

IMMANUEL

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Just Peace, Environmentally Conscious

YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE 2017-18

Opportunities and Events for All

10 Woodland Street
Hartford, CT 06105



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Year-At-A-Glance and to the upcoming program year at Immanuel Congregational Church, United Church of Christ! We are so excited about the many opportunities to serve, learn, grow, and experience joy here at the church. We know that God gifts us in many different ways and calls us to many different forms of ministry. And so, we have this document, so that each of us can explore where God is calling us to engage with this congregation as we seek to be luminous with God's love.

Are you called to offer your gifts in worship, as a deacon, usher, liturgist, or musician? Are you called to deepen your spirituality through a book study, a Circle of Faith, or a Lenten Learning Series? Has God gifted you with compassion and called you to explore our Called to Care program? Does ministry with young people spark your interest? Are you looking for opportunities for your children or youth? Are you seeking service opportunities with Social Action and Mission? Does partnership with the global church interest you? Are you passionate about advocating for LGBT rights or working on racial justice? Is God calling you to fun activities of fellowship, so that you can deepen your relationships with people in this beloved congregation? How are you called to give your money, time, and talents? How are you called to grow? What makes you come alive?

Frederick Buechner writes, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." There is a hunger in the world for deeper human connection, for genuine worship, for justice, for peace, for change. And God is calling us to find where our deep gladness meets that deep hunger. And so we invite you to peruse these pages, and find what excites you. What do you want to do more deeply engage your faith, serve your community, connect with one another, and find that joy that God offers?

Whether you are brand new to Immanuel, or have been at the church for decades, I hope that you will find something exciting in these pages. Please do follow up with questions, attend some events, and engage in a new way. Why not take a risk and try something new? You can always contact me at kari.nicewander@iccucc.org or Sue Fisher at admin@iccucc.org for more details. We are delighted to help you connect to the places and opportunities where your deep gladness meets the world's deep hunger.

Let us enter into this upcoming year in joy, in service, and in praise. I am so excited to see what God has in store for us!

God bless,

Rev. Kari Nicewander

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE NUMBER(S)
I. WORSHIP.....	1 - 3
II. ADULT FAITH FORMATION.....	3 - 4
III. PASTORAL CARE.....	4 - 5
V. MUSIC MINISTRY.....	5
VI. YOUNG PEOPLE’S MINISTRIES.....	6 - 9
VII. SOCIAL ACTION AND MISSION.....	9 - 12
VIII. IMMANUEL CHURCH WOMEN (ICW).....	12
IX. MEMBER AND FRIEND FUN.....	13 - 15
X. STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY.....	15
XI. MISSION TRIP/PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE.....	16
XII. PROPERTY COMMITTEE.....	16

Helpful hint:

The Immanuel website, www.iccucc.org, is a great place to keep in touch with these events in the life of the church. Click on the “About” button to access the Immanuel online calendar.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**“Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God’s name;
bring an offering and come before the Lord!
Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.”**

1 Chronicles 16:29

Main contacts: Kari Nicewander, Senior Minister, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org
Isaac Lawson, Associate Minister, rev.isaac.lawson@gmail.com
Gretchen Hathaway, mvhathaway@gmail.com
Herb Menzel, Senior Deacon, macsmen@aol.com

Weekly Events:

Morning Worship: Sundays at 10am (9:30am in July and August)

Worship at Immanuel is the most public and common experience of our life together as a community of faith. Through vibrant music, provocative and prophetic messages for people of all ages and strong congregational participation we seek to open ourselves to the movement of God’s Spirit in our world. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month, and children are most welcome to participate in this sacrament.

Key Church Year Events:

Rally Sunday: September 10th, 10am

Come and kick off the program year at Immanuel! We will have lively worship, the return of our fabulous choir and great activities for children. After service, everyone is invited to a party on the front lawn, complete with a bounce house, lots of games, and great food. *Contact Gretchen Hathaway, mvmathaway@gmail.com or Herb Menzel, macsmen@aol.com for information.*

Collaborative Worship with Faith Congregational Church at Immanuel: September 17th, 10am

We continue to develop our relationships with the people of Faith Congregational Church, our sister church in the North End of Hartford. This time, we will host the people of Faith here at Immanuel! Come for a worship service that promises to be filled with beautiful music, lively worship, and abundant blessings.

Contact Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org, for information.

Mission Sunday: September 24th, 10am

Hear from our Nicaragua team about their experience of learning and serving in Nicaragua. The trip was a mission of the whole church, and we are so grateful for the support from Immanuel, which made our trip possible. Come to worship and hear more about the work, the learning, and the relationships that we developed in Nicaragua, as well as the way we can continue to build a more just world for all people.

Contact Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org, for information.

World Communion Sunday: October 1st, 10am

We join with Christians all over the world as we worship together on World Communion Sunday. We will have a special service, filled with music from around the world, bread from around the world, and stories from around the world. We will be blessed with music from our children and youth, as we come together to celebrate the table of blessing. *Contact Kari Nicewander for information, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org.*

Installation of Rev. Isaac Lawson: Sunday, October 8th, 3pm

We will gather for a service of worship and installation, with representatives from the denomination, our ecumenical partners and area clergy. This will be a joyful celebration of our new associate pastor here at Immanuel, with a wonderful reception following.

Discernment Sunday: October 22nd, 10am

What is God calling us to do in this time and place? What are our dreams and visions for the church? We will discuss different ways to understand the purpose of church, worship, and faith during our morning service. It will be followed by a second hour discussion to further the conversation.

Contact Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org, for information.

Book of Remembrance (All Souls) Sunday: November 5th, 10am

Please join us for worship on Sunday morning, November 6th as we celebrate All Souls' Day and honor the members of our Immanuel family who have passed. Special music offered during worship: Faure's "Requiem," which is filled with tenderness and warmth and will be offered by the Chancel Choir and guest instrumentalists.

Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service: Sunday, November 19th, 10am

We will give thanks to God in a joyous worship service, led by our children and youth. Join us for a time of joy and renewal, as we come together as the Body of Christ to offer thanksgiving. Contact Tracy Gormley for information, tracy.gormley@iccucc.org.

Crafting Service of Story, Ritual & Remembrance, Wednesday, November 29th, 6pm

For many people, the holidays are a tough time. Recent and even distant loss can leave us grieving at a time when we feel pressure to be joyous. This service will combine crafting, storytelling, rituals, and a community meal to remember and celebrate our loved ones who have transitioned. Please join for this creative, and hopefully therapeutic, service. Contact Rev. Isaac Lawson for information, rev.isaac.lawson@gmail.com.

Service of Lessons and Carols: Sunday, December 3rd, 4pm

Please join us for our annual service of Lessons and Carols. The Immanuel Chancel Choir and guest musicians will present a moving array of anthems, congregational carols and appropriate readings for the season of Christmas, with reception to follow. We hope you will take part in this beautiful service! It is a hallmark of the Music Ministry at Immanuel. Contact Mark Singleton for more information, singletonmark@hotmail.com.

Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 10th, 10am

A delightful celebration of the story of Christ's birth, told in story and in song, by children, youth, and adults. Come and join in this time of wonder, awe, love, and joy.

Christmas Eve: December 24th, 5pm

An annual celebration of Christ's birth, held at a time convenient for families. This time-honored event caps the holiday season with beautiful scripture and music. Contact Rev. Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Joint Worship: January 15th, Faith Congregational Church

We join with Faith Congregational Church and other area congregations to commemorate MLK Day, and to recommit to the work of racial justice. This is an opportunity to continue to build our partnerships in the community and to continue to work for a more just world. Service time to be announced. For more information, contact Rev. Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org.

Ash Wednesday Worship: February 14th, 5:30pm

We follow the tradition of Ash Wednesday with a solemn, intimate service in our Chapel, setting our minds and hearts for the Lenten season. For more information, contact Herb Menzel at macsmen@aol.com.

Maundy Thursday Worship: March 29th, 7pm

Join us for the Service of Tenebrae, led by church clergy and deacons. Many in our congregation find this service to be among the most touching and deeply moving events of our church calendar. Contact Herb Menzel at macsmen@aol.com for more information.

Good Friday Community Worship: March 30th, 1pm

Community procession between Asylum Hill area churches, with brief services held at each, including Immanuel. The diversity of the worship styles, sanctuaries and participants makes the Good Friday service a memorable blend of people and praises. Rev. Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org coordinates our participation.

Easter Sunrise Worship: April 1st, sunrise

For early risers, the community Sunrise Service, held at the Elizabeth Park Overlook is a tremendous way to join in the celebration of Easter across area Christian churches. Then head over to Immanuel for an Easter breakfast beginning at 8am. Rev. Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org coordinates our participation in this worship.

Easter Worship: April 1st, 10am

Come celebrate the resurrection of Jesus – the triumph of life over death, love over hatred, hope over despair. Come early for Easter breakfast, and stay to join in this glorious time of worship and celebration.

Confirmation & Pentecost Intergenerational Worship Service: Sunday, May 20th, 10am

Celebrate our confirmands, the birthday of the church, and the coming of the Holy Spirit, in this interactive, intergenerational, Spirit-filled Sunday. We will worship with great joy and see where the Spirit leads. Contact Rev. Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES (DIACONATE-DRIVEN)

**“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”**

Acts 2: 42

Immanuel Church Deacons design, coordinate and/or present several adult Christian education opportunities throughout the church year to meet the spiritual growth needs of Immanuel's adult members and friends.

Book Study: *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, Thursdays, September 21st and 28th, 6:15-7:30pm

Since 2011, Immanuel members and friends have joined together to discuss three books by the winners of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Prize for writing for social justice. This September, we invite you to join a discussion of *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, the 2017 winner of the Stowe Prize.

All three of the previous Stowe Prize winners have praised Stevenson's book, which describes his personal experience defending vulnerable people trying to find justice within an unjust criminal justice system. Archbishop Desmond Tutu calls Bryan Stevenson “America's young Nelson Mandela.”

Rev. Isaac Lawson and Anne Stanback will lead this discussion. You can sign up using sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Contact Anne at annestanback@gmail.com or 860-280-6896 with questions. If you would like the church to purchase you a copy of *Just Mercy*, please contact Sue Fisher in the church office, admin@iccucc.org or 860-527-8121.

Circles of Faith: October 22nd through February 11th

This eight-session series of discussions focuses on a different topic of faith each week. It also includes a group service project. We will have different groups, with various meeting times, in order to accommodate a variety of schedules. We expect this series to offer opportunity not only to delve into key areas of our faith but also to deepen friendships within each group.

Rev. Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org, is leading this initiative, from mid-October until Lent begins.

All Church Retreat: Friday, November 10th – Saturday, November 11th

We will travel together to Silver Lake Conference Center, a beautiful retreat center, to deepen our relationships with one another, and explore our purpose and vision for the church. There will be campfires and s'mores, great food and conversation, and wonderful activities for children, youth, and adults. Please plan on joining us for this important weekend of discernment and fun! *Rev. Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org, is leading this initiative.*

Advent Study: Environmental Justice as a Faith Issue: Thursdays, December 7th, 14th and 21st, 6-7:30pm in the Chapel

This study will examine environmental justice and global climate change as a faith issue. Climate change is a very pressing, but complex issue, which includes consequences of sea level rise, higher temperatures, loss of air and water quality, increased vector-borne diseases, severe economic dislocations, migration of environmental refugees, major national security issues, and much more. In this three week session, the Advent study group will focus on specific issues by reading key articles, viewing videos, and listening to guest speakers. Participants will learn about the work of: (a) Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, (IREJN), whose Connecticut-related activities Immanuel Church has supported for a number of years, (b), examine the activities of the Nicaragua Mission Trip which focused on improving access to clean water resources, and (c) explore how we might make our church a more green, environmentally conscious and energy efficient community. *Leaders of this study are Karim Ahmed, ahmed@ncseonline.org, and Roland Axelson, rgaxelson@gmail.com.*

