



# The Immanuel Light

*For the Living of These Days*

MAY 2021

VOL. 13 No.5

## Congratulations to Our Spring Graduates!



**Josiah Baker**  
graduates from  
Nolensville High School



**Sophia Brown**  
graduates from  
Hillsboro High School



**Malcolm Horner**  
graduates from  
MLK Magnet High School

**We Are So Proud of all Three of You!**

**Recognition Sunday for Our Seniors will be May 2 during the Morning Worship Service.**

## *Welcome to Immanuel, Tim!*



After receiving a unanimous vote from the congregation to become Immanuel's next Minister of Music, Dr. Tim Sharp will be joining the staff on May 16. Tim recently retired as the Executive Director of The American Choral Director's Association based in Oklahoma City. He has served as director of choral activities at Belmont University and dean of Fine Arts at Rhodes College. Tim is a graduate of Belmont University and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. We look forward to Tim, Jane and their daughter, Emma, being a part of the Immanuel family!

## The Weather Report

The ground was covered. The snow had done its work quietly and completely. Slippery surfaces necessitated that I move inside to complete my daily constitution.

The church facility and its numerous stairs allowed for thorough exercise. There was the opportunity for seeing and listening to this space too. The late Thomas Merton spoke of finding soul in place. *There is in all visible things and invisible fecundity, a dimmed light, a meek namelessness, a hidden wholeness.*<sup>1</sup>

As I walked through a specific area of the building, I was awash in reminders of the things that had transpired in its rooms and halls. Lapping the Fellowship Hall I recalled our life together around the tables sharing a meal. The room was set up for RITI that coming Thursday night, a ministry we cherish. The memory of certain individuals standing in that room to share an experience was especially sweet. A large grin perched upon my face.

The sanctuary was a treasury of poignant recollections. In this very room, worship has enriched those who gathered by faith. Memorable baby dedications, baptisms, weddings, and tender funerals have buoyed our hearts and infused our lives with meaning. Echoes of congregational singing and choral concerts resonated within me.

I believe this serendipitous change to my daily exercise regimen allowed me to perceive the “invisible fecundity” of our life together. I experienced some of the “hidden wholeness” that is grounded in the authentic and truest self of this congregation. I finished exercising with a large measure of gratitude for the family God is making of us. This prompted me to carry a copy of the church directory during my walk the following day, giving thanks for each individual listed as I walked.

Out of many, God makes a family. A regeneration that requires grace and leadership. Gratefully, God equips and calls people to serve. Many answer and faithfully work.

This month, we recognize two women who have faithfully tended the soul of our congregation. Marilyn Shadinger and Becky Atkinson have worked toward and lived into the authentic and truest self of our church for seventeen and ten years respectively. Their constancy, like a compass, has pointed to the magnetic north of God. Through excellence, they have led us and have flourished. Both are retiring from their respective positions as Associate Minister of Music and Parent’s Day Out Director; we are eternally grateful.

On Sunday May 23 we will recognize Marilyn and Becky as a part of worship. I invite you to join me in expressing gratitude to them for their ministry through Immanuel Baptist Church. My respect for these two women is immense. I have learned by their example and through their way of seeing the world. I count it a joy to have worked alongside of them.

—Steven



### 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

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#### Associate Pastor

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#### Minister of Youth

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#### Secretary

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#### Parents’ Day Out Director

Becky Atkinson  
kentuckyfan80@comcast.net

#### Minister of Music Emeritus

Beryl Vick

<sup>1</sup>Merton, Thomas. “Hagia Sophia.” *The Collected Poems of Thomas Merton*.p.363.

# Church Family News

## PRAYER LIST

- Marjorie Johnson
- Jim Shadinger, brother of Richard Shadinger
- Belle Butler

## THANK YOU

"Dear Immanuel Friends, Our family has been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support through prayers, meals, cards, flowers, and the hundreds of kind messages. We are so grateful for all of the wonderful words and memories you have shared about David. Immanuel has been our home since we moved to Nashville in 1976, and David felt honored to have been your pastor for thirty years. The love, kindness, and support each of you has given us has helped us all during this difficult time. Thank you all so much."

