

# IMMANUEL LIGHT

## Ascension & Pentecost

After the hustle and bustle of Easter, it is easy to feel like the pinnacle of the spring season has come and gone, but there are still great things to come in the church year: Ascension and Pentecost.

The Ascension occurs on the 40th day after Easter (always on a Thursday). In a lovely symmetrical move, the church calendar balances the 40 days we wandered with Jesus in

the desert during Lent with 40 days that celebrate Jesus' resurrection appearances to the disciples and other followers. On Ascension Day, we remember that Jesus returned to heaven from the Mount of Olives after his post-resurrection time on earth. The followers of Jesus had the ecstasy of spending time with the risen Christ, only to have to say goodbye to him a little over a month later. They had to find a way to let him go, but this time it was different. Jesus' departure at the Ascension was not another death: It came not only with a sense of loss but also of expectation. Jesus promised never to leave them (or us). Jesus instructed his followers to prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit, a new manifestation of divine power and presence that they and the world had never before experienced. They just needed to wait.

Acts 1:12–14 tells us that the disciples returned to Jerusalem to the upstairs room where they were staying (perhaps the same room where they had eaten the Passover meal together before Jesus' death). The 11 remaining disciples gathered there along with a group of women, Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the brothers of Jesus. They waited and prayed together, anticipating what would happen next. At this time, Jews from many different parts of the world were gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Weeks, also called Pentecost, day 50 after Passover (the Greek word for 50 is *pente*). In Hebrew, this occasion is called Shavu'ot, which originated as a time to give thanks for the grain harvest. God ordained this practice in Leviticus 23:15–22.

Because Acts tells us that the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and others who were gathered for the celebration of the Feast of Weeks, Christians also adopted the Greek name associated with this day, Pentecost. For Christians, Pentecost takes place 50 days after Easter.

Acts 2:1–3 reports that on Pentecost Day a sound of rushing wind suddenly filled the entire house where the disciples were staying. Individual flames of fire appeared above the heads of each one, signaling the arrival of the Holy Spirit. Followers of Jesus began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak. Those who observed this phenomenon and came to (Continued on pg. 7)



Unattributed Pentecost Mosaic from canva.com

### *In this issue:*

Ascension & Pentecost	– pg. 1
Wednesdays & Birthdays	– pg. 2
Missions & Ministry	– pg. 3
Upcoming at IBC	– pg. 4
Easter Pictures	– pg. 5
IPDO Spring Report	– pg. 6
Young at Heart	– pg. 6
Spring Ingathering	– pg. 7
Library News	– pg. 7
Church Family News	– pg. 8

# Please Take Note



## Wednesdays in May

1	TBA Chapel @ 6 PM
8	ANGEL NIBIRUTA: REFLECTIONS ON MY JOURNEY TO AMERICA Chapel @ 6 PM
15	THE HYMNS OF SPRING WITH TIM POWELL Chapel @ 6 PM
22	BUSINESS MEETING Chapel @ 6pm
29	TBA Chapel @ 6pm



## Immanuel Baptist Church

222 Belle Meade Blvd  
Nashville, TN 37205  
615.297.5356  
[www.ibcnashville.org](http://www.ibcnashville.org)

Lindsay Thomas,  
Publications Editor

Ann Conn, Secretary

Jenny Dean, Financial Secretary

Michelle Fernandes,  
Parents' Day Out Director

Steven H. Meriwether, Pastor

Stephanie Wyatt,  
Associate Pastor

Tim Powell,  
Minister of Music

Richard C. Shadinger, Organist

Beryl Vick,  
Minister of Music Emeritus



**May 8**  
CHRIS DEAN

**May 16**  
BERYL VICK

**May 9**  
ED WASSERMAN

**May 21**  
SUE CHILTON  
PRISCILLA EICHLER

**May 1**  
BETSY OZIER  
SAMANTHA NGUYEN

**May 11**  
MELISSA CLOUSE

**May 22**  
CHARLES HEARN

**May 3**  
SAMUEL BAKER

**May 12**  
AARON BUTLER  
MADELINE BRIDGES

**May 25**  
STEPHANIE SELF

**May 4**  
COURTNEY KIHLEBERG

**May 14**  
FELIX MONTGOMERY

**May 28**  
JONATHAN HIGDON

**May 5**  
JUDY PARKER

**May 15**  
DEBBIE MAXWELL

**May 30**  
MIRIAM TATE

# Missions and Ministry

## Helping to Send the Word of God Around the World



Do you have an old Bible sitting around that you are not sure what to do with? Used Sunday School materials or Christian reference materials or books you no longer need? The Grigsby Sunday School has brought an organization to the attention of the Missions and Ministry Committee that will collect, package and send these items to people in need around the world. This group, called Love Packages, will pick up our donated items for distribution.