Lenten Series: Thursdays during Lent, Thursdays, February 22nd through March 22nd

We will join again with Faith Congregational Church for Bible study and other opportunities for spiritual growth. We hope to renew our tradition of eating together before the sessions, as we continue to deepen our relationships with God and with one another. *For more information, contact Herb Menzel at macsmen@aol.com or to Rev. Kari Nicewander at kari.nicewander@iccucc.org.*

Bible Study: Fall, Winter and Spring Sundays at 8:30am in the Chapel

Offered in the Fall, Winter and Spring, Dr. Ellie Eisenberg leads Sunday Bible study groups in the Chapel. Ellie is renowned for her knowledge of the Old Testament and is beloved by the Bible Study group. Just show up on a Sunday morning, or *contact the church office, admin@iccucc.org to find out more.*

Second Hours: Occasional Sundays throughout the year

The Deacons coordinate the scheduling and communications surrounding presentations on topics important to our congregation, which occur after worship service on selected Sundays during the year. Topics include social action and mission, pastoral care, the environment, sermon feedback or arising issues. *Submit inquiries or scheduling requests to Herb Menzel at macsmen@aol.com.*

LAY PASTORAL CARE OPPORTUNITIES

**“The Lord comforts us when we are in trouble,
so that we can share that same comfort with others in trouble.”**

2 Corinthians 1:4

Main contact: Gene Flynn, carriage11@yahoo.com

Called to Care (CTC) Program

Our lay pastoral care ministry, Called to Care is a team of lay church members providing a confidential and caring presence to those who may be experiencing stressful life challenges, supplementing the pastoral care provided by our clergy. Members and friends are encouraged to seek these non-judgmental listeners after worship as well as through specifically requested or regularly scheduled home, hospital or other health care facility visits.

Educational Session for CTC Caregivers – Occasional

Guests are invited to join the CTC volunteers to learn about pastoral care-related topics used during the visits. Examples of some of the topics that have been addressed are: dementia, funeral planning, communion in the home and prayers for the sick. For those wishing to join the CTC team, a 30- hour training program must be completed to prepare volunteers to conduct pastoral visits within this ministry.

Monthly Sharing Session - Last Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm

Each month, the CTC volunteers meet to support, encourage, and make suggestions to each other in order to provide consistent, confidential and compassionate care to our friends and members.

MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

“Address one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart...”

Ephesians 5:19

Main contacts: Mark Singleton, Director of Music, singletonmark@hotmail.com
Dorrie Brass, Music Co-chair, dorriebrass@gmail.com
Myddy Birkhead, Music Co-chair, middylep@gmail.com

Music is a hallmark of worship at Immanuel Church. With a time-honored tradition of excellence, the music ministry at ICC strives for an inclusive and diverse range of repertoire and musical offerings. All music at Immanuel – from the hymns and anthems to the organ postlude – is chosen to inspire and complement our service of worship.

The Chancel Choir

The Immanuel Chancel Choir offers music to illuminate the message of God in our services of worship, expressing the universal language of peace, love and justice. The Chancel Choir strives for choral excellence in our community of worship. From grandeur to tenderness, the choral element stands as the centerpiece of the ICC music ministry. The Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30pm – 9:30pm and on Sunday mornings from 9am - 9:45am. The Chancel Choir’s season begins in September and runs through early June. *If you are interested in becoming a part of this ensemble and would like to schedule a vocal placement, please contact Mark Singleton, Director of Music, at singletonmark@hotmail.com.*

Faure’s “Requiem”: Sunday, November 5th, 10am Worship Service

Please join us for worship on Sunday morning, November 5^h as we celebrate All Souls’ Day and honor the members of our Immanuel family who have passed. Faure’s “Requiem” is filled with tenderness and warmth and will be offered by the Chancel Choir and guest instrumentalists.

Annual Service of Lessons and Carols: Sunday, December 3rd, 4pm

Please join us for our annual service of Lessons and Carols. The Immanuel Chancel Choir and guest musicians will present a moving array of anthems, congregational carols and appropriate readings for the season of Christmas, with reception to follow. We hope you will take part in this beautiful service! It is a hallmark of the Music Ministry at Immanuel.

“Moses Hogan: The Legacy of the Spiritual”: Sunday, February 11th, 10am Worship Service

“A Caribbean Mass”: Sunday, April 15th, 10am Worship Service

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**“All your children shall be taught by the Lord,
and great shall be the peace of your children.”**

Isaiah 54: 13

Main contact: Tracy Gormley, Director of Children's Ministry, tracy.gormley@iccucc.org

BIRTH THROUGH THREE YEARS OLD

Nursery: Sundays 8:45am-11:30am

Children are always welcome at Immanuel! Please feel free to keep your children with you in worship. It is always a joy to have young people in the pews. If you would like nursery or toddler care, however, the Nursery and Toddler Room is staffed every Sunday and is located at the back of the Sanctuary. Families are also invited to use the room at the back of the Sanctuary to nurse little ones. Our nursery is particularly appropriate for children ages 6 months to 2 years old. We also welcome any preschoolers who might require care before Church School. Our nursery is staffed by paid professionals who are trained in Immanuel's comprehensive Safe Church Policy and Procedures, and have undergone background checks.

PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 6

Regular Events:

Christian Kids! Sunday School: Sundays, 10-11:15am

Our Christian Kids! Sunday School gathers on Sunday mornings at 10am in the Sanctuary from September through May. Children in pre-K through 6th grade are invited and encouraged to begin their educational experience in worship with their families, participate in an interactive Children's Message and then attend creative activities that teach major Bible stories and Christian concepts until 11:15am. Families are invited to share in a time of fellowship after their children are picked up from Christian Kids!

