

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Calendar of Events

December 10, 2023

Sunday, December 10

8:30am Alternative Worship Service
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Traditional Worship Service
5:00pm Youth Group

Monday, December 11

10:00am Men's Bible Study
6:00pm Cub Scouts

Tuesday, December 12

10:00am Desert Sages Games
5:30pm TOPS
7:00pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, December 13

7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal
7:30pm AA

Thursday, December 14

9:30am Crafters Group
6:30pm AA

Saturday, December 16

1:00pm TOPS Workshop

Sunday, December 17

8:30am Alternative Worship Service
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Traditional Worship Service
5:00pm Youth Group Christmas Party

This Week's Sermon/Bible Study Questions -

- Shepherds were poor, lower-class people in their society, at times despised by religious Jews because their work kept them away from many religious activities. Looking at verses 8-14, why do you think God chose shepherds to be the first ones to hear the good news of the birth of Jesus?
- After the angels leave, in verses 15-16, what do the shepherds do? What have they become?
- What is the shepherds' first act after seeing and experiencing Jesus (verse 17)? Think back to the time when you experienced good news in your life. Did you want to tell others about the good thing?
- If we truly experience Jesus in our lives, and thus become "witnesses" to his truth as the shepherds were, how might we do practice this in Advent and Christmas?
- Put yourself into the passage. What feelings did the shepherds experience? Note that the shepherds left glorifying and praising God (verse 20). Is there anything in your life or experience right now for which you can praise God? Is there anything you are thankful for?

Prayer Concerns -

- For those with continuing health challenges and concerns
- For Ron Parker, health concerns
- For Jessie Rebl, cancer diagnosis. Jessie is the daughter of Paris and Rich Rebl.

Let us know how we can pray for you today. Please email Kate at kate@immanuelpc.org or call 520-296-2253.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT IMMANUEL

DEC 09 - Cocoa with Santa from 8:00 - 10:00am – Hot cocoa, donuts, Christmas crafts and meet Santa! Held in Witherspoon Hall.

DEC 09 - Women's Christmas Tea from 2:00 - 4:00pm – Enjoy a variety of teas, sweet and savory delights, and lots of laughter! Bring your favorite cup and saucer or mug. Held in Witherspoon Hall. RSVP to Kate at kate@immanuelpc.org or sign up in the sanctuary.

DEC 13 - Agape Circle Christmas Gathering – All ladies are invited to this special holiday bible study and Christmas party at 9:00am held at Mary Kay Bush's home. For more information, please contact Mary Kay at ausmbush3@gmail.com.

DEC 17 - Appalachian Winter Christmas Cantata – At both 8:30am and 11:00am. Followed by cocoa and cookies fellowship hour.

DEC 17 - Youth Christmas Party 5:00pm held at the Tittle home

DEC 18 - Lydia Circle Cookie Exchange - All ladies are invited to join us at 6:30pm for our annual cookie exchange! Bake or bring 3-4 dozen of your favorite cookies to share and exchange. A wonderful night to celebrate friendship and the Christmas holiday. Held in Witherspoon Hall.

DEC 19 - Desert Sages Games and Christmas Luncheon – Join us for this special day of games and Christmas luncheon, begins at 10:00am in Witherspoon Hall. Contact Mary Kay Bush to RSVP at ausmbush3@gmail.com.

DEC 24 - Christmas Eve Services

Children's Christmas Pageant at 10:00am

Candlelight & Carols Service at 7:00pm

DEC 31 - New Year's Eve Service

One Worship Service at 10:00am

Immanuel Christmas Ornaments Available! These beautiful silver ornaments featuring our Immanuel cross will add a special sparkle to your tree and make a nice stocking stuffer for friends and family. Each ornament is \$20.00 – stop by the courtyard table today and take one home.

Advent Devotionals Available in the Sanctuary.

"This Will Be a Sign for You" by Henri Nowen.

Bring the beauty of the Christmas season to our sanctuary! Order your Christmas flowers soon! Forms are in the sanctuary. Each plant is \$15.00 and the deadline to order is this Sunday, December 10th.

Grab a Free Book for Christmas Gifts! This is your last chance to grab a book from the book cart and take it to your home library or give it as a gift. If you would like a well-loved blue hymnal, please feel free to pick up one or more from the Comfort Room in the Sanctuary. In a few weeks, these books and hymnals will be taken to the Friends of the Library for others in the Tucson community to take and treasure.

Adult CE Class Today – "The Gift of the Nutcracker" at 9:45am in Witherspoon Hall. This book and study explores the story to help us understand God's greatest gift of the Christ child, and the kingdom Christ came to establish. *Sneak peek at our upcoming January class - "Head Scratchers: When the Words of Jesus Don't Make Sense"* by Talbot Davis.

Abundant Life 2024 - We believe the world is crying out for more community, more compassion, more hope – and that’s what God is calling us to extend to our city and world each and every day. We’re a community on a mission! Following in the footsteps of Jesus, Immanuel is called to thrive and to help our neighbors thrive, creating a beautiful, joyful, and abundant life for all. Your support allows us to share worship, music, mission and the good news of Jesus Christ! Please prayerfully consider your 2024 Abundant Life Pledge. If you have not done so already, pledge cards are available in the sanctuary or you can submit online [HERE](#).



