



IMMANUEL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

transforming tradition

*"In life and in death
we belong to God."*

We have been called
to belong to the
body of Christ
and to seek God's purposes
in this place.

Immanuel Presbyterian
Church is
our home, where we grow
and welcome all;
our community, where we
care for one another and
serve others.

We promise
to worship regularly,
to learn openly,
to give generously,
to live together in the unity
of the Spirit

as a congregation of the
Presbyterian Church (USA)
and to share the work of
mission and ministry . . .
transforming tradition in the
church and in the world.

*This covenant was written
and adopted by the Session
for Immanuel's 175th
Anniversary as an
expression of what
it means to be a member of
Immanuel Presbyterian
Church.*

TOWER CHIMES

September 2021

BACK ... AND FORWARD **A new season at Immanuel Church**

"The Tower Chimes" is back for a fall edition, now chiming in an electronic format. Printed newsletters ceased in the spring of 2020 when we couldn't gather our volunteer assembly team to process the bulk mailings. At that time we shifted church news to an expanded online weekly bulletin, thinking that would be a short-term measure. But eighteen months later, it's time to go back to a separate publication as we move ahead with church life in a new season.

Worshippers have been back in the Sanctuary since June. We're going forward into the fall with a continued protocol of required masking, distanced seating, and outdoor-only gathering afterward (for in-person worship guidelines: <https://bit.ly/3tDhg1t>). The pre-registration process keeps count for the sake of healthy occupancy (an actual calculation, set at 130) and contact tracing. The surge in the Delta variant has postponed a fuller reopening at this time. The COVID-19 Advisory Team monitors area health metrics weekly and will recommend protocol adaptations as necessary to live within the "safer" criteria the Session has adopted (as compared to "not safe" and "safest").

Worship services will go forward with a livestream option. In addition to the persons in the pew, we now welcome members and friends who participate virtually in at least equal numbers. For three summer months the average Sunday in-person attendance was 81 and the average number of online views was 83. Since more than one person may be at a viewing device, the size of this "hybrid congregation" meets or exceeds the average attendance on a 2019 summer Sunday.

Church school for children and youth will resume on Sunday, September 12 with a series of outdoor Christian education experiences to begin the fall quarter. All adults interacting with children have been vaccinated.

Adult learning opportunities will go forward this fall with online programming every Wednesday evening at 7:00 beginning in October. Most weeks will offer two options. Watch for upcoming information on course offerings.

Questions? Concerns? There will be a congregational forum on Wednesday, September 15 at 7:00, following a presentation the previous evening on "being church in the Covid era" by the Rev. Kerri Parker, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches. The WCC has produced resources used by congregations and denominations across the country since the early days of the pandemic. Please see *page 2* for more information.

WHAT WE'RE DOING AND WHY:

"BEING CHURCH" IN A CONTINUED SEASON OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Two opportunities to listen, learn, discuss, share, ask

1. **Tuesday, September 14 + 6:45*-7:30 p.m.**
"Ministry in the Era of COVID Variants"
A presentation by the Rev. Kerri Parker,
Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84793810828>

As we move into another season shaped by the pandemic, members are invited to join those serving as elders, deacons, and trustees to hear a presentation by the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, the Rev. Kerri Parker, on ministry in the era of Covid variants. This virtual presentation will be the first part of the annual church leadership event on **Tuesday, September 14 at 6:45 p.m.** The WCC has provided wise and credible guidelines and resources to Wisconsin churches as well as to congregations across the Presbyterian Church (USA) <https://www.wichurches.org/2021/01/14/returning-to-church/>.

*Elders, deacons, and trustees will convene at 6:30 for their annual leadership meeting, and will break into board groups following the presentation to discuss the implications on their work in the year ahead.

2. **Wednesday, September 15 + 7:00 p.m.**
A congregational forum for all members
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82187780663>

Members are encouraged to participate in a discussion of the current COVID-19 protocols, decision-making and planning process, building mitigation steps, etc.

The previous evening's presentation will be helpful in providing some common information and perspective. The COVID-19 Advisory Team will respond to questions and listen to concerns. We are grateful to the members who bring their professional skills and experience to guiding the church through these days: Dr. Kathleen Burchby (pediatric medicine), Trustee Randy Trumbull-Holper (Director of Facilities, UW-M Peck School of the Arts), Elder Mike Gillard (pharmacy manager, Ascension SE), Dr. Jeff Stearns (family medicine), Elder Allyson Nemecek (LEED architect and urban planner), Trustee Jilaine Bauer (attorney; Chair of IPC Insurance Committee), the ministers.

PARENTS of children and youth will be gathered into a breakout group at 7:30 for conversation about factors impacting our Christian education program this fall.

It can't be said enough, *"We're all in this together."*
Please engage in these opportunities
as we seek to be the faithful and healthy Body of Christ.

