



The Immanuel Light

For the Living of These Days

AUGUST 2021

VOL. 13 No.8

Wednesday Night Activities Resume on August 11!

Immanuel is beginning to emerge from its pandemic life!

We will resume Wednesday night gatherings at 5:00 pm on August 11. 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 6:30 pm 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.

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

5:00 pm-Dinner Line Opens in Fellowship Hall

5:40 pm-Children join parents in Fellowship Hall

6:00-6:50 pm-Adult Ed Programming, Handbells and Brass Ensemble practice, Youth Group meets, and Children on Mission meet

7:00-8:30 pm Adult Choir rehearsal

New Sunday School Year Begins August 1. See page 7.

The Weather Report

A guest in worship recently asked me, “What kind of Baptist is this church?” Without pause, I said, “General.” The look of confusion led me to offer a description of our present denominational status.

Roger Williams’ tenure as a Baptist was brief. Desiring to bring himself closer to God, he sought to return to worship with an eye for a form of worship most like early Christianity. He ended up with a group of believers who eventually became known as “Particular Baptists.” Finding no support of infant baptism in scripture, Williams flat out rejected this practice. This belief and this belief only distinguished the Particular Baptists from the Puritans in the area. Like his Puritan neighbors, Williams and the Particular Baptists retained the belief that God predestined a select few for salvation.

Many or most modern Baptists do not hold to any form of predestination. We believe the good news of Jesus Christ is preached openly and to anyone who will give an ear. Those who repent and confess Jesus as Lord receive the gift of salvation. Our Baptist forefathers/foremothers were known as “General Baptists” because of this belief. As a side note, despite the shared belief in predestination, the Puritans evidenced disdain for the Particular Baptists, creating quite a commotion. Biographer John Barry writes, “Within a few months and with the deepest of regret, he (Williams) therefore abandoned the Baptist church, casting himself loose.”¹

The guest in worship seemed satisfied with my lengthier answer to the question. They returned for worship on a following Sunday and shared their contact information. If present on Sunday August 8, they will have the opportunity to witness our General Baptist leaning in practice.

The baptism of Melissa Clouse is scheduled for worship on the second Sunday in August. As a child of this church, Melissa has been nurtured in the love of God, the teachings of Scripture, and has repeatedly exhibited a keen grasp of the message of Jesus Christ. Presenting herself for believer’s baptism several Sundays back was a natural progression of an experience initiated at her dedication in September 2011. Like you, my heart was warmed by her courageous demonstration of her love for God.

As to the notion that God would save only a tiny minority of sinners and send the rest to hell, I am overly grateful to the General Baptists. I, we, owe much to these brothers and sisters who dared believe that all who had faith in Christ would be saved. Rather than defending an argument, they lived a belief. This was most fortunate given any understanding of the gift of salvation transcends the limitations of human thought anyway!

General Baptists hold dear certain freedoms. One such freedom has been termed “Soul Freedom.” Roger Williams in time arrived at a belief he would call “Soul Libertie.” The belief that every individual has the right and responsibility to deal with God with no interference from creed or government. Some in his day found his views so dangerous that they sought to banish him, threatening to hang him. As we witness our sister Melissa’s baptism, let us pause to consider the gravitas of the moment.

—Steven

¹Barry, John M. Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul. P.264



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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Passport 2021

What A Great Experience!



Recommended Changes to IBC Bylaws

The Polity and Procedure Committee is recommending revisions to the bylaws which were last updated in 2017. As the committee reviewed this document in recent months, they realized that several actions previously approved by the church had not been incorporated into the bylaws. During COVID, we discovered that provisions need to be specified for times when the church family is not able to meet in person.

The summary of changes with brief explanations includes:

1. Items previously approved but never ratified as a bylaw.
2. Items approved but never included in the bylaws.
3. Additions to the bylaws.

To view both the PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES and the BY-LAWS PLUS AMENDMENTS, go to:

<https://ibcnashville.org/documents>

The bylaw changes will be considered at the August 25 business meeting and are recommended by the Polity and Procedure Committee: Charles Businaro; Linda Fields; Jon Cooper, Parliamentarian, Ex officio; Kenny Cooper, Alternate Parliamentarian, Ex officio; Steven Meriwether, staff resource.

Welcome to the Choir!

A skill is the ability to do something well. We are blessed at Immanuel Baptist Church to have a legacy that includes musicians that do music very well. And we are thrilled this summer to start adding new musicians to this legacy who have joined our choir to perpetuate this legacy that dates back to King David (as well as Beryl Vick!).

