



# The Immanuel Light

*For the Living of These Days*

APRIL 2021

VOL. 13 No.4

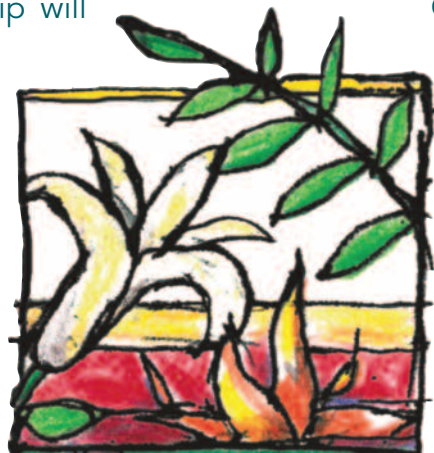
## Holy Week & Easter

By the time this newsletter is published, we will have begun our Holy Week journey with Palm Sunday. We will have watched the children process with palm leaves and remembered the triumphal entry into Jerusalem that commences Jesus' last week of life.

There will be no prayer service on Wednesday of this week, instead we will gather at 6pm on Maundy Thursday (April 1) in the sanctuary and via livestream for worship. Worship will include a meditation by Andrew, a children's time by Stephanie, special music, and the observance of the Lord's Supper. Congregants will be invited to come forward to receive the elements of communion from pastoral staff, who will be wearing both masks and gloves. We will be observing all recommended protocols from our healthcare professionals, but if you do not feel comfortable taking communion in this way, you are welcome to bring your own elements (a grape and cracker) with you.

On Good Friday (April 2) we will gather at 6pm around the columbarium for a service of reflection about the last words of Jesus, with the

extinguishing of candles, as well as the singing of hymns, and prayer. We will be observing mask and distancing protocols. Participants are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and dress for comfort. In the event of rain, the service will not be held. Due to the outdoor nature of the event, it will not be livestreamed, but alternative options for Good Friday observance will be distributed electronically.



On Holy Saturday (April 3), the Flowering Cross will be positioned outside in front of the main doors to the sanctuary. You may bring any flowers you wish to contribute from 3:00 pm–5:00 pm that day or on Sunday morning before worship. Masks and social distancing will be observed for the safety of everyone.

Easter Sunday (April 4) Christ is risen indeed! Worship at 10:30 am. The Flowering Cross will be available for individual and group pictures. The Easter Egg Hunt will take place after worship on the front lawn, followed by games and snacks for the kids. Masks and social distancing protocols will be observed for the safety of everyone.

Introducing

# Our Prospective Minister of Music Candidate

We are delighted to introduce to you, Dr. Tim Sharp, our candidate for the Minister of Music position at Immanuel. Tim has recently retired as the Executive Director of The American Choral



Director's Association based in Oklahoma City. He has had a full career of music experiences including director of choral activities at Belmont University and dean of Fine Arts Rhodes College, as well as various church music leadership positions. Tim is a graduate of Belmont University and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

At Belmont, Tim studied under Dr. Jerry Warren and Dr.

Richard Shadinger, and later even taught a couple of IBC choir members during his time there as a professor. It was these connections and friendships that brought Tim to be guest musician (banjo) at Immanuel's "Christmas Connections" service in December, and later to the attention of the Personnel Committee. After reviewing his extensive resume and meeting with him, the Committee has unanimously moved to recommend him to the Church as the candidate for the Minister of Music position. We believe Tim's passion, talents, and experience will bring new energy as we look towards the next stages amidst the pandemic and ongoing growth thereafter.

Tim is married (Jane) and has one adult daughter (Emma). The Sharps have built a house in Montgomery County with land to farm and are glad to be back in Middle Tennessee.

Welcome Tim and Jane!

## Personnel Committee

Jon Cooper  
Allen Schlamp  
Laralee Page, Coordinator  
Charlie Lutz  
Steven Meriwether, Staff Resource



## Immanuel Baptist Church

The mission of Immanuel Baptist Church is to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to deepen our love for God and others, to fully engage our neighbor, and to wholeheartedly serve those on the margins of society.