NEW TO IMMANUEL? INTERESTED IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

Are you new to Immanuel Church? Would you like to learn more about the congregation? Are you interested in exploring church membership?

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," Mr. Ater would love to talk with you! As Immanuel continues to adapt and grow during this unusual time, we want to be creative and inclusive about how we welcome new friends into the life and mission of the congregation. Contact Associate Pastor Rob Ater (robertater@immanuelwi.org, 414-276-4757) to begin (or continue) a conversation about making this important connection.

CHURCH SCHOOL RESUMES!

After a year and a half gathering online, Church School will be held in-person for the month of September! At the advisement of the COVID-19 Advisory Team and Session, **all Church School classes will be held outdoors.** Masks for children, youth, and teachers will be required at all times.

Church School participants will be released to their classes following the Prayer of Thanksgiving during morning worship. Children in K4-3rd grade and 4th-6th grade will gather on the Astor Street lawn, and youth (7th-12th grade) will gather on the Parish House porch. *Join us!*

September 12 - Welcome Back: Meet your teachers, your classmates, and enjoy a small ice cream treat. (*Please note that the annual church-wide Ice Cream Social has been cancelled.*)

September 19 - Bible 101: Bring your Bible with you and we'll explore together how to read and use this special book.

Note: New Red Room children (ages 3 to 5), as well as Green Room children (4th-6th grade) will receive new Bibles that day.

September 26 - Mission Sunday: Each class will lend a hand in a special project to support one of IPC's local mission partners.

Details about October Church School gatherings will be shared soon.

Be sure to watch for the weekly "**Wednesday Grace**" e-blast to get the latest Church School updates and information.

Contact Associate Pastor Teresa Larson (teresalarson@immanuelwi.org, 414-276-4757) with Church School questions or to be added to the Wednesday Grace list!

2021-2022 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation is back! Youth in 10th-12th grade who have not already participated in confirmation are invited to join the upcoming class and participate in an informational meeting on Sunday, September 12 from 1:00-2:00 via Zoom. Confirmands will be commissioned for their journey of study and service during worship on Sunday, September 26.



VIRTUAL "DOORS OPEN MILWAUKEE"

September 25 to October 3, 2021

Event Link:

<https://historicmilwaukee.org/doors-open/>

Immanuel's page with 360 virtual tour:

<https://www.immanuelwi.org/virtual-doors-open-milwaukee-2021>

Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year's "Doors Open Milwaukee" event will be hybrid. In-person venues will be open the weekend of September 25 - 26 with special precautions that may include vaccine requirements and rapid testing at some venues. Immanuel will participate virtually again this year. Click the links above for more information about the event, to view Immanuel's 360 virtual tour page and building guide.

Sponsored by Historic Milwaukee, Doors Open Milwaukee is now in its 11th year! Immanuel is proud to have been a part of this popular event from the beginning.

“SPOTLIGHT ON MISSION”

IMMANUEL HELPS FUND VACCINE SYRINGES FOR CUBAN PARTNERS

Since 2015, Immanuel has partnered with a Christian community center, organic farm and local congregation in Cuba to install clean water systems through Living Waters for the World (LWW). During the pandemic, Immanuel has stayed in touch with these water partners through the help of the LWW Cuba Network. The Immanuel Mission Committee recently learned that, although COVID vaccine is available, the syringes needed to provide the three dose series are in short supply. In response to a request from the Cuba Network and with a matching grant through Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, Immanuel’s mission committee recently sent a gift of \$1,000 to help provide the needed syringes. For more information about Living Waters of the World, click here: <https://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/>

CATHEDRAL CENTER SHELTER FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES Fall Meal Teams Formed

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Cathedral Center Shelter for Women and Families continues to be closed to outside volunteer meal groups. This spring and summer four catered dinners were organized through the generous gifts of Immanuel members. *Thank you!* This fall, members have committed to serving on three meal teams to deliver home-cooked suppers on three dates in September, October, and November. The meals will be served by shelter staff. Thank you to Immanuel’s meal team volunteers, led by coordinators Martha Mainland, Claire Moulis, and Bobbi Timberlake.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE: RESPONDING TO HAITI EARTHQUAKE, HURRICANE IDA

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) continues to respond to the devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti last month. Working closely with Presbyterian World Mission, other traditional partners on the ground, and ACT Alliance, PDA is responding to emergency needs such as WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) support, emergency power generators, shelter, food, first aid and more with a commitment to the long-term recovery.

PDA is also mobilized and delivering aid to those impacted by Hurricane Ida. The initial assessment of the damage is staggering. The needs of those impacted is changing daily because of lack of access to power, refrigeration, water and housing. This will be a long-term commitment to the people impacted by this catastrophic destruction. PDA will continue to work with Presbyterian leadership to respond to Hurricane Ida and remain engaged in the recovery efforts during the hurricane season of 2021, during which several named storms are expected to impact the region. After initial needs are addressed, PDA will remain – providing emotional and spiritual care and Long-Term Recovery to address unmet needs.