Our list of skillful musicians includes this group of new additions this summer:

Lucinda Steen Stewart, daughter of Dorothy and John Steen, has retired from nursing at Vanderbilt hospital. She grew up at Immanuel, is a veteran singer, and has now returned to her home church.

Carolyn Binkley is a graduate of Belmont University and former teaching colleague at Belmont University with Tim Sharp. Carolyn is an active singer and voice teacher in the Nashville area.

Karen Mabry Lewis is a graduate of Belmont University who recently retired from a 36-year career teaching choral music in Dallas, Texas. She and her husband, Brad, have recently moved to the Nashville area.

Jane Sharp was a music major (piano) at Belmont University before shifting to the area of early childhood education. Jane and Tim met while singing in the Belmont Chorale 46 years ago under the leadership of Jerry Warren.

Emma Jane Sharp recently graduated with a masters degree in vocal performance from San Francisco Conservatory of Music and is now the Social Media Specialist at Trevecca University in Nashville.

Aimee Chaffin Milhizer graduated as a vocal major from Belmont University where she was a student of Richard Shadinger and Tim Sharp. She and her family moved to New York City after her Belmont graduation, and then to Chicago. They have recently returned to Nashville.

—Tim

Recently Pastor Steven, Jon Cooper, Minister of Music Tim Sharp and organist Richard Shadinger blessed us with "Ashokan Farewell" by Jay Unger.



Church Family News

PRAYER LIST

Tim Reynolds
Belle Butler
Sherry Cooper
Norma Witherington
Jenny Mills
Edward L. Obermiller, father of Patty Brown

Sanctuary Flowers

August 1- given by Bill and Penni Gregg in loving memory of their parents, Russell and Eria Lois Ogg and Rev. James M. and Pansy Gregg.

August 8- given by John Blackman in loving memory of his parents, Eleanor and John Blackman, Sr. and his cousin Sabrina Anne Pearce.

August 15- given by the Grigsby Sunday School Class in loving memory of Sue Senter.

August 22 - given by Abigail Reynolds in honor of her grandmother, Mary Kirk.

August 29 - given by Laddie Neil in loving memory of her husband, A. B. Neil, Jr. and his parents, Judge and Mrs. A. B. Neil.

THANK YOU

To my community of faith: Each time you have lifted us up in thought or prayer, you have helped us on the journey after losing our beloved Randy. You have been enormously kind with each compassionate gesture, card, phone call, email, memorial contribution or meal. Randy loved this church and you have again shown us why. We have received faith, hope and love in the name of Christ. We are forever grateful.

—Melanie Dover and family



WELCOME, NEW MEMBER!

Melissa Clouse, daughter of Katy and Troy Clouse, joins Immanuel by baptism. Melissa will be in the fifth grade this fall. Her deacon is Laurie Woods.

happy birthday to you!

August 3

Susan Witherington

August 5

Margaret Cook

August 9

Frank Marshall

Jack Shaw

August 14

Larry Maxwell

August 15

Laddie Neil

August 19

McCall Self

August 21

Stephanie Brown

Jo Jenkins

August 22

Michael George

August 26

Sarah Wilkerson

August 28

Charlie Lutz

Forrest Moorehead

Charlie Woodall

August 29

Kay Johnson

Mary Kirk



Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

9:15 Intergenerational Sunday School
10:30 Worship/Lord's Supper/Fellowship Offering
2:00 Sacred Harp

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

5:00 Children Outdoor Fellowship
6:30 Adult Choir rehearsal

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

9:15 Sunday School All Ages
10:30 Worship

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11

5:15 Church Family Supper followed by intergenerational fellowship around the tables

6:30 Adult Choir rehearsal
THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

6:30 Stewardship ZOOM
SUNDAY, AUGUST 15
9:15 Sunday School All Ages
10:30 Worship

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17

6:30 Deacons' ZOOM meeting
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18
5:15 Church Family Supper followed by intergenerational fellowship around the tables

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

6:30 Adult Choir rehearsal
9:15 Sunday School All Ages
10:30 Worship

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25

5:15 Church Family Supper followed by BUSINESS MEETING and intergenerational fellowship around the tables

6:30 Adult Choir rehearsal

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

9:15 Sunday School All Ages
10:30 Worship



In August Immanuel will provide 600 individually-wrapped desserts (cookies, brownies, or other pastries) for our ministry partners at Luke 14:12.

