



# The Immanuel Herald

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Mission & Care  
Nancy Rahm

Worship  
Chris Dewey

Interim Pastor  
Michelle McNamara

## Spring Flower

### Order Pick up

Saturday May 6th

8:00 am to 11:00 am

Immanuel UCC  
9815 S. Campbell Ave  
Evergreen Park



## NOTICE: May Concert **date change**

“The Great American Songbook”

May 7th at 2:00 pm

The LEEAP Grant encourages us to build and expand our community.

We will be serving a meal before the concert begins. Reserve your seat by May 3rd.

Sanctuary  
Immanuel United Church of Christ  
9815 S Campbell Ave  
Evergreen Park, 60805  
708-424-3755

**FYI...** Wind and rain have taken a toll on the Immanuel Church building. Currently 98th Street east bound from Campbell is closed until the north wall repairs have been completed. Please use the main front doors for entry to the church building. Left turns are permitted on to 98th Street west.

## Message from Mission & Care

Anyone having a child or grandchild who is a **2017 graduate** from elementary, middle school, high school or college please bring a picture with their name, what school or town, and plans for the future.

Place in the Mission & Care mailbox in the church office.  
Thank you Nancy Rahm



*A Message from Interim,* Reverend Michelle McNamara

I was not blessed enough to grow up on a farm. I have served farming communities, and have learned a great deal, and I have appreciated every ounce of what I have come to know, as gardening and tending to the earth in this way is something I enjoy. \

One of the lessons I learned was of the annual cycle of work that was done to prepare and protect the fruit trees so that they would produce a wonderful harvest in the Fall.

Every year, just after the harvest, the family (or family friends and novice volunteers) begin by clearing the spaces between the orchard rows. We would remove grass, weeds and other things that had grown over the summer. Then, before the full frost it was time to prune the trees, remove any visible disease and shape the branches so they would bear the most fruit in the Spring time.

I also learned in the Spring, after the delicate blooms have set in, if a frost was coming, we had to light smudge pots to prevent the blossoms from freezing overnight. But the work was not yet finished, as in the early Summer, there was thinning to be done, (taking off young fruit.) This allows fewer apples, true, but they grow bigger and juicier in a greater space. This is also done so that when the wind blows the fruit will not bruise. And finally in the late Summer, the heavy fruit-laden branches need to propped up with posts so the branches don't break.

As the Fall rolls around, the orchard looks perfect, and folks come in to view what "Mother Nature" has done. The trees are ready to be picked.

Growing up on the Southside of St Louis, we had an apple tree in my mom's back yard. It just grew there, and we simply left it to its own devices and there were years we had apples and years we did not. It was acceptable to see what harvest Mother Nature might in fact provide. And as I contemplate planting an apple tree at the home I have now, I am aware I will treat it in much the same way, because that tree is decorative.

But, when I volunteered with the farming families, I had to learn things that they already knew too well. In farming, there are no guarantees and no promises that the labor we were giving would produce fruit.

A late Spring freeze, an early snow storm, a dry Summer, or a freakish wind storm, and well, you just never knew what might happen before the harvest was to come in. In those times it might seem like all was ruined.

But, the wisdom of the folks I learned farming from, the older men and women, and their grandchildren too, was fairly simple; no matter the state of the current harvest, it is necessary, absolutely necessary, to get right back to work on next year's harvest. No matter what, the cycle of cultivation has to begin again. The lesson they had to teach was one of faithfulness.

During the Lenten Season we had a Sunday when we all were invited to come forward to take what we might need of the Fruits of the Spirit, as listen in Galatians. One of the Fruits of the Spirit is faithfulness. Faithfulness is that deep belief that God will come through on the promises somehow, someday. And so, in our way, we make the choice to be faithful in all circumstances – that means when the frosts come early, when the wind blows freakishly strong, and we do not know the outcome, we choose.

Faithfulness, moving forward on the promises of God, preparing for the fullness of the cycle of the season and the harvests yet to come. This faithfulness lies out the resurrection of Christ in everyday life and I see it in Immanuel each day. AMEN.

# Joyful Noise

## May Calendar

Thursday May 4th

11:30 am Women's Guild meeting

Saturday May 6th

8:00 - 11:00 am

Hannah Circle Spring Flower Pick up

Sunday May 7th

10:00 am Communion Worship &  
Church School

LEEAP Grant Community Luncheon

2:00 pm Concert Series

Sunday May 14th

**Mother's Day**

10:00 am Worship & Church School

Joyful Noise Collection for

New Direction Domestic Abuse

Monday May 15th

7:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Thursday May 18th

6:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting

**JUNE herald deadline**

Sunday May 21st

**Rite of Confirmation**

10:00 am Worship & Church School

May 23rd and 24th 7:00 pm

Preschool End of Year Program in  
Schmiechen Hall

Sunday May 28th

10:00 am Worship & Church School

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**CHILD CARE** is available on the lower level during Sunday worship 9:45—11:15 am  
Ask the ushers if you need assistance,



April - \$115.85



May - \$

AND provides a wide range of services to adult and child clients at no cost to the client

## Immanuel Community Preschool News

Thank you to all Immanuel church members who supported the preschool's Easter Fannie May fundraiser. It was a great success!