Contributions to these efforts may be made through the church; make checks payable to Immanuel Presbyterian Church, indicating “PDA” in the memo line and we will forward. Or, you may give directly to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at 800-872-3283 or <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/OG100000/> Designate gifts to OG100000-Haiti. Designate gifts to DR000169-Ida.

AFGHAN REFUGEE SUPPORT

As thousands of refugees have fled Afghanistan in recent weeks, at least 3,000 are expected to come to Wisconsin’s Fort McCoy. Local refugee resettlement groups are organizing to assist in welcoming and resettling these new neighbors. Immanuel has reached out to Lutheran Social Services (LSS) to determine what support might be most helpful from local congregations. LSS has a long history of doing this work and expects to serve several hundred refugees. The mission committee will keep the congregation posted as we learn more about how Immanuel might support these efforts.

PARISH LIFE COUNCIL EVENT: MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL

Mission: Joy Finding Happiness in Troubled Times

View at your leisure between September 6 and 12

Zoom Discussion: Wednesday evening, September 22 at 7:00

Join members of the Parish Life Council by participating in this year's virtual *Milwaukee Film Festival*. Members and friends are invited to purchase a ticket to view the film "Mission: Joy – Finding Happiness in Troubled Times" featuring the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Click here to purchase a ticket for virtual admission and to view the film: <https://mkefilm.org/events/mission-joy-finding-happiness-in-troubled-times>. The film is available for your viewing for 48 hours after your purchase, between September 6-12. Tickets are \$9.00.

Those who view the film are invited to gather via Zoom on Wednesday evening, September 22 at 7:00 for reflection and conversation. Click the following link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4baca72ba1f85-conversation> Contact Ms. Larson (teresalarson@immanuelwi.org, 414-276-4757) with questions.

FALL CLEANUP DAY

Saturday, October 16 + 9:00 a.m. until noon

All are invited to help with the Landscaping Committee's fall cleanup day on Saturday, October 16 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Indicate your interest by following this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4baca72ba1f85-fall1> or contact Trustee Dave Ravie for more information (idravie@sbcglobal.net). If you have gardening tools, gloves, etc. please bring them along. All volunteers must wear masks. Come for a few hours or plan to stay all morning!

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 3

On Sunday, October 3, Immanuel Church will, once again, join congregations around the world in celebrating World Communion Sunday. This annual celebration which takes place on the first Sunday of October, acknowledges and affirms our unity with Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Our guest preacher for World Communion Sunday will be the Rev. Rosemary Mitchell, the Senior Director of Mission Engagement and Support for the Presbyterian Church (USA). "The breadth and depth of Presbyterian Mission is amazing!" Mitchell says, "I am so grateful for the church leaders I have the privilege of meeting with to see and hear about their important and creative mission. My work is to strengthen their ministries and see how we can work together to move forward. We are deepening engagement and taking seriously the call to love our neighbor as ourselves."

Immanuel's ministers and Session are grateful that Ms. Mitchell accepted the invitation to join us as we mark our commitment to serve God's people, not only in our community, but around the world. Her visit will also include the chance to visit with her son, Immanuel member Matthew Mitchell and his spouse, Corrine, and their family!

GIFT CARDS

FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND STUDENTS

As part of their ministry of support and care, the Board of Deacons will again offer gift cards to seventeen Immanuel Church young adults and students this fall. During the pandemic, the board has paused its longtime tradition of sending care packages since it is unable to meet in person to assemble them. This ministry of care and compassion includes not only traditional undergraduates but also young adults serving and studying abroad and those engaged closer to home in specialized training and service programs. The gift cards will be accompanied by an encouraging note from their Immanuel Church family.

If you know a young adult who might have missed our list or you know of another Immanuel member who is away from home or serving in the military who might appreciate a note and gift, please contact Mr. Ater in the church office (robertater@immanuelwi.org, 414-276-4757).

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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The deadline for the October issue of the *Tower Chimes* is September 27.
Please send newsletter contributions to Mr. Ater.

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Issue published: September 10, 2021

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SUMMER NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- Born** Mavis Kathryn Cusack, to Annalise Wolff and Jake Cusack, May 8.
Aiden Jeffrey Cappelli, to Jon and Stephanie Cappelli, May 27.
- Died** Nancy Craig, July 9. Ms. Craig joined Immanuel Church in 1996. Our prayers and sympathy are with Don and the Craig family. Plans for a memorial service are pending.
- Moved** Jason Katcha
Donna Holmes
Martha Swigart
Marilyn Minor
Don Craig
Sara Shaw
- Congrats** Dr. William Welburn, on his retirement from Marquette University. Having served at Marquette for twelve years, most recently as vice president for inclusive excellence in the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Welburn concludes a 42-year career in higher education. He joined Immanuel in 2007 with his spouse, Janice Welburn, the dean of the libraries at Marquette. Congratulations William!