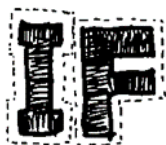




THE IMMANUEL DOVE

Discovering and displaying Christ in here and out there

Immanuel Presbyterian Church (USA) Tucson, AZ Volume 32 Issue 2



I recently found myself in a mental space that I no longer wanted to occupy. You know that place where unwelcome guests like negativity, self-doubt, scarcity, resentment, and defeatism worm their way into your head space? "Enough is enough," I said to myself, "these squatters are getting an eviction notice." I sensed I needed to feed my mind with words of hope and possibility. The books I was reading at the time weren't feeding my mind and soul with the kind of nourishment my starving spirit craved. So, I put down one contemporary novel and took up George Eliot's inspiring classic *Silas Marner* instead. I also picked up Washington DC pastor Mark Batterson's book *If: Trading Your If Only Regrets for God's What If Possibilities*. Not that everything became perfect, but I noticed a small change in my mindset beginning to bubble up. It felt as if my soul that had been holding its breath for so long finally was able to break the surface of the water and greedily take in the emotional and spiritual oxygen my lungs craved.

Mark Batterson says the two-letter word **IF** has great power in our lives:

- It defines our deepest regrets: *if only*.
- It defies impossible circumstances: *as if*.
- It's pregnant with infinite possibilities: *what if*.
- And it overcomes all refutations: *no ifs, ands, or buts about it*.
- And the ultimate **IF** can be found in Romans 8:31, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" "That one little if," says Batterson, "can change your life!"

If God is on our side, it doesn't matter who or what comes against us. If we believe God is good and God is love, we're going to know deep down that *God is for us*. The key is not only to accept and believe this, but to also ask God to help *us* be with him, and not against him. Not only that, let's be for each other, not against each other. If God is for you, I sure as heaven want to be for you too! And I need you to be for me as well, not against me. Jesus says, "Whoever is not against us, is for us."

This got me thinking--we're all a lot like lettuce, but not the same kind of lettuce.

"Let us" not forget, some of us are romaine, others iceberg, and yet more are kale, cabbage, and collards. God loves lettuce and made many varieties of it for us to enjoy! I know it's not easy being green, but it's OK if you're a chard and I'm arugula—we don't all have to have the same tastes here—we're still lettuce! Who wants to limit themselves to eating only mizuna lettuce anyway? Our variety adds to our unique flavor and Christ is the bowl that holds us together. We don't have to be the same to be one. We're united by all fixing our eyes on Jesus, following him together, and being there for each other, as God is for us.

Continued...



FEBRUARY 2020



As Paul assures us later in Romans 8, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." I'd like to add additional modern-day wedges in our mixed salad: Neither toxic politics nor political parties, nor musical tastes nor worship times, nor generational nor gender divides, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Hear the good news: the Spirit has washed us clean from stinkin' thinkin' and by the grace of God, we are the aroma of Christ. Immanuel, taste and see that the Lord is good! You are a new creation! Let's listen to mom and enjoy our greens together.

What if...we really believed that this is true?

Grace and Peace,
John

IMMANUEL IMMERSION

What an incredible Immanuel Immersion we had at Pastor John's home on January 26th! After chewing the cud and delicious refreshments, we broke off into three different groups to learn more about one another with many of Immanuel's newest participants, shared about Immanuel's mission and ministries, and even took a pop Presbyterian quiz! We are having at least 13 new members joining the church! We're so blessed and excited to have our Immanuel family growing!



Vulnerable Mission

By Bob Seel

Rev. Elmarie Parker, Presbyterian Mission Regional Liaison to Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, reports back from the Middle East:

The Presbyterian church in Kirkuk has an extended ministry to the families (both Muslim and Christian) displaced from the Niniveh Plain and Mosul since 2014. They have carried out a jail visitation ministry since 2009. Mrs. Mayada Jazrawi writes, "as has been the case in our recent visits, the majority of the women in jail were widows or suspected ISIS terrorists. Many of them were familiar with us. Initially we couldn't speak with them very much because of the large number of women and children."

The Rev. Haitham Jazrawi reports "it's entirely too easy and incredibly tempting for many of us in Iraq to fall prey to despair. Having been in a near constant state of war since 1980, an entire generation of men and women under age 40 have seen nothing but war. And for the past few years, especially under ISIS, far too many have seen their homes destroyed, children die, and livelihoods crushed."

These are the ministries you have helped to support through your prayers and financial gifts.



