

IMMANUEL LIGHT



Celebrate All 12 Days

How long is Christmas? Think of the song with a partridge in a pear tree. 12 days?!? As Christians, we observe Advent beginning with the 4th Sunday preceding Christmas, waiting with anticipation for the coming of the Christ Child. Christmas doesn't begin until December 25 and traditionally it lasts until January 6 when many celebrate the arrival of the magi. New Year's Eve/Day forms the midpoint of the season.

In days of yore, the Christian Feast of the Incarnation (Christmas) initiated two weeks of partying in the middle of winter when there wasn't as much agricultural work to do. For some the party continued (off and on) through Carnival season (Mardi Gras) and finally ended with Ash Wednesday. In our contemporary context, most of us have wrapped up our celebrations before we reach January 6.

If you haven't tried it, I encourage you to try celebrating all 12 days of the Christmas season this year. Find ways to keep the magic of Christmas going: see lights, catch up with friends, enjoy togetherness, walk in the cold, star gaze. Don't take down your decorations until January 6. See if these new practices change your experience of Christmas . . . and let me know.

Blessings, Pastor Stephanie

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January Jumpstart!

Faith practices don't have to be complicated, and consistency is key. Try one of these 6 in 2023!

Candle Prayer: Light a candle every morning for yourself or others.

Grounding: Plant your feet firmly on the ground/floor. Breathe in and out.

Gratitude: Say out loud one thing you are thankful for each day.

Nature: Take a walk one time per week and notice the beauty of creation.

Mindfulness: Notice the sights, smells, sounds, and tastes that bring you joy.

Compassion: Consider how to show kindness to another person each day.

Fifth Sundays are Back in 2023



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COME AWAY TO THE SKIES ON JANUARY 29TH by Wes Ramsay and Tim Sharp

This collection of music is a winsome set of folk-hymn arrangements originating in the mid-nineteenth century collections of the Sacred Harp and Southern Harmony, and organized around a significant liturgy of the church. The hymnbooks from which this music is found were unique to the southern region of the United States.

Come Away to the Skies: A High, Lonesome Mass invites you into the hearing and singing of these timeless hymns, placing yourself musically

into a time when a singing experience called you to enjoy community and extended gathering time through the learning of songs.

Special guests this Sunday will be the Chuck Nation Band. Chuck and Pastor Steven will engage one another in a dialogue sermon. Come and experience this unique form of worship through instrumental and vocal music.



Welcome Adanna!

On behalf of the personnel committee, I am pleased to introduce you to Adanna Brown, IBC's new Publications Editor who will begin work in January! Adanna will be preparing the Order of Worship each week, serving as general editor of the newsletter, and performing other administrative tasks. You can look forward to hearing her voice on the office phone soon.

Adanna comes highly recommended by Laurie Woods and Kaelyn Newton who know her from her work as an Aftercare Counselor at St. Bernard's. Kaelyn is extremely happy to welcome Adanna to "her church."

Adanna is a Nashville native and a recent graduate of Vanderbilt University. She hopes to begin her Master's in Social Work in the coming year. In her free time, she loves running/hiking, writing music, and creating original theatre works. She looks forward to meeting you in the new year!

~ Pastor Steven

Upcoming Wednesday Night Programs

January 4
Vespers

January 11
TBD

January 18
TBD

January 25
Business Meeting

Wednesday Nights in February

The first two Wednesdays in February, Annette Sisson, Professor of English at Belmont University will lead discussions of Wendell Berry's work during the Adult Program in the Chapel at 6pm. Dr. Sisson has written extensively on Berry's writings and utilizes him as a source in her courses, particularly in asking the question, "How Shall We Live in the World?"

Belmont Professor of Communication Jimmy Davis, who is Dr. Sisson's spouse, will join her for the conversation. Dr. Davis enjoys reading and thinking about poetry and prose with his wife. His favorite book is Jayber Crow by Wendell Berry.

Come be part of the dialogue Wednesdays, Feb 1st and 8th!



January Birthdays

JANUARY 2

BILL VO
BETTY KAY WASSERMAN

JANUARY 7

MARTHA BOMBOY

JANUARY 12

JERRY WARREN
MARTHA WINSTON

JANUARY 15

TIM REYNOLDS

JANUARY 17

SIMS CROWNOVER

JANUARY 18

CHARLIE NEWMAN
MARIE BURR
MARY VAUGHN

JANUARY 22

JONAH WILKERSON

JANUARY 27

IAN JARNIGAN
LAURIE WOODS

JANUARY 28

JACKIE EASTERLING
MADDIE GORE

JANUARY 29

SUSIE BELEW

JANUARY 31

GRACE NORMAN-WILSON

Missions & Ministry



Room in the Inn sign-up sheets for January are posted on the bulletin board outside the piano side entrance to the sanctuary.

