Year-At-A-Glance 2019-20

Opportunities and Events for All

Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Just Peace, Environmentally Conscious
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 to 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, we 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 us at kari.nicewander@iccucc.org or rev.isaac.lawson@gmail.com 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
Rev. Isaac Lawson
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**Helpful hints:**

Look for this Year-at-a-Glance online at the Immanuel website, www.icucc.org. You can also 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, Senior Deacon, mvhathaway@gmail.com
Parker Jacquier, Senior Deacon, parker.jacquier@gmail.com

Weekly Events:

Morning Worship: Sundays at 10am
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.

Fall Themes:
Celebrating and Committing: September 8-October 6
Sept 8: Rally Sunday Celebrating Church!
Sept 15: Discipleship Sunday Committed to Community!
Sept 22: Green Sunday Celebrating the Earth!
Sept 29: Justice Sunday Committed to Justice!
Oct 6: World Communion Celebrating the Past, Committed to the Future!

How Great Thou Art: October 13-November 24
Oct 13  Jer. 29:1, 4-7  God in Exile
Oct 20  Generosity Sunday  Jer. 31:31-34  God’s Goodness
Oct 27  Jer. 30:17-19, 31:1-3  God’s Liberation
Nov 3: Book of Remembrance  Jer. 31:10-14  God’s Comfort
Nov 10  Esther selections  God’s Demand
Nov 17: Worship with Faith!  TBD  God’s Family
Nov 24: Thanksgiving Sunday  TBD  God’s Generosity

Key Church Year Events:

Rally Sunday: September 8th, 10am
We kick off the program year at Immanuel! There will be 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 a cookout. Contact Gretchen Hathaway, mvhathaway@gmail.com or Parker Jacquier, parkerjacquier@gmail.com for information.

Bible Presentation and Workshop: Sunday September 22nd at 10am
Children in 2nd to 5th grade will receive a special age appropriate Bible during worship and along with a parent/guardian will learn how to navigate and learn the stories of God’s people to deepen their connection to Jesus’ word in a workshop after the presentation.
**Justice Sunday: September 29th, 10am**
We are so excited to be a part of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance, an organization of over 50 faith communities, making concrete change for justice in the Greater Hartford area. This is part of the organizing efforts started at Christian Activities Council, and we are preparing for the launch of this new organization on October 28th. As we prepare for that momentous event, we welcome Cori Mackey as our guest preacher, to share with us about this vital, vibrant, transformative work!

**Faith 200th Year Anniversary Worship: September 29th, 2pm**
We will join with Faith Congregational Church in a community worship, celebrating Faith’s 200 Year Anniversary! The service will start on the corner of Talcott and Market streets, with a joint choir and joyous worship. We will then go from there to the Old State House for a reception, conversation, and fellowship. Please mark your calendars for this important and historic event!

**World Communion Sunday: October 6th, 10am**
Almost 50 years ago, members of Immanuel Congregational Church traveled to the Mandan Indian Reservation, to build relationships and repair homes with the Mandan people. While they were there, a group of Mandan women gifted Immanuel with a beautiful quilt, which they had made by hand. On this World Communion Sunday, we will celebrate indigenous people around the world, as we offer this quilt back to the Mandan community, to be displayed in a museum on reservation lands in North Dakota. Please join us for this moving worship service, where we take communion together, enjoy powerful music and stories, and honor the spirit that unites us all, as we celebrate all we have learned, and are continuing to learn, from indigenous communities. **Contact Kari Nicewander for information, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org.**

**Book of Remembrance (All Souls) Sunday: November 3rd, 10am**
Please join us for worship on Sunday morning, November 3rd as we celebrate All Souls’ Day and honor the members of our Immanuel family who have passed.

**Collaborative Worship with Faith Congregational Church, November 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.**

**Dinner & Pageant Practice: Friday, December 6th, 5:30pm**
Children, youth and families will enjoy dinner and pageant rehearsal as we prepare for our sharing of the story of the birth of Jesus.

**Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 8th, 10am**
A delightful celebration of the story of Christ’s birth, told in story and in song, by children and youth. Come and join in this time of wonder, awe, love, and joy. Remain after worship as the celebration continues with our all-church Christmas Pageant cast party!

**Service of Lessons and Carols: Sunday, December 8th, 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.**

**Crafting and Hot Cocoa – Dec 12, 2019**
Come share your fond holiday memories in community while crafting and enjoying hot cocoa. This year we will make custom Christmas tree bulbs. All ages welcomed. **For more information, contact Rev. Isaac, rev.isaac.lawson@gmail.com.**
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@iccuc.org.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Joint Worship: January 20th, 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@iccuc.org.

Interfaith Freedom Seder-February 2020
At this interfaith Seder, we will explore God as “liberator” through ritual and reflection on the Exodus story and its centrality in Jewish, African-American, and Anglo-Saxon Christian traditions. For more information, contact Rev. Isaac, rev.isaac.lawson@gmail.com.

Ash Wednesday Worship: February 26th, 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.

Lenten Taizé Worships: Tuesdays, 6:30pm, in the Chapel, on March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th
Join us as you are able as we make time and space for communion with God in silence and song.

Maundy Thursday Worship: April 9th, 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 Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccuc.org, for more information.

Good Friday Community Worship: April 10th, 12 Noon
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@iccuc.org coordinates our participation.

Easter Sunrise Worship: April 12th, 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@iccuc.org coordinates our participation in this worship.

Easter Worship: April 12th, 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.

Sunday Gospel Celebration: May 2020
During Sunday worship, we will celebrate our year exploration of Gospel Music. A light reception will take place in the Fellowship Hall followed by a Second Hour reflection/evaluation on the experience.

Pentecost Worship Service: Sunday, May 31st, 10am
Celebrate the birthday of the church, and the coming of the Holy Spirit, in this interactive, Spirit-filled Sunday. We will worship with great joy and see where the Spirit leads. Contact Rev. Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccuc.org.
ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

“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 and others design, coordinate and/or present several adult Christian education opportunities throughout the church year to foster the spiritual growth of Immanuel’s adult members and friends.

Book Study: *Dear White Christians* by Jennifer Harvey, Wednesdays, September 18th and 25th, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Over the summer, Immanuel members were encouraged to read *Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation*. The book was recommended by our Dismantling Racism Task Force and our Deacons. “In this provocative book, Jennifer Harvey argues for a radical shift in how justice-committed white Christians think about race….A deeply constructive, hopeful work, *Dear White Christians* will help readers envision new racial possibilities, including concrete examples of contemporary reparations initiatives.” We hope you’ll join in this opportunity to engage in dialogue as we move forward in our commitment to undoing structural racism in our culture and our church. Purchase your own copy, or borrow a copy from Fellowship Hall, read it and pass it along or return it. Then, please join us for this book study and important discussion! Please contact Rev. Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org, or Rev. Isaac Lawson, rev.isaac.lawson@gmail.com, with questions.

Second Hour Speaker – Ms. Shubhada Kambli, Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Hartford: October 20, 2019

Ms. Kambli will be the Second Hour guest speaker after church. Ms. Kambli will speak about Sustainability efforts in the City of Hartford and will be inviting Immanuel to be part of Hartford’s Climate Stewardship Initiative.

Faith Bus Trip to Washington, D.C.: November 8-11, meeting at 7am at Park & Ride lot in Windsor

Trip includes snacks and beverages, lodging in downtown Silver Spring, tour of the National Portrait Gallery, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, African American Civil War Museum and a visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Contact Regina Waters of Faith Church, 860-640-4694, ariz1109@yahoo.com, for cost and other information.

Undoing Racism Workshop: Friday, November 15th, through Sunday, November 17th

The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond (PISAB) focuses on understanding what racism is, where it comes from, how it functions, why it persists and how it can be undone. This workshop utilizes a systemic approach that emphasizes learning from history, developing leadership, maintaining accountability to communities, creating networks, undoing internalized racial oppression and understanding the role of organizational gate keeping as a mechanism for perpetuating racism. We will do this workshop in conjunction with other faith communities and neighbors. Another session will be offered in the spring.

Please contact Rev. Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org, or Rev. Isaac Lawson, rev.isaac.lawson@gmail.com, with questions.

Blue Earth Composting: Second Hour and/or Letter to the Church on how Immanuel members can get involved in participating in “Blue Earth Composting: FALL ~ TBD

- A representative from Blue Earth Composting and/or a Letter will explain how Blue Earth Composting works…Blue Earth picks up food scraps from your home…they can take everything, meat, dairy, veggies. Participants can choose to receive a load of compost for home use in gardens, etc…Minimal cost as low as $20.00/ per month.
- At the end of the Blue Earth Compost will tell us how many pounds of Immanuel and members have composted. Participation is open to members and non-members in various towns in the Greater Hartford region.
Second Hour on “The Green New Deal”: February–March
This event is still in the planning stages…but given all of the latest scientific studies, such as the recently released UN Report on how we must change/modify our farming practices and what we eat, issues addressed in the Green New Deal are more relevant to saving our Earth now and for future generations are more important than ever. Watch for details about the guest speaker who will clarify all aspects of the Green New Deal, some controversial that need explanation, and some just common sense.

Winter Report from the “Greening of Immanuel Task Force.”: Either in a Second Hour or Church Letter – TBD
Find out what actions are in process or planned by the Greening of Immanuel Task Force to “green Immanuel” with the generous $30,000 donation by anonymous donors who truly care about reducing Immanuel’s carbon footprint…and are helping us all “walk the talk!”

Circles of Faith and Hope: November through February
This eight-session series of small-group discussions focuses on a different topic of faith and hope each week and includes a group service project. We will have two different groups in order to accommodate a variety of schedules. The series offers the opportunity to discuss key areas of our faith and also to deepen friendships within each group.
Gretchen Hathaway, mvhathaway@gmail.com, can provide more information.

Advent Study: Tuesdays, November 26th through December 17th, 7pm
Rev. Kari Nicewander will lead a Bible study delving deep into the Gospel of Luke. This will be a chance to look closely at the story of Jesus’s birth as recounted by Luke and to engage in faithful discussion with others.
For more information, contact Gretchen Hathaway, mvhathaway@gmail.com.

Interfaith Freedom Seder—February 2020
At this interfaith Seder, we will explore God as “liberator” through ritual and reflection on the Exodus story and its centrality in Jewish, African-American, and Anglo-Saxon Christian traditions. For more information, contact Rev. Isaac, rev.isaac.lawson@gmail.com.

Lenten Book Study on a Climate Issue Related Book: Led by EA Committee member
- There are numerous books that are engaging and informative that help understand the Existential Crisis of Climate Change. For example, The Uninhabitable Earth, by David Wallace Wells and others.
- EA Committee will sponsor a Lenten Book Study on an award-winning book to be announced. Stay tuned.

Bible Study: Fall, Winter and Spring Sundays at 8:30am in the Chapel
Offered each Sunday during the church year, 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: Many 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 Parker Jacquier at parkerjacquier@gmail.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 Rev. Kari and Rev. Isaac. 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.

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.