A refugee camp in Erbil, Iraq

Staying in Touch as Presbyterians

From the Immanuel Missions Team



Subscribe to free PC(USA) e-newsletters

You can stay up to date with everything the Presbyterian Church is involved in across the country and around the world by subscribing to any of their 17 online newsletters on a wide variety of topics. Choose to receive the latest news stories and ministry tips on Mission and Disaster Response, Advocacy and Social Justice, Evangelism and Discipleship, and Youth and Young Adults. You can also subscribe to daily lectionary readings or current articles from the denomination's magazine, *Presbyterians Today*. Why not take a few

minutes today and go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/newsletter-subscribe/> to see what they have to offer? You can subscribe to as many newsletters as you'd like.

Read today's message in the Mission Yearbook

The *Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study* is now published exclusively online, bringing you stories, daily Bible readings, and short prayers. Stories reflecting mission are collected by Presbyterian News Service reporters throughout the year and reformatted for use in the *Mission Yearbook*. Often there are videos showing the church's work around the world.



The *Mission Yearbook* began in 1892 as a simple calendar of prayer to help women's societies pray for missionaries on designated days. It has the longest history of any denominational mission and prayer book in the United States. The publication's esteemed history is reflected in the online version of the *Mission Yearbook* by connecting Presbyterians to the greater church and energizing them for mission. Consider reading a page of the Mission Yearbook as a daily devotional. Go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/>. You can also read news stories from other days just by clicking on the calendar.



What Makes Us Unique?

What do we believe? What's Reformed Theology? What are the components of our worship? What are the Sacraments? What is this thing called predestination? What about the role of women in the church? For a short lesson in what we're all about as Presbyterians, go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-believe/what-makes-us-unique/>.



For a more in depth look at our theology and what we believe, go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-believe/theology/>

Immanuel's Olive Tree Dedication

Our new olive tree was dedicated on January 26th. What a wonderful reminder our olive tree will be each time we set foot on the Immanuel campus of God's provision and our commitment to enduring faith and healing peace in an age of division and disarray.

In this new year and decade, we too are seeking to branch out further in faith by discovering and displaying the love of Jesus Christ to all ages, especially the next generation. The session has studied and stepped out in faith to increase Immanuel's investment in children and youth—as we seek to grow wise and to grow young as a cross-generational church.

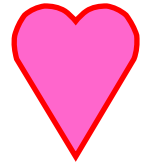


***"But I am like a green olive
tree in the house of God."
Psalm 52:8***





FEBRUARY YOUTH GROUP EVENTS!



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!

Sunday, February 2nd

**Help collect money for world hunger after
both worship services!**

SUPER BOWL PARTY at 4:30pm

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP PARENT MEETING!



**Sunday February 9th
at 10am OR 4:30pm
Towner Hall Room 7**

Annual Meeting Brunch Fundraiser for Montlure Camp and Mission Trip

**Sunday, February 16th
9:45am
Witherspoon Hall**



FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY FOR YOUTH

Sundays February 9, 16 & 23

5-7pm, \$10 for 9 weeks

**Join us in learning about the basics of finance, saving and
growing money, debt, college loans and being generous.
Dinner is included.**

**This class will continue through March 29th
(no youth group or class on March 15th)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Kris Goorsky at
Kris@immanuelpc.org or 520-296-2253**



Sunday, February 16th
9:45am in Witherspoon Hall
Brunch Served

A fundraiser will be held to support our youth attending Montlure Camp this summer and an upcoming High School mission trip to northern New Mexico.



Thank You Immanuel!
January Blood Drive A Touchdown!
24 donors — 19 units - saving 57 lives!



Thank you to all who donated and volunteered.

Next Blood Drive will be
Saturday, May 16
in honor of
Armed Forces Day.

Visit redcrossblood.org to donate



Session Retreat

We had a great Annual Session retreat at the Wallendorf's home January 24-25! The theme was "Novice" where we all tapped into our inner-child of God. Jesus says that to enter the kingdom of God we need to become like a child—thankful, filled with wonder, curiosity, and dependence upon God.

So we not only had fun in romper room sessions of drawing with crayons and playing family board games. We looked back at 2019 and looked to what God might be calling us to do in 2020 at Immanuel. We played, prayed, sang, laughed, ate yummy food, and watched "Won't You Be My Neighbor, the excellent documentary about Mr. Rogers.



Many thanks to Kirk and Liz Wallendorf for their generous cooking and warm hospitality, Dave and Patti Piper for their help with food, and Will Price leading us in worship! We have an amazing session once again this year and look forward to all that God has for us in 2020. And we all had a nap time at home afterwards!



What is Per Capita?



