. (report attached)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Apple Butter Committee:

There is still apple butter to sell. It will be available for purchase until October 25, then it will be donated to the food pantry.

Cemetery Committee:

Remains the same with no change.

Memorial Committee:

Beginning balance was \$12,557.98 with an income of \$24.67. White altar cloths (Gladys Wilkening memorial) were purchased for \$1,820.00 and battery operated candles were also purchased at a cost of \$113.97. Total expenses were \$1,933.97 showing a balance of \$10,648.68.

Chicken Dinner: Will be a drive-thru carryout only. Date will be March 21, 2021. We need to rethink the dinner to make it successful. We would appreciate any helpful ideas. If the weather is nice we could set up tents outside so we can still have our raffle and country store. Help will be needed to make this work for our church.

Vision Committee: Has held some Zoom meetings. Comfort food was delivered to Hamel School. Vision Team would like to do the stockings again. We have had noisy coin offerings to support the stockings. Money may also be donated through our offering. There is a grant to be used for clothes. Hamel School has contacted us with some kids in need.

Connection Point: 14 kids are eligible for Connection Point. So far, 6 kids are interested in participating. Some are interested in Zoom and the others would like in-person participation. The kids will make ornaments to sell again. The money will be used to buy presents for kids at Kindercottage. We usually buy for 6 kids. Poinsettias will be sold this year. The cost will be \$9.00. E-mail Barb Bloemker or contact her if you would like a poinsettia.

Faith Quest: Have not been having classes at this time. We would like to keep children involved. Barb Bloemker will have a program for the kids to participate on Zoom. It will take the place of the Christmas program, and will be shown on the Sunday before Christmas. Income was \$16.72, expense \$6.00 with an ending balance of \$1,274.96. Ruth Klenke has been sending the activity sheets to the kids on e-mail.

Bread of Life Food Pantry:

The number of families are down from last year. September had 25 families. There have been steady donations from area churches and individuals. Boy Scout food drive will be Nov. 21. Volunteers are needed. All workers MUST wear a mask and gloves. Food pantry will give DK's gift certificates to

families to use for Thanksgiving turkey, etc. Food pantry will participate in the "Giving Tree" at Hamel City Hall. Gift donations do not need to be wrapped. Bring to the church or contact Dave Kalish. Toys will be placed at the tree at Hamel City Hall Nov. 25 thru Dec. 25.

Alhambra-Hamel Ministerial Alliance: No new information.

Hitz Home Auxiliary : They will have their annual meeting in the church hall on October 13. They will not be making apple butter this year. Fundraiser at Mazzio's brought in @\$1,000.00. Another fundraiser will be held at the end of the month.

Hitz Home Board: Covid testing for all employees and residents were negative. Only one room is available at this time. There are openings for 3 LPNs and 3 CNAs.

Maintenance: Parking lights replaced after a lightning strike and van repaired. Kitchen drain line broke outside.

Building and Grounds: A contractor called "I've Got a Guy" has given a bid of \$6,800.00 to build a wheelchair accessible wooden deck and ramp over the parsonage front steps.

Sidewalk is finished.

Side walk-in door to garage has been replaced.

Parsonage air conditioner has been installed.

Rev. Schindler: In person worship averages 20 people with on-line 15-20 viewers, not sure of additional visitors. Christmas Eve ideas: Do a typical service with some folks and others on Facebook. Have a short outdoor service (weather permitting) with each bringing a luminary jug. Pastor Dana could read the Christmas story and celebrate with

communion. Then we could hum or softly sing Silent Night with masks on.

Participate in a Zoom worship. Everyone would have their own candles and communion elements at home.

Any other ideas or worship thoughts?

Pastor Dana has used Let's Talk to get ideas for outreach and fundraising. People have gathered and requested ideas. Pastor Dana and Dave attended a virtual outreach conference. Some ideas were to send reminders to Facebook friends about Sunday's service to members and friends and set it to public.

Dave Schindler and Frank Harbison have been doing the live streaming.

Totenfest will be Nov. 1. Janice Harbison and Ted Frisbie were the member deaths this year, but several members have family members who have died. Any other people that someone would want mentioned, please let Pastor Dana know.

OLD BUSINESS:

Audio-Visual System: Wiring is installed on the west side for two televisions. The larger tv is facing the congregation and the smaller one is for Rev. Dana and Karen's viewing. The rest of the equipment may take two weeks to install. Members said the tv was easy to see from the back and does not take away from the look of the sanctuary. They would like to stay with what we have, with the possibility of installing more in the future.

We will need to change internet providers. Our current supplier, Wisper, does not have enough power to support live streaming. Madison Telephone will be our new

internet supplier. It will be a package deal to include phone service also. There will be an increase in the bill.

Volunteers are needed for audio visual and power point.
Southwestern Electric: Andy Grapperhaus voted for the church at Southwestern Electric. We will receive \$50.00 off the next bill.

Cleaning: The educational wing, kitchen and hall still need to be done.

2021 150th Anniversary: Need ideas on how to hold the celebration.

NEW BUSINESS:

Conference Delegates: Will be held virtual this year. Delegates are Allen and Lynn Reiter.

UCC Covenant of Conduct: Dave Schindler made a motion, with a second by Janet Wilkening to accept the UCC Covenant of Conduct as an amendment to the constitution. Motion passed.

Christmas Decorating: The tree and nativity scene will be put up November 22.

Holiday Newsletter: Would like to put it out the week before Thanksgiving.

Church Election: Barb Bloemker and Ruth Klenke will have completed two terms and will be going off of council. Lori Kruckeberg will have completed one term and will remain for another term. Kathie Rigler and Lynn Reiter have agreed to be on the council. Dave Schindler made a motion, with a second by Julie Gusewelle to accept Kathie and Lynn as council members. Motion passed. A motion to close the meeting was made by Sheryl Hencke, with a second by Andy Grapperhaus. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned following the Lord's Prayer.



November Birthdays

3 – Harvey Schoeber
5 – Katlyn Schneider
6 – Martha Klenke
8 – Lydia Grapperhaus
13 -Karma Colbert
13 -Luella Liske
16 -Mike Wilkening
21 -Julie Gusewelle
24 -Cindy Schneider
25 -Samuel Kalish
25 -Ron Cartwright
25 -Wayne Schuetz
26 -Gary Cain
29 -Brady Gusewelle

December Birthdays

2 – Deb Olive
8 – Sheryl Hencke
9 – Dave Kalish
11 -Monica Gevers
19 -Jamie Grapperhaus
20 -Charlotte Frisbie
22 -Gladys Nelson
29 -Mitchell Gevers
29 -Haley Merkle
30 -Brian Grotefendt



December Anniversaries

12 -Steve & Joyce Towner
22 -Mike & Melanie Wilkening

If we have missed posting your special day, please let us know. Thank you

What's new at Immanuel....



New Sidewalk installed in September



New AV system



In person Council Mtgs



Halloween Costume Contest

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING