



The Immanuel Herald

Publication of Immanuel United Church of Christ

June - July 2026

Pastor's Corner

A Message from Pr. MaryBeth

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

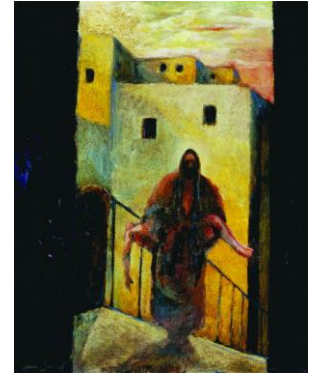
~ Luke 10:25-37

"We will never guess what is going to happen this week. Yet one thing is certain: God will be there in every situation before we arrive. There is no human happiness beneath God's dignity, and no difficulty beyond the Spirit's gracious help. Christ is in daily life with us for the long haul, and nothing can snatch us out of his hands."

This benediction is, in a nutshell, the meaning of Parable of the Good Samaritan. The Samaritan goes out of his way to help a man who'd been robbed, beaten and left for dead on the roadside. The people we think should and would help, a priest and a lawyer, barely give the poor victim so much as a glance, in fact, they moved as far away as possible! As Luke tells his Jewish audience, the one who rolls up his sleeves and opens his wallet, comes from a group of people they despise, the Samaritans!

The Samaritan doesn't leave him to fend for himself after tending to him there in the ditch. This rescuer places the man on his own animal, brings him to a travelers' inn, pays from his own pocket and then guarantees the innkeeper to reimburse more!

The definition of the word neighbor means "to be near." The priest and the Levite *widened* the distance between themselves and the wounded man in the ditch. But, the Samaritan 'came near' to the man in the ditch: the Samaritan *became* a neighbor!



As a faith community, it is possible for us to identify with the innkeeper. In Luke, the Greek word for "Inn," or hotel, is *pandocheío*, meaning, *all-are-welcome*. As innkeepers of this place called Immanuel, the Rescuer provides the means for us to be neighbor to everyone who needs our help. We're the ones called to come near, to *become* the neighbor. And when *we* are in the ditch, God is there with us. The Rescuer, brings us to a place where all are welcome. When we are cared for, when we care for others, we embody the nearness, the neighborliness, of God.

"...Christ is in daily life with us for the long haul, and nothing can snatch us out of his hands."

*As always, your friend in Christ,
Pr. MaryBeth*

President's Message

A Tail of Two Kitties. It was the best of time, it was the worst of time. Ozzie, who at two months of age, was found and brought inside to a new life. Ozzie quickly befriended the other 4 cats already inside. Ozzie now had it all. Alas, time moves on. His friends crossed rainbow bridge and he was alone.

Over time, as my life dictated that I go out on errands, sometimes for a short time sometimes longer, Ozzie would be by himself. Napping, I would tell myself. But, always, on my return through the door he would be sitting by the door and looking relieved by my return. He was nervous in my absence.

It was the worst of times for Loki whose wonderful caregiver crossed into heaven. Loki now resided alone and scared in a cage in the shelter. Elderly pets do not fare well in shelters as it's the kittens who are in demand.



I read this post from NAWs that they had a senior cat who has been in the shelter now for over three months who desperately needed a home. I saw the photo of him huddled in the back of his cage and my heart opened up.

Loki was brought home and has been with Ozzie and I since early May 2026. There have been changes and all for the good. When I go out on errands and return home, Ozzie is no longer waiting sadly by the door waiting for me. Loki, adjusted to his new forever home. Together, through one act of kindness, three lives have been changed for the positive. Three became one.



This happens every Sunday at Immanuel. We all come bringing our cares, concerns and worries. We find that we all love and care and pray for each other. Most importantly, we are there for each other. We all leave Sunday services refreshed and happy. What a great way to start a new week.

This summer, may we all find joy and happiness. Let us all continue to bring our cares and worries to Church and leave refreshed and united as one with God.

BobO

Be completely humble and gentle;
be patient, bearing with one another in love.
Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit
through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:2-3

Worship & Friendship at Immanuel JUNE & JULY 2026

Sun. June 7, 10am: Worship, Communion
Confirmation, Celebrate Graduates

Mon. June 8, 7pm: Council, Zoom

Sun. June 14, 10am: Worship, **Joyful Noise**

Sat. June 20, 10:30am: **FMSC at Aurora**

Sun. June 21, 10am: Worship, Communion
Father's Day

Sun. June 21, 10am: Worship, Communion

Sat. July 4: USA Independence Day

Sun. July 5, 10am: Worship, Communion

Sun. July 12, 10am: Worship, **Joyful Noise**

Sun. July 19, 10am: Worship, Communion

Sun, July 26, 10am: Worship



Remember Kindness always,
though the project is until December 31.

**The Kindness Project is co-sponsored
by the United Church of Christ.**

250 Days of Kindness.

July 4, we commemorate the 250th
birthday of the United States!