If you have questions about volunteering, please contact Pastor Stephanie (615-297-5356 or swyatt@ibcnashville.org).

Winter Hosting Dates

January 5 & 19

February 2 & 16

March 2 & 16



UPDATE: We are once again volunteering with Luke 14:12 on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Please contact Melanie Dover at mmd78@bellsouth.net for more information.

For Our Friends at Luke 14:12

For the month of December we baked 480 desserts! Thank you for your faithfulness!

Please bring your individually wrapped desserts by Sunday, January 29th and drop them off in the kitchen.

Remember to write the number of desserts you prepared on the bag or box you deliver them in. To sign up or to ask questions contact Pastor Stephanie at swyatt@ibcnashville.org or 615-297-5356.

THIS MONTH

JANUARY 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY

WORSHIP IN SANCTUARY

10:30AM

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

BRING ITEMS FOR RITI

JANUARY 4

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
ACTIVITIES RESUME

JANUARY 8

DEACON'S MEETING
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

JANUARY 15

BAPTISM OF CAMPBELL &
LYLA GNETZ IN WORSHIP

JANUARY 22

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

JANUARY 29

5TH SUNDAY
HIGH, LONESOME MASS IN
WORSHIP

DESSERTS DUE
FOR LUKE 14:12

BOXING DAY IBC STYLE



Boxing Day takes place each year the day after Christmas, which is the Feast Day of St. Stephen. The name may come from the boxes designated to collect offerings for the poor on this day in late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. The Christmas Carol "Good King Wenceslas" speaks to the connection between this second day of Christmastide and caring for the poor.

At IBC, we are rekindling this tradition by collecting men's winter hats, gloves, and socks for the RITI clothing closet. Bring your items to church January 1st.

Deacon Nomination Process Begins Jan 15th



The three-week period for nominating deacons to replace those completing their current terms begins January 16. During that time all Immanuel members will have the opportunity to nominate up to four members to “assist the church in the accomplishment of its total mission.”

• Deacon Role and Function:

Collecting the offering, serving the Lord’s Supper, and looking after a deacon care group may be the most noticeable services they perform, but according to our Bylaws, the active deacons also work with the pastor and staff “with the goal of guiding the church and its members in worship, in service and ministry, and in effective use of the church’s personal and corporate resources.” They also serve “as advisors to the congregation, pastor, and staff in all areas of the church’s life. They plan, review, evaluate, and recommend to the congregation proposals for improving the effectiveness of the church’s worship, witness, education, ministry, and fellowship.”

• Nomination forms (ballots):

Shortly before January 15, deacon nomination forms will be distributed at church and by email. Anyone who needs to have a form sent by mail should contact the church office. For quick reference, a list of resident church members who, as of January 15, are eligible to serve as deacon will be distributed with the nomination forms. The same list will be posted

on the bulletin board beside the library. (For a more complete discussion of qualifications, see Article III Section 6 of the Bylaws at right.)

• Nomination period:

Nominations may be submitted anytime from Sunday, January 15, through Sunday noon, February 12. After prayerful consideration, all members are asked to recommend up to four people they believe to be best qualified. Each member should fold the unsigned nomination form, place it in an envelope, then seal the envelope, print his/her name on the outside, and drop it in one of the two ballot boxes (near the church office and near the library), place it in the Sunday morning offering plate, or mail it to the church office in time to be received no later than Friday, February 10. Forms may also be submitted on Sunday, February 12, until noon.

• Tabulation:

A tabulating committee composed of outgoing deacons will check names to be sure the voter is a member, separate ballots from envelopes so that privacy is ensured, then unfold ballots and prepare a list of nominees ranked according to number of nominations received. The church administrative staff will pass the resulting list of nominees to the Committee on Deacons. The Committee on Deacons will contact the nominees, in order of nominations received, asking them to consider serving for three years beginning May 1, and inviting them

to meet with the Committee before accepting or declining. A slate of four nominees who have accepted the call to serve will be presented for approval at the annual business meeting in April.

• **Please pray for God’s guidance for this significant church-life process.** From your Committee on Deacons: Lerma Hearn, Debbie Maxwell, and Ed Wasserman.

Article III, Section 6 of Bylaws Eligibility and Qualification of Deacons.