NEW THIS YEAR: Immanuel’s Gospel Choir who will offer up these opportunities:

Gospel Choir Launch: Sunday, Sept 29, 2019
Immanuel’s new gospel choir will sing for the first time at the 10am service.

Interfaith Freedom Seder: February 2020
At this interfaith Seder, we will explore God as “liberator” through ritual and reflection on the Exodus story and its centrality in Jewish, African-American, and Anglo-Saxon Christian traditions.

Healing Racial Trauma through Movement and Song: April 2020
Ronya-Lee Anderson, MDiv, is a dancer, choreographer, singer, and songwriter with the DC-based Landing 360: Healing Project. The project creates safe space for people to tap into the healing power of dance, drumming and music. Following the experience, space is provided for reflection, sharing resources, body mapping and other related care practices.

Sunday Gospel Celebration: May 2020
During Sunday worship, we will celebrate our year exploration of Gospel Music. A light reception will take place in the Fellowship Hall followed by a Second Hour reflection/evaluation on the experience.
A TIME HONORED FAVORITE: 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.

Service of Lessons and Carols: Sunday, December 8th, 4pm
This time-honored tradition is the hallmark of the Advent season and the Immanuel Chancel Choir. Please join us on this beloved and joyful service of worship - complete with instrumentalists and traditional carols of Advent.

Collaborative Worship Services with Faith Congregational Church Combined Choirs
- **Faith 200th Year Anniversary Worship:** September 29th, 2pm
  We will join with Faith Congregational Church in a community worship, celebrating Faith’s 200 Year Anniversary! The service will start on the corner of Talcott and Market streets, with a joint choir and joyous worship. We will then go from there to the Old State House for a reception, conversation, and fellowship. Please mark your calendars for this important and historic event filled with glorious music!
- **Collaborative Worship with Faith Congregational Church:** November 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.

Lenten Taizé Worships: Tuesdays, 6:30pm, in the Chapel, on March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th
Join us as you are able as we make time and space for communion with God in silence and song.

**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, Minister of Faith Formation, **tracy.gormley@icucc.org**

**BIRTH THROUGH THREE YEARS OLD**

**Nursery / childcare: Sundays 8:45am-11: 30am**
Children are always welcome at Immanuel! Please feel free to keep your children with you in worship as 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 3 years old. We also welcome any children who might require care before Church School as their parents serve in the church or sing in the choir. Our nursery is staffed by paid professionals who are trained in Immanuel’s comprehensive Safe Church Policy and Procedures, and have undergone background checks.
Regular Events:

Christian Kids! Sunday School: Sundays, 10-11:15am
The children’s ministry of Immanuel Congregational Church has fun, grows together, learns about God and faith and makes the world a better place. Our goal is to provide a progressive and creative Christian faith education that fosters a personal relationship with God and to serve as God’s hands in our community and the world.

Our Christian Kids! Sunday School gathers on Sunday mornings at 10am in the Sanctuary from September through May. Children in pre-K through 8th 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. Our Christian Kids! ministry utilizes a variety of hands-on activities to enhance the learning experience including art, music, video, games, cooking, drama, puppetry, storytelling and computers. Families are invited to share in a time of fellowship after their children are picked up at 11:15am from Christian Kids!

In addition to worship and creative hands-on learning, our young people participate in monthly service projects. Children love to create and assemble items in need for our local and global mission partners 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 Hands on Hartford’s Backpack Nutrition program, creating a craft project with the residents of Immanuel House and sharing their monetary gifts to sponsor animals and education to end poverty and hunger through Heifer International.

Seasonal Events:

Bible Presentation and Workshop: Sunday September 22nd at 10am
Children in 2nd to 5th grade will receive a special age appropriate Bible during worship and along with a parent/guardian will learn how to navigate and learn the stories of God’s people to deepen their connection to Jesus’ word in a workshop after the presentation.

Dinner & Pageant Practice: Friday, December 6th, 5:30pm
Children, youth and families will enjoy dinner and pageant rehearsal as we prepare for our sharing of the story of the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 8th, 10am
A delightful celebration of the story of Christ’s birth, told in story and in song, by children and youth. Come and join in this time of wonder, awe, love, and joy. Remain after worship as the celebration continues with our all-church Christmas Pageant cast party!

Special Events

Immanuel House Visit: Sunday, October 27th, at 10:30am
Children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to church 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 fun seasonal activities in the stage room.

Immanuel House Visit: Sunday, February 2nd, at 10:30am
Our middle school group will share their time with the residents at Immanuel House as the lead a lively Bingo game session.

Immanuel House Visit: Sunday, April 5th, at 10:30am
Our Christian Kids! Will visit the residents of the Immanuel House and engage in seasonal craft activities complete with laughter and snacks.
FAMILY MINISTRY

Spend time with your family, teach your children the value of Christian service and have fun together with events designed for all age participation. Contribute your time, talent and treasure, as you are able around your family’s schedule and preference. Sign ups are a must so that we can plan accordingly.

Join the Immanuel Strollers and Support the Fight Against AIDS—AIDS Walk CT: Saturday, September 21st, 9:30am, MDC Reservoir
The annual AIDS walk to support AIDS Connecticut (“ACT”), the primary service provider and advocacy agency for people living with AIDS in CT will be held on Saturday, September 21st at 9:30am at the MDC Reservoir in West Hartford. This is a pleasant 3.5 mile walk around the Reservoir. We hope that you will join the team from Immanuel and participate in the walk. If you are unable to join in the walk please consider supporting the team with a pledge by going to www.aids-ct.org, scroll down to upcoming events and click on the AIDS Walk, then click on donate and then select Immanuel Strollers in the drop down box. We will also have a table in Fellowship Hall following service every Sunday leading up to the walk where you can sign-up or donate. If you have any questions please call or e-mail Rob Biddleman: 860-805-4724 or biddlemanr@gmail.com.