Our Christian Kids! ministry utilizes a rotation style of curriculum in which the Bible story or Christian concept is taught for multiple weeks consecutively using a variety of creative activities. These can include art, science, music, video, games, cooking, drama, puppetry, storytelling and computers. Repeating the story for multiple weeks and using a variety of creative workshop learning experiences ensures that every child has the ability to learn according to their individual learning style. The themes that we plan to cover this year are: Wonder Women of the Bible, the Parables of Jesus, Generosity, Jesus Is Born, Samuel, Gender Equality, the Ten Commandments, Breakfast on the Beach, and the Greatest Commandment.

In addition to worship and workshop learning, our young people participate in service projects both during the educational Sunday morning time and after worship. Children love to bake goodies and create birthday cards that are shared at Immanuel's monthly birthday parties held at the Marshall House. And our elders in the community love to see our smiling faces donned in Halloween costumes when we march across the street to visit the residents of the Immanuel House. Other projects involve assisting with the Rawson School mitten tree assembly and sharing our monetary gifts to sponsor animals and education to end poverty and hunger through Heifer International.

Seasonal Events:

Bible Presentation: Sunday October 15th at 10am

Children and youth in kindergarten, 4th grade and confirmation receive a special age appropriate Bible to learn the stories of God's people and deepen their connection to Jesus' word.

Family Advent Activities, Dinner & Pageant Practice: Friday, December 8th at 5:30pm

Children, youth and families will enjoy dinner and seasonal activities while those in the pageant rehearse and join in the fun.

Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 10th, 10am

A delightful celebration of the story of Christ's birth, told in story and in song, by children, youth, and adults. Come and join in this time of wonder, awe, love, and joy.

Hospitality & Extravagant Welcome: Sunday November 5th and February 4th:

Our Christian Kids! will put their greeting and serving skills into action as they assist as junior ushers and serve snacks during coffee fellowship time.

Special Events

Intergenerational Dinner and Activities: Mostly offered on the first Thursday of each month with exceptions near Christmas and Easter, from 5pm-7:15pm

Thursday evenings on October 5th, November 2nd, January 4th, February 1st, March 1st and May 3rd. Friday Mission and service activities for the kids starting at 5pm with dinner and family game following at 6:15pm. Look for the sign up sheet to secure your place at the table and to indicate how you would like to offer your volunteer gifts to the group; cooking, setup, kitchen clean up, leading children's activities or table decorations. The fee for these fun filled evenings is \$5 per person with children aged 10 and under free. Come join the fun service and festivities with your family and friends! All welcome!

Immanuel House Visit: Sunday, October 29th, at 11am

Children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to church and the Christian Kids program before embarking to visit our elderly neighbors at the Immanuel House Our short visit will include parading through the common areas and visiting residents in their dining room. We will conclude our time together sharing a pizza lunch and fun seasonal activities in the stage room.

Game Night: Saturday January 20th, 5-7pm

Potluck and friendly game time competition await those who join us for this fun evening with your favorite board game or newly found pastime.

Little Lock In: Friday February 9th-Saturday February 10th

Children 10 and under with their parent(s) are invited to spend the night at Immanuel to participate in fun activities, eat loads of snacks and sleepover in the church parlor.

Seder Dinner: Thursday, March 29th 5:30pm

Immanuel friends of all ages are invited to share a Seder meal together, much as Jesus and His followers celebrated Passover together in Jerusalem before His death and resurrection.

CONFIRMATION

Information session on Sunday, October 1st, at 6:30pm

Regular Events:

Confirmation: select Sundays from October through May

Our goal is to equip participants in the 8th grade and older to discern whether they are called by God to affirm their baptism and join the full membership of the church. This journey of growth, exploration and discovery covers learning about the Christian faith and other Abrahamic religions, fellowship and service, the history and identity of Immanuel and the United Church of Christ as well as mentoring and faith webbing.

Special Events

Jewish Synagogue Visit to Beth Israel, October 27th

Retreat at Silver Lake, Friday – Sunday, November 10 – 12th

This weekend is facilitated by trained teams of pastors and educators from throughout our state who work with youth in their own settings. The purpose of this retreat is to offer youth an experience of the faith community by exploring basic Christian characteristics, behaviors, and values of the church in a wider church setting. "Becoming and Belonging" explores discipleship through covenant community and the six core themes of the United Church of Christ using activities, worship and fellowship appropriate for youth in grades 7-9.

YOUTH GROUP (YG)

The Immanuel Church Youth Group welcomes all youth in grades 6-12. Our mission is to bring our youth together, to provide a loving, encouraging environment where youth are affirmed, and to support them as they grow in their faith. We do this through regular meetings, retreats and team building activities, fun themed events, educational opportunities, local/global community service and partnering with our neighboring Hartford UCC teen ministries. Please refer to our calendar of events and join us!

If you have questions, please call Tracy Gormley at 860-527-8121

Youth Group Meetings:

Join us on **Sunday, September 17th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm** for our New Year Kickoff Party Extravaganza! Don't miss the fun, food, music, games and a chance to win a door prize. Bring a friend and both of you will get a n additional chance to win a; bring two friends and you'll get two chances! All youth are welcome and need not be a member of Immanuel to attend/join our youth group.

Informational and registration session: Sunday October 1st, 5:30-6:30pm at Immanuel. Parents/guardians are required to attend to learn about the program requirements and complete registration and emergency medical information.

Youth Group Meetings: Select Sundays (mostly the first and third Sundays; please consult our church calendar for specifics) from 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Join us for games, fun food and discussion.

