

IMMANUEL LIGHT

Congratulations Graduates!

Anna Kihlberg



Anna is the daughter of Peter and Courtney Kihlberg, sister to Erik, and granddaughter of Kay and the late Don Johnson, Johnny and Mariana Kihlberg. She is graduating from Hume-Fogg Academic High School and will attend Elon University in North Carolina as an Honors Fellow with plans to major in psychology or biology.

Olivia Cooper



Olivia is the daughter of Jon and Jill Cooper, sister to Emily, and granddaughter to Kenny and Sherry Cooper, Bill and the late Carol Jordan. She is graduating from Hume-Fogg Academic High School and will attend The University of Tennessee at Knoxville in the Fall. She plans to major in psychology.

High School Senior Recognition Lunch

The high school senior recognition event will take place on May 21 in the fellowship hall following worship. Meal and dessert will be provided by Stephen and Geneva Wilkerson. Please RSVP by sending an email to office@ibcnashville.org by May 14. Come help celebrate our outstanding high school graduates!



Immanuel Baptist Church

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Adanna Brown,
Publications Editor

Ann Conn, Secretary

Jenny Dean, Financial Secretary

Michelle Fernandes,
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Steven H. Meriwether, Pastor

Stephanie Wyatt,
Associate Pastor

Tim Sharp, Minister of Music

Richard C. Shadinger, Organist

Beryl Vick,
Minister of Music Emeritus



The Weather Report

Robert Michael Pyle is an ecologist who lives in Gray's River, Washington. I came across his work sometime early in 2022. His book *The Thunder Tree*, part memoir and part natural history, is especially intriguing.

I was hooked early. In the introduction he writes, "When people connect with nature, it happens somewhere. Almost everyone who cares deeply about the outdoors can identify a particular place." [1]

That *somewhere* for me is 1854 Reynolds Road. I remember the buzz in our house when the US Postal Service assigned us a house number. As a preschooler, I learned my address to be Route 1 Reynolds Road. Specificity was not required given the scarcity of neighbors.

Fifteen years ago this month, I moved back to Nashville after twenty-five years in a "far country." In that interval of time, Music City mushroomed. Growth has occurred in every direction on the compass. The ethos of the city transmogrified. I cannot aptly describe the change, but Mark Twain's observation that cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with an education resonates.

The call to become the pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church was like door of opportunity swinging widely on its hinges. The psalmist wrote, "Take delight in the Lord, and the Lord will give you the desires of your heart." For a quarter of a century, I had dreamt of a companionship with home ground. A place where the earth gets under our nails and a sense of place gets under our skin, as Michael Pyle would put it. Moving back to Nashville, the desires of my heart were realized.

Fifth Sunday worship on April 30 will happen outdoors. One of our new and younger members asked me back in the winter if we ever worshipped outside. Our location begs for it. Our past two Good Friday services were conducted outdoors and participants found the experience of particular meaning. Might the same hold true for Sunday morning, we wondered.

Plans for Fifth Sunday worship are finalizing. The context will be a garden, a grassy knoll by the columbarium. There is an obvious connection with the liturgical season of Easter. The Christian hope the resurrection includes the creation, according to Paul (Romans 8.22, 23). Nature too mourns a lost good. As the perishable puts on the imperishable in the resurrection, the creation will likewise be mended and made whole.

Our worship will center around the original duty assigned humankind, "to till and keep" the garden (Genesis 2.15). Human existence was not intended to be one of indolence. Our responsibility is to nurture and conserve the pristine perfection of creation. The number of Nashvillians living with little hint of nature in their lives is too large. This is not good for us. Michael Pyle offers a compelling call to resist the extinction of experience. Find a plot of creation and put your hands in it!

The growing season is upon us. Soon, my hands will bear the marks of tilling and keeping a plot of ground. Despite diligent handwashing, there will be times when my hands appear dirty. I have come to see it as a badge of honor.

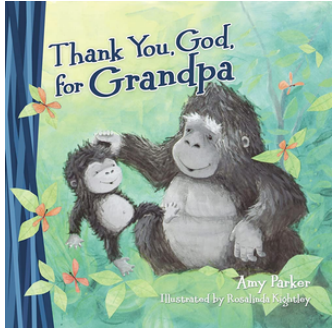
In this season of Easter, we look to the Risen Christ to unveil the true meaning of all creation. We renew our hope in a recreated and resurrected heaven earth. An event where our alienation from God and the Creation is transformed.

Steven

[1] Pyle, Robert Michael. *The Thunder Tree*. P.XV.

Announcements

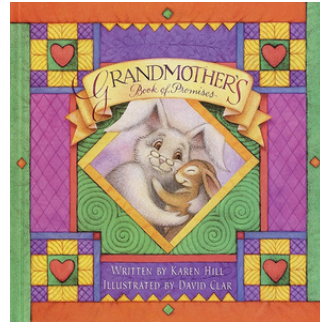
May Library Books



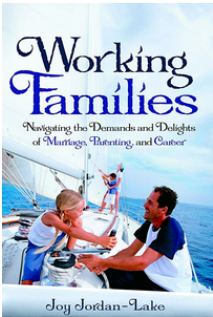
Thank You, God, for Grandpa by Amy Parker



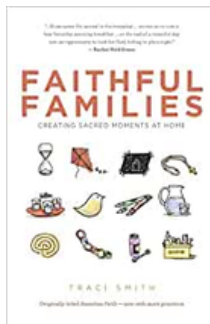
Front Porch Tales by Philip Gulley



Grandmother's Book of Promises by Karen Hill



Working Families: Navigating the Demands and Delights of Marriage, Parenting and Career by Joy Jordan-Lake



Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home by Traci Smith

Upcoming Wednesday Night Programs

In wake of the Covenant School shooting and the crisis of gun violence in our society, Judy Skeen will join Pastor Steven for a four week series "Faith and Violence" in the month of May.

May 3

"How Long, O Lord"

– expressing lament and owning the struggle

May 10

"Revolutionary Love in a Time of Rage"

– a podcast by Valerie Kaur followed by discussion

May 17

"A Witness to Violence"

– author of *He Called Me Sister*, Suzanne Craig Robertson will be interviewed

May 24

"Mothers Demand Action"

– Linda McFadyen-Ketchum



THIS MONTH

MAY 7

DENOMINATIONAL
RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING FOLLOWING
WORSHIP

MAY 8

DEACON'S MEETING
7PM

MAY 9

PDO GRADUATION

MAY 11

STEWARDSHIP
COMMITTEE MEETING
6:30PM ON ZOOM

MAY 21

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR
RECOGNITION EVENT

UPCOMING

JUNE 6

OLDER ADULT
LUNCHEON

JUNE 11

DENOMINATIONAL
RELATIONS DISCUSSION
4PM

JUNE 20-23

PASSPORTKIDS

NEW Portable Sound System

Immanuel's new portable sound system was inaugurated for the Good Friday service at the columbarium. And what a difference it made! For future outdoor activities, this sound system will be very useful.

In 1992 Florence Hearn (Charles Hearn's mother) established a "charitable remainder unitrust" for the ultimate use and benefit of Immanuel Baptist Church as well as "certain charitable, educational and religious institutions." The charitable trust stipulated that deacons will determine the use of interest earnings annually.

Since her death in 1995, Immanuel deacons have found many uses for this bequest, including at least two computers for the office staff, new upholstery for parlor furniture and the new portable sound system this year. What a generous annual gift to our church!

Thanks to Lerma Hearn for researching this bequest.

Charles Businaro
Church Historian



RESURRECTION PRACTICES

- 1 Hang a Rainbow Prism
- 2 Plant Vegetables
- 3 Compost Food Scraps
- 4 Make Something New from Your Trash
- 5 Give Flowers to Your Neighbors
- 6 Look for Butterflies
- 7 Read John 21:1-17

The time between Easter and Pentecost is an opportunity to think about Easter not just as one day, but as a whole season. Do one of these activities this Spring and experience the Risen Christ in a new way.



Sunday, April 30th

Outdoor Worship

Celebrate Creation with us at
10:30am near the Columbarium
(weather permitting)

Please bring your own lawn
chair.

Casual dress is welcomed.

BYO picnic will follow.

A Message From the Editor

Dear Church Family,

With a full but saddened heart, I write to inform you that my time as Publications Editor at Immanuel will come to a close with the sending of this newsletter. I have been very blessed with the opportunity to pursue a full time position in my degree field starting next week.

Though my time here has be short-lived, and I've only met very few of you, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the warmth you've shown me. I can easily recall numerous glimpses of love, joy, and community in your interactions with me and each other. I have been impacted greatly, and for that, I thank you. I hope to visit again sometime soon.

Blessings,

Adanna Brown

EASTER SUNDAY PHOTOS



Preschool Class & Teachers
L-R: Debbie Maxwell, Luke Saylor, Ian Jarnigan, McCall Self, and Jill Cooper



Procession into the Sanctuary



Recession to flower cross



The Self Family: Craig & Stephanie, McCall (on shoulders) and Hagen



Luke Saylor



Ian Jarnigan



The Jarnigan Family: Brandon & Lissa, (L-R) Edmond, Bennett, & Ian



Kaelyn Newton



L-R: Tim Reynolds, Carolyn Easterly, Carol Boozer, Jim & Susan Hawkins, Will Lagley, Chris O'Rear, Tim Stewart, Emily Stewart, Abigail Reynolds, Grover Baker, Steve Tate, Terri & Doug Jones, Miriam Tate, Lucinda Stewart, Tim Sharp, and Emma Sharp.