During the month of May, donation boxes will be located upstairs near the office and downstairs across from the library. They will accept used Bibles, reference materials, Christian non-fiction books, magazines, daily devotionals, Sunday School materials (including teacher's manual with children's materials), CDs, DVDs, BluRay and nativity sets. For a full list of items, go to [lovepackages.org](http://lovepackages.org).

## Children on Mission



### Visit with Miss Laddie



(Top Left to Right) Lola Gale, Grace Mitchell, Laddie Neil, and Finley Gale (Front)



After a few months of hiatus following a leadership change, Luke 14:12 has resumed its program this spring. Luke 14:12 is a non-profit soup kitchen providing free meals to the hungry, homeless and working poor of Nashville.

They are partnering with Restoration Pointe, a program affiliated with McKendree United Methodist Church in downtown Nashville. The current schedule is for meals to be cooked and served every Thursday at the church, located at 523 Church Street. Parking is free at their garage on 6th Avenue.

Immanuel has supported Luke 14:12 in our budget and provided volunteers to serve meals for many years. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue serving people who have found themselves living in the margins. Immanuel will be responsible for cooking and serving on the second Thursday of each month. Our first day is May 9. Two shifts are needed, cooking from 9:00 to 11:00 and serving from 11:00 to 1:00.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email Melanie Dover at [mmd78@bellsouth.net](mailto:mmd78@bellsouth.net). Further information about Luke 14:12 can be found at [Luke1412.org](http://Luke1412.org). The inspiration for this ministry can be found by reading the words of Jesus in Luke 14:12-14. How grateful we are to be able to follow Jesus' call through this organization!

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Erik Kihlberg and his hockey team, the Nashville Jr. Predators!



They won the USA Hockey National Championship for the 18U AA level in Pittsburgh in April!



## UPCOMING IN MAY

MAY 5

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION LUNCH FOLLOWING WORSHIP

MAY 9

SERVING AT LUKE 14:12

MAY 10

YOUTH GAME NIGHT 5:30PM AT THE CONN HOME

MAY 19

PENTECOST (WEAR RED)

SPRING INGATHERING

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

## UPCOMING IN JUNE

JUNE 11

YOUNG AT HEART 11 AM

JUNE 24-27 PASSPORTKIDS CAMP BERA, KY

## A Note about worship Music May 5

On May 5, the choir will present the Tennessee premiere of a new work for choir titled "Abide in God" by composer Terre Johnson. Dr. Johnson is the director of the school of music at Georgia Southern University and is an influential church musician, conductor, and educator.

The music was commissioned through the efforts of the Love Like Lily Foundation ([lovelikelily.org](http://lovelikelily.org)), Tim and Jen Powell's family foundation, established in memory of their late daughter Lily Kate. She died in 2017 in a tragic car accident a week before her 10th birthday.

The Foundation was established to provide fine arts lessons to deserving students in Augusta, GA, to commission a new choral work every two years in her memory, and to work closely with other non-profits, such as Habitat for Humanity and Georgia State University's Children's Health Law Clinic, to help those in need.

This year's specific commission was funded by memorial gifts given in memory of Tim's mom Debra Powell, who passed away in 2023 after a five year battle with ovarian cancer. She sang in her church choir, and one of her favorite choral pieces was also composed by Terre Johnson.

