



# The Immanuel Light

*For the Living of These Days*

JULY 2021

VOL. 13 No.7

# VBS

July 27-29

5:00 - 8:00 PM

IBC Family Vacation Bible School will take place July 27-29 from 5pm to 8pm each night. We will be studying and engaging the story of the prophet Jonah.

If you have a talent or a gift you would like to share with the children or are simply willing to show up and take direction, Pastor Stephanie will be happy (and grateful) to plug you in. Please email her at [swyatt@ibcnashville.org](mailto:swyatt@ibcnashville.org) or call on her cell 865-406-7154 to volunteer.



**Jonah** and **the Big Fish**

**Wednesday Nights Resume in August! See page 3 for details.**

## A New Creation by Tim Sharp

In 1864, the United States was four years into the Civil War. Later that year, Abraham Lincoln would be re-elected President for a second term, only to be assassinated on April 15, 1865. During this time of civil unrest and devastation, composer Robert Lowry wrote his best-known composition, a hymn sung by many of us and appreciated by others through Charles Ives' or Aaron Copland's setting of *Shall We Gather at the River*.

Five years later, the Civil War had ended, but the crippled nation faced the outbreak of a cholera epidemic that would result in over 5,000 lives lost in Brooklyn, NY, the home of Lowry. In the face of all of this upheaval, in 1869 he wrote and published "How Can I Keep from Singing?" in the Sunday School hymnal he edited, *Bright Jewels*. Read and ponder Lowry's words:

My life flows on in endless song; Above Earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, 'tho far-off hymn, That hails a new creation;  
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;  
It finds an echo in my soul—How can I keep from singing?

These underlined words—A New Creation—have given me hope in a new era of "tumult and strife." After personally surviving COVID-19 and having experienced the isolation of my wife and daughter being in the hospital due to the virus, I view our return to good health as a time of new creation. I view the challenges ahead with the mindset of a time of new creation, even as we continue to care for those who are still suffering and struggling.

Many are longing for a return to something called "normal," but our awareness over the last few months has demonstrated that "normal" was not acceptable. The new normal we want in this new creation is one of freedom and justice for all. The new normal we want in this new creation is one of opportunity and hope for all. As a musician, this new normal can be one in which I harness the power of music to bring about new societal awareness and use the properties of music to participate in this new awareness.

For me this time of new creation begins first with a new mindset. In the words of Carl Jung, "We cannot change anything until we accept it. Condemnation does not liberate, it oppresses." This new mindset offers me the opportunity to grasp new technologies that will enhance how I work and will expand my understanding and embrace of other cultures. Personally, I am excited about this new normal with this potential new mindset.

This time of new creation will also lead to a new skill set. I like the words of David Grinspoon: "Time and time again, our species has escaped existential threats by reinventing ourselves, finding new skills not coded in our genes to survive new challenges not previously encountered." As I had to move from face-to-face rehearsing to virtual rehearsing, I discovered a world of new tools that had been available to me all along, but now, they were my only hope of continuing my music work. Now, even when we are fully back together in rehearsal rooms and performance spaces, the new skills I have developed during this time have become a permanent part of my toolkit and my new creation.

This time of new creation will lead to a new collaborative team set. I've always known, deep down, that I cannot be in two places at the same time! This recent era of sheltering in place and quarantine has confirmed this for me. It has

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### 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.*

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also confirmed that I need a team and collaboration to accomplish the mission that I want to fulfill. The former model of a conductor on a platform giving commands was certainly scalable, but the moment we moved to virtual platforms, we realized we needed to engage more stakeholders in our processes. Practically speaking, this means that going forward I will depend more on sharing the leadership with others on my team in order to more effectively get our mission accomplished.

This month, our Adult Choir will sing my newly created choral setting of "How Can I Keep from Singing!" We do so as an anthem going forward, and with an optimistic eye toward our future together as we seek to lead in worship and song in this faith community of Immanuel Baptist Church.

—Tim Sharp,  
Minister of Music

## Wednesday Nights Resume in August!

We will resume Wednesday night gatherings at 5:15pm on August 11th. For each of the three Wednesdays we will meet in August, we will be deviating from our usual Wednesday schedule to share an intergenerational time of fellowship around the tables after dinner. Children's Choir will not meet until September. Adult Choir will meet at 6:30pm during August.

**August 11** – Intergenerational Sing-Along with Tim Sharp and Friends

**August 18** – Intergenerational Service Project

**August 25** – Brief Business Meeting & Board Games

**Our regular Wednesday schedule will resume on September 1.**

5:00pm-Children's Choir meets in choir room

5:15pm-Dinner Line Opens in Fellowship Hall

5:40pm-Children join parents in Fellowship Hall

6:00-6:50 pm-Adult Ed Programming, Handbells and Brass

Ensemble, Youth Group meets, and Children on Mission meet

7:00-8:30pm Adult Choir rehearsal

## Spring Fling and Pentecost Picnic - We Had Fun!!

All ages enjoyed food from the Tennessee Tatercakes Food Truck at the Spring Fling, then the kids took over!



