



# The Immanuel Light

*For the Living of These Days*

JANUARY 2022

VOL. 14 NO. 1

## 2022 is the Year We Become Super, Natural Christians

Pastor Steven's fall reading has led him towards preaching on the subject of CREATION: in the sense of the world we live in, its shape, and its conditions. The phrase Super, Natural Christians comes from the title of a book by theologian Sallie McFague (Fortress Press, 1997), whom Pastor Steven has referenced in recent sermons.

Recognizing that most of us have a healthy appreciation of nature, McFague asks us to take that appreciation a step further by asking, "How are Christians to love nature?" She suggests that we should approach nature with the same relational posture that we approach God and our neighbors, as subjects rather than objects (1–2). "Objects," McFague explains, "are 'things' that others can change as they please with no consequences, while subjects both affect others and are affected by them" (8).

McFague's purpose is reflected in the title of her book, "We will begin to get things right . . . when we see ourselves as natural, as belonging to the earth utterly and completely, as well as super, natural by responding to this earth, our beleaguered home with special attention and care—that is, with love" (6).

Each Sunday we read Immanuel's vision statement in our Order of Worship, "God is calling Immanuel Baptist Church to practice the radical, compassionate discipleship taught by Jesus Christ." McFague's work asks us to consider "extending the radical, destabilizing, inclusive love of Jesus Christ to the natural world" (24).

As we contemplate what it means to love nature as Christians this year, we hope that you will find ways to work this theme into various aspects of church life and your own devotions. The pastors are happy to provide reading recommendations for personal use and small group study. We will also be offering practical suggestions and opportunities to put practice-in-action in the coming months.

Let heaven and nature sing in this new year!

*Your Staff*



The staff invites you to participate in a new venture in the upcoming year. For each of the months when there is a 5th Sunday, our usual 10:30am service will become an hour of creative worship. The first 5th Sunday arrives January 30th. *Come and see . . .*

### *Celebrating the Seasons*

will take place in 2022 on the following dates:

- January 30 - "In the Bleak Mid-Winter"
- May 29
- July 31
- October 30



## 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

#### **Associate Pastor**

Stephanie Wyatt  
swyatt@ibcnashville.org

#### **Minister of Music**

Tim Sharp  
tsharp@ibcnashville.org

#### **Organist**

Richard Shadinger  
richard.shadinger@gmail.com

#### **Secretary/Editor**

Deborah Maxwell  
dmaxwell@ibcnashville.org

#### **Financial Secretary**

Jenny Dean  
jdean@ibcnashville.org

#### **Secretary**

Ann Conn  
aconn@ibcnashville.org

#### **Parents' Day Out Director**

Michelle Fernandes  
mfernandes@ibcnashville.org

#### **Minister of Music Emeritus**

Beryl Vick

Immanuel Baptist Church  
222 Belle Meade Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37205  
Ph. 615.297.5356  
www.ibcnashville.org

# Some Glimpses of Christmas Time at Immanuel!



## Let's Recycle in 2022!

As part of our year-long emphasis on becoming Super, Natural Christians, Church Mouse (who is being recycled himself!) would like to remind you that many of your every-day electronic items can be recycled for FREE at your local Best Buy store (limit 3 items per household per day).



Items such as computers, DVD/VCR players, e-readers, headphones, projectors, even cables, antennas (less than 3 feet), cell phones, and even hair dryers and stick vacuum cleaners can be recycled at your local Best Buy. Up to 2 TVs per day can be recycled for \$29.99 (Tube TVs smaller than 32" and Flat Panel TVs smaller than 50").

Check out the full list of items at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3dWZjUw>

Church Mouse thanks you for being concerned about reducing e-waste.

# Deacon Nomination Process Begins January 16

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 16, 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 16, 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 16, through Sunday noon, February 13. 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 11. Forms may also be submitted on Sunday, February 13, until noon.

• **And then:** 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 nomi-

nees 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.

• **Now:** Please pray for God’s guidance as we join together in this significant church-life process.

—Committee on Deacons  
*Lerma Hearn, Claude Huguley, Debbie Maxwell*

## 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.

## REGISTER FOR PASSPORT THIS SUMMER

You can register and pay through the "Events" tab on your RealmConnect App or at [onrealm.org](http://onrealm.org) by signing into your Realm account.

You may also submit a check to the church office for the amount due. Please write "Passportkids Camp" in the memo line.

### Passportkids Camp June 21 – June 24, 2022

Berea College in Kentucky

Total cost of camp including deposit is \$350 per child

\$100 deposit is due for each child attending by January 15, 2022

Contact Pastor Stephanie ([swyatt@ibcnashville.org](mailto:swyatt@ibcnashville.org)) for further information.

## Thank You!

The Worship Committee and Immanuel staff would like to thank those who contributed Advent devotionals this year. You shared from your hearts as well as from the wisdom you have gleaned during your life.

We are grateful you chose to share of yourselves with your church family during this Advent season.

As part of our emphasis on loving nature as Christians, we want you to

## Send Us Pictures of Some of Your Favorite Natural Spots!



*Lake Barkley in Kentucky from Larry and Debbie Maxwell*

This year in our publications we would like to share pictures of some of your favorite spots or items in nature. Whatever place, feature, or creature that inspires you is what we are seeking. Please email your photos to [dmaxwell@ibcnashville.org](mailto:dmaxwell@ibcnashville.org).