—Peggy, Jennifer, Andrew, and Michael

## IN MEMORIAM

SUE ELLER CONN  
12 June 1932 ~ 16 April 2021

Joined Immanuel  
1 January, 1967

## Sanctuary Flowers

**May 2** - given by the families of Walt and Joe Ed Conn "in appreciation of Immanuel Baptist Church and the sustained relationships that this congregation of faith has provided to OUR family for multiple generations."

**May 9** - given by John Lykins in loving memory of his mother, Elinor Lykins.

**May 16** - given by Laddie Neil in loving appreciation for the church staff.

**May 23** - given by Felix and Shirley Montgomery in loving memory of their mothers, Lula Ennis and Ann Montgomery.

**May 30** given by Margaret Cook in loving memory of her parents, Carrie and Luther Cale.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The dates of August 22 and October 17 are still available for giving the sanctuary flowers this year. Please contact Charles Businaro if you are interested.

## CONGRATULATIONS

To Ellen Mundy and Josh Ford, who were united in marriage at Immanuel on April 24.

# happy birthday to you!



### **May 1**

Samantha Nguyen  
Betsy Ozier

### **May 3**

Samuel Baker  
Indira Newton

### **May 4**

William Baty  
Courtney Kihlberg

### **May 5**

Judy Parker

### **May 6**

Addie Dillard  
Sam McKenna

### **May 7**

Julia Lang

### **May 8**

Chris Dean

### **May 9**

Ed Wasserman

### **May 11**

Melissa Clouse

### **May 12**

Aaron Butler

### **May 13**

Matt Gale  
Denise Pastina

### **May 14**

Marjorie Johnson  
Felix Montgomery

### **May 15**

Debbie Maxwell

### **May 16**

Beryl Vick

### **May 21**

Sue Chilton  
Priscilla Eichler

### **May 22**

Robyn Burns  
Charles Hearn

### **May 25**

Stephanie Self

### **May 30**

Miriam Tate

# Calendar of Events

## SUNDAY, MAY 2

9:00 Children's ZOOM SS  
9:15 Sunday School  
10:30 Worship/Lord's Supper/High School Senior Recognition  
11:30 Youth/High School Senior Event

## MONDAY, MAY 3

9:30 PDO

## TUESDAY, MAY 4

9:30 PDO

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

5:00 Youth ZOOM

## THURSDAY, MAY 6

9:30 PDO

## SUNDAY, MAY 9

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

## MONDAY, MAY 10

9:30 PDO

## TUESDAY, MAY 11

9:30 PDO

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

5:00 Youth ZOOM

## THURSDAY, MAY 13

9:30 PDO

6:30 Stewardship ZOOM

## SUNDAY, MAY 16

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

## MONDAY, MAY 17

9:30 PDO

## TUESDAY, MAY 18

9:30 PDO

6:30 Deacons' Meeting ZOOM

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

5:00 Youth ZOOM

## THURSDAY, MAY 20

9:30 PDO

## SUNDAY, MAY 23

9:00 Children's ZOOM SS  
9:15 Adult Sunday School  
10:30 Worship/Ingathering Sunday  
2:00-4:00 Courtyard/Fellowship Hall in use

## MONDAY, MAY 24

9:30 PDO

## TUESDAY, MAY 25

9:30 PDO

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

5:00 Youth ZOOM

## THURSDAY, MAY 27

9:30 PDO

## SUNDAY, MAY 30

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

## MONDAY, MAY 31

**OFFICE CLOSED**



### Lighted at Night!

Outdoor lighting on the steeple has recently been restored. Drive by some evening and enjoy its beauty!

## A Note from Marilyn

In 2004, I became a part of the staff at Immanuel as Music Associate, and later as Associate Minister of Music. Throughout these 17 years, it has been my pleasure and joy to work with our ministers and staff. Our relationships are based on respect, and working together has brought opportunities to enhance worship and deepen friendships. The vitality and creativity of our staff has given me a deep appreciation of their talents, their goals, and their commitment to all aspects of Immanuel life. Being a part of a congregation who loves to sing has made my work meaningful and enjoyable. I am truly indebted to you for giving me the opportunity to have a part in our music ministry.