Parent visitation conferences took place in January, February and March. Positive social interaction and development have been interesting to observe throughout the school year. Academic skills are developing appropriately.

Immanuel Preschool children enjoyed learning about fire-safety. We are looking forward to taking a field trip to the Evergreen Park Fire Station in May. It's sure to be a fun and exciting hands-on learning experience for our preschoolers.

Our school year is quickly coming to a close and children are preparing for their end-of-the-year musical / graduation program on Tuesday May 23rd and Wednesday May 24th at 7:00 pm in Schmiechen Hall. All are welcome to hear our children sing some of their favorite songs!

Once again teachers are happy to offer Immanuel's "Summer Fun" camp program which runs from May 31st through June 29th.

Have a wonderful spring and a fun-filled Summer!

Joyce Byrnes  
Immanuel Community Preschool Director

### Strengthen The Church Offering

On Pentecost Sunday, June 4th we will be receiving this special UCC offering. This offering will be used to help plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Envelopes can be found in the church pew racks beginning Sunday May 21st.

### Women's Guild Meeting

The next meeting of the Women's Guild will be held on Thursday, May 4th at 11:30 am.

Hosting our luncheon will be members of Deborah Circle.

As of this printing our program is still being finalized. Plan to join us for fellowship together.

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### End of Season Luncheon

Our luncheon will be held on Thursday, June 1st at 12:00 Noon. This will be a catered meal at the church.

Full details (menu, cost, deadline) will be available at our May meeting. We will begin taking reservations at our May 4th luncheon.



### KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Randy Ebling	Don Mattz
Joe Islinger	Judy Borowiak
Marilyn Buikema	Ruth Berg
Laverne Bresnahan	Marie Marsh

# May



### IMMANUEL PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Please complete and return the All Church Survey by May 7th.

Search Committee members are Linda Barrios, Christine Dewey, Susanna Ivory, Gary O'Toole, Sue Ptak, Glen Ritter, and Erin Taylor.

Congregational updates/progress reports will be given on a monthly basis both during worship service announcements and through written Herald articles.

- |                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Erin Taylor        | 5/01 |
| Gerald Snip        | 5/02 |
| Shirley Mikolaitis | 5/03 |
| Linda Barrios      | 5/04 |
| Dolores Eriksen    | 5/11 |
| Emmeline Brzeczek  | 5/14 |
| Jim O'Toole Jr.    | 5/14 |
| Dan O'Toole        | 5/17 |
| Jack Buvelot       | 5/18 |
| Robert O'Neill     | 5/18 |
| Marisa Ptak Tell   | 5/22 |
| Kurt Ritter        | 5/28 |

<b>May Worship Leaders</b>					
<b>Position Date</b>	Ushers	Liturgist	Flowers	Bulletins	Fellowship Host
<b>May 7th</b>	Team #1 Captain Erin Taylor	Needed	Gerald & Verna Snip	Gerald & Verna Snip	Luncheon
<b>May 14th</b>	Team #2 Captain Nancy Rahm	Needed	Linda Barrios	John & Sue Ptak	Wanted
<b>May 21st</b>	Team #3 Captain Art Busse	Needed	Liam McNamara	Lois Murphy	Christian Ed
<b>May 28th</b>	Team #4 Captain Connie Dobbin	Needed	Allen & Dolores Eriksen	Madelaine Karge	Al Eriksen

### **Altar Flowers - Worship Bulletins**

(March 26, 2017 thru April 23, 2017)

**March 26th**

Altar flowers given in honor of Marilyn Buikema's 90th birthday by Sue and John Ptak

**April 2nd**

Altar flowers and worship bulletins given in loving memory of Richard J. Artwohl by Gloria Artwohl and Susan Artwohl

**April 9th**

Altar flowers given in celebration of the birthdays of Art, Candy and Tina by Sandy and Art Busse. Worship bulletins given in celebration of the devotion, talent, and love of leadership and the dedicated volunteers at Immanuel UCC with much thanks.

**April 16th**

Thanks to all who provided the lilies to beautify our Easter altar.  
Worship bulletins given by Connie Dobbin

**April 23rd**

Altar flowers given in celebration of Allen and Dolores Eriksen's 56th wedding anniversary by their daughters Linda Barrios and Diane Eriksen.  
Worship bulletins given by Immanuel Women's Guild in celebration of the 95th anniversary of the Guild.

**Dates Still Available:** There are still dates available to sponsor altar flowers (\$30) and / or worship bulletins (\$15). Select a date, complete the yellow dedication form and drop it in the offering plate or return to the office with your donation. Bulletins are printed 2 weeks in advance so please don't delay returning your dedication form.

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## The Immanuel Herald

A Publication of

**IMMANUEL UCC**

**9815 S. CAMPBELL AVENUE**

**EVERGREEN PARK, IL 60805**

**PHONE: 708 424 3755**

**FAX: 708 424 0379**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: IMMANUELUCCEP.ORG**

**IMMANUEL\_UCCEP@ATT.NET**

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**May 2017**