

# IMMANUEL LIGHT

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER

The season of Lent culminates in Holy Week when Christians all over the world enter into a time of contemplation and remembrance of the last week of Jesus' life. The great celebration that takes place at the end of this week is, of course, Easter, but to fully appreciate the feast of Easter, we must first work through the hard realities of Jesus' last days.

As has been our custom, IBC staff members and other invited writers will be writing devotions for Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday. Look for each day's meditation in your email inbox. If you do not currently receive church emails, but would like to receive these devotions, please email Pastor Stephanie at [swyatt@ibcnashville.org](mailto:swyatt@ibcnashville.org). This year's writers are Richard Shadinger, Tim Sharp, Jane Sharp, Adam DJ Brett, Shirley Montgomery, Aaron Butler, as well as Pastors Steven and Stephanie. For those who are not online, copies will be mailed to you.

We begin our time of commemoration with **Palm Sunday worship (April 2 at 10:30am)** and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a procession of palm leaves and singing "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Palm Sunday is celebratory in nature, but with a foreboding undertone, for we who experience the story from this side of Easter know that Jesus will be crucified a mere five days later. The children lead us as they walk the palms down the aisle while the choir sings. After worship on this day we will have a brief business meeting to affirm incoming church officers and new deacons.

During Holy Week we do not have Wednesday night activities, instead we gather on **Maundy Thursday** (April 6th) for church supper at 5pm in the Fellowship

Hall followed by a service for all ages in the Chapel at 6pm. Maundy Thursday is when we remember (and re-enact) Jesus' last meal with his disciples by taking communion together. In the gospel of John, the observance of the last supper includes Jesus washing the disciples' feet. In this same spirit, we invite you to participate in a ritual of hand-washing. Hand wipes will be provided so that you may exchange this symbolic act with your neighbors.

On **Good Friday (April 7th)** we will meet at the columbarium for an outdoor service at 6pm. Bring your lawn chairs and/or blankets. In the case of rain, the service will be

canceled. This service is a chance to remember the last day of Jesus' life and to reflect on the nature of human sin and frailty, suffering and death.

On **Easter Sunday (April 9th)** we return with joy to welcome our risen Savior! Bring your flowers to adorn the flower cross in front of the doors to the sanctuary facing Belle Meade Boulevard. The choir will lead us in

music and we will say once again in unison, Christ is Risen; Christ is Risen Indeed! At the end of worship, we will recess out to the flowering cross for our benediction. At the conclusion of worship, you are welcome to take photos with friends and loved ones at the cross. Be careful when exiting the parking lot as the children will be embarking on their Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn (grades K - 6) and in the colonnade courtyard (preschoolers).

We look forward to the blossoming of spring as we proceed along this holy route in the footsteps of Jesus with all its heartbreak and triumph. Come experience all that Holy Week has to offer at Immanuel this April!



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# Immanuel Baptist Church

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Minister of Music Emeritus

# Announcements

## Flowering the Cross this Easter

As our church family celebrates the risen Christ this Easter Sunday morning, plan to add flowers to the bare eight foot wooden cross. The cross will be located on the porch at the main Belle Meade entrance. The beauty of the flowered cross is admired by church members as well as church neighbors. And the cross is the perfect background for family photos!

About 150 flowers are needed to cover one side of the cross or 300 to completely cover the cross. Here are some options for helping:

1. Bring flowers from you home.
2. Purchase flowers from the grocery store.
3. Contribute \$12.00 to \$15.00 for a bunch of flowers (10 to 25 stems) from the company that supplies our weekly flowers. The Decorations Committee will then order and pick up the flowers. For this option, designate your gift to the "Flowering the Cross" fund.



## Candy Donations for Easter Egg Hunt

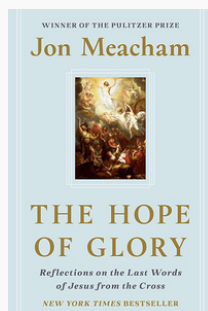
Please bring candy or small treats for the Easter Egg Hunt beginning Sunday, March 26th. There will be collection boxes in the pews across from the kitchen.