Check out the windsock Kaelyn made at the children's Pentecost Picnic!

# Report from the Color of Compromise Study Group



For 12 weeks beginning in mid-March a group of six Immanuel members met with Pastors Steven and Stephanie over Zoom to engage the video series Color of Compromise, developed by Jemar Tisby from his book of the same name. We learned about the history of racism in America and particularly about the response of predominantly white churches to significant moments in that history. We had a chance to discuss Tisby's presentation and to speak about our own experiences with coming to recognize how racism has shaped our thinking, the lives of people of color whom we care about, and our culture at large. Below you will find two very personal responses to this material from Greg Sharpe and Nancy Hugley. Thank you to both of them for being willing to share with the congregation.

Color of Compromise is available in the Immanuel Library in both book and video formats. Logon to reserve or search: <https://ibcnashville.booksys.net/opac/ibc/#menuHome>

***Having grown up in a predominantly segregated society:** white elementary schools, white high school, and white churches, it took experiences during the civil rights movement in the 1960's to realize that there was another dimension to the country I loved. Poor black schools, tenement buildings, and issues about which black teens had to be concerned that wouldn't bother me came into focus. The shooting death of Martin Luther King, Jr. shocked me into reality.*

*The Color of Compromise video study outlined for me the ways in which predominantly white congregations have procrastinated taking up issues of race, allowing sinful acts against fellow believers to be perpetuated without corrective actions. The Jim Crow Era saw lynchings, discrimination against black soldiers after they returned home from fighting valiantly in World War II, discriminatory regulations in financing housing, and many other issues of unjust practice.*

*In the final video, Jemar Tisby stresses the urgency for churches to address our long national history of racism. He outlines a plan called ARC which consists of three steps:*

- 1. Awareness - we must become lifelong learners on the history of race in our society and the problems that exist around us.*
- 2. Relationships - we need more people who are willing to invest in the plight of our neighbors (Samaritans and all).*
- 3. Commitment - we must act urgently to create the*

*just society we desire to see*

*I must ask now "Am I willing to proceed or will I continue to compromise?"*

—Greg Sharp



***Military bases in Mississippi, Philippines, California, Japan, and Louisiana were my childhood homes.** To some degree being in a military family and attending military schools isolated me from experiencing the "real world" of the '60s, '70s and early '80s. When my father retired mid-1970's to Vicksburg, Mississippi, where our extended family lived, I was in culture shock. I did not understand the culture surrounding me. The attitudes, behaviors, language, biases, and the culture were divided based on the color of one's skin. I heard words I truly had never heard before. I faced a non-transient, real world community strongly divided, and at that time, where I did not fit. I did not fit the "white" community because I was disgusted by their treatment of "black folks." I was unable to make friends in the "black" community because I was viewed (due to the color of my skin) to be just like every other "privileged" white person my black peers knew. I was expected by my peers and as a white teen to act with ill will towards persons of color. I was odd girl out because I did not use the language of my privileged peers. I did not fit anywhere in Vicksburg, Mississippi,*

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# Church Family News

## PRAYER LIST

Tim Reynolds

### Congratulations to Our College Grads!

**Ellie Fitzpatrick**, a bachelor's degree from Case-Western Reserve in Cleveland, OH.  
**Mary-Claire Lutz**, a Master of Science in Music Therapy from Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh, Scotland.

### Sanctuary Flowers

**July 4** - given by John and Evelyn Brandon in honor of our new Minister of Music, Tim Sharp.

**July 11** - given by Bill and Elaine Fleming in loving memory of their parents, Melba and Fred Fleming and Kathryn and Earl Hart..

**July 18** - given by Charles and Judie Martin and family in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Martin, Jr. and in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Gaines R. Pezent.

**July 25** - given by Laurie Woods in loving memory of her mother, Barbara Grace Ardrus and in honor of her granddaughter, Kaelyn Grace.

### Congratulations

To **Becky Atkinson**, on the recent birth of two grandchildren! Caroline McKenzie Simcox was born June 20 to Jennifer and Brandon Simcox in Nashville and Jackson Harrall Shokes was born June 25 to Lindsey Kathryn and Jon Shokes in Lexington, Kentucky.



Online giving is now available through the church's website, [ibcnashville.org](http://ibcnashville.org) (click the "Contribute" button in the menu bar). This method of giving does not replace your current giving plan, for example, tithing via on-line bill pay. Please stay tuned to your email for further information about this option and how to best use it.

### Happy Birthday, Sid!

One of our faithful "at home" members, Sid Maddox, recently celebrated his birthday with a visit from Pastor Steven!