*God is calling Immanuel Baptist Church to practice the radical, compassionate discipleship taught by Jesus Christ.*

### Pastor

Steven Meriwether  
smeriwether@ibcnashville.org

### Associate Pastor

Stephanie Wyatt  
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### Minister of Youth

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### Parents' Day Out Director

Becky Atkinson  
kentuckyfan80@comcast.net

### Minister of Music Emeritus

Beryl Vick

# Church Family News

## PRAYER LIST

- Marjorie Johnson
- Virginia Neely

## IN MEMORIAM

### David Charles George

12 January 1938 ~ 7 March 2021

Joined Immanuel

18 January 1976

## THANK YOU

To my IBC family, It is difficult to put into words the amount of gratitude I feel for all the love and support I've received from so many of you while recovering from my broken ankle and subsequent surgery. It's hard to imagine how people get through difficult times without the support of church family! Please know that all the prayers offered, phone calls made, cards sent, and meals provided have been deeply felt and immensely appreciated.

Gratefully,  
Cindy Lutz

## Sanctuary Flowers



April 4 - given by Patricia Schlamp in loving memory of her son, Jayson Downing.

April 11 - given by Jean Sharpe in loving memory of Dotty Shaw. "Dotty is remembered for her innate gift of unselfishness and willingness to anonymously help others. We were blessed to have known her as a friend to the Grigsby Class and Immanuel."

April 18 - given by Carolyn Campbell in loving memory of her mother, Betty Brougher Campbell.

April 25 - given by the Ben Rowan family in loving memory of Jenny Rowan.

## BEREAVEMENT

Sympathy is extended to Carolyn Easterly on the death of her brother, Bill Irwin, who died recently in Knoxville.

# happy birthday!

### April 1

Cindy Lutz

### April 7

Brad Bates

### April 12

Craig Self

### April 13

Josiah Baker

### April 15

Jimmy Conn

### April 17

Kate Winston

### April 20

Patty Littlejohn

Maddie Vaughn

### April 21

Jack Newman

### April 25

Lissa Jarnigan

Olivia Cooper

### April 26

Ashton Dillard

### April 27

Katy Clouse

### April 28

Elaine McKenna

### April 29

Gil Chilton

### April 30

Grover Baker

Derek Crownover



April

# Calendar of Events

## THURSDAY, APRIL 1

9:30 PDO  
6:00 Maundy Thursday Service

## FRIDAY, APRIL 2

6:00 Good Friday Service

## SUNDAY, APRIL 4

## EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 Children's ZOOM SS  
9:15 Sunday School  
10:30 Worship  
11:30 Easter Egg Hunt

## MONDAY, APRIL 5

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

9:30 PDO

## TUESDAY, APRIL 6

9:30 PDO

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

5:00 Youth ZOOM

## THURSDAY, APRIL 8

9:30 PDO

6:30 Stewardship ZOOM

## SUNDAY, APRIL 11

9:00 Children's ZOOM SS  
9:15 Adult Sunday School  
10:30 Worship

## MONDAY, APRIL 12

9:30 PDO

## TUESDAY, APRIL 13

9:30 PDO

6:30 Deacons' ZOOM

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

5:00 Youth ZOOM

## THURSDAY, APRIL 15

9:30 PDO

## SUNDAY, APRIL 18

9:00 Children's ZOOM SS  
9:15 Adult Sunday School  
10:30 Worship

11:30 Business Meeting

## MONDAY, APRIL 19

9:30 PDO

## TUESDAY, APRIL 20

9:30 PDO

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

5:00 Youth ZOOM

## THURSDAY, APRIL 22

9:30 PDO

## FRIDAY, APRIL 23

Wedding rehearsal

## SATURDAY, APRIL 24

Wedding

## SUNDAY, APRIL 25

9:00 Children's ZOOM SS  
9:15 Adult Sunday School  
10:30 Worship

## MONDAY, APRIL 26

9:30 PDO

## TUESDAY, APRIL 27

9:30 PDO

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

5:00 Youth ZOOM

## THURSDAY, APRIL 29

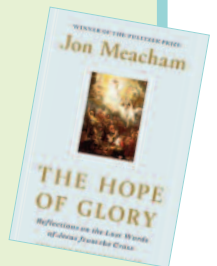
9:30 PDO

## LOOK in the LIBRARY!

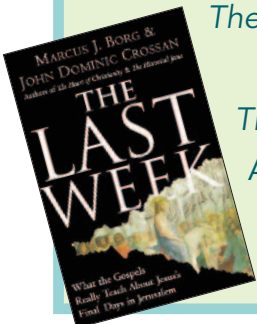
Choose some books from the library for your Easter reading. Several are on display. You can search categories such as "Easter," "Resurrection," and "Jesus Christ" through the online catalog accessible through the church website. Any of these can be reserved for pick-up at the church office. Also, access to the library is available any time the church office is open.