*Thank you! Children's Ministry Committee*



## EASTER BOOKS

These two books plus many more are available for checkout



**The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross**  
by Jon Meacham



**That Grand Easter Day**  
by Jill Roman Lord

# Upcoming Events

The Next 5th Sunday is Sunday, April 30th

## Outdoor Worship

Celebrate Creation with us at 10:30am  
BYO Tailgate Party to Follow



### THIS MONTH

APRIL 2

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

APRIL 6

MAUDY THURSDAY SERVICE  
6PM IN CHAPEL

APRIL 7

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE  
6PM IN COLUMBARIUM

APRIL 9

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

EASTER EGG HUNT  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

APRIL 16

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

APRIL 30

DR. KLEFSTAD  
PIANO CONCERT

### UPCOMING

MAY 21

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR  
RECOGNITION EVENT

## Upcoming Wednesday Night Programs

April 6 (Thursday)

Maundy Thursday Service

April 12

A Photographer's Journey to  
Iceland by Emma Sharp

April 19

Deacon Ordination for Lucinda  
Stewart

April 26

Business Meeting



Passportkids final installment of  
\$175 is due April 16th

## April Fifth Sunday Piano Concert

Our friend Kristian Klefstad from Belmont University will perform a piano concert on April 30 at 4:00 in the chapel. Kristian is known widely for his sensitive and virtuosic piano performance. He adds interest to his concerts by commenting on the music, adding insights for the listener. Be here to welcome Kristian, a former Immanuel choir member, and invite friends to come with you.



# Stewardship Committee Letter

Dear Immanuel Family,

Our Immanuel community has much for which to be grateful. Throughout the years, we have shared in mission, worship, education and caregiving. As we observe our children participating in every aspect of our ministries, we are reminded we have a number of adults (some seniors) who have been a part of our community since childhood. Our legacy of intentionality, inclusion, and grateful giving is worthy of celebration and continuation.

Though we trust that all we have as individuals and as a church body is a gift of God's grace, we are also aware that funding is required to maintain our buildings, pay our church staff, and support the on-going mission and ministries of the church. Wisely managing our resources is always a top priority. This year inflation is impacting all of us and our church budget as well. Knowing this, the Budget Council and Stewardship Committee is recommending a budget for the 2023-2024 year (starting May 1) of \$540,668 which is an increase of \$35,755 (7.1%). While some staff members will be receiving 4% raises, the bulk of the budget increase is in building administration (utilities, insurance, and custodial services) where the increase is 12.5% and reflects current costs.

Compounding our challenge is anticipated revenues. A good faith estimate based on just this past year's giving patterns leaves us with a revenue shortfall of \$53,150 for the coming year. While we could tap into savings reserves from previous years or annual Verizon revenues (which have historically been placed in building maintenance reserves) to get us through the coming year, the best solution is increasing our giving as a faith community to overcome these effects of inflation.

How might we do this? We are aware that everyone cannot increase their giving but if we as a church family increased our giving in the coming year by 10% we would more that cover the shortfall. Put another way, if our 280 resident members each averaged giving \$7.50 more each week for the year our increase in giving would be more than \$100,000 (almost double the need).

Let us all prayerfully consider our giving in this final month and into the new church year. Our giving matters. It makes the ministry and engagement of our church possible. Our giving is an expression of our own gratitude and trust, allowing us to be God's hands and feet of blessing. As we share in giving, we bless each other, our Immanuel family of the future, and the wider world.

On Sunday April 23, each of us will have opportunity in the worship service to offer our pledges to support our church ministries for the coming year. Pledge cards can also be mailed to the church by Friday April 28. We pray that God will assist us in practicing the radical, compassionate discipleship taught by Jesus Christ through our giving.

Stewardship Committee:

Claude Huguley, Coordinator

Brandon Jarnigan

Diane Sharpe

Jenny Wilson

Susan Hawkins, Ex officio

Susan Crownover, Ex officio

Steven Meriwether, Staff Resource

# More March Photos!



Mission Team in East Tennessee with Appalachian Ministries of the Smokies (formerly AO) on March 25th. (Pictured L-R: Jill Cooper, Olivia Cooper, Meredith Crownover, Susan Crownover, Pastor Stephanie, Adam DJ Brett, Jonah Wilkerson, and Erik Kihlberg).



Younger members of the AMOS mission team helping in the food pantry. (Pictured T-B: Erik Kihlberg, Olivia Cooper, Meredith Crownover, and Jonah Wilkerson).



Members of Billie Patton's Family joined us when she was the guest speaker for "This is my Story, This is My Song" on March 15 (Pictured behind Billie L-R: grandson Colson, daughter Debbie, daughter Cindy, and son John).