The time has come for me to retire. My abiding love of our church and all of her ministries will remain with me as it is with each of you. The addition of Dr. Tim Sharp to our music ministry will not only sustain the program but will enhance and deepen the importance of music in worship.

The hymn text of Fred Pratt conveys the heart of Immanuel:

“Let every instrument be tuned for praise!  
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always, Alleluia!”

—Marilyn Shadinger

# GUESS WHO THESE EASTER FRIENDS ARE . . .



### Our Spring Ingathering

will be held on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. We will be collecting for the Nashville Food Project. Please bring your items on that day to be brought forward and placed in baskets by the altar table during the service.

If you will not be with us on that day, we will have collection boxes placed on the pews across from the kitchen in the coming weeks so that you can bring your contributions ahead of time.

Items for collection: Whole Wheat Penne Pasta and Canned Diced Tomatoes



With the approval of the Stewardship Committee, IBC has recently purchased Realm, cloud-based church management software that will help our office staff better manage member information and accounting services. For members, it will allow you to access the church directory online, register and pay for events, and offer electronic giving options (online, text, and mobile). Realm will add additional giving options for members, but it won't change any of the giving options you are already using (such as bank drafts or check donations). Stay tuned for more information as we prepare to launch this exciting new resource.



# PASSPORT

We're pleased to announce that seven Immanuel kids will attend Passportkids at Berea College in KY June 22–25. Chaperones will be Stephanie Wyatt and Andrew Tonks. Three Immanuel youth will attend Passport at Furman University in SC July 5–10. Chaperones will be Andrew Tonks and Abigail Reynolds.

This year's theme is "Story." Passport staff explain: we believe that the greatest Story is God's Story. Hebrews 12:2a says "Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal." Hear God's Story with Moses at the burning bush, sing God's Story as part of church worship, act God's Story as those who brought a man to Jesus, and continue to write God's Story as those who came before us. You are invited to immerse yourself in the ongoing Story of God. The greatest Story ever told will be continued...through you.

### Lord's Supper Procedure

Beginning with Lord's Supper in May congregants who are comfortable doing so are invited to come forward to receive the elements of communion from pastoral staff, who will wear both masks and gloves. We are observing all recommended protocols from our healthcare professionals. If you do not feel comfortable taking communion in this way, you are welcome to use your own elements (a grape and cracker).



Six church members, along with Pastors Steven and Stephanie, have been participating in a video study based on Jemar Tisby's NY Times bestselling book, *Color of Compromise*. The author hosts the series, drawing viewers into a conversation about the roles white Christians have played in the history of racism in the United States. Tisby focuses on how institutional racism has affected the church and hindered the witness of the gospel. We watch each video at 7am on Tuesday mornings and then gather for discussion via Zoom. Discussions have been honest and substantial.

The pastoral staff views this study as a pilot program with hopes for more such discussion groups as restrictions on gatherings lift. In the meantime, if you are interested in the study but couldn't make the 7am meeting time, the video series is available through the church library on DVD as is Tisby's bestselling book that inspired the series.



Family VBS will take place this year, Tuesday–Thursday July 27–29 from 5pm to 8pm each evening. Families are invited to bring a picnic dinner for each night of programming. The theme this year will be the story of the biblical prophet Jonah. Thursday night will be water night for the kids. Each night will include some combination of story time, music, games, and crafts, or other story-related activity.

If you are not able to accompany your children, they may still attend, just let Pastor Stephanie know so that we have enough adults to chaperone and help with activities. Grandparents and other family members are happily welcome as well! If you would like to be a part of helping with VBS but are not a family member, we will be happy to have you. Please let Pastor Stephanie know so she can plug you in ([swyatt@ibcnashville.org](mailto:swyatt@ibcnashville.org) or 615-297-5356 ext 216).

**Food Truck at IMMANUEL!!**



**Save the Date: June 9, 5:30-7:30 PM**

**Food! • Music! • Fun!**