



Dear Immanuel Family and Friends,

Happy New Year to you! January is a time of reflection—thinking back over the last year and thinking ahead to our new hopes and dreams for the coming year. I'm grateful for God's faithfulness and your sacrificial giving that arose to meet the challenges and opportunities in 2021 in miraculous ways. I rejoice with how generous Immanuel was able to be last year in mission giving despite the hardships we weathered together. Be sure to turn to the back of this page to see the big picture of where your giving goes at Immanuel. This narrative budget incorporates all of our giving, how staff use their time, and how our campus is used in five key areas (Mission & Evangelism, Worship, Discipleship, Congregational Care, and Hospitality).

With all of this in mind, we invite you to join us in giving thanks to God for all the resources — spiritual, financial, and physical — that support this indispensable work. Prayerfully consider what God might be leading you to pledge in this new year. Commitment Sunday for our 2022 Future With a Hope stewardship campaign is January 23, 2022 where we will consecrate to God in person and online our giving for the coming year. We will continue our two-pledge format, with the General Fund Pledge and the Capital Building Pledge for the ongoing upkeep and improvement of our beautiful facilities.

With the eyes of faith, I can see our future is brimming with hope—that pandemics are not forever and that God will sustain us as we continue our wilderness journey awaiting a new exodus from the clutches of the coronavirus. I'm holding on to this wonderful promise of God spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11 NRSVUE).

Faith gives us the courage to face with honesty our present and to move forward with hope into God's future. The Spirit equips and empowers us to accept seasons of separation and togetherness, exile and return. Experiences of separation are at least as old as the ancient stories of the Garden of Eden, the Israelites' exile in Babylon, and the parable of the Prodigal Son. Jesus and his followers were separated by betrayal and death, and then reunited by forgiveness and newness of life. Even on our most "normal" days, our lives are a dance of gathering and dispersing, coming together and going apart, calls to worship and benedictions.

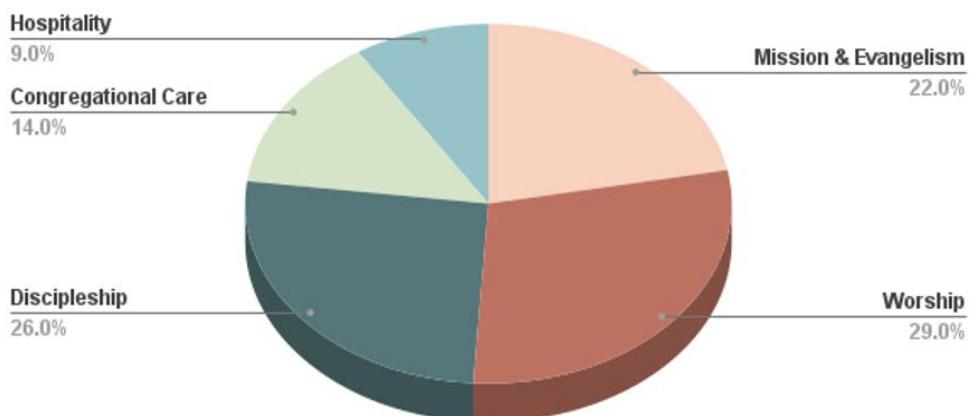
This past year has been another profound experience of this ancient pattern, and as challenging as it's been, we can take solace in the knowledge that those who have gone before us have experienced seasons of exile too and made it through. And here's the point: thanks to this history, over time our faith — and our church — has been built to help us live through such seasons with grace and hope. At our core, Immanuel is a community of reunion, homecoming, and return. Now more than ever, in a world full of exile, our congregation stands as a beacon of hope, welcome, hospitality, and compassionate service to one another, the community, the world, and to God. Thank you again for your generosity and kindness that shapes "a future with hope" in 2022!

Blessings,

JOHN

Pastor John and the Finance and Stewardship Team

2021 Immanuel Spending



Immanuel Narrative Budget: How Your Donations Were Spent in 2021

Mission & Evangelism (22%): Joining in God's service to the world's needs, near and far and in word and deed. These funds come from the General Budget, Endowment Fund, Benevolence Fund, Special Offerings, Per Capita, and In-Kind Donations for various ministry drives.

Worship (29%): Worshiping the living God together and individually through prayer, preaching, and music.

Discipleship (26%): Growing and learning together in our faith in Christ (Christian Education)

Congregational Care (14%): Showing Christ's compassion to the Immanuel community (Pastoral Care)

Hospitality (9%): Extending welcome and fellowship to guests, members, and the community.

Thank you, Immanuel, for filling our present and future with living hope!