**If you take any photos at IBC events, send them to [office@ibcnashville.org](mailto:office@ibcnashville.org)**

# Women of Immanuel Day

## Sunday, March 5th



Betty Kay Wasserman & Jean Sharpe



Evelyn Brandon & Judy Parker



L-R: Miriam Tate, Laralee Page, Lauren, Katy, and Melissa Clouse, Nora Beth Humpries (x2), Pastor Stephanie, Lauren and Melissa Clouse



L-R: Yvonne Justis, Yvonne Christopher, Laddie Neil



L-R: Diane Sharpe, Martha Jo Berry, Julie Coulter, Olivia Cooper



L-R: Barbara Lutz, Pat Vick, Penni Gregg, Dorothy Steen



L-R: Jenny Dean, Peggy George, Cleatus Moorehead, Ann Conn, Pastor Stephanie, Emily Humphries, Marie Burr, Carolyn Easterly, Faye Roberts, and Debbie Maxwell

# Missions & Ministry



On Thursday, April 27th, you are invited to break bread together among fellow Tennesseans from different backgrounds, religions, and viewpoints at The Temple (5105 Harding Rd) from 5:30 to 8:30pm.

This event is jointly sponsored by Belmont University's Charlie Curb Center for Faith Leadership, The Temple, and Spiritus (a Nashville-based interfaith dialogue).

Our social ills can often seem overwhelming and can lead to despair or indifference, but gathering together for a common purpose can inspire hope and spark creative solutions. We invite you to join us for this important evening of discovery.

Your presence and insights are important to share. We ask that you come prepared to tell a story in which someone helped you to recognize the goodness within your own life. It is in the telling of our stories that we will find the hope needed to address the societal tensions of our nation.

## We hope to accomplish three goals in our time together:

1. To be reminded of the power of civil and rational conversation.
2. To recognize the value of telling "stories of goodness" as a way of reshaping the culture of our nation.
3. To identify assets we possess collectively that can be used for the common good.

Please contact Pastor Stephanie at [swyatt@ibcnashville.org](mailto:swyatt@ibcnashville.org) or 615-297-5356 by April 6th to register.

As part of the Nashville-wide Room in the Inn program, Immanuel Baptist Church hosted 80 guests without homes over 10 Thursday evenings, November through March. 61 different church members of all ages were involved in making beds, preparing snack bags and lunches, driving the van, making delicious food, spending the night, doing the laundry, and sharing a meal and fellowship around the table with the guests. Thank you for being a part of it!



Amy Dodson-Watts will be stepping down from her role as Executive Director of Luke 14:12 as of March 17th after twelve years. She is grateful for her time with the organization and all the people that made this work possible. The Board of Luke 14:12 expresses their thanks for all the efforts supporters have put in during the pandemic to help feed our hungry and unhoused neighbors. Due to some lingering post-Covid operational issues, they are pausing the Luke 14:12 feeding program and volunteer opportunities beginning April 1, 2023. The last meal they will serve before this pause will be Friday, March 31st. They intend to use April to review the Luke 14:12 program and improve their operations. Stay tuned for updates on opportunities to serve.



# Church Family News



## Church Directory

If you would like a paper copy of the church directory with contact information for members and friends, please email the church office at [office@ibcnashville.org](mailto:office@ibcnashville.org) or call 615-297-5356.

We can email you a PDF file or print it for you.

## Sanctuary Flowers

April 9 – Patricia Schlamp

April 16 – Jean Sharpe

April 23 – Ben Rowan Family

April 30 – Pat and Beryl Vick



## Attendance

March 5 – 89      March 19 – N/A

March 12 – N/A      March 26 – 98

## Financials

(Through March 31, 2022)

### Year-to-Date Budget

\$420,761.00

### Year-to-Date Actual Expense

\$410,509.98

### Offerings to Date

\$402,890.87

### Year-to-Date Net Income

{ \$7619.11 }

# April Birthdays



APRIL 1  
CINDY LUTZ

APRIL 13  
JOSIAH BAKER

APRIL 7  
BRAD BATES

APRIL 15  
JIMMY CONN

APRIL 12  
CRAIG SELF

APRIL 17  
KATE WINSTON

APRIL 20  
MADDIE VAUGHN

APRIL 21  
JACK NEWMAN

APRIL 25  
LISSA JARNIGAN  
OLIVIA COOPER

APRIL 27  
KATY CLOUSE

APRIL 29  
DANIEL TRAN  
GIL CHILTON

APRIL 30  
GROVER BAKER  
DEREK CROWNOVER