The Per Capita Apportionment is an annual assessment levied on each church to cover the operating and mission expenses of the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly. It has been said that the Per Capita Apportionment is somewhat like a utility bill. Just as we pay for heat, light, water, and telephone in order to remain connected those systems and benefit from their services, the church pays "per capita" (in other words, per member) so that the Presbyterian system can function on behalf of all of us.

Throughout Immanuel's history, our church members have kindly contributed this amount in addition to their regular giving, so that the payment doesn't have to come out of the church's operating budget. This helps us direct more dollars to mission work, Christian education for our children, and maintenance of our buildings and grounds.

The 2020 Per Capita Apportionment this year is \$45 per member. For Immanuel, that's around \$13,000. You will be a blessing to us if you can pay your portion. And you know, many of our members live on fixed incomes, and are already giving as much as they can. If, in addition, you could possibly be a blessing to someone for whom this extra donation would be difficult, that would be wonderful. A check for just \$90 will cover your Per Capita *plus* the payment for someone who may not be able to afford it. Please make your check payable to Immanuel Presbyterian Church, note "per capita" at the bottom, and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Thank you for helping us pay our Per Capita.

A JUNQUE SALE of Biblical Proportions

ALL Proceeds to benefit CASA MARIA



Tools and toys...books and baskets...DVDs and CDs (no tapes)...craft supplies...pet supplies...sports equipment...games...puzzles...dishes...pots and pans...kitchen utensils...small furniture...holiday and seasonal items...knick-knacks...pictures and artwork...small (working) electronics and appliances...gardening tools...collectibles...jewelry...good (clean) bedding...(no bed pillows please)...

the "what WAS I thinking?"...AND the "Ooooo- what's that!"

Volunteers are needed to sort and price fabulous "Junque" on Friday, March 13th anytime after 8:30am and also at 6:00am on day of the sale to help.

Are you willing to be a set-upper, tidy-upper or (end of sale) cleaner—upper?
Call or text Darlys Tippie at (408) 835-1447 for more information.

Saturday, March 14th 7:00am - 1:00pm
Amazing Deals! Great Stuff at Great Prices!

Held on church parking lot



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 26 at 12:00pm

With Imposition of Ashes



**FREE Income Tax Preparation
by AARP**

Wednesdays from 10:00am—3:00pm

Towner Hall Rooms 4/5

Beginning February 5th and ending April 15th

All tax preparers are trained and certified and all returns are double checked prior to e-filing.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Picture ID for taxpayer and spouse
- Proof of income including W2s and 1099 forms
- Social Security cards or documents for all
- Deductible expenses documentation
- Prior year's tax returns
- Bank account and routing numbers (for e-refunds)

Just a Reminder: Church staff cannot answer tax questions or schedule appointments. You may contact AARP at (888) 687-2277 or email at giving@aarp.org. Information is also available at aztax-aide.org.

This beautiful glass award was presented to Immanuel as a gift of appreciation for our generosity and contributions to Booth-Fickett School for the improvements made to the teachers lounge.



Stop by the church office to see it!



Online giving is a safe and easy way to support the ministries of Immanuel Presbyterian Church. Through our SimpleChurch secure giving system, you will be able to give to Immanuel with or without an account. Your account information is guaranteed to be secure and private. Visit immanuelpc.org/giving.

Immanuel is registered on AmazonSmile! When you shop on Amazon, make sure to designate Immanuel on AmazonSmile. For every qualifying purchase, Immanuel will receive 0.5% - that can add up! Remember, always start your shopping at smile.amazon.com



Desert Sanctuary Restoration Workdays

Saturdays, February 1, 8, 22

9:00-11:00 am

Helpful tools: shovel,
fork, rake, pruning
shears, loppers, hat,
gloves, and you!

No tools?

We have extras!

Info: ayhansen@cox.net



COME SING WITH US!

You are invited to sing with the choir in the next
Music & the Word service~

Have you thought you might like to sing in the choir but you can't make a year-round commitment? Why not sing with us in the next *Music & the Word* service on April 5 (Palm Sunday)?

Find out what it's like by attending our choir workshop on Saturday, February 15, from 9:15 to noon in the sanctuary. Interested? Contact Billy Schurr at 229-1327 or wwschurr@cox.net.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Through February 9th, we are finishing the book "Love Does" by Bob Goff. Through video and discussion Goff helps us discover that self-reliance, love and the willingness to take risks and live life to the fullest, are the keys to happiness and success.
- The Financial Peace Class continues on Sunday nights (5:15pm—6:45pm) until March 29th.
- On February 16th there will be no Adult CE class due to the Annual Meeting being held that morning. Please join us for a special brunch youth fundraiser to help our youth attend Montlure Camp and also an upcoming high school mission trip to northern New Mexico.
- On February 23rd we will have a presentation from Russ Amling about his experience on the Honor Flight that took place on April 23/24, 2019. A preview below by Russ Amling:

Honor Flight of Southern Arizona was formed to honor veterans living in Southern Arizona communities with a trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the various memorials. There is no cost to the veterans for this trip, it is provided as a thank you for their military service. The inaugural Honor Flight took place in May 2005 from Springfield, Ohio taking 12 World War II veterans to D.C. Currently there are over 135 regional hubs working in 40 states. The Southern Arizona hub was founded in 2011. In September 2015, 17 flights were taken with 543 veterans, comprising of WW2, Korean and Vietnam veterans.