When asked what the greatest
commandment is, Jesus said,
the first is to love God and the second is
to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Kindness is love in action.



The hope is to fill America with the
message of kindness that is always
our shared strength.

**HOW CAN WE SHARE OUR ACTIONS AND
OFFER NEW IDEAS?**

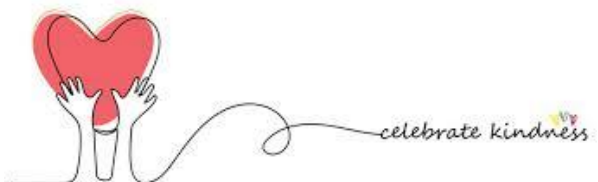
Immanuel's Newest Confirmand FINN TAYLOR



Just days away from completing
7th grade, Finn Taylor stands outside
church before his last Confirmation
Class on May 26, to practice being
Communion Assistant for
Confirmation Sunday, June 7.

Parents, Jim and Erin Feurer-Taylor,
are looking forward to the youngest
of the fifth-generation in the Feurer
family to be confirmed at Immanuel.

See Page 6 for the story!





On May 20, our **Jim Harris** as a veteran, received a day of honor. Thank you Jim, we haven't forgotten the service and the sacrifices that you and others in our church family made for the freedoms we have today. Ask him about his amazing day.

“Our resident magician sparked a lifelong love of magic”
Who did BobO run into at the market?



The Knights of Sleights Flea Market ~ Elora, Josiah & Elijah Jenks!

Please Keep These Families in your Prayers:

Rosemary Davidson	Pam Gross	Christine Hickerson
Jim O'Toole	Karen Wyka	Lois Murphy
Jackie Moline	Jorrie Pitts	Gary Hickerson
Samantha Hickerson	Shirly Mikolaitis and family	
Allen Eriksen, Diane Eriksen, Linda Barrios		



Mission, Care and Membership

JUNE 20, 2026

Feed My Starving Children in Aurora on **June 20, 2026**. Our time for a team of 20 has been reserved at 11:30am. Meet at the church to carpool together.

We always have great fun packing Manna Packs to be distributed to hungry children around the world.

Sign Up: Children, 5-years and over, accompanied by an adult are welcome! The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board at church.

As always, donations are welcome: Immanuel UCC, designated for FMSC.



JULY ~ AUGUST

School Supplies for the children at Evergreen Park's Southeast Elementary.



they go on sale, bring your donations into church and place them in the donation bin.

Thanks!!

Congratulations Immanuel Graduates

Thanks to families sharing the good news of their loved one's graduation: Pre-school, Elementary & University.

Cameron Venhuizen, Pre-school into Kindergarten
Grandson: Deb & Bruce Venhuizen

Thomas Derouin, 8th Grade from Queen of Martyrs to Brother Rice
Great-grandson: Elsie Murlowski

Harrison Brown, 8th Grade from Wildwood Elementary to Northside College Prep
Grandson: Sue & John Ptak

Derri Alexandra Crenshaw, B.A. Music from Roosevelt University
Neice: Audrey Brown

Mae O'Malley, Bachelor University of Illinois
Landscape Architecture
Dear Friend: the Taylor Family



SOME IMMANUEL UCC HISTORY

June 7 is Confirmation Sunday for Finn Taylor.

Finn will be the fifth generation in the Feurer family to be confirmed at Immanuel.



On the left is the Confirmation photo of Wilhemina Lindkugel, Duane Feurer's maternal grandmother. "Minnie" was confirmed at the original Immanuel church located near 50th and Dearborn. (Finn's great-great grandma)

On the right is the Confirmation photo of Dorothy Miller, Duane's mother. She was confirmed at the 'new' church near 70th and Michigan. (Finn's great grandmother)



Thanks to Jane Feurer for the family photos and some Immanuel UCC history. Do you have a story about Immanuel you'd like to share? Maybe it's old-time history or maybe it's your own story of how you came to worship at Immanuel.

As Citizens We Have a Voice to Advocate for Love and Kindness

Some of us join a rally, some can volunteer for a cause. All of us can be informed and use our voices to call our National Representative and/or Senator. The **United States** Capitol switchboard can be reached at **(202) 224-3121**. Tell your zip code, get connected, say your concern.

Illinois Capitol Switchboard:
(217) 782-2000 or **(312) 814-3500**

p.s. next No Kings event June 14

JULY

July's for Independence Day,
For flags and speeches and for play,
For hiding deep in meadow grass
And watching flying creatures pass,
For sailing boats on little seas,
Where just the smallest summer breeze
Can blow; for picking flowers any day;
July comes for flags and play.

~ by Annette Wynne



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IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

9815 S. Campbell Avenue
Evergreen Park, IL 60805

Phone: (708) 424-3755

Pastor Ingberg

Phone: (312) 420-6671

Email: mbingberg@gmail.com

Visit our website:
Immanueluccep.org

Visit our Facebook page

Email: Immanuel_uccep@att.net

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