



# The Immanuel Light

*For the Living of These Days*

SEPTEMBER, 2020

VOL. 12 No. 9

## THE WEATHER REPORT

The late Carl Rowan was a distinguished journalist in the last half of the twentieth century. He hailed from Ravenscroft, TN, a small town east of Sparta on the Cumberland Plateau. He held degrees from Oberlin College, Tennessee State University, and the University of Minnesota.

A quarter of a century ago, a few years before his death in 2000, he released the book *The Coming Race War In America*. Presciently and candidly, he prophesied, “We are sliding headlong into terrible racial conflict that will dwarf the Los Angeles riots precisely because the baby boomers have not grown up devoted to racial equality the way we thought or hoped they would.”<sup>1</sup> Most of the talking points in the current conversation regarding race in this country Rowan outlined decades earlier; few heeded his clarion call.

Most Americans see as clearly as someone like Carl Rowan that there is a problem, but unlike Rowan, they do not think they have the answer. Some would even say that it is not their responsibility to provide one. Still, most people of faith agree that this moment requires more from us as a church and as a nation.

This past June, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, in partnership with the CBF Foundation, announced the establishment of the Emmanuel McCall Racial Equity Fund to support ongoing ministries of racial justice, repair and reconciliation. This initiative is a direct response to the Old Testament prophet Micah’s call to “do justice and love mercy.” The fund is named for a Baptist preacher and leader whose life’s work has been devoted to the repair of brokenness rendered by discrimination and oppression based on race.

Immanuel Baptist Church was invited to make a catalytic gift of \$1,000 or more. The goal was to secure commitments by August 20 totaling \$400K. Seventy-five percent of the funds will go to immediate work that includes,

but is not limited to:

- Developing and distributing racial justice, diversity, equity and inclusion resources for CBF churches
- Fostering partnerships in CBF state and regional organizations to increase diversity
- Initiating repair work opportunities for CBF Global, CBF state and regional organizations and local churches with and for the Black community.

After rereading our Vision and Mission statements, I was convinced this was an opportunity for our church to participate in doing more to support racial justice and inclusion.

At their respective meetings in August, both the Stewardship Committee and the Diaconate took up my request that Immanuel Baptist Church make a gift of \$1,000 to the Emmanuel McCall Racial Equity Fund. The recommended funding source was the designated account “Special Missions.” After good discussion, the recommendation passed with strong support. Both groups desired that this action be reported to the congregation. In addition, both wanted individuals to have the opportunity to contribute to the fund. You may do that by making your check to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and indicating “The McCall Racial Equity Fund” on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to: CBF, 160 Clairemont Ave., Suite 500, Decatur, GA 30030. I would encourage you to identify yourself as a member of Immanuel Baptist Church.

Carl Rowan believed that the cries of hate-mongers had to be muted if race relations were to improve. “We need politicians who will exhort the people of the United States to be better than they think they can be,”<sup>2</sup> he was fond of saying. That is the very least the Lord requires of you and me.

—Steven

<sup>1</sup>Rowan Carl, *The Coming Race War In America*. P.22.

<sup>2</sup>Rowan, Carl. *Ibid*. P.298.

## Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Even though we can't be present in person for our mission partners right now, there are ways we can still support them remotely as they continue to serve Nashville's most vulnerable populations.

Pastor Stephanie spoke this week to David Frease at the Nashville Food Project and he indicated that their kitchens could use help collecting the following:

- Extra virgin olive oil (highest priority)
- Pasta (preferably whole wheat penne)
- Brown rice (the larger the bag, the better)
- Applesauce (the larger the jar, the better)
- Shelf-stable containers of bone broth or chicken/beef/veg stock or broth
- Apple juice (100% juice)
- Grape juice (100% juice)
- Whole wheat tortillas

If you would like to purchase these items and bring them with you to church, we will have collection boxes on the pew outside of the church kitchen during the month of September. If you are worshipping with us virtually at present, you may drop the items at the church on Wednesdays (please call or email in advance). If you would prefer to deliver these items to the Nashville Food Project yourself, Pastor Stephanie can also provide you with that info by phone (615-297-5356 or email [swyatt@ibcnashville.org](mailto:swyatt@ibcnashville.org)).



### 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.*

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Beryl Vick

# Church Family News

## PRAYER LIST

- Jennie Mills
- Steve Tate
- Walt Conn
- Ruby Nell Morris, mother of Susan Hawkins
- Tallu Quinn, great-niece of Ed and Marguerite Fish, and Director of The Nashville Food Project
- Jennifer Vick Kiper
- Sara Miller, sister of Charles Martin

## IN MEMORIAM

Sue McConnell Jones  
29 August 2020  
Joined Immanuel  
30 October 1977

## Sanctuary Flowers

September 6 given in loving memory of Don and Sue Jones.