# happy birthday to you!

#### **July 1**

Dot Warren

#### **July 6**

Yvonne Christopher

#### **July 7**

Charles Martin

#### **July 10**

Hagen Self

#### **July 11**

Jill Cooper

#### **July 12**

Lucas Gore

#### **July 13**

Lydia Burr

#### **July 15**

Steve Tate

#### **July 16**

Ritch Sublett

#### **July 19**

Barbara Lutz

Jim Auer

#### **July 21**

Dorothy Steen

#### **July 23**

Haley Gall

Mark Vick

Christy Fields

#### **July 30**

Bill Fleming

#### **July 31**

Adam Maxwell

# July



# Calendar of Events

## SUNDAY, JULY 4

9:15 Intergenerational Sunday School

10:30 Worship/Lord's Supper/Fellowship Offering

## MONDAY, JULY 5

**YOUTH PASSPORT (July 5-10)**

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

5:00 Children Outdoor Fellowship

6:30 Adult Choir rehearsal

## THURSDAY, JULY 8

6:30 Stewardship ZOOM

## SUNDAY, JULY 11

9:15 Sunday School All Ages

10:30 Worship

## TUESDAY, JULY 13

6:30 Deacons' ZOOM

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

5:00 Children Outdoor Fellowship

6:30 Adult Choir rehearsal

## SUNDAY, JULY 18

9:15 Sunday School All Ages

10:30 Worship

Underground Church (Youth)

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

5:00 Children Outdoor Fellowship

6:30 Adult Choir rehearsal

## SUNDAY, JULY 25

9:15 Sunday School All Ages

10:30 Worship

Putt-Putt at Grand Old Golf (Youth)

## TUESDAY, JULY 27

5:00 FAMILY VBS

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

5:00 FAMILY VBS

6:30 Adult Choir rehearsal

## THURSDAY, JULY 29

4:00 FAMILY VBS and Water Night



Each month Immanuel is trying to provide 600 individually-wrapped desserts for our ministry partners at Luke 14:12. Dessert options include cookies, brownies, pastries or other items along this line.

**Our July collection date will be Sunday, July 25.** You may drop off your desserts in the church kitchen. Please let Pastor Stephanie know (swyatt@ibcnashville.org or 615-297-5356) if you plan to participate and how many desserts you will be providing. Thank you in advance.



## Preschool & Children's Summer Reading Club

**Look How We Are Reading!**

**Visit [www.ibcnashville.org](http://www.ibcnashville.org) for details!**

Each participant will be recognized on Sunday, August 1, during Children's Sunday School and will receive a book to take home.

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## Young Women's Retreat

November 5-6, 2021

Susan Crownover's Lake House

More Details to Follow



## Support Our Children & Youth when You Shop at Kroger

If you shop at Kroger and have a Kroger Plus Shopper's Card, you can elect for Kroger to send a percentage of your purchase to Immanuel each quarter, at no cost to you.

Kroger funds are deposited into a designated account to support our ministry to preschoolers, children, and youth. In particular, these funds help to supplement the cost of children and youth attending Passport Camps each summer.

If you would like to participate in this program, you may sign up online at Kroger.com. Go to the "Sign In" icon at the top of the page next to the cart icon. You can sign into your existing account or create a new account using the drop down menu.



If you need to create a new account, follow the prompts and then click on "Community Rewards" from the homepage in your account (panel on left or scroll down to find link). Search for Immanuel Baptist Church and look for the entry with our address (222 Belle Meade Blvd) or search using our organization number: AX709.

If you already have a digital account, sign in and then look for "Community Rewards" on the panel to the left or scroll down to find the link. If you are already signed up, Immanuel Baptist Church will appear under the "Community Rewards" heading.

Contact Pastor Stephanie with questions. Thank you for your support!

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*and I did not understand, at the time, the racial divide. I had been loved and nurtured by my family and in a community where every color, every language, and every family lived together in harmony. We had been protected, just by the nature of living on-base, from the behaviors of hatred towards those of color in many communities of that day and time. My privilege was "military family" not "white family."*

*Color of Compromise gave me an opportunity to dig deeper into a conflict I had never studied, nor fully understood. I was ashamed I did not understand the divide. I was ashamed to be white because I seemed to be a part of the problem I could not explain. What kept coming from my mouth was "I'm not prejudiced. I do not see color. I do not treat those of color any different than I do those with fair skin tones."*

*For me, racism is not what I did not do (i.e. "I don't treat others differently"); racism is what I fail to do. I fail my community because I sit quietly when someone speaks words of disrespect based on an attitude or skin color. I sit quietly while others fight their way out of a racial grip keeping them down. I sit quietly while others have nothing because it was taken from their grandparents and their grandparents' grandparents. I am guilty of racism because I do not speak up. I am guilty of racism because I do not advocate for change. I am guilty of racism because I did not recognize disparities for black female patients in my professional*

*community existed and were as profound as they are.*

*In order to be a part of the change, I must learn more. Color of Compromise has only begun to remove the blinders I wore veiled in the words "I am not prejudiced." I have found my faith is calling me to step towards advocating for change. For 50+ years my faith nurtured a sense of complacency because I thought it was good enough to simply not be racist.*

—Nancy Huguley, RN

## PASSPORT 2021

Please be in prayer for the three Immanuel youth and their chaperones as they leave for Passport Camp at Furman University in

South Carolina July 5-10. Please pray for their safety, good health, and open hearts as they engage this year's theme: Story.

Participants will experience God through Bible Study, worship, mission education, games, crafts, and play.



# Passportkids 2021



*Thank  
You for  
Praying  
for us!*