As a Korean vet, it was my honor to apply for this unique and great honor. I was accepted to participate on the April 2019 trip. I arrived at the Tucson airport at 3:30am for roll call and to receive orders for this trip. We boarded our chartered flight around 6:15am. Our plane pulled away from the jet way and we were able to see out of our windows two firetrucks spraying a water arch over our plane as we proceeded to our runway for take off. We arrived at the Dulles airport at 3:30pm. After getting off the plane, we boarded buses for the hotel. At 6:00pm that evening, a large banquet was held for our group of about 200 people.

Reveille was at 5:00am, breakfast at 5:45am and we left for the tours at 7:15am. The tours taken included Arlington Cemetery, Air Force Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier which included seeing the changing of the Guard and laying of wreaths, and lastly the World War II Memorial.

We left later that day and headed back home to Tucson. When we arrived back home we were greeted by 1,000 people saying "Welcome Home Veterans!" - it was something very special to see. For me, what an experience it was and something I will never forget. This trip is an experience that all Southern Arizona veterans should do. To learn more visit <https://honorflightsaz.org/>

*God Bless Everyone,
Cpl. Russ K. Amling, US Army*

- Coming up in March we will be having Advanced Care Planning Conversations and presentations on caring for our elders and planning for our own care. More information to follow soon.

**Questions about Adult Ed? Want to get involved?
Contact Kris Goorsky at kris@immanuelpc.org**

FEBRUARY CONNECTIONS

- **Casa Maria Ministry—February 8th at 8:00am.** Immanuel is one of many organizations in Tucson who regularly help to feed the hungry through donations of sack lunches to the Casa Maria Free Kitchen located in South Tucson. Want to help make sandwiches? Each lunch should contain two meat and cheese sandwiches (please use only butter/margarine—no mayo, mustard, lettuce or tomato), a piece of fruit (such as a banana, peach, pear, or orange), and a dessert (2 cookies, 1 brownie, etc.). Please bring your sack lunches to the church between 8:00am and 9:00am. The Casa Maria team leaves promptly at 9:00am.
- **Desert Sages - Valentine's Day Luncheon on Tuesday, February 18th.** Join us for a LOVELY luncheon after our regular day of games. New players are always welcome! We are a group of great folks who meet every Tuesday morning at 10:00am in Witherspoon Hall to play games. (Hand & Foot, Rummikub, bridge, Mexican Train, & poker) At noon we have refreshments that we take turns furnishing. Everyone pitches in \$1 a week and once every 6 weeks or so we use that money to furnish a luncheon for everyone. Interested? Contact Mary Kay Bush at ausmbush3@gmail.com or (520) 885-0003 for more information.
- **Agape Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 12th at 9:00am** at the home of Anne Marie Fujii, 14005 E. Placita Marlinda. We will meet at the church at 8:50am (that's ten minutes before 9:00!!) and will carpool over together. We will leave promptly at 9:00am. Let Jean or Mary Kay know if you plan to ride or drive. Let Anne Marie know if you will attend at (520) 975-4952 or annemfujii@yahoo.com. We will study Lesson 6. New members are always welcome.
- **Lydia Circle will meet Monday, February 17th at 6:30pm** in Witherspoon Hall. Lisa Cole will be the lesson leader. All ladies encouraged to attend.
- **Outings to the Movies** - Join us for our monthly movie dates provided there is a good movie to see, usually in the early afternoon at the discount theater, Century Gateway 12 on Kolb south of Speedway. Look for notices in the weekly Community Life announcements. Call Ann Thornes at (520) 298-8401 for any suggested movies you would like to see.
- **Men's Breakfast meets Mondays at 8:00am.** Join the guys in Witherspoon Hall for fellowship and great food—pancakes, sausage and lots of strong hot coffee. The Bible study is led by Pastor John Tittle.
- **Crafters Group meets Thursdays at 10:15am** in Witherspoon Rooms 12/13. Everyone is welcome! All types of crafting are welcome and encouraged! Whether you quilt, crochet, knit or are a master of popsicle stick creations, we would love to have you join our crew!
- **TOPS**—Take Off Pounds Sensibly, meets **Tuesdays at 6:00pm** in Towner Hall Room 4.
- **AA** group meets **Wednesdays at 7:00pm and Thursdays at 6:30pm** in Towner Hall Room 4.
- **FEBRUARY Hospitality — For the month of February if your last name begins with V, W** - Help us provide goodies to share for our coffee fellowship following each worship service. Just choose a Sunday during this month and drop off your snacks in the Witherspoon kitchen prior to either service. Some popular snacks are cookies, fruit, veggies and dip, cheese, crackers, baked breads, sugar-free snacks, gluten-free snacks, Chex mix/popcorn.