To be eligible for service as a deacon of Immanuel Baptist Church, persons at the time the deacon ballots are distributed pursuant to Article V, Section 2 of these bylaws shall: (1) be a resident member of Immanuel Baptist Church; (2) be at least twenty-five years of age; (3) have been a member of Immanuel Baptist Church for at least one year; (4) have actively participated in the life of the church, by being a member of a church committee or being elected to a church office (i.e., treasurer, Sunday School teacher, etc.), at some point within the three years preceding their nomination; and (5) have financially supported the church, either personally or through their family giving unit, during each year of their membership or during each of the three years preceding their nomination, whichever period of time is shorter. Deacons should reflect those qualities that the church expects of its members including regular church attendance and financial support of the church. Persons nominated to serve as deacons should also agree to commit their time to serve a deacon care group, to attend deacons’ meetings regularly, and to study carefully the teachings of scripture before agreeing to serve. They also should examine the church covenant as an expression of what the church calls each of its members to be and to do.

Mid-Year Stewardship Report



“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.”

What a gift and privilege it is for all of us to share in this mission. We have much for which to be grateful. Our community of faith nurtures the faith in all of us—from the youngest to the oldest among us. We have several adults who grew up in this community of faith from childhood. Some of these have grandchildren here who now bring their own energy, enthusiasm, and faith to our work together.

Learning together, growing together, and working together—

we reach out to each other, to the marginalized in the Nashville area, and to the wider world.

Our gifts and investments in this community continue to provide educational curriculum, building maintenance, mission resources, utility and insurance payments, staff salaries, and indeed all that is required to fulfill our ongoing mission as God’s church at Immanuel.

The Stewardship Committee wanted to give a status report to the church after seven months into the fiscal year. From May through November 30, we are about break even with our income exceeding expenses by a mere \$248. This is an improvement over a couple of months ago when we had a deficit.

We are grateful for the faithful giving of our community and trust God will continue to bless the giving of our time, our talents, and our resources in joyful response to God’s gracious giving to us individually and through our community.

Through this season of Advent, Christmas and into the new year, may we deepen our individual and collective participation in God’s joyful dance of giving, receiving, and giving again with trust.

Reminder: all gifts intended to be credited in calendar year 2022 must be in church office or postmarked by December 31, 2022.

Stewardship Committee

Lord's Supper Dates 2023

January (none)	July 2
February 5	August 6
March 5	September 3
April 6	October 1
(Maundy Thursday)	(World Communion)
May 7	November 12
June 4	Christmas Eve



Advent Devotions 2022

This year's Advent devotions were outstanding! Everyone shared a unique perspective. Some of the writers were brave enough to share personal struggles – from the practical to the profound. We were all made better from reading your reflections. Thank you to all the writers, to the Worship Committee for recruiting writers (particularly Miriam Tate and Karen Lewis), and to Jeanie Reynolds for her heroic editing efforts!

 With Gratitude,
Pastor Stephanie

Youth Christmas Party

at the Kihlberg's Kingston Springs Home on December 10, 2022



L-R: Jonah Wilkerson, Anna Kihlberg, Erik Kihlberg, Olivia Cooper, Campbell Gnetz, and Edmond Jarnigan

The youth had a chance to brave cold waters and participate in a gift exchange game at the Youth Christmas Party! Thanks to Kihlbergs for hosting!



Campbell Gnetz taking the Polar Bear Plunge!

FAMILY ADVENT GATHERING

IBC families gathered after worship on December 4th for an Advent Extravaganza in the Fellowship Hall. We enjoyed burritos from Moe's, scavenged for Christmas symbols around the church, made crafts, and played Christmas trivia games. It was a great way to get in the holiday spirit.



BAPTISM OF HAGEN SELF

Hagen Walker Self was baptized at IBC on Sunday, December 18, 2022. In her baptismal statement Hagen summarized, "I would like to be baptized because I want to be closer to God. I want to follow Jesus because I want to be reborn in Christ and show his love to others." Could any of us say it any better? Hagen was surrounded by many family members and friends. Her parents are Craig and Stephanie Self.

PRESCHOOL PROFILE: FOX JENKINS

Some of you don't have the chance to see our preschoolers who are tucked away in the nursery during worship (Thanks to Patty Brown and all the volunteers that make extended session possible on Sunday mornings!). One of our newest class members is Fox Jenkins, son of Steven and Tara Jenkins and little brother to Harper who is in 3rd grade.



Celebrate Good Times!

Choir Practice at the Sharp Home



Richard Shadinger with sax-playing Santa at the ministerial staff Christmas Dinner



The Young Families & Professionals Sunday School Christmas Party took a party bus to look at Christmas lights!



Decorating for Advent Clockwise from bottom right: Jonathan Higdon, Chris O'Rear, Tim Stewart, Lynda O'Rear and Lucinda Stewart
Thanks to all on the Decorations Committee!