September 13 given by Suzanne Brandon in loving memory of, and thankfulness for “my parents, Sara Ann and Gentry Brandon, and my sister, Connie Woodham Brandon.”

September 20 given by Lanieve Coles in loving memory of Bill Coles.

September 27 given by Steven Meriwether in loving memory of Charles Herschel and Willie Mai Meriwether.

### September 1

Meghan Woodall  
Savannah Horner

### September 3

William Vo

### September 4

Emily Saylor

### September 5

Marilyn Shadinger

### September 8

Steven Meriwether

### September 13

John Thomas Greek  
Jennifer Atkinson Simcox

### September 14

Brandon Jarnigan  
Peter Kihlberg

### September 15

Val Evans  
Campbell Gnetz  
Jim Hawkins

### September 18

Emily Cooper

### September 20

Baker Woodall

### September 21

Mickey Tinsley  
Meg Winston

### September 24

Faye Shaw

### September 25

Rachel Gale

### September 26

Lane Easterly

### September 28

Sue Minch

### September 30

Chris Fleming



# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

# NO LABOR DAY PICNIC THIS YEAR!

# PDO Begins . . . in COVID-19 Times

The long, hot days of August are coming to an end and soon the hallways at Immanuel will again be filled with laughter and the sweet faces of our 2020/2021 PDO class. After shutting down early in the spring and remaining closed throughout the summer, our work and preparations to re-open have been monumental. I recruited three faithful



volunteers to help me research, study and write safety protocols that would be applicable to the young children and staff who are part of the program. Linda Fields, Debbie Maxwell and Angie Shelton, a PDO teacher, helped me think through a myriad of details, concerns and various scenarios. COVID-19 has caused us to change most everything we do on a daily basis. Temperatures of the staff and children will be checked and recorded daily; parents and visitors will no longer be allowed in the building; children will be dropped off in a carpool line under the porte cochere; teachers will wear masks; each classroom of children and teachers will form a small cohort and keep to themselves during the day; lunches will be sent in paper sacks instead of lunch boxes; the playground will be used by only one class at a time; children will be socially distanced during story time; nap mats will be placed six feet apart on the floor; COVID-19 Health Survey signs have been designed and ordered; the supply closet is overflowing with gloves, sanitizing gel and disinfecting spray; and new classroom books include titles such as *The Love Behind the Mask*, *Lucy's Mask*, and *Smiling Ear to Ear: Wearing Masks While Having Fun*.

All of these changes, and many more, will be put in place to safely re-open our beloved PDO program during this pandemic. However, in the

midst of all the changes, many things remain the same. Each of us are still committed and dedicated to providing this opportunity for the children and families of the community. The staff is committed to working together, encouraging and supporting one another. We are excited to again be able to teach, nurture and love on the children in our care. With your prayers and support, we will move forward to ensure that this remarkable, 41-year ministry of Immanuel Baptist Church will continue.

Warmest regards,  
Becky



The Bolt is VIRTUAL THIS YEAR! But, you can still register (to support the agencies that help the homeless in Nashville), get a t-shirt with this cool artwork, AND run around your living room on Thanksgiving morning! **Registration is up and running.** Until Nov 1 the cost is \$40. Shirts will be mailed (and hopefully arrive) before Thanksgiving. From Nov 2-Nov 26 the cost is \$45. Shirts will be mailed after Thanksgiving.

## Calendar of Events

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**

10:30 Worship

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

7:00 Stewardship Committee

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

5:00 Wednesday Wonderings

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

9:15 Adult Sunday School

10:30 Worship

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

6:30 Deacons' Meeting

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

5:00 Wednesday Wonderings

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

9:15 Adult Sunday School

10:30 Worship

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER**

6:30 Deacons' (ZOOM)

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

5:00 Wednesday Wonderings

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

9:15 Adult Sunday School

10:30 Worship

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

5:00 Wednesday Wonderings

## In-Person Adult Sunday School Class to be Offered

With the support of the church's Reopening Task Force (Jenny Wilson, Larry Maxwell, and Linda Fields), Pastor Steven and Pastor Stephanie would like to offer an in-person Sunday School option beginning Sunday, September 13th (the Sunday after Labor Day) at 9:15 am. We will be meeting in the Chapel where we will be able to appropriately social distance while still engaging one another.

The study will center on Amy-Jill Levine's new book, *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*. While it is not necessary to purchase the book, participants are welcome to purchase their own copies from their retailer of choice.

It is available in paperback (ISBN-13: 978-1501899898), as well as in audiobook, CD, and Kindle formats. It currently retails in paperback at \$11.49 on Cokesbury.com.

## ACTIONS APPROVED AT AUGUST BUSINESS MEETING

- Adding John Lykins to the Sound Committee
- Recommendation for use of the Ray Scott memorial
- Revisions to the Committee manual (you may see these revisions on the website)
- Recommendation from the Education Enlistment Committee