# EASTER AT IMMANUEL



**Caroline, Charlie, Jack & Ellen Newman**



**Abigail Reynolds**



**Lauren, Melissa, Troy & Katy Clouse**



**Kay Johnson, Erik, Anna, Peter & Courtney Kihlberg**



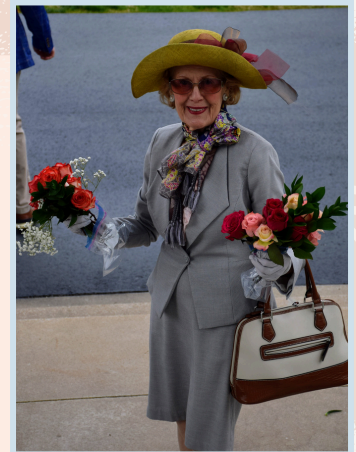
**Debbie Maxwell, Luke Saylor, Ian Jarnigan, McCall Self, Brooks Lankford, Brantley Lankford, Jill Cooper, Jay Lankford**



**McCall Self, Ian Jarnigan, & Luke Saylor**



**Walking the Cross on Good Friday**



**Yvonne Christopher**





# Program and Lunch with Davidson County Sheriff Daron Hall

## “Drug Challenges & Mental Health” Tuesday, June 11th 11:00 AM

Daron Hall was elected to his sixth term as Davidson County sheriff in 2022. He made Nashville history by being the youngest person ever elected to the office and is now the longest serving. Sheriff Hall’s tenure has focused on arresting the problem, not the person. He designed and implemented the first-of-its-kind Behavioral Care Center, a diversion program aimed at decriminalizing mental illness.

Sheriff Hall was elected as president of two national associations and is the only Tennessee sheriff to serve as president of the National Sheriffs’ Association. He was also elected the 101st president of the American Correctional Association. Hall has won numerous awards, including the prestigious E. R. Cass Award – the highest honor given in the corrections profession.

After 35 years of criminal justice experience, Sheriff Hall is seen as an expert in the field. He has been interviewed by national and international media outlets, including the Wall Street Journal, the British Broadcasting Corporation, NPR, the New York Times, Fox News, CNN, and Fortune Magazine.

## IPDO Spring Report

IPDO is counting our blessings as we wind down our 2023–2024 school year. We are blessed with a supportive community, including the IBC family who offers ongoing support and prayers. We are blessed by our staff as they continually show genuine love for the students, families, and each other. We are also blessed by the light our students and their families bring to our hallways each day.



This Easter, at our IPDO Bunny Breakfast, all our IPDO Families and students joined IBC’s longstanding tradition and Bloomed the Cross in our hallway. God sent His Son to the cross on our behalf. He took a cross that represented darkness, hopelessness, pain, and suffering and transformed it into a celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. We were honored to join IBC and celebrate this beautiful gift God has given to us.



We see God’s pure joy on our students’ faces each and every day. It would be easy to say this joy is only for children who are unaware of all life’s challenges. May we choose, instead, to remember that we are all Children of God. We can ALL experience God’s pure joy in our lives, in our families, and yes, here at IBC and IPDO.

This is our Greatest Blessing!  
*Michelle Fernandes*  
IPDO Director

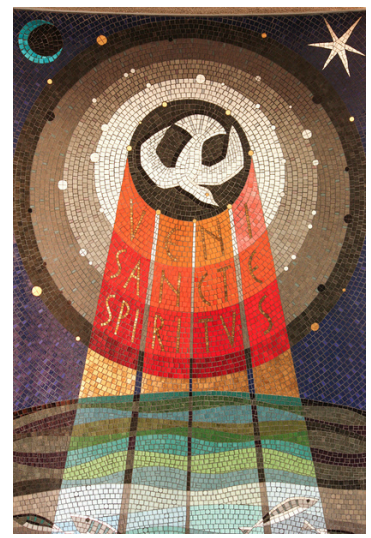
# Ascension & Pentecost (Continued)

have a look for themselves couldn't believe that Galileans abruptly began speaking the languages of so many different groups!

Peter told the crowds that what they had witnessed fulfilled what the prophet Joel foretold, "Your sons and daughters will prophesy; your young will see visions, your elders will dream dreams. Even upon my servants, men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy" (Acts 2:17-18; cf. Joel 2:28-32).

On Pentecost, we recognize the beginning of a new community made up of Jesus followers. The Holy Spirit made it possible to share the story of the gospel with bystanders, who become the earliest members of the church. People from many different backgrounds, cultures, and languages quickly became siblings in this burgeoning faith. Because the Holy Spirit first appears on Pentecost, and the first group of people request baptism in response, Pentecost is often called the birthday of the church.

