



The Immanuel Herald

Publication of Immanuel United Church of Christ

September 2026

Pastor's Corner

A Message from Pr. MaryBeth

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ~ *Philippians 4:4-7*

The “peace of God that surpasses all understanding” is about the mystery of our faith. There are times when we truly don’t understand why or how we came to the place we find ourselves. Could be a personal crisis, a natural catastrophe, even a political disaster. A loved one falls ill, tremendous storms bring down the roof, neighbors are targeted and disappeared for the color of their skin or the language they speak. These challenges were familiar experiences of the early Christians in the church at Philippi. And yet, they are urged to “rejoice in the Lord, always.”

The New Testament letter to the Hebrews also has something to say about faith as mystery, in Hebrews 11:1

Mexican
Folk Art
Just
Makes
Me
Happy



“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” As a person of faith, I am comfortable with what I call Mystery. The dictionary defines mystery as that which “cannot be fully understood by reason or less strictly to whatever resists or defies explanation.”

As your Pastor, it is important to share my own faith with you, especially in this moment when our family has experienced the loss of my beloved husband, the loss of a wonderful father and ‘Papa-D’ to two grand-children. Along with so many friends, Immanuel has embodied the *non*-mysterious presence of God’s love and acceptance.

The prayers and encouragement from so many do indeed make real the peace of God, never doubt that for a minute! At my core, I am a joyful person and for some reason, the gift of faith has and will always sustain my rejoicing.

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

President's Message



As Columbo would and has said many a times "Holy Jamolie." He would look at the calendar and add "would you look at that, it's September" It seems from some dark and quiet night, summer slipped away and left the door open and WHAM, September walks in.

Hoping everyone enjoyed the summer months and took advantage of the peace and found the happiness you were looking for. I also hope that any problems you faced are in the past and under control and happiness is king again.

This past summer at Immanuel was well attended and surprisingly, with all the hot weather, Immanuel received all in comfort, and never was there a need to meet in the air conditioning of Room 105.

The summer storms were kind to Immanuel in a brutal way. We lost some tree branches, one damaging our sign board outside. Another knocking out power for a lengthy period. But as a whole our building is still standing strong and proud as it starts a new chapter of its existence.

Between typing and feeding my cats, I am also working on the magic show for our Rally Day. Spoiler alert, it will be short, but all new and mesmerizing with fun for all.

One lucky person will even go on a dream vacation of a lifetime. Location will be announced at the show and you must be present to have a chance.



How about you readers? Our wonderful and beautiful congregation that makes Immanuel shine in glory. Are you ready for a wonderful new year with Immanuel, ready to welcome in new faces, ready to bring joy to one and all and all the animals of the world? (Yes, even the skeeters.)

I bid you all welcome. Bring along your joys, we will smile with you. Bring along your worries, we will pray with you. Bring along your friends, we will make them our friends. Bring along your hopes, they will be our hopes too. You are never alone with Immanuel.

BobO

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Romans 15:13

Worship & Friendship at Immanuel SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun. Sept. 6, 10am: Worship, Communion
Labor Day Weekend