Community Meal at Center Church, Hartford
Sign up for setup, meal prep, serving or clean up as we share our love with a hot and nutritious with the folks in downtown Hartford on Sunday, November 10th. Details to follow.

Mitten Tree: November 10th, after Sunday worship at Immanuel
Gifts due on December 8th, 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.

Loaves & Fishes, Bagged Lunch Prep: Sunday, January 5th, following worship
Sign up to bring items and/or to assemble nutritious bagged lunches for our friends that frequent Loaves & Fishes on our campus so that we can provide a meal to go for those in need on Sunday, January 5th, 2020.

Pizza and Paint: Sunday, March 22nd, 11:30am
Have some fun and support our youth group mission work at the same time by creating a fun painting and eating everyone’s favorite meal! A suggested donation of $10 per child and $20 per adult will get you a delicious lunch all of the supplies needed to complete your masterpiece on Sunday, March 22nd at 11:30am.

Walk Against Hunger May TBD
Grab your family and friends and 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 all ages.

YOUTH GROUP
(YG)

The Immanuel Church Youth Group welcomes all youth in grades 6-12 and creates a community in which all of our youth, wherever they are on life’s path, are unconditionally loved and accepted as they are. Our mission is to provide a welcoming, positive and affirming environment that supports youth as they grow in their Christian faith, integrates young people into the congregation that utilizes their gifts and talents and values their participation, and serves the local and global communities.
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 15th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm for our New Year Kickoff, Information and Registration Extravaganza! Youth AND parents are invited to this lively and interactive session of Extreme Tic-Tac-Toe as the fun events and trip information are shared by the winning team throughout the session. Don’t miss the fun, food, games and a chance to win a $100 trip credit. Bring a friend (and their parent) and both of you and will get an additional chance to win; 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.

**Youth Group Meetings: Select Sundays (please consult our church calendar for specifics) from 5:30pm to 7:30pm**

Join us for games, fun food and discussion.

**Annual Teambuilding Retreat: Tentative date of November 1st-2nd**

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 2020.

**Additional Special Teambuilding Sessions: December 15th, January 26th, March 8th, 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.

**Mission Experiences**

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 on April 24th-26th. There is also an extended week-long excursion scheduled for July 25th-August 2nd to Dessau, Germany to foster peacemaking and peacekeeping with our partner churches in Europe. Stay tuned for more information!

**Our Whole Lives: Healthy Sexuality Education: select nights and days for 7-9th & 10th-12th graders**

Our Whole Lives is a progressive approach to sexuality education that addresses the totality of human sexuality in an age appropriate manner. It is based firmly on the values of self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice and inclusivity. As a result, the program affirms equality between the genders and the inclusivity of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people. Let us partner with you to help your teens become healthy and responsible sexual beings. Fall and spring sessions dates for the second year of our program will be announced soon.
“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:  
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Beth Jackson ejackson226@yahoo.com  
Stan Maticka, stanleymaticka@gmail.com  
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Environmental Action members:  
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“Greening of Immanuel” Task Force members:  
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Diane Benner, dianebenner123@gmail.com

Standing Committees and Task Forces: Education & Advocacy Opportunities

All of these groups are open to participation by any interested Immanuel member or friend. Standing committees have voting members elected at the church annual meeting; the task forces and working groups have open membership, and all are welcome to sign up for the emailed notices of meeting times.

Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance Core Team
We are so excited to be a part of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA), an organization of over 50 faith communities and allied institutions, aiming to make concrete change for justice in the Greater Hartford area through broad-based organizing. Convened by the Christian Activities Council, GHIAA will be comprised of a multi-racial, urban-suburban, diverse group of Christians, Muslims, Jews, and others working together on a slate of actionable issues. GHIAA’s official launch is October 28, 2019. Immanuel’s Core Team is a group of ICC leaders dedicated to helping us move forward in addressing concrete, winnable issues. Please contact Rev. Kari, kari.nicewander@iccucc.org, or Rev. Isaac, rev.isaac.lawson@gmail.com, to learn more!

Social Action and Mission Committee Meetings: second Monday most months, 7 pm
Our standing committee seeks to engage Immanuel members in outreach, social justice issues, and advocacy; to engage more deeply with South Marshall Street residents; to support the work of the issue task forces; and to oversee the church’s mission giving. The current members are listed above. Visitors are welcome at our meetings. For more information, contact chair, David Biklen.
Environmental Action Committee: third Wednesday of most months, 7 p.m.
In 2018, the congregation voted to make the Environmental Ministries working group into a standing committee of the church with an elected membership and representation on the church council. The members continue to work to make us a greener church and church building, to educate the congregation about environmental stewardship, to participate in the Inter-religious Environmental Justice Network (IREJN), and to find other ways to advocate for God’s earth. For more information contact Roland Axelson, chair, rgaxelson@gmail.com.

Greening of Immanuel Task Force:
Thanks to a generous $30,000 donation by anonymous donors who truly care about reducing Immanuel’s carbon footprint, this task force, which meets periodically, is researching and implementing steps to do just this!