We group the event of Jesus' Ascension with Pentecost because, without the Ascension, there can be no Pentecost. Jesus had to depart the earth for the last time before the Holy Spirit could descend. Jesus, in his bodily form, had to leave his followers before they could become the body of Christ so that the church could be born.



*Veni Sancti Spiritus* (1965)  
A Mosaic By Adam Kossowski  
Roman Catholic Church  
of St Aloysius in London

## Suggested Spiritual Practice:

On Ascension Day, May 9th, walk or hike to a high point, enjoy the view, give thanks, and ask, "What do I need to let go of so that something new can be born?"

## Church Conference on April 7 Summary

The church officers and deacons were elected unanimously. The Building and Grounds Committee's recommendations to paint the Fellowship Hall and Church Exterior were approved. The PDO expenditure of \$16,000 to fence and resod the playground was approved.

## April 24 Business Meeting Summary

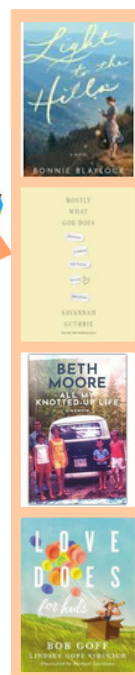
The 2024-2025 church budget was approved. Building and Grounds recommendation to install showers in the Fellowship Hall Bathroom was approved.

**INGATHERING**  
**MAY 19TH**

**The NASHVILLE**  
**FOOD PROJECT**

Whole Wheat Pasta Shapes  
(ex: penne, rigatoni, bow-tie)  
& Olive Oil

PLEASE BRING WITH YOU TO WORSHIP ON 5/19  
OR DROP BY CHURCH OFFICE



## NEW LIBRARY BOOKS!

**Light to the Hills** by Bonnie Blaylock. A Kentucky Packhorse Librarian demonstrates the power of words and the resilience of mothers and daughters in 1930's Appalachia.

**Mostly What God Does** by Savannah Guthrie. In a collection of essays, Savannah shares why she believes the power of divine love makes sense.

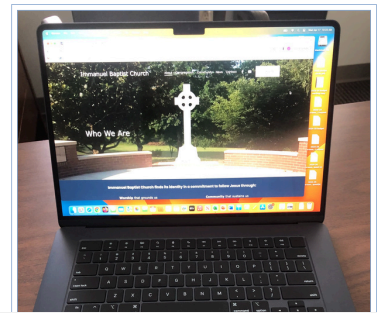
**All My Knotted Up Life** by Beth Moore. A memoir, Beth discusses her life as founder of Living Proof Ministries as well as her break with the SBC.

**Love Does for Kids** by Bob Goff. Children will be inspired to live out their faith and learn that they are loved by God no matter the mistakes or obstacles they face.

# Church Family News



Laurie Woods  
throwing out  
the first pitch  
at a Vanderbilt  
baseball game



Thank you to the Aubrey & Florence Hearn Memorial Fund for your gift of a new laptop for the financial office. Historically, the Hearn Fund is used toward computer and digital needs for the church office.

## Worship Attendance

Mar 31 - 167    Apr 21 - 77  
Apr 7 - 76     Apr 28 - TBA  
Apr 14 - 99



## Financials (Through March 31, 2024)

### Year-to-Date Budget

\$493,402.25

### Year to Date Income

\$465,464.81

### Year-to-Date Actual Expense

\$458,300.36

### Year-to-Date Net Income

\$7,164.45

To our Immanuel family,



It's difficult to put into words how much we have appreciated the support of our church family these last few months. Throughout Barbara's extended time in hospice care and Cindy's dad's hospitalizations, and then after each of their deaths, we have felt your support. Whether you expressed concern through words of comfort or hugs, offered prayers, sent cards, provided food, or took time to come to visitations or funerals, your support made a significant difference in a difficult time. And we can't thank you enough.

With much love and appreciation,  
Charlie, Cindy, and Mary-Claire Lutz

## May Sanctuary Flowers

May 5 - Laddie Neil

May 12 - John Lykins

May 19 - Felix and Shirley Montgomery

May 26 - Lauren and Grover Baker