*Easter Love Letters from God* by Glenys Nellist – illustrated bible stories for Holy Week.



*The Hope of Glory* by Jon Meacham – reflections on the last words of Jesus from the cross.



*The Last Week* by Marcus Borg – day by day account of Jesus' final days in Jerusalem.

*The Late-blooming Artistry of Ruth Neely* compiled by Julie Dilworth – A pictorial collection of hand-decorated Easter eggs.



# Remembering David George

by Linda Fields

How appropriate for David George early on a Sunday morning to enter the full presence of God, exemplifying his lifelong practice to worship wherever he was as he was able, in spirit and in truth.

We each have our stories with David George. My first encounter with David came through a letter Tim received welcoming him as new staff to the Christian Life Commission. David was a board member of the CLC. Of greater note to us 42 years later, was the invitation to visit Immanuel Baptist Church where David was pastor.

I had the honor of working with David George in the church office as church administrator from 1987 till the conclusion of his IBC pastorate in 2006. As a staff member, I observed him closely. Staff is key but at IBC, everyone counts. We are congregational, a reflection of David's leadership style.

David had the privilege and responsibility to enter people's lives in the most intimate times. We expected him to be there for us, without fail. Members were important to him. There are no lapses in service opportunities for the pastor—no place to hide except perhaps briefly in a study filled with books. He loved reading and studying and preparing. He loved sharing the good news, especially in a scholarly manner. When filing sermons, I noted he sometimes preached only from an index card with notes (“the proverbial sermon in the back pocket”); more often and particularly in sensitive topics, everything was typed and perfected because he wanted to be sure he said what he intended. He was always well organized. He referenced his sermons and articles through a card catalogue system, ready to share with others.

Broken hearts, broken bones, broken lives, weddings, funerals, births, burials, baptisms, hospital and home visitation—wherever we gathered David was there to lead us spiritually, to offer a scripture, a word of encouragement, a prayer, a listening ear. Prayer was a stronghold for David. His funeral services were uplifting and encouraging. He showed how purposeful and unique each person's life is.

A pastor is one who has to be jack of all trades, master of all or at least many trades. David was an example of Christian living. Whether it was spiritual

disciplines or sermon preparation, he did it with excellence. He was a Baptist statesman and an ardent supporter of the pillars of Baptist doctrine. Denominational interests were part of his life, but he painstakingly made the jump when institutions no longer seemed to reign true to his doctrinal beliefs. He

was devoted to his Lord first. Missions and ministry were priorities. After retirement, he continued to follow his calling in interims in Texas and Tennessee.

He was actively involved with his family and community. He vigorously supported public schools and stood for tax support to be equitable. Education was valued. David and Peggy loved football games at their children's Hillsboro High School. A Baylor football game, a movie with friends, a book or a dinner gathering with others ensured a good time.

David was mentor to many including staff—neophytes, some still in college or seminary, as well as seasoned ministerial staff. Always ready to teach, to counsel, to encourage, he had a heart particularly for those entering the ministry. The staff, varying in skills and abilities, have always been team. David was never pushy, but he wanted us to do our best. At one time I counted 27 ordained ministers in the church membership which might seem intimidating. David made himself available to those ministers in the church; he was “the pastor's pastor.” Even with his towering height, he did not elevate himself above them. He was always ready to listen and exchange ideas. He often said we hammer our lives on the anvil of doubt and questions; yet Christ and truth prevail.

One day I watched as he adjusted and then again repositioned a lamp shade in his office after working hard on a document. I told him, referring to the document as well as the lamp, “You know it doesn't have to be perfect to be good.” He looked around,



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## Remembering David George

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smiled and concurred. He lived life that way--attempting perfection, but okay to move on. Actually, he had first used that phrase on me; hence I loved the chance to “get him back.”



Labor Day Weekend Picnic 2019

David wasn't all work and no play! On occasion he would go visit a member of the church family at what is now St. Thomas Midtown and stop at the Krispy Kreme on the way back to church to bring the staff a dozen donuts. However, usually by the time he got back to the church, there would be only *eight* donuts in the box . . .