LGBTQ+ and Allies Task Force:
Immanuel sees 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+ and Allies 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 several times a year 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

This past year we tabled at Hartford Pridefest and the True Colors youth conference; hosted an event on Human Rights Day to learn more about the work that Church World Service is doing to build community for the LGBTQ community in Africa; assisted with the Hartford Transgender Day of Remembrance; signed postcards of support to fight the deportation by ICE of Wayzaro (Taz) Walton, an African American lesbian from Hartford; and helped to organize a Pride Sunday worship and Second Hour with the Rev. Da Vita McCallister. To get involved and to be included in email announcements of meetings and activities, contact Anne Stanback, annestanback@gmail.com.

Undoing Racism Task Force
We continue to prioritize Racial Justice at Immanuel, and this task force helps equip us for this vital work. The task force meets every two months to implement projects of education and transformation within our community. We have sponsored the One Church, One Book readings, promoted the ongoing Undoing Racism training, created an Undoing Racism column in the newsletter, and worked with church leadership to create a covenantal commitment to address racial justice. This task force is focused on dismantling racism within our institution, but works in conjunction with our Criminal Justice Task Force and other groups. Some members are also working on issues of racial justice within educational institutions. For more information, contact Gretchen Hathaway, mvhathaway@gmail.com.

People of Faith for Criminal Justice Reform Task Force
What began at the start of 2018 as an Immanuel Church task force to focus our congregation’s advocacy efforts on criminal justice reform, has expanded to include members from other UCC congregations in Greater Hartford and taken on a new name: People of Faith for Criminal Justice Reform. We have continued to educate ourselves about key issues, touring the new Hartford Reentry Welcome Center, and hearing from a variety of advocates, elected officials and justice-impacted individuals. We have also organized educational opportunities for the wider congregation, including a June 2nd Criminal Justice Sunday and several Second Hour presentations. A goal of the task force is to lend our presence and our voices to efforts to improve our state’s criminal justice system. To that end we sent a letter to Greater Hartford legislative candidates and gubernatorial candidates before the 2018 election; we turned out members for public hearings and advocacy events at the State Capitol; and we collected signatures on an open letter to Governor Lamont, urging him to sign legislation that would make our justice system more humane and equitable. The task force meets every one to two months, with smaller working groups meeting separately. To join the email list for notice of meetings and other educational opportunities, contact Anne Stanback, annestanback@gmail.com, or Jim Boucher, jmbb2020@gmail.com.
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. We are co-sponsoring a second family as well. For more information about the ICC Refugee Team, contact coordinators Dan Conable, danconable1@gmail.com, or Dick Londergan, richard.londergan@sbcglobal.net.

Second Hours: Many 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 Parker Jacquier at parker.jacquier@gmail.com.

South Marshall Interfaith Coalition: second Tuesday of the month, 8 am at Immanuel
Join us as we work with community groups, other congregations, and our neighbors to create positive change on South Marshall Street, just two blocks from Immanuel. For more information, contact Mike Rion, mike.rion@gmail.com.

PFLAG Hartford: third Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm, at Immanuel
Parents, families, friends and allies united with LGBTQ people meet each month to support each other and 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.

Immanuel Response Team
Each weekday, an Immanuelite volunteers from 11am-2pm, assisting our neighbors in the community who visit the church needing everything from snacks to referrals to appropriate agencies for help with particular needs. They see, on average, 40 people a day. These visits can be as brief as handing out snacks and ensuring visitors have refuge from the cold, to more in-depth visits where our volunteers offer a listening ear, empathy, encouragement and information about where help might be available. They are invaluable to the church office staff—and are truly putting their faith into action! To learn more or volunteer, contact Sue Fisher, Church Administrator, admin@iccucc.org.

Service Opportunities and Special Events

Book Study: Dear White Christians by Jennifer Harvey, Wednesdays, September 18 and 25, 6:30pm-8:30pm
Over the summer, Immanuel members were encouraged to read Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation. The book was recommended by our Dismantling Racism Task Force and our Deacons. “In this provocative book, Jennifer Harvey argues for a radical shift in how justice-committed white Christians think about race….A deeply constructive, hopeful work, Dear White Christians will help readers envision new racial possibilities, including concrete examples of contemporary reparations initiatives.” We hope you'll join in this opportunity to engage in dialogue as we move forward in our commitment to undoing structural racism in our culture and our church. Purchase your own copy, or borrow a copy from Fellowship Hall, read it and pass it along or return it. Then, please join us for this book study and important discussion!

Join the Immanuel Strollers and Support the Fight Against AIDS—AIDS Walk CT: Saturday, September 21st, 9:30am, MDC Reservoir
The annual AIDS walk to support AIDS Connecticut (“ACT”), the primary service provider and advocacy agency for people living with AIDS in CT will be held on Saturday, September 21st at 9:30am at the MDC Reservoir in West Hartford. This is a pleasant 3.5 mile walk around the Reservoir. We hope that you will join the team from Immanuel and participate in the walk. If you are unable to join in the walk please consider supporting the team with a pledge by going to www.aids-ct.org, scroll down to upcoming events and click on the AIDS Walk, then click on donate and then select Immanuel Strollers in the
drop down box. We will also have a table in Fellowship Hall following service every Sunday leading up to the walk where you can sign-up or donate. If you have any questions please call or e-mail Rob Biddleman: 860-805-4724 or biddlemanr@gmail.com.

Walk, Bike and/or Carpool to Immanuel Sunday: September 22, 2019
In honor of World Climate Strike, if you can’t walk or bike, pick up a friend and bring them to church. Taking public transportation or driving a hybrid or electric counts too. The EA Committee will keep track of how many in the church are reducing their carbon footprint by their participation in this special Sunday. This is part of a world-wide strike Climate Strike which will include students around the world who will be walking out of school on Friday, September 20th. Immanuel’s Youth Group is involved in planning this special Sunday. Let’s all strike again fossil fuels. (You’ll learn “who is Greta Thunberg and why is she a voice for the present and future generations?”)