Special Teambuilding Retreat: November 10th - 12th at Silver Lake

We will spend the weekend engaged in games, team building activities to foster and deepen our communication, cooperation, trust and teamwork needed for local and global mission service. This is a mandatory team building weekend for those youth wishing to participate in either mission trip in 2018.

Additional Special Teambuilding Sessions: January 21st, March 11th, and April 22nd, 5:30 to 7:30pm

These sessions are intentionally designed to promote and develop unity, cooperation, and teamwork for the group, requiring problem solving, communication, cooperation, trust and teamwork for their completion. We will explore the importance of trust and communication all while having a great time! Through large and small group games, cooperative activities, problem-solving challenges and trust building activities, our group will have the opportunity to come to know themselves and their peers in a new way to ready themselves for local and global mission work.

Educational Opportunities

Faces of Homelessness Speaker's Bureau, Sunday, December 10th at 5:30pm

This education program works to promote advocacy, understanding, and service in the area of homelessness. The speakers in the bureau are people that have or are experiencing homelessness and they will share their experiences and ideas that are essential in the fight to combat these injustices.

Global Mission Work

Out of town mission trips provide a time of transformative experiences in the faith development of people of all ages. Mission work takes you out of your comfort zone and allows time for reflection, introspection and seeing the world through the eyes of Christ. This year, we will offer a weekend trip to a city in the northeast for our middle school youth and an international opportunity for our high school youth and chaperones to Purley, England on July 21st-29th. Stay tuned for more information!

SOCIAL ACTION AND MISSION (SAMC) OPPORTUNITIES

**“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace.”**

1 Peter: 4:10

SAMC members: Jim Boucher, co-chair jmbb2020@gmail.com
Sally Taylor, co-chair sallytaylor@comcast.net
Roland Axelson, rgaxelson@gmail.com
Rob Biddleman, biddlemanr@gmail.com
Stan Maticka, stanleymaticka@gmail.com
Natalie Mendes, nmendes44@comcast.net
Anne Stanback, astanback@yahoo.com
Dan Sullivan, DSulliv4@travelers.com
Terri Williams, taw123@gmail.com

Regular events:

South Marshall Interfaith Coalition: second Tuesday of the month, 8am at Immanuel

Join us as we work with community groups, other congregations, and our neighbors to create positive change on South Marshall Street. For more information, contact Mike Rion, mike.rion@gmail.com.

PFLAG Hartford: third Wednesday of the month, 7:30pm, at Immanuel

Parents, families, friends and allies united with LGBTQ people meet each month to move equality forward. We work within the greater Hartford area for affirming families, safe schools, inclusive faith communities and informed lawmakers. *Contact PFLAG Hartford for more information at pflaghartford@gmail.com or 860-305-2743.*

Social Action and Mission Committee Meetings: second Monday most months, 7 pm in the Chapel

Our standing committee seeks to engage Immanuel members in outreach, social justice issues, and advocacy; to engage more deeply with South Marshall Street residents; and to oversee the church's mission giving. See also the description on the following page of the Pettengill Racial and Social Justice working group. *For more information about SAMC, contact co-chairs Jim Boucher or Sally Taylor.*

Marshall House Birthday Party: third Wednesday of the month, 6pm, Marshall House

Marshall House is a shelter for homeless families in Hartford. Each month, we provide birthday cake and books for children at the shelter. Please join us by baking a cake, providing books, or coming along to the celebration. *For more information, contact any member of SAMC.*

Serving at Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen: Sept. 28nd, Oct. 10th, Dec. 12th, Jan. 24th, Feb. 13th, March 28rd, April 10th, May 23th, June 12th, July 25th, Aug. 14th, 11am-1pm, at Immanuel

Join us as we partner with the Loaves and Fishes Ministries, providing food and assistance to those in need in our community. We serve a meal on these dates, and you are welcome to participate in this activity by providing food, cooking, and/or serving. *Please contact Barbara Gordon, 860-658-6546, or Bob Henricks, beckybobh@comcast.net, for more information.*

Second Hour Educational Events: many Sundays after worship in the Parlor: We gather after worship once a month or more, to learn about particular justice issues and advocacy opportunities. See the Voice church newsletter or the weekly order of worship for notices of upcoming Second Hours. *Please contact SAMC chairs Jim Boucher or Sally Taylor for more information.*

Environmental Ministry

An active group of Immanuel members continues a multi-faceted effort to foster environmental stewardship in our individual lives, in the operations of the church and in the wider world. Efforts range from offering recycling ideas for families and the church office to education and advocacy opportunities on public policy. *For more information, contact Dorothy Lovett Buckley, dorothylovettbuckley@gmail.com, or Karim Ahmed, ahmed@ncseonline.org.*

Habitat for Humanity

Over the past 15 years, Immanuel members have helped to build over 20 houses for low-income working families in the Hartford area. In addition, Immanuel helped fund and construct a House of Faith close to South Marshall Street. *To learn more about Immanuel build dates and to volunteer, contact Kent Dunlap, kent.dunlap@trincoll.edu.*

Immanuel Refugee Team

A group of Immanuel members came together in late 2015 to find a way that our church could engage directly in some aspect of the worldwide refugee crisis. Working in collaboration with Catholic Charities of the Hartford Diocese, a group of about thirty volunteers have come forward to help with various aspects of helping newly-arrived refugee families settle and prosper in the Hartford region. The first family co-sponsored by Immanuel and Catholic Charities arrived in early July, 2016. *For more information about the ICC Refugee Team, contact coordinators Dan Conable, danconable1@gmail.com, or Dick Londergan, richard.londergan@sbcglobal.net.*

Occasional Events or Meetings:

Pettengill Racial and Social Justice Working Group: dates TBD, held at Immanuel

In honor of the late Dan Pettengill's commitment to social justice advocacy, the Social Action and Mission Committee periodically convenes an informal group open to all, to explore opportunities for advocacy on public policy issues. In addition to Pettengill Second Hours, we are currently exploring deeper involvement in issues related to racism and poverty. *For more information and to join the mailing list for the working group, contact SAMC co-chair Jim Boucher.*

LGBTQ Task Force: Dates TBD

Immanuel Congregational Church first became Open & Affirming in 2000. We see our commitment to include and affirm members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community as a core value of what it means to be a church that loves and works for justice.