Jack Newman

visit ibcnashville.org to view the complete collection of photos

Missions & Ministry

Sue Senter Earnings to Go to



Sue Senter

Each year the missions and ministry committee has the opportunity to allocate funds from earned interest on a bequest made to IBC by Sue Senter upon her death in 2011. This year the committee has voted to designate the \$1975.00 in 2023 earnings to our local ministry partner, Rooftop. The recommendation was approved at the business meeting on Wednesday, April 26.

The number of households experiencing a one-time financial hardship or facing immediate eviction is on the rise. Rooftop is the only organization in our area dealing with these types of requests and Nashville city government is increasingly dependent on their ability to assist citizens in need. Thus, the missions and ministry committee felt that a gift in addition to our line-item mission giving was appropriate this year.

Children on Mission



L-R: Lola Gale, Meredith Crownover, & Kaelyn Newton



Meredith Crownover sorting hangers at the AMOS Ministry Center in March



On Wednesday night, April 12, Children on Mission removed the flowers from the IBC Easter cross and collected them for disposal. Afterwards they enjoyed some well-deserved rest in the form of playground play. Adam DJ Brett is helping to swing the girls on the playground equipment.

Church Family News

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Laralee and Adam Page on the birth of their son, Thomas James Page, born Friday April 21. Happy new grandparents are Nancy and Claude Huguley.

In Memoriam

Julia Lang
May 7, 1929 ~ April 19, 2023

Sanctuary Flowers

May 7 - Jeanie Reynolds, Diane Morris, and Bob Kirk
May 14 - John Lykins
May 21 - Abigail Reynolds and Rachel Gale
May 28 - Felix and Shirley Montgomery



Attendance	
April 9 - 165	April 23 - 84
April 16 - 91	April 30 - TBA
Financials	
(Through March 31, 2022)	
Year-to-Date Budget	Offerings to Date
\$462,837.21	\$446,992.09
Year-to-Date Actual Expense	Year-to-Date Net Income
\$457,069.69	{\$10,077.60}

May Birthdays



MAY 1
SAMANTHA NGUYEN
BETSY OZIER

MAY 8
CHRIS DEAN

MAY 3
SAMUEL BAKER
INDIRA NEWTON

MAY 9
ED WASSERMAN

MAY 4
WILLIAM BATY
COURTNEY KIHLEBERG

MAY 11
MELISSA CLOUSE

MAY 12
AARON BUTLER

MAY 13
MATT GALE

MAY 25
STEPHANIE SELF

MAY 14
FELIX MONTGOMERY

MAY 28
JONATHAN HIGDON

MAY 15
DEBBIE MAXWELL

MAY 30
MIRIAM TATE

MAY 16
BERYL VICK

MAY 21
PRISCILLA EICHLER
SUE CHILTON

MAY 22
ROBIN BURNS
CHARLES HEARN





Children's Ministry

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Each year in the lectionary readings, the fourth Sunday after Easter is designated Good Shepherd Sunday. The Children's Ministry celebrated the story of the Good Shepherd a bit early this year with Children's Church on April 16th. The children acted out the story of the Good Shepherd from Luke 15:1-7. When the shepherd finds the lost sheep "he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices."



L-R: Hagen Self, Lyla Gnetz , Meredith Crownover, Sims Crownover (Director), and Bennett Jarnigan



PROCESSING WITH EASTER BANNER

We begin children's church with procession from the back of the fellowship hall to the front, carrying various elements for our altar display with us. Sims Crownover (L) and Bennett Jarnigan (R) carry our Easter Banner displaying artwork from Charles Businaro. The wonderful seasonal banners Charles designed teach the children about the church year.

OUR ALTAR

A charming three-tiered shelf holds items to help draw our attention to the day's theme. This Sunday, Hagen Self took responsibility for arranging the altar. The Bibles are marked with the scripture for the day, artwork features Good Shepherd illustrations from all over the world, and figures from Sunday School Godly Play sets represent the story of the Lost Sheep in miniature.



WHERE KIDS LEAD

IBC Kids are incredibly creative and bring all their imaginative energies to children's worship. This Sunday some donned costumes to assist in telling the story of the Good Shepherd. (L-R) Kaelyn Newton, Belle Mobley, Meredith Crownover, Geneva Wilkerson, Lyla Gnetz, Hagen Self, Bennett Jarnigan, and Sims Crownover.