Justice Sunday: September 29th, 10am
We are so excited to be a part of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance, an organization of over 50 faith communities, making concrete change for justice in the Greater Hartford area. This is part of the organizing efforts started at Christian Activities Council, and we are preparing for the launch of this new organization on October 28th. As we prepare for that momentous event, we welcome Cori Mackey as our guest preacher, to share with us about this vital, vibrant, transformative work!

Serving lunch at Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen: Sept. 26, Oct. 15, Dec. 17, Jan. 23, Feb. 18, March 26, April 14, May 21, June 16, July 23, Aug. 18, 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 lunch most months on either a Tuesday or Thursday, and you are welcome to participate in this activity by serving, providing food, and/or cooking. Try it a time or two, or sign up as a regular. Please contact Barbara Gordon, 860-658-6546, or Bob Henricks, beckybobh@comcast.net, for more information.

Tutoring at Noah Webster or Rawson Schools, Hartford (Sept through June)
Since 2004, Immanuel members have joined with others in the community to provide tutoring in literacy and/or math at two Hartford schools, Noah Webster in the West End, and Rawson School in the Blue Hills neighborhood. While the two programs have evolved differently, each provides invaluable help within the school and has been rewarding for students and tutors alike. To learn more about these opportunities, contact Joanna Gerber (for Noah Webster) joanna.gerber@att.net, or Martha Hess (Rawson) marthamhess@gmail.com.

Second Hour Speaker – Ms. Shubhada Kambli, Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Hartford: October 20, 2019
Ms. Kambli will be the Second Hour guest speaker after church. Ms. Kambli will speak about Sustainability efforts in the City of Hartford and will be inviting Immanuel to be part of Hartford’s Climate Stewardship Initiative.

ACT’s We Can Cook Celebrates Oktoberfest! on Monday, October 21st
Join your fellow Immanuelites at AIDS Connecticut's (“ACT’s”) annual We Can Cook fundraiser, an evening of food and fun at Pond House Café in West Hartford as we raise funds to help support people affected by HIV/AIDS. This year’s event will celebrate Oktoberfest, featuring local breweries and a beer inspired menu. The evening will also include an exclusive VIP reception, a live auction showcasing food-themed packages, complimentary beer and wine, and live musical entertainment. The event is from 5:30 to 8:30pm, ticket cost $75, VIP $125 Contact Rob Biddleman with any questions: 860-805-4724.

Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) Founding Assembly: Monday, October 28th, Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) Welte Auditorium
Attention ALL Immanuel members! We are so excited about the launch of this vibrant organization, making concrete change in the Greater Hartford area. At the launch, we will lay out our specific, concrete demands for change. We will have political, denominational, and neighborhood leaders at this event. The Governor and the Mayor have been invited, and you
are invited, too! We are planning on a turnout of 1000 people for this event, and Immanuel has committed to bringing 100. We will show the power of organized people to demand vital change for justice! So, please mark your calendars right now for the evening of Monday, October 28th. You don’t want to miss it! Please RSVP to Rev. Kari, kari.nicewander@icucc.org, or Rev. Isaac, rev.isaac.lawson@gmail.com!

**No Straws November: November 2019**
Join our Youth in the campaign to eliminate the use of unnecessary plastic straws, [www.thelastplasticstraw.org](http://www.thelastplasticstraw.org). We’ll be approaching local restaurants to ask them to adopt a policy “straws only on request.” Help us reduce straw litter and save marine life.

**Faith Church Bus Trip to Washington, D.C.: November 8-11, meeting at 7am at Park & Ride lot in Windsor**
Trip includes snacks and beverages, lodging in downtown Silver Spring, tour of the National Portrait Gallery, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, African American Civil War Museum and a visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Contact Regina Waters of Faith Church, 860-640-4694, ariz1109@yahoo.com, for cost and other information.

**Undoing Racism Workshop: November 15-17, 2019, held at Immanuel**
The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond (PISAB) focuses on understanding what racism is, where it comes from, how it functions, why it persists and how it can be undone. This workshop utilizes a systemic approach that emphasizes learning from history, developing leadership, maintaining accountability to communities, creating networks, undoing internalized racial oppression and understanding the role of organizational gate keeping as a mechanism for perpetuating racism. We will do this workshop in conjunction with other faith communities and neighbors. Another session will be offered in the spring. For more information, please contact Rev. Kari Nicewander, kari.nicewander@icucc.org, or Rev. Isaac Lawson, rev.isaac.lawson@gmail.com.

**Blue Earth Composting: Second Hour and/or Letter to the Church on how Immanuel members can get involved in participating in “Blue Earth Composting: FALL – TBD**
- A representative from Blue Earth Composting and/or a Letter will explain how Blue Earth Composting works…Blue Earth picks up food scraps from your home…they can take everything, meat, dairy, veggies. Participants can choose to receive a load of compost for home use in gardens, etc…Minimal cost as low as $20.00/per month.
- At the end of the Blue Earth Compost will tell us how many pounds of Immanuel and members have composted. Participation is open to members and non-members in various towns in the Greater Hartford region.

**Second Hour on “The Green New Deal”: February-March**
This event is still in the planning stages…but given all of the latest scientific studies, such as the recently released UN Report on how we must change/modify our farming practices and what we eat, issues addressed in the Green New Deal are more relevant to saving our Earth now and for future generations are more important than ever. Watch for details about the guest speaker who will clarify all aspects of the Green New Deal, some controversial that need explanation, and some just common sense.

