



# The Immanuel Light

*For the Living of These Days*

FEBRUARY 2021

VOL. 13 No.2

## THE WEATHER REPORT

A revered pastoral counselor in New Orleans, Myron Madden, was a lifeline to individuals and families in crisis. A recurring theme among many he helped was some form of isolation. The pain of being removed from others or living unnoticed by others has a crippling effect. He referred to some as living on “Bayou Self.” A French word for “slow moving river,” the geography of Louisiana is marked by bayous, earning it the nickname “Bayou State.”

Made in the image of God, we humans are hard-wired to connect with others. We learn to live by living with others, from observing others. Pandemic living has underscored our innate hunger to connect, to embrace, and to commune with others. Again, we have been reminded that intimate relationships are a *sine qua non* for human flourishing.

The yearning for compassionate connections has grown stronger all the while practicing the social distance public health requires of us while living in a plague. Most describe experiencing some form of loneliness and isolation. The late Will Campbell made a distinction between lonesome and lonely. “Being lonesome is when somebody isn’t there and you know they’ll be back after a while. Being lonely is when you don’t have anybody to be lonesome for.”<sup>1</sup> Thoughts of reconnecting with people when on the other side of herd immunity buoy us. Yet, some experience a more menacing side of being lonely; they grieve those who will not return.

What we call loneliness in the sphere of social relations, is called isolation in the political sphere.<sup>2</sup> The insurrection on January 6 at our Nation’s Capitol left many questioning if the center of our democracy would hold. By “center” I mean the political sphere

where we act together in pursuit of a common concern. The attack on the common good, threatening its very existence, caused the foundations to shake.

The late sixteenth century poet John Donne put it succinctly when he said, “No man is an island, entire of itself.” Men and women fare badly when isolated from others. To remain unnoticed in life is to suffer. Human flourishing necessitates compassionate connections with other human beings. Yet, there is a way forward. Isolation only exists in isolation; once shared, it evaporates, to borrow the words of Irvin Yalom.

Events since December 21 have left me wondering if two winters will come in one year. Perhaps you agree. I find coping to entail some form of sharing the isolation and loneliness with others. A phone call. A zoom meeting. A conversation through the storm door window. Relief is possible when I breakout of whatever seeks to circumscribe my life. We may be lonely, but we are not empty. Paul explained, “Because God’s love has been poured into our hearts.”<sup>3</sup>

—Steven

<sup>1</sup> Campbell, Will. *A Brother To A Dragonfly*. P.207.

<sup>2</sup> Arendt, Hannah. *Totalitarianism*. P.474.

<sup>3</sup> Romans 5.5

### Submit Deacon Nominations

**by Sunday, 12 noon, February 14**

Ballots, eligibility lists, and envelopes can be found across from the library and outside the church office.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LIBRARY?

Fourth, fifth and sixth grade students will want to check out these new fiction books in the library:

***Because of Winn Dixie, 20th anniversary edition.*** Kate DiCamillo's novel about a lonely girl's friendship with a scruffy dog has an introduction by Ann Patchett. A Newberry Honor book.

***The One and Only Bob.*** Katherine Applegate's further adventures of Bob the dog and Ivan the gorilla.

***Roll With It and Tune It Out.*** Local author Jamie Sumner celebrates the grit and beauty of Ellie and Lou who overcome disabilities and form friendships.

***Prairie Lotus.*** Linda Sue Park writes about Hannah, a Chinese-American girl, as her family settles in the Dakota territory in 1880.

***The Chocolate Touch.*** Patrick Catling explores the disaster that befalls a boy who acquires a magical gift that turns everything his lips touch into chocolate.

Contact Stephanie [swyatt@ibcnashville.org](mailto:swyatt@ibcnashville.org) or Georgina [cgbusinaro@mindspring.com](mailto:cgbusinaro@mindspring.com) if you would like to reserve these books and pick them up in the entrance to the church office on a Wednesday morning.



### 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](mailto:smeriwether@ibcnashville.org)

#### Associate Pastor

Stephanie Wyatt  
[swyatt@ibcnashville.org](mailto:swyatt@ibcnashville.org)

#### Minister of Youth

Andrew Tonks  
[atonks@ibcnashville.org](mailto:atonks@ibcnashville.org)

#### Organist

Richard Shadinger  
[richard.shadinger@belmont.edu](mailto:richard.shadinger@belmont.edu)

#### Associate Minister of Music

Marilyn Shadinger  
[mwshadinger@comcast.net](mailto:mwshadinger@comcast.net)

#### Secretary/Editor

Deborah Maxwell  
[dmaxwell@ibcnashville.org](mailto:dmaxwell@ibcnashville.org)

#### Financial Secretary

Jenny Dean  
[jdean@ibcnashville.org](mailto:jdean@ibcnashville.org)

#### Secretary

Ann Conn  
[aconn@ibcnashville.org](mailto:aconn@ibcnashville.org)

#### Parents' Day Out Director

Becky Atkinson  
[kentuckyfan80@comcast.net](mailto:kentuckyfan80@comcast.net)

#### Pastor Emeritus

David George

#### Minister of Music Emeritus

Beryl Vick

### . . . Note from the Treasurer

Inquiry has been made about how to contribute stimulus payments received from the U.S. Treasury to ministries that IBC supports. If you received your stimulus payment via electronic deposit into your bank account, you only need to write a check payable to the church and include on the memo line the specific ministry IBC supports you want to receive the funds. Those who make their contributions electronically can do the same thing by designating the funds. If no designation is made, the gift will be placed in the church's general operating account. If you receive your payment by check, for bookkeeping purposes it is preferable that you deposit it into your account and then send the funds to the church through either a check or electronic payment. Any such gift will be included on your financial giving record. If you have further questions, please call the church office and speak to Jenny Dean, our Financial Secretary.