Our August collection date will be Sunday, August 29. 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

"The summer reading club was a "whale" of a success – 12 children read 93 books!"

AUGUST BUSINESS MEETING

The August business meeting will be held, Wednesday, August 25 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Items on the agenda include a vote on revisions to the By-laws (see page 4 of this newsletter for more information) and a recommendation from the Denominational Relations Committee (see below).

We'll play board games after the business meeting!

RECOMMENDATION FROM DENOMINATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Denominational Relations Committee unanimously recommends that Immanuel Baptist Church host the CBF TN General Assembly, April 29-30, 2022. The request to host came to the pastor from CBF TN coordinating council. (Melanie Dover, Craig Self, Greg Sharpe, Tim Reynolds, Steven Meriwether)

LABOR DAY PICNIC RESCHEDULED

After discussion, the deacons have decided to move the Labor Day Weekend Picnic to Sunday, October 3. Hopefully this will provide us a cooler day to gather for this fun event.

More details to follow.



New Sunday School Year Begins August 1

As we are all getting back in the swing of things, we are rolling out the new Sunday School year in phases. Please consult the following list to find out when your class will resume and what class to join in the meantime (if appropriate). Call the church office with questions 615-297-5356 or email Pastor Stephanie at swyatt@ibcnashville.org.

Adult Offerings

Grigsby Class – Begins Sept 5 (note: meet with Friendship II until that time)

Teachers: Marie Burr, Lerma Hearn, and Barbara Lutz
Outreach: Judy Parker

Mills Class – Begins Sept 5 (note: meet with Friendship II until that time)

Director/Outreach: Suzanne Brandon

Teachers: Tim Reynolds, Steven Meriwether

Friendship II Class – Meeting in Chapel beginning Aug 1

Teacher: Kenny Cooper

Outreach: Georgina Businaro, Susan Hawkins, and Betty Kay Wasserman

Young Professionals Class – (Room 2205)

Begins Aug 1

Teachers: Steve and Miriam Tate

Outreach: Ellen Mundy

Young Families Class – Begins Aug 8 (note: meets with Young Professionals Aug 1)

Teacher: Craig Self

Outreach: Lissa Jarnigan

Children & Youth Offerings

Youth Class (7th–12th Grades) – (Youth Room) – Begins Aug 1

Teacher: Andrew Tonks

4th–6th Class – Begins in Fellowship Hall Aug 1 then adjourns to Graded Classrooms

Teachers: Stephanie Wyatt and Carol Boozer

1st–3rd Grade Class – Begins in Fellowship Hall Aug 1 then adjourns to Graded Classrooms

Teachers: Grover Baker and Melanie Dover

Fours–Kindergarten Class (Rm 2402) – Begins Aug 1

Director: Debbie Maxwell

Teachers: Jill Cooper and Betty Kay Wasserman

Online Giving Options Now Available

With the adoption of Realm software for the purpose of managing congregational information and financial transactions, a further benefit to church members is available.

Realm offers online and mobile giving options to Immanuel members and friends. An important note: online and mobile giving DOES NOT replace any of our previous giving options. You may still give tithes and offerings in the form of cash or check. You may also continue to use online bill pay to schedule your gifts monthly. In fact, these forms of giving (cash, check, or online bill pay) continue to be the most cost-efficient sources of income for the church, as Immanuel does not incur any transaction fees with these types of contributions.

Online and mobile giving provide additional opportunities to conveniently give, especially for those wanting to make a one-time or special gift. Budget line items available for this type of giving include the Budget Offering, Library Gifts, Memorial

Flowers, Memorial Gifts, and Building Maintenance. If you choose this method of giving, we ask, if you are able, to check the box labeled “Contribute an extra \$___ to offset processing costs.” The processing cost amount is a percentage of the amount you give. Credit cards transactions require 3% of the total gift and ACH (Debit) transactions require 1.5% of the total gift to process. By choosing to offset processing costs, you ensure the church will not have to set aside funds for this purpose.

You may access online giving through the church’s website, ibcnashville.org, by clicking the “Contribute” button, the far-left option on the site’s menu bar at the top of the page. This button will take you to a page through which you can log on to your Realm account, find instructions for giving via text, or be directed to a giving form via the “Give Now” button.

Please contact the church office with any questions 615-297-5356 and Pastor Stephanie will be happy to assist you.