David, the scholar and theologian, shared Karl Barth's theological summation in the profound statement, “Jesus loves me, this I know.”<sup>1</sup> In his dying, David showed us how to live—in trust and faith. He recently re-read and reflected on John Baillie's *A Diary of Private Prayer*. He wrote an Easter meditation in the final weeks of his life. He lived life abundantly as it merged into eternal life.

We have called him pastor emeritus since 2006. We carry on, as one of David's favorite songs proclaims, “we love Him and seek Him, we long to be near Him, and rest in the light of His beautiful land.”<sup>2</sup> David's love for *The Pilgrim's Progress* surely shines brighter, allowing him evermore to worship his creator in the anticipated Celestial City.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Karl Barth, Rockefeller Chapel, University of Chicago, April 23, 1962.

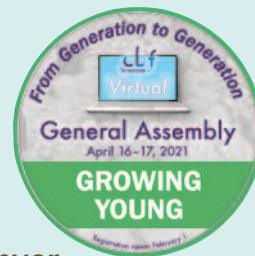
<sup>2</sup>Sarah Doudney, 1841-1926, *The Master Hath Come*.

<sup>3</sup>Bunyan, John, 1628-1688, *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

## Tennessee CBF General Assembly

ONLINE 2021

April 16-17



This year the focus for the General Assembly is *Growing Young*. It is a conversation for everyone in the local church. We will be looking at creating a culture within the local church conducive to growing young as a congregation, something essential to the church's future, vitality, and faithfulness to your community.

Registration is **COMPLIMENTARY** this year. Go to <http://tncbf.org/cbf-general-assembly> to find out more details and to register!

## BUSY April Business Meeting!

The April business meeting will be held on Sunday, April 18, at the conclusion of the worship service. There are a number of important items to be voted on at this meeting:

- Election of deacons and other church officers
- The proposed budget for May 2021-April 2022
- A waiver to the by-laws concerning the Parents' Day Out Director
- The Committee roster for May 2021-April 2022
- A recommendation from the Personnel Committee regarding the Minister of Music position.

Information regarding each of these items will be sent out via email (or snail mail for those not having email capability).

Voting will be in-person at the business meeting on Sunday morning.

# Coming Soon . . . and Other Notes of Interest

## The Immanuel Book Club

April 25 at 5pm via Zoom

Topic: Share your favorite recommendations for summer reading

### Interested & not yet part of the group?

Contact Richard Shadinger, convener, at richardshadinger@gmail.com to join the Book Club mailing list.

## May 2 is Graduate Recognition Sunday!

On May 2 we will be recognizing our three high school graduates:

Josiah Baker

Sophia Brown

Sebastian Horner

Watch for more information in the May *Immanuel Light!*



**New landscaping at the Columbarium**

## Applying for the Martin Scholarship

Any church member planning to attend Belmont University is an undergraduate in the fall of 2021 may apply for the Martin Scholarship now. For more information, please contact Jenny Dean in the church office or at [jdean@ibcnashville.org](mailto:jdean@ibcnashville.org).

## A Note from Our PDO Director

It is with a flood of emotions that I write to announce my retirement as Director of Immanuel's PDO Program. The past ten years have been immensely fulfilling and meaningful as I have shepherded the program, represented our church and worked to carry out Immanuel's commitment of caring for God's littlest ones. I will be forever grateful for your support, encouragement and the vote of confidence you have shown me through the years. I am most proud of the deep personal relationships that have been established and cultivated through the program and, it is this bond and ministry that I will miss the most. As I close this chapter, I am comforted to know that I am leaving the program in good hands with a new director who will love, care and nurture it as it deserves. In my immediate future, I am looking forward to some rest, reflection, new volunteer opportunities and the joy of welcoming my first two grandchildren who are both arriving in July.

With gratitude and affection,  
Becky Atkinson

## We're Proud of You, John Ed!

Recently a member of the Immanuel family, Maj. John Ed Auer, was recognized for his heroism that saved a life on the road from Dubai to Abu Dhabi. From his training both as a Marine and a boy scout in Williamson County, John Ed was able to administer first aid and save one man's life in the wake of a serious car accident. Way to go, John Ed!