In the fall of 2016, we formed the LGBTQ Task Force as a way to expand that welcome to LGBTQ people and deepen our commitment to LGBTQ issues beyond our church walls. The group, which meets occasionally and is open to all, focuses on the following areas:

- Education: Educating ourselves about LGBTQ issues
- Outreach: Reaching out to the community and being more visible as an Open & Affirming congregation
- Advocacy: Working to change laws and policies that improve the lives of LGBTQ people

To be included in email announcements of these meetings, contact Anne Stanback, annestanback@gmail.com.

Called to Action, dates TBD, held at Immanuel

Following the January 2017 March on Washington, many Immanuel members and friends wanted to gather periodically to talk about our concerns for democratic values, support each other and share actions, big and little, in our effort to make a difference. We meet occasionally and we share some action opportunities by email and a Google document. *To be on the email list or for more information, contact Nancy Rion, nancyrion2@gmail.com.*

Mission Sunday: September 24th, 10am

Hear from our Nicaragua team about their experience of learning and serving in Nicaragua. The trip was a mission of the whole church, and we are so grateful for the support from Immanuel, which made our trip possible. Come to worship and hear more about the work, the learning, and the relationships that we developed in Nicaragua, as well as the way we can continue to build a more just world for all people. *Contact Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org, for information.*

AIDS Walk: Saturday, September 30th, 9:30am, MDC Reservoir, West Hartford

Join the Immanuel Team as we walk together to fight HIV/AIDS. We will raise funds to support AIDS Connecticut and the important work that they are doing. This is a great opportunity for fellowship and service. *For more information, contact Rob Biddleman, biddlemanr@gmail.com.*

A Turkey and \$30: October 29th, November 5th and 12th, following worship

This is an opportunity to help provide a Thanksgiving meal to Hartford area families who might otherwise go without, by donating the cost of a frozen turkey and some funds for groceries. More information will be forthcoming in the church bulletins, but keep your eyes open for two tall men wearing turkey hats to catch your attention. *For more information, contact Herb Menzel, macsmen@aol.com or Jim Mallek, hillside99@aol.com.*

All Church Retreat: Friday, November 10th – Saturday, November 11th

We will travel together to Silver Lake Conference Center, a beautiful retreat center, to deepen our relationships with one another, and explore our purpose and vision for the church. There will be campfires and s'mores, great food and conversation, and wonderful activities for children, youth, and adults. Please plan on joining us for this important weekend of discernment and fun! *Rev. Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org, is leading this initiative.*

Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil, November date TBD, Hartford Metropolitan Community Church (Church of Good Shepherd Parish Hall, Hartford)

In partnership with other area congregations, we will honor Transgender Day of Remembrance, lifting up those who have been killed due to their gender identity. We will renew our commitment to work for justice and to work for peace for transgender individuals. Last year many Immanuel members helped provide refreshments for a community reception following the service. *For more information, contact Rev. Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org.*

**Mitten Tree: November 12th, after Sunday worship at Immanuel
Gifts due on December 10th, after Sunday worship at Immanuel**

Join us in collecting gifts for the first graders at Rawson Elementary School. *For more information, contact Tracy Gormley, tracy.gormley@iccucc.org.*

Alternative Marketplace: December 3rd, 10th & 17th after Sunday worship at Immanuel

Buy certificates and gifts for the Christmas season that will provide assistance and joy to people all over the world! Come and find opportunities to purchase holiday presents that support worthy causes from local to international. *For more information, please contact SAMC co-chair Sally Taylor.*

Walk Against Hunger: May 7th (tentative), after Sunday worship, meeting at Immanuel

Join us in our annual Walk Against Hunger, as we raise much-needed funds to fight hunger in Hartford. It is a great time of fellowship, as well as an opportunity to participate in a very meaningful event. *For more information, please contact the SAMC.*

South Marshall Block Party: late June, date TBD; South Marshall Street

Every year, dozens of Immanuel folk volunteer and mingle with over 500 residents of South Marshall Street at their annual Block Party. This festive street party has become a beloved event for bringing a diverse community together for fun, fellowship, food, etc . Please join Immanuel folks who will be giving away books to children, face painting, grilling and serving food and meeting our neighbors. *For more information, please contact Nancy Rion, nancyrion2@gmail.com.*

Church World Service blanket sales: several weeks a year, after church

Twice a year for several weeks, usually during Advent and in the weeks preceding Mothers' Day, we ask for cash donations of \$10 or more to provide assistance worldwide through Church World Service. Volunteers are needed to help publicize the sale and help staff the table, organized by members of the SAMC. *For more information, contact SAMC co-chair Sally Taylor.*

IMMANUEL CHURCH WOMEN (ICW)

“She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.”

Proverbs 31: 20

All women who belong to Immanuel Church are automatically members of ICW, an organization whose primary function is the generation of funds through bake sales and reception catering. These funds are used to support the various outreach projects of ICW. *For more information, contact Joan Gillette, (860) 233-5488 or Barbara Gordon, (860) 658-6546.*

MEMBER AND FRIEND FUN OPPORTUNITIES

“A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...”