**Winter Report from the “Greening of Immanuel Task Force.”: Either in a Second Hour or Church Letter – TBD**
Find out what actions are in process or planned by the Greening of Immanuel Task Force to “green Immanuel” with the generous $30,000 donation by anonymous donors who truly care about reducing Immanuel’s carbon footprint…and are helping us all “walk the talk!”

**Lenten Book Study on a Climate Issue Related Book: Led by EA Committee member**
- There are numerous books that are engaging and informative that help understand the Existential Crisis of Climate Change. For example, *The Uninhabitable Earth*, by David Wallace Wells and others.
  EA Committee will sponsor a Lenten Book Study on an award-winning book to be announced. Stay tuned.
Earth Day Sunday: April 26, 2019
“The Joy of Going Green.” What about “going green” brings you joy? The EA Committee and Immanuel Clergy will lead Immanuel in celebrating Earth Sunday in worship and song.

Spring 2020 – In collaboration with IREJN (Interreligious Eco-Justice Network), Immanuel will co-sponsor a Forum on Solar Energy/Renewable Energy/Electric/Hybrid Vehicles as practical steps to be a “Environmentally Conscious Church.”

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@icucc.org.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Joint Worship: January 20th, 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@icucc.org.

Walk Against Hunger: May date TBD
Join us in our annual Walk Against Hunger, as we raise much-needed funds to fight hunger in Hartford and the surrounding towns. 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.

Calling all Gardeners: Community Garden at 360 Farmington
Working with a program called Jessie’s Community Garden, we maintain a raised bed garden next door to the church where we together grow fresh produce, 90% of which will goes directly to the community, including our partners at Loaves & Fishes. All ages are encouraged to participate; no experience is necessary, just time and good will. Join us in our gardening fellowship, as we witness God’s seasonal miracles while furthering the health of our neighbors. For more information please contact Joanna Gerber, joanna.gerber@att.net, or Sandy Wiseman, swwiseman@sbcglobal.net.

Seasonal Giving Opportunities

A Turkey and $30: October 27th, November 3rd and 10th, 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.

Mitten Tree: November 10th, after Sunday worship at Immanuel
Gifts due on December 8th, 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@icucc.org.
Alternative Marketplace: December dates TBD, after Sunday worship at Immanuel
Buy meaningful 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, Loaves & Fishes and Heifer International among them. For more information, please contact SAMC co-chair Sally Taylor.

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 events:

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.

The Fireside Chat
The Fireside Chat has as its goal to build and foster community amongst young adults (20s/30s) within and outside of Immanuel. We will gather regularly for deep spiritual conversations over brunch, watch silly movies for laughs, hike in nature, host paint nights to unleash our creativity, and much more. Questions: email rev.isaac.lawson@gmail.com.

Tea Talks with the Minister
Have burning theological questions on your mind? Want to share what’s been on your heart? Discerning how to use your unique gifts? Or just want to know the ministers better? On the third Sundays of the month, the ministers invite newcomers to join us in the church’s library for tea and conversation. So come and bring your questions, thoughts, and ideas.

Newcomers’ Brunches: Sundays, October 27, 2019 and March 29, 2020
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.

Special events:

Fantasy Football Draft Party and Potluck: Sunday, August 25th, 5pm
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 or with a group of friends. We have a draft party (arguably the most fun part of fantasy football) on Sunday August 25th at Immanuel. Don’t worry if you haven’t played before, it’s easy to learn! There is no cost to play! Contact David “PJ” Pettyjohn at pettyjohnd@gmail.com.

All-Church Hike Penwood State Park Bloomfield/Simsbury: Saturday October 5th, 1 pm (Weather permitting)
On the ridge that separates the Farmington Valley from Bloomfield and West Hartford sit 2 of Connecticut’s state parks. The more famous is Talcott Mountain State Park on which the Hublein Tower sits, but in many ways, Penwood State Park has more going for it. There are more trails, it is less crowded generally, and the views of the Farmington Valley and Simsbury are just as amazing. We’ll meet at the parking lot on highway 185 at 1 pm and take about an hour hike. The hike is much less strenuous than the Hublein Tower trail and is mostly paved, though a bit uneven. Come one, come all! Contact David “PJ” Pettyjohn at pettyjohnd@gmail.com if you have questions.
Dinners for Nine: October 18th, 19th, 25th, 26th; and in the spring TBD
In the fall and in the spring, members host potluck dinners in their homes for nine (or so) guests. These informal gatherings bring newer and more seasoned Immanuelites together to deepen relationships and have fun. To volunteer to host or for more information, contact Gretchen Hathaway, mvhathaway@gmail.com.

Immanuel House Visit: Sunday, October 27th, at 10:30am
Children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to church 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 fun seasonal activities in the stage room.

Dinner & Pageant Practice: Friday, December 6th, 5:30pm
Children, youth and families will enjoy dinner and pageant rehearsal as we prepare for our sharing of the story of the birth of Jesus.

Afrocosmologies: American Reflections: Wadsworth Atheneum, Sunday January 19th, 12:30 pm
Black artists explore ideas about spirituality and culture in Afrocosmologies: American Reflections. We’ll explore both this special exhibit and the other exhibits that the Atheneum has to offer. Admission is free for Hartford residents and $15 for non-Hartford residents. Contact David “PJ” Pettyjohn at pettyjohnd@gmail.com if you have questions.

Immanuel House Visit: Sunday, February 2nd, at 10:30am
Our middle school group will share their time with the residents at Immanuel House as the lead a lively Bingo game session.