Beloved, let us

LOVE

one



another,

for



love

is from

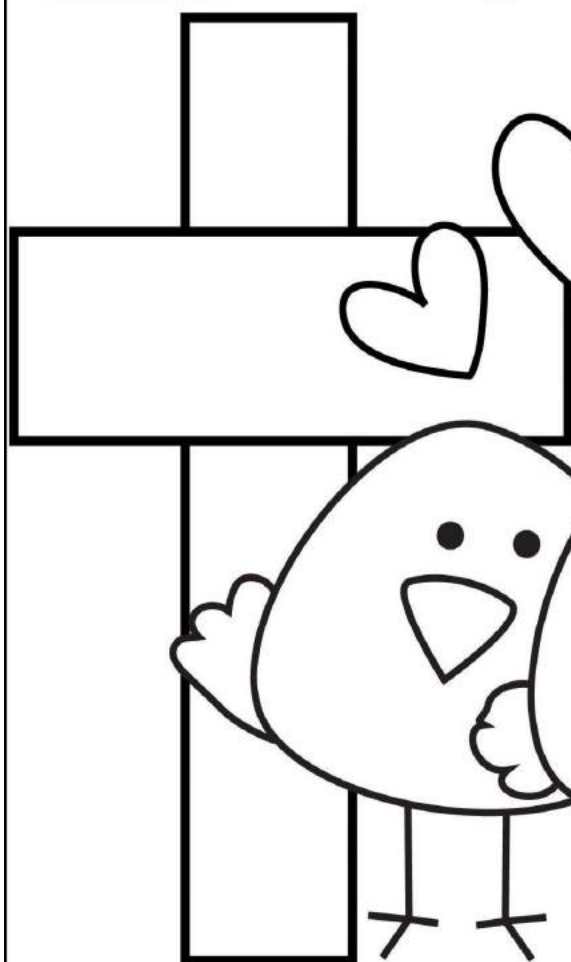
God,

and

whoever loves

is born of God, and

knows God.



February 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|---|-----------|--|
| 2 8:30am Worship 9:45am CE 11:00am Worship 4:30pm Super Bowl Youth Group | 3 8:00am Men's Breakfast 6:00pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 4 10:00am Sages 6:00pm TOPS 6:30pm Deacons | 5 10:00am AARP Tax 7:30pm AA | 6 10:00am Crafters 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm AA 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal | 7 | 8 8:00am Casa Maria 9:00am Desert Sanctuary Restoration |
| 9 8:30am Worship 9:45am CE 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Youth Grp 5:15pm Financial Peace | 10 8:00am Men's Breakfast 6:00pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 11 10:00am Sages 6:00pm TOPS (no session meeting) | 12 9:00am Agape Circle 10:00am AARP Tax 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:15pm JS Bell Choir 7:30pm LC Bell Choir 7:30pm AA | 13 10:00am Crafters 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm AA 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal | 14 | 15 9:00am Choir Workshop |
| 16 8:30am Worship 9:45am ANNUAL MTG 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Youth Grp 5:15pm Financial Peace | 17 8:00am Men's Breakfast 6:00pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Lydia Circle 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 18 10:00am Sages 6:00pm TOPS 7:00pm Worship Team | 19 10:00am AARP Tax Aide 6:15pm JS Bell Choir 7:30pm LC Bell Choir 7:30pm AA | 20 10:00am Crafters 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm AA 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal | 21 | 22 9:00am Desert Sanctuary Restoration |
| 23 8:30am Worship 9:45am CE 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Youth Grp 5:15pm Financial Peace | 24 8:00am Men's Breakfast 6:00pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 25 10:00am Sages 6:00pm TOPS 7:00pm Ministry Night | 26 12:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm AA | 27 10:00am Crafters 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm AA 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal | 28 | 29 LEAP DAY! |
| | | | | | | |



IMMANUEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Discovering and displaying
Christ in here and out there*

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