Sun. Sept, 13, 10am: Worship, Joyful Noise
Rally Day, Magic Show & Lunch

Mon. Sept, 14pm: Council, Zoom

Sun. Spt. 20, 10am: Worship, Communion

Sun. Sept. 27, 10am: Worship

Notable Dates in September

Sept. 11-13: Rosh Hashanah

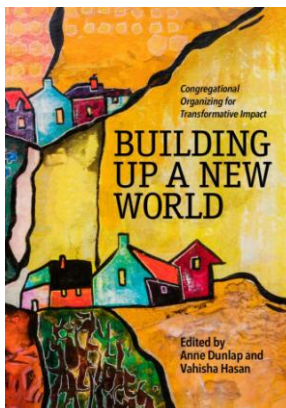
Sept. 20-21: Yom Kippur

Sept. 15-Oct. 15: Hispanic Heritage Month

Looking Ahead

Adult Bible Study ~ 6 sessions

October 4-25, November 8-15



Building Up
a New World
edited by
Anne Dunlap &
Vahisha Hasan

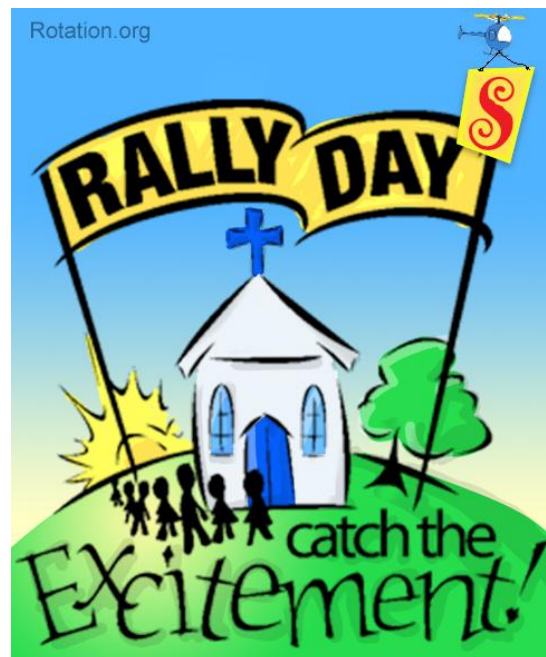
A collection of essays

on a wide range of topics from practicing mutual aid, to creating community safety. It holds stories, practical wisdom, and diverse perspectives from individuals across many places of the church.

Each chapter begins with a scripture passage, and includes topics such as "From Potluck to Policy Reform," "Antifascism in the Way of Jesus," and "Building a Just Economy." Lessons are written by local UCC pastors, lay leaders, lyricists, musicians, and poets.

MISSION, CARE & MEMBERSHIP

Sunday, September 13



Sunday, September 13, Rally Day!

Starting with Worship at 10am

Joyful Noise Offering:
Hope Children's Hospital

Magic Show with BobO

"Pot Luck Lunch"

Kentucky Fried Chicken
Sign up on the bulletin board
to bring salads, sides, deserts
monetary donations welcome

Mission, Care & Membership

September ~ November

Hope Children's Hospital

December ~ January

Coats, Warm Clothing
for Evergreen Park School Children

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES
Sunday, September 20

Please Keep These Families in your Prayers:

Rosemary Davidson	Pam Gross	Christine Hickerson
Jim O'Toole	Karen Wyka	Lois Murphy, family
Jackie Moline	Jorrie Pitts	Gary Hickerson
Samantha Hickerson	Shirley Mikolaitis, family	
Bruce Venhuizen	Allen Eriksen, Diane Eriksen, Linda Barrios	
Sue Ptak	Pr. MaryBeth, Sabi & Zack, Paul & Evie, grandkids	



2026 Fall Ball Hot Shots Basketball



We look forward to the Hot Shots Fall Ball season, still going strong after 32 years of instructional basketball at Immanuel. If you know any 1st, 2nd, or 3rd grade boys or girls who love sports, Immanuel friends and family have priority as we fill our teams. We hope you are willing to **help** us staff the **concession stand** on **Saturday mornings beginning on October 17**. Contact ~

Sue and Gary Hickerson
Sue and John Ptak



Dear Immanuel Friends

All are welcome to come for worship as we Celebrate the Life of Pr. MaryBeth's husband, Dennis Vail, on Saturday, Sept. 19, 11am, at Immanuel. Lunch at church follows.

Memorial gifts to Immanuel will be shared by Immanuel, Friends of the Boundary Waters and CPS Langston Hughes Elementary in Roseland, where Dennis taught for over 25 years.

Officiant: Rev. Steve Hoerger, New Hope UCC,
Assistant: Rev. Nathan Houstin

Musicians: Imogen Smith, Brad & Sarah Jenks

Your Love and Support are Appreciated



SEPTEMBER HAIKU

"Gentle Grace"

September's warm glow
illuminating all life
autumn's gentle grace

by sara Etgen-Baker

September



LEARNING is FUN!

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