Sanctuary Liturgical Colors and Decorations – This year our Christmas tree has returned! Thank you to everyone who helped decorate our sanctuary and campus for Advent. Several years ago, the Worship Team decided to decorate the sanctuary with the seasonal liturgical colors as a way to enhance the visual appreciation of worship. Royal blue is used for the season of Advent (December 3-December 24). Blue has been adopted in recent years by the PCUSA as an option for Advent because it represents the hopefulness and royalty that is anticipated in the birth of Jesus. The outside of the church is decorated with burlap wreaths symbolizing the rustic nature of the stable with flowers and ribbons in the royal blue. The decorations will remain up until after Epiphany (Three Kings Day). The color purple is considered to be a more somber color and is used for the solemnity of the Lenten season. White and gold symbolize days of joy (Christmas and Easter). Red represents the Holy Spirit (Pentecost). Green is used for the

remainder of the church year.

The Nativity scene that is on the table near the tech booth was a gift from former long-time Immanuel member Phyllis Dean. The outdoor Nativity figures located in the planter on the patio was a gift from the Snodgrass family.

The Origin of the Word Chrismon - The word “Chrismon” is a combination of the words “Christ” and “monogram.” The word Chrismon has been adopted to refer to special Christmas tree ornaments. Chrismons were first developed in 1957 by Frances Spencer and the women of the Ascension Lutheran Church of Danville, Virginia. Spencer thought that the traditional, brightly colored Christmas ornaments were not fitting for a worship setting, so she started thinking about a way to reflect Christ’s birth through ornaments. Through the years, the designs of the Chrismons have been extended beyond the Nativity to represent other symbols of Christianity. Next to the tree is a notebook that explains the meaning of all the Chrismons.

Ways to Connect, Grow and Have Fun

Sunday School Classes for All Ages – Sundays at 9:45am. Our adult class at 9:45am continues with **“The Gift of the Nutcracker”** – looking at this classic in a new way – through the lens of faith.

Youth Group on Sunday Nights – Join us from 5:00–7:00pm for dinner, games and bible fellowship for youth in grades 6-12. Questions? Contact kris@immanuelpc.org

- December 09 – Cocoa with Santa
- December 10 – Service Project

Men's Bible Study on Mondays at 10:00am – Come hang out with the guys, have coffee, dig deeper into scripture, and connect with friends. Led by Pastor Tittle, meets in Witherspoon Hall.

Desert Sages Games on Tuesdays from 10:00am – 12:30pm. Join us for games, fellowship and food in Witherspoon Hall every Tuesday from 10:00am – 12:30pm. Enjoy new friends and old while playing Mexican train, bridge, hand and foot, Rummikub and anything else you want while snacking on popcorn. A \$1.00 donation a week supports our luncheons every six weeks. We all need to re-connect! For more information contact Mary Kay Bush at ausmbush3@gmail.com or 520-661-6737.

Crafters Group on Thursdays from 9:30am – 12:00pm. All are welcome to come and work on your crafts together and enjoy fellowship and laughs. We make quilts, blankets and projects for local missions. We also work on our own projects for fun – grab your gear and join us!

Sanctuary Choir – Love to Sing? Newcomers always welcome! Even if you would just like to sing for the advent season - come join us! Clay has prepared a full slate of beautiful music for the fall and advent season coming up and weekly choir rehearsals are on Thursdays at 6:30pm. Email Clay at clay@immanuelpc.org

Agape Circle Women's Bible Study – Come join us on the second Wednesday of every month from 9:00am -12:00pm in the home of Mary Kay Bush at 9222 E. Charlotte Place. We start the morning with a light brunch provided by members, followed by Joys and Concerns, and then are led in our Horizon bible study by Cheryl Wood and Jane Eddy. New members are always welcome! Contacts - Jean Nelson at 520-886-6586 or Mary Kay Bush at 520-661-6737.

Lydia Circle Women's Bible Study meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30pm in Witherspoon Hall. We start with refreshments then dive into our bible study. All are welcome – email Kay Schmidt for details at hkschmidt10@aol.com.

Volunteer - We Need You! We have so many opportunities to participate in church life – but we also want to respect your time and schedule. Most are just once a month or every other month. We need ushers, lay readers, fellowship hosts, children's ministry teachers and more. Interested? Contact Kate Kelly at kate@immanuelpc.org.

2023 Immanuel Elders

Laura Fennema, Clerk of Session
Bill Haldeman – Building and Grounds
Marcia Aurand and Michael Nana - Christian Education
Mike Dungan, Bradley Bishop, and Karl Aurand – Finance & Stewardship
Kevin Murphy and Sean Shifflette – Hospitality
Jonathan Cain and Laurie Emery - Mission & Evangelism
Liz Wallendorf - Personnel
Ed Vander Woude – Worship Alternative Service
Debby Johnson - Worship Traditional Service

2023 Immanuel Deacons

Ann Jarvis, Marlene Stevens, Erminia Gomez, Bobbie Butler
Carol Kienbaum, Belinda Badger, Joe Rudigier, Kay Schmidt, Shawn Wooll

Endowment Executive Committee Members

Bobbie Butler, Cheryl Wood, and Aaron Puckett