# Church Family News

## PRAYER LIST

Pat Vick  
Faye Shaw  
Daniel Hudgins  
Jim and Judy Clouse

Vance Hudgins  
Gayle Perrin  
Ike and Mina Harris

## Welcome, New Member!



**Carolyn Binkley** joins by letter from LaVergne United Methodist Church. Her deacon will be Laralee Page.

## Thank You!

Dear Immanuel Family, Thank you for the lovely service to celebrate the life of my mother, Jennie Mills. The church was a continued source of strength for her and I am so thankful for everything Immanuel has done for us. With love and gratitude, Sarah Collier

## Sanctuary Flowers

**January 2-** given in honor of Immanuel's faithful who continue to provide service music.

**January 9-** given by the Grigsby Sunday School Class in loving memory of Sara Grigsby.

**January 16-** given by Stephanie Wyatt "in loving memory of Jimmy Hugh Wyatt, beloved dad and father-in-law of Stephanie Wyatt and Adam DJ Brett. — "Fond memory brings the light of other days around me." —Sir Thomas More

**January 23** given by Jane, Emma, and Tim Sharp in appreciation of the choir at Immanuel Baptist Church and their constant musical witness to our abundant life in Christ.

**January 30** given by Carolyn Campbell in loving memory of her parents.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Jacob and Rebecca Dover Wilson on the birth of their son, Everett Warren Dover Wilson, born December 18 in Nashville. Happy new grandmother is Melanie Dover.

# happy birthday to you!



**January 1**

Cathy Fleming

**January 2**

Betty Kay Wasserman

Bill Vo

**January 7**

Martha Bomboy

**January 12**

Martha Winston

Jerry Warren

**January 15**

Tim Reynolds

**January 17**

Sims Crownover

**January 18**

Charlie Newman

Marie Burr

Mary Vaughn

**January 22**

Jonah Wilkerson

**January 27**

Laurie Woods

Ian Jarnigan

**January 28**

Maddie Gore

Jackie Easterling

**January 29**

Susie Belew

**January 31**

Grace Norman-Wilson

# Calendar of Events

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

9:15 Sunday School All Ages  
10:30 Worship

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

5:00 Children's Choir  
5:00 Church Family Supper  
6:00 Vespers in the Chapel  
-Handbells/Brass rehearsals  
-Children on Mission  
-Youth Group

7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

9:30 PDO  
6:00 RITI

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

9:15 Sunday School All Ages  
10:30 Worship

## MONDAY, JANUARY 10

9:30 PDO

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

9:30 PDO

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

5:00 Children's Choir  
5:00 Church Family Supper  
6:00 Lisa Wooley, Roof Top

-Handbells/Brass rehearsals  
-Children on Mission  
-Youth Group

7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 13**

9:30 PDO  
6:30 Stewardship ZOOM

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

9:15 Sunday School All Ages  
10:30 Worship

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

9:30 PDO  
6:30 Deacons' Meeting

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

5:00 Children's Choir  
5:00 Church Family Supper  
6:00 Adult Programming  
-Handbells/Brass rehearsals  
-Children on Mission  
-Youth Group

7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

9:30 PDO  
6:00 RITI

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

9:15 Sunday School All Ages  
10:30 Worship/Children's Church

## MONDAY, JANUARY 24

9:30 PDO

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

9:30 PDO

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

5:00 Children's Choir  
5:00 Church Family Supper  
6:00 Adult Education Program  
-Handbells/Brass rehearsals  
-Children on Mission  
-Youth Group

7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

9:30 PDO

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

### Fifth Sunday

9:15 Sunday School All Ages  
10:30 Worship

## MONDAY, JANUARY 31

9:30 PDO

## Lord's Supper Schedule for 2022

February 6

March 6

April 14 - Maundy Thursday

May 1 - no communion

June 5

July 3

August 7

September 4

October 2 - World Communion

November 13

Christmas Eve

## Come Learn More About Roof Top

Wednesday, January 12 at 6:00 PM

Lisa Wooley, Executive Director of Roof  
Top, will be our guest speaker.



## Room in the Inn

January 6 and 20

February 3 and 17

March 3 and 17

## The Immanuel Book Club

The Book Club will meet via Zoom on  
Sunday, January 23 at 5:00.

The agenda for this meeting will be discussion of a couple of short stories by Kentucky author Wendell Berry. If you want to be added to list for this meeting and receive further information,

**NO HEARTSIDERS IN 2022**

# Happy New Year

from Your Staff

Debbie Maxwell

Richard Shadinger

Stephanie M Wyatt  
Tim Sharp

Steven Meriwether

Jenny Dean  
Ann Combs

*"You crown the year with your goodness; your paths overflow with richness." —Psalm 65.11*

Church Office 615.297.5356  
Fax 615.297.2247  
E-mail [dmaxwell@ibcnashville.org](mailto:dmaxwell@ibcnashville.org)  
Website [www.ibcnashville.org](http://www.ibcnashville.org)

Office Hours:  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Mon - Thurs.  
The church office is closed on Fridays.

**The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month for the following month's publication. Submissions are subject to editing per space restrictions. E-mail submissions go to [dmaxwell@ibcnashville.org](mailto:dmaxwell@ibcnashville.org), or call 615.297.5356 ext. 11 with questions.**

Place  
Stamp  
Here

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH  
222 BELLE MEADE BOULEVARD  
NASHVILLE, TN 37205  
615.297.5356  
[www.ibcnashville.org](http://www.ibcnashville.org)