Ecclesiastes 3: 4

Regular event:

Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry: second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 1pm

This group crafts and cares together, knitting prayer shawls for members in need of gifts of love and comfort. *For more information, contact Betty Johnson at bhjohn59@att.net or 860-236-2760.*

Special events:

Fantasy Football

Are you a football fan? Have you ever heard people talking about "Fantasy Football" and wondered what it is about? Whether you are a novice or an experienced player, it is a lot of fun. You can invest as little as 5 minutes a week, or if you like, hours. You could run a team yourself, or consider running a team as a family. We have a draft party (arguably the most fun part of fantasy football) on Sunday August 27th, at Immanuel. Don't worry if you haven't played before, it's easy to learn! *Contact David Pettyjohn at pettyjohn@gmail.com.*

Immanuel Fall Gala, Saturday, September 23rd

Mark your calendars for this exciting Immanuel event! The Annual Fall Gala features fine food, wine, fellowship and a vacation auction. New this year, the gala will also offer entertainment! We will hold a Lip Synch Contest with prizes to be awarded. If you or a group of your friends would like to enter the contest, please contact Gene Flynn at 860-212-7347. Let's make this huge fun for everyone!

Dinners for Nine Events: to be held in the fall and spring at various homes

These popular events, where Immanuel members and friends host dinners in their homes for nine Immanuelites, are being held again this year! Look for more information in upcoming church communications. *Contact Rev. Isaac Lawson with questions, rev.isaac.lawson@gmail.com.*

Intergenerational Dinner and Activities: Mostly offered on the first Thursday of each month with exceptions near Christmas and Easter, from 5pm-7:15pm

Thursday evenings on October 5th, November 2nd, January 4th, February 1st, March 1st and May 3rd

Mission and service activities for the kids starting at 5pm with dinner and family game following at 6:15pm. Look for the sign up sheet to secure your place at the table and to indicate how you would like to offer your volunteer gifts to the group; cooking, setup, kitchen clean up, leading children's activities or table decorations. The fee for these fun filled evenings is \$5 per person with children aged 10 and under free. Come join the fun service and festivities with your family and friends! All welcome! *For more information, contact Tracy Gormley, tracy.gormley@iccucc.org.*

All-Church Hike: Sunday, October 22nd, 1:30pm, Hartford Riverfront

Come join us for a short afternoon autumn hike along the Hartford Riverfront. We will meet at Riverside Park in Hartford and take a round trip between the Boat House and Mortensen Plaza downtown. We will take in the fall colors next to the riverfront and get a closer look at the beautiful stonework that makes up the Bulkeley Bridge(I-84). Contact David "PJ" Pettyjohn at pettyjohn@gmail.com if you have questions.

Immanuel House Visit: Sunday, October 29th, at 11am

Children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to church and the Christian Kids program before embarking to visit our elderly neighbors at the Immanuel House Our short visit will include parading through the common areas and visiting residents in their dining room. We will conclude our time together sharing a pizza lunch and fun seasonal activities in the stage room. *For more information, contact Tracy Gormley, tracy.gormley@iccucc.org.*

Newcomers' Brunch: Sunday, October 29th, 11am, Immanuel, and periodically throughout the year

We are excited to have newcomers here at the church, and want to get to know you better! At this brunch, there will be time for us to get to know one another, eat good food, and learn a bit more about the church. If you are interested in finding out more about Immanuel, and getting to know some really wonderful people, please join us! *For more information, contact Kari Nicewander at kari.nicewander@iccucc.org.*

Service Auction: Sunday, November 5th, following worship

In a Second Hour following worship, we will have a live auction of personal services being offered by Immanuel members and friends. Several of these have been in our previous Silent Auction but we have lots new to consider – and just in time before the holiday season. *Contact Norma Flynn, normaflynn14@yahoo.com, or Lindsay Harvey, lindsayharvey@snet.com, with questions.*

Family Advent Activities, Dinner & Pageant Practice: Friday, December 8th at 5:30pm

Children, youth and families will enjoy dinner and seasonal activities while those in the pageant rehearse and join in the fun. *For more information, contact Tracy Gormley, tracy.gormley@iccucc.org.*

Christmas Pageant and Party: Sunday, December 10th, 10am

Join us for this joyous intergenerational pageant performed during worship. *For more information, contact Tracy Gormley, tracy.gormley@iccucc.org.*

Game Night: Saturday January 20th, 5-7pm

Potluck and friendly game time competition await those who join us for this fun evening with your favorite board game or newly found pastime. *For more information, contact Tracy Gormley, tracy.gormley@iccucc.org.*

Little Lock In: Friday February 9th-Saturday February 10th

Children 10 and under with their parent(s) are invited to spend the night at Immanuel to participate in fun activities, eat loads of snacks and sleepover in the church parlor. *For more information, contact Tracy Gormley, tracy.gormley@iccucc.org.*

Sound of Music Sing-along and Potluck: Saturday, February 10th, 5pm

Here's an opportunity for us to get together to break bread and then enjoy a family classic with a new spin-audience participation. Think about it like a mix between a Messiah Sing-along (with words to the songs appearing in subtitles) and an episode of the cult comedy classic show, Mystery Science Theater, where those of us watching play the part of the "peanut gallery" chiming in with funny quips and observations like "she's going to hike across the Alps in those shoes?" *Contact David "PJ" Pettyjohn at pettyjohnd@gmail.com if you have questions.*

Seder Dinner: Thursday, March 29th 5:30pm

Immanuel friends of all ages are invited to share a Seder meal together, much as Jesus and His followers celebrated Passover together in Jerusalem before His death and resurrection. *For more information, contact Tracy Gormley, tracy.gormley@iccucc.org.*

Easter Pancake Breakfast: April 1st, 8am, Immanuel

Hartford Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch Tour: Sunday, April 22nd, 1:30pm

We will do a tour of the Hartford Soldiers and Sailors Arch near Bushnell Park. The bulk of the guided tour led by our own Sally Taylor will be on the grounds around the arch, but at your choice you can get the added bonus of climbing the 96 stairs to the top! *Contact David "PJ" Pettyjohn at pettyjohnd@gmail.com if you have questions.*

Foodshare Walk Against Hunger: Sunday, May 7th

Join us in our annual Walk Against Hunger, as we raise much-needed funds to fight hunger in Hartford. It is a great time of fellowship, as well as an opportunity to participate in a very meaningful event. *For more information, please contact the SAMC.*

Hartford Yard Goats Game: Sunday, May 20th, 1pm

If you haven't been yet, going to a game at Dunkin Donuts Park to see the Hartford Yard Goats play some baseball is really fun. Details will be announced in the spring when the schedule comes out. Contact David "PJ" Pettyjohn at pettyjohn@gmail.com if you have questions.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

“God has shown you what is good. She has told you what is required of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God.” Micah 6:8

We welcome your consideration of this scripture as you consider your stewardship pledge of support for Immanuel's 2018 campaign. The gifts of Ministry, Mission and Music are in abundance here and each of us knows how those gifts speak to us individually.