Pizza and Paint: Sunday, March 22nd, at 11:30am
Have some fun and support our youth group mission work at the same time by creating a fun painting and eating everyone’s favorite meal! A suggested donation of $10 per child and $20 per adult will get you a delicious lunch all of the supplies needed to complete your masterpiece on Sunday, March 22nd at 11:30am.

Immanuel House Visit: Sunday, April 5th, at 10:30am
Our Christian Kids! Will visit the residents of the Immanuel House and engage in seasonal craft activities complete with laughter and snacks.

Hartford Yard Goats Game; Sunday, June 7th, game starts at 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! We hope you’ll join us. Details will be forthcoming in the spring, but contact David “PJ” Pettyjohn at pettyjohnd@gmail.com, if you have questions in the meantime.

Silent Auction: Palm Sunday, April 5th, following worship
In a Second Hour following worship, come enjoy a live auction of personal services and items being offered by Immanuel members and friends! Contact Jennifer Gaudet, jennifergaudet@sbcglobal.net, with questions.

Easter Pancake Breakfast: April 12th, 8am, Immanuel
We are most grateful to Herb Menzel and Jim Mallek for once again providing this church—and community—favorite event!

Walk Against Hunger: May date TBA
Join us in our annual Walk Against Hunger, as we raise much-needed funds to fight hunger in Hartford and the surrounding towns. 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.
MISSION & LEARNING TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

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

Faith Church Bus Trip to Washington, D.C.: November 8-11, meeting at 7am at Park & Ride lot in Windsor
Trip includes snacks and beverages, lodging in downtown Silver Spring, tour of the National Portrait Gallery, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, African American Civil War Museum and a visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Contact Regina Waters of Faith Church, 860-640-4694, ariz1109@yahoo.com, for cost and other information.

The International Partnership Conference
The 17th International Partnership Conference will be held July 25 – August 2, 2020 in Dessau, Germany for participants of all ages. Participants will spend these days gathered in worship, discussion, travel and fellowship. Following the trip, look forward to a Second Hour in which participants share their Partnership experience with the congregation.

The International Partnership Conference is the result of early meetings between members of certain partner churches to initiate discussions of peace and healing among their members after World War II. 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.

Consider experiencing Partnership for yourself!

Questions: E. Spencer Joslin-Montlick, gespenst2@comcast.net

Youth Mission Experiences
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 on April 24th-26th. There is also an extended week-long excursion scheduled for July 25th-August 2nd to Dessau, Germany to foster peacemaking and peacekeeping with our partner churches in Europe. Stay tuned for more information!

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

“A third time he asked him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, ‘Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Then feed my sheep.” John 21:17

The Stewardship Committee took a new road in 2019, embarking on a year-long path which emphasizes a distinction between stewardship as an ongoing practice, and the annual Giving Campaign which happens every fall. We defined stewardship -- “to be responsible for that which we have been given”. Our 2019 theme centered on giving through belonging and thankfulness. We expect our approach for 2020 to be consistent with the past year.

As part of our new exploration of stewardship and thankfulness for the gifts we have been given, we have discussed our missions and activities, our finances which support these missions and activities, and our blessed church staff who make those missions real every day, every week. And many of our congregation members have expressed their thankfulness for so many facets of Immanuel in writing this year – and we have published those weekly in the Order of Service as a reminder to all of us of our blessings.

In the fall, we will continue to talk about the financial structure of our church, shine a light on so many of the congregation who also make this institution function, why we give, each member’s relationship to Immanuel and how they all tie to our
Immanuel Church Covenant. We hope our annual Giving Campaign is simply an outgrowth of our year-long examination of who we are, our blessings and beliefs as well as our responsibility as good stewards of all that we have been given. Blended together in a colorful fabric, all of these facets support the richness of faith and love that Immanuel is. The Giving Campaign will start on October 20th, Gratitude Sunday, and conclude on November 24th, Thanksgiving Sunday.

- With love and a full heart, we honor all pledging church members who enable our important church work.
- We need those who are not pledgers to become pledgers so we can count on your expected giving to meet the church’s commitments to our staff, our congregation, and our community.
- Through Stewardship we ask of you not just your treasure, but also your time and talent through participation in Immanuel committees and activities.
- We invite you to join the Immanuel Legacy Circle by naming Immanuel in your estate plans.
- Through Stewardship, we seek to build relationships, strengthen connections, and find a deeper spirituality.

We are grateful for your generosity, the gifts that you bring to the table, and for helping Immanuel answer God’s call.

The Stewardship Committee consists of Keith Powell, woodnartsman@gmail.com, Gene Flynn, carriage11@yahoo.com, Bob Willard, lardfong@comcast.net, Gretchen Hathaway, mvhathaway@gmail.com, John Karrer, saintflash@comcast.net, India Liddell, theliddells1@comcast.net and Rev. Kari Nicewander. kari.nicewander@iccucc.org.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

“The one who gives cheerfully, gives not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Second Corinthians 9:7

Fundraising Event: Saturday, October 5 (afternoon/evening)
Fundraising Event: Saturday, November 2 (afternoon/evening)
Silent Auction after church: Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

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<td>COMPASS Junior Peacebuilders meet at our church on Wednesday afternoons! These young leaders are trained in conflict resolution, life and employment skills, and empowered through community service projects and paid internships. They then, in turn, multiply the voices communicating nonviolent alternatives to their peers and community.</td>
<td>A group of Hartford public high school students are learning life skills by cooking in our church kitchen on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings!</td>
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Church Office Hours:
Monday – Friday 9AM – 4:30PM

Farmington Ave At Woodland St | Hartford CT | 06105
Office 860-527-8121 | www.iccucc.org | facebook.com/iccucc

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