—Kenny Cooper

# Church Family News

## PRAYER LIST

- Marjorie Johnson
- Belle Butler
- David George

## BEREAVEMENT

Sympathy is extended to Margie Fish Martin on the death of her husband, Kirke Martin, who died December 16. Mr. Martin was the son-in-law of the late Marguerite and Ed Fish.

## IN MEMORIAM

### RANDALL K. DOVER

27 January 1956 ~ 22 December 2020

Joined Immanuel

30 March 1986

## IN MEMORIAM

### MARVIN GREGORY

4 May 1937 ~ 24 December 2020

Joined Immanuel

12 September 1976

## Sanctuary Flowers

**February 7** - given by Betty Kay and Ed Wasserman in loving memory of their parents, Sarah Geneva and Edward Pritz Wasserman and Gaye and Mary Catherine McGlothlen.

**February 14**- given by Ellen and Scott Newman in loving memory of their grandparents: Hazel and Henry Businaro, Mildred and Harvey Phillips, Jane K. and Charles R. Gambs, Jr. and Norma and Kenneth Newman.

**February 21** - given by the Decorations Committee

**February 28** - given by the Decorations Committee

## Lord's Supper Dates for 2021

January 3

February 7

March 7

April 1 (Maundy  
Thursday)

May 2

June 6

July 4

August 1

September 5

October 3

November 14

December 24

### **February 2**

John Griswold

### **February 3**

Nancy Huguley  
Stephen Wilkerson

### **February 5**

Scotty Dean  
Anne Severance

### **February 6**

Susan Crownover

### **February 7**

Meredith Crownover

### **February 10**

Troy Clouse  
Peggy George

### **February 11**

Geneva Wilkerson

### **February 12**

Kaelyn Newton  
Gary Witzgall

### **February 13**

Matthew Atkinson  
Jeanie Reynolds

### **February 16**

Elaine Fleming  
Olivia Leu

### **February 17**

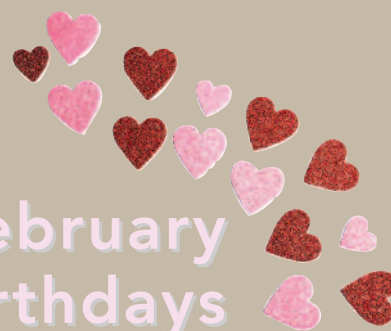
Linda Fields  
Joyce Peterson  
Janet Parker

### **February 20**

Pat Vick

### **February 22**

Ellen Mundy



# Calendar of Events

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

9:30 PDO

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

9:30 PDO

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

9:30 PDO

6:00 RITI

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

9:00 Children's ZOOM SS

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship/Lord's Supper

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

9:30 PDO

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

9:30 PDO

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

9:30 PDO

6:30 Stewardship ZOOM

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Deacon Nominations close

9:00 Children's ZOOM SS

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

9:30 PDO

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9:30 PDO

6:30 Deacons' ZOOM

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

9:30 PDO

6:00 RITI

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

9:00 Children's ZOOM SS

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

9:30 PDO

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

9:30 PDO

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

9:30 PDO

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

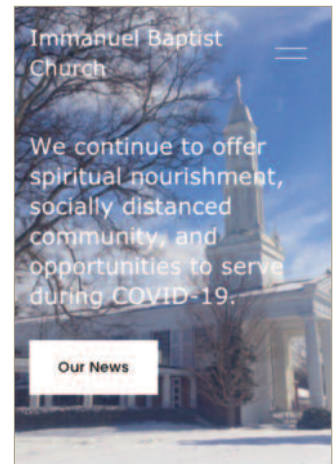
9:00 Children's ZOOM SS

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship

## Coming Soon to a Screen Near You . . . a New Look for the IBC Website

Pastor Stephanie has been very busy preparing new website content and preparing to move content on the current website to a more dynamic visual template. With this updated website configuration, we will be better able to highlight upcoming events, share blog posts, and connect with social media platforms. The basic organization of the site will be similar to what we have at present, but will include new pages and features, such as a Library Page with access to our brand-new online catalog! Our web address will remain the same, [ibcnashville.org](http://ibcnashville.org). We will begin the moving process this Friday, January 29th and will be proofing and posting updates the first week of February. If you find that there is something that you need that you no longer have access to, please contact Pastor Stephanie [swyatt@ibcnashville.org](mailto:swyatt@ibcnashville.org) or 865-406-7154 and she will assist you. Thank you for your patience.



The **Boulevard Bolt** raised \$103,200 in 2020! The money is being given away to 8 recipients who serve our neighbors who are homeless. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated to our virtual event. We could not have done this without you!

—Susan Crossover, Brandon Jarnigan, & Abigail Reynolds



Pastor Stephanie delivered Immanuel's 826 brownies to Luke 14:12 and Amy Dodson-Watts.