In return, our gifts of time, treasure and talent are needed to keep this Just Peace, Open and Affirming, God-centered community going forward. We have done much and we have much yet to do. God has shown us what is good. God has told us what is required. Together, let us act for justice and show mercy. Let us be humble and let us all be generous in our giving.

Our Stewardship Campaign drives our budget formulation

- Our Campaign will launch on Sunday October 8th and wrap up on Sunday November 12th
- We are seeking an increase in pledging dollars of 10% over last year to meet budget projections
- Campaign success will erase the need for annual fundraisers and encourage more fun-raisers
- We will reach out to you in person
- We invite you to join the Immanuel Legacy Circle by naming Immanuel in your estate plans
- We need those who are not pledgers to become pledgers so we can count on your gifts
- Through Stewardship we seek to strengthen connection, build relationship and display faith

We are grateful for the gifts you bring and for helping Immanuel answer God's call.

The Stewardship Committee consists of Bob Spencer, spencer.bob@gmail.com, Bob Willard, lardfong@comcast.net, Myddy Birkhead, middylep@gmail.com, Lea Dantz, lea@ourtruecolors.org, Elaine Roberts, wetc87@sbcglobal.net, Jim Kew, kewjim@gmail.com, Keith Powell, servscorpspowell@att.net, and Rev. Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org

MISSION TRIP/PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

“Rise, let us go from here.” John 14: 31

The Partnership Committee

In the summer of 2016 (July 30 – August 7, 2016) 16 members of Immanuel traveled to the Czech Republic to take part in the 16th International Partnership. The theme “The Church Is Permanently Reforming” resulted in the sharing of each church’s individual timeline as well as discussion. Worship, travel, shared meals, fellowship and more created new friendships and strengthened existing bonds—a testament to the power of this conference. There is a great deal of sharing now on Facebook among the many new and old friends. It was truly thrilling to hear Kari’s Sunday message after the conference, and also, to hear individual’s comments about their experiences. Neil Montlick’s posted photographs also helped us share in the wonderful events. Various Immanuel members returned with plans to attend either the Youth Conference to be held in Purley in July, 2018 and/or the 17th International Partnership Conference to be held in Dessau, Germany in July of 2019. Second hours sharing past and upcoming conference information will be scheduled, as well as fundraising for airfare scholarships. Partnership is not covered within the church budget, but enabled by those attending and the generosity of those giving donations and supporting fundraisers. It is open to all.

At this point, youth (12 – 21) might seriously consider attending the Youth Partnership in Purley, England next summer. The dates will be Saturday July 21st to Sunday July 29th. The theme of the week will be 'The Fruit of the Spirit', Galatians 5. The week will be divided between host families in Purley and a few nights away together as a group. Some of the trips include a three-night stay at Blackland Farm, a trip to the seaside town of Brighton, a day trip to London, a day trip to Hever Castle, and an optional trip to the Harry Potter Studio (additional fee). Participants pay for their airfare, and a 100 EURO conference fee, which covers meals, admission fees, etc. Most will experience new sights, new experiences, and above all, new friendships that are truly special.

Partnership is an institution in which Immanuel Congregational Church has long had a part, growing out of an interest in reconciling opposite sides after WWII. Churches in Purley in England, Dessau in Germany, Speyer in Germany, Ostrava in the Czech Republic, and Belfast in Northern Ireland have met together every three years to study a variety of topics, renew old friendships and make new ones, and just learn about each other’s cultures by living and playing together. Conference themes have included God’s Creation — Our Vision and Living Faith — Growing Community, exploring diverse faith communities and their work and institutions in the broader society. The challenges faced today among all our churches have shown the important role Partnership can play in our lives as we explore paths toward peace and justice in the wake of events concerning race, refugees, sexuality and the economy.

The Partnership Committee consists of Linda McNair (chair), Bob McNair, Sally Taylor, Barbara Gordon, Greg Gordon, Avery Buell, Eileen Buell, and Scott Reeves.

Questions: Linda McNair, ajimsa@aol.com, 860-416-9047

PROPERTY COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

“He must manage his own household well...” 1 Timothy 3:4

Fall Clean-up Day, Saturday, November 4, 2017

Spring Clean-up Day, Saturday, April 7, 2018

Sponsored by the Property Committee. For more information, contact Bob McNair, robert.william.mcnair@gmail.com.

Ministers

Senior Minister
Associate Minister
Church Administrator
Director of Music
Director of Children's Ministry
Organist
Choral Librarian
Youth Group
Nursery/Toddler Childcare
Sound Engineer
Sexton
Assistant Sexton

Rev. Kari Nicewander	kari.nicewander@iccucc.org
Rev. Isaac Lawson	rev.isaac.lawson@gmail.com
Sue Fisher	admin@iccucc.org
Mark Singleton	singletonmark@hotmail.com
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Jennifer Lamson	jen.lamson@iccucc.org
Tracy Gormley	tracy.gormley@iccucc.org
Marie Cohen-Henry & Olivia Carnegie	
Robert Hafner, Jr.	bobby.hafner@iccucc.org
Joe Joiner	
Ty Adgers	

All Members of the Church



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