

THE MESSENGER



April 2021

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Spring Sundays at EPC
ALL SERVICES ARE ONLINE
AT:
emmanuelpc.org

10:00am Worship
(Sundays)

7:00pm Bible Study
(Tuesdays)

2701 Harwood Rd.
Bedford, TX 76021
817-545-0251
emmanuelpc.org

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facebook.com/Emmanuel

Presbyterian

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[@EPCBedford](https://twitter.com/EPCBedford)



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AT HOME - Thursday, April 1st

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE ONLINE, Friday, April 2nd

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE, Sunday, April 4th

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FUNDRAISER - Sunday, April 18, 3 - 5pm

EARTH DAY, Thursday, April 22nd

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, Saturday, April 24, 11:00 a.m.

PARKING LOT WORSHIP SERVICE



Parking Lot Worship - Sundays!!

You will ♥ it!

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no parking lot service on April 11th.

In addition to the usual online worship videos on YouTube and Facebook, Emmanuel Presbyterian is pleased to offer parking lot worship Sundays at 10 a.m, starting February 28. We will utilize the radio station 99.9 FM for those attending in their cars, with members of their own household, parked in the east part of the Emmanuel parking lot. Worship leaders will be visible near the covered driveway. Masks must be worn if windows are lowered at any time during the service. Advance registration is not required for attending the parking lot service; however, those attending agree to remain in their vehicles for the duration of the service as we exercise the maximum in care and concern for the health of one another. The building will not be open. The service will meet rain or shine, as the covering provides protection for the worship leaders and equipment.

The scriptures and the bulletin and the children's worship bulletin may be printed in advance, although they will also be available on the website to view on a phone or tablet.



COVID Vaccine Registration Underway

Tarrant County Public Health is currently providing initial vaccinations to those at most risk of exposure to COVID-19. Phase 1A and 1B groups include healthcare workers, first responders, as well as individuals 65 and older, and 18 and older with an underlying medical condition. Tarrant County is distributing the Moderna vaccine at this time, which is only available to individuals 18 and older. Please pre-register for an appointment at www.tarrantcounty.com/covidshot.

Once you register, you will receive confirmation via phone call, text, and/or email. Please note that registering only places you in the queue. The timeframe to receive the vaccine is dependent upon individual factors such as age, occupation, and underlying health conditions. You will receive a specific appointment time from Tarrant County when it is your time to receive the vaccine. The City will provide updated information on vaccine distribution as soon as it becomes available.

NOTE FROM PASTOR

Dear EPC friends,

I hope you are tuning into this space and will continue to do so. It is important to me to communicate with the congregation about where we are on this journey and the only way I can do that is to communicate into a forum all of you are reading. This is it.

We still have the rest of Lent and Holy Week to journey together. I have chosen to use this time of Lent to get to know you and I appreciate those of you who have taken some time with me over the last few weeks. You are a small but mighty group of faithful disciples seeking to grow in Christ.

After Easter, we will begin your transition with intentionality. I'd like you to know some things before we begin that chapter together. First, it is important to know that the transition time in a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation averages 18 months in times without a pandemic. You should expect that timeline at a minimum.

To progress through that 18 months, we will embark on several steps. First, in order to give you permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), Grace Presbytery will be looking for you to have conducted a serious mission study. This will involve a small group (task force) appointed by your session determining a focused mission outlook for EPC moving forward that then becomes the basis for your Ministry Information Form (MIF). This MIF is EPC's "resume" that prospective pastors will review to determine their interest in serving among you. Like the PNC, I will responsively resource this committee as requested but I will not drive the outcomes.

Once your Mission Study Task Force has their study approved by your session and cleared by Grace Presbytery, we will begin the process of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) who will meet regularly for around a year to search for your next installed pastor. Just as it is for electing elders and deacons, the congregation elects its nominating committee and its officers. This means there will be some congregational meetings to express the call of the congregation for these roles.

So what is being asked of you right now? All I ask right now beyond beginning to absorb this information is for you to be prayerful about your work and leadership ahead. Consider whether you are called to this work and make your interest in any of this work known to your session.

You are small, but mighty. We need all hands on deck during this time and I believe you are up to it. I realize there is some fatigue around the congregation as a result of the pandemic. It may be important to "back burner" some efforts in the interest of prioritizing the work of discerning the direction of EPC for the future. I will be encouraging you to make these priority decisions so you can engage this process well. Please understand any such requests as a statement on capacity ahead instead of any judgment about the work. You do all things with excellence and I am very appreciative of every bit of it!

These are exciting times! Trust God is at work with you because She is!

Faithfully,

Rev. Dr. Kyle M. Walker

Transitional Pastor

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Please note: I try to check my email between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. each day. I make every attempt to respond to emails within 24 hours. I generally do not respond to emails outside of current pandemic office hours (Monday - Thursday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm). If you have an urgent need to contact me, please call or text me on my cell phone. My weekly sabbath occurs on Fridays.

Lost and Found

Reflection Wall: What was Lost and Found?

As we have now reached the one-year mark of this pandemic it might be that many of us are reflecting on the past year.

The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring a way to reflect and share the things that we have lost and found this past year. We invite you to think about these things and then if you feel led, to share these lost and found events by writing them down and putting them on our display at church. We ask that you write them on a small/medium plastic lid (example- a pringle's can lid) and then bring them to church and display them on our reflection wall. This wall will be up on the East side of church where we conduct Parking Lot Church beginning on March 28th. If you do not have lids or markers, there will be some at the display.

I will share a couple of my Lost and Finds to encourage you to reflect.

Lost - opportunities to celebrate holidays in person with my extended family sitting in my usual place in the Sanctuary.

Found - that I can embrace and conquer new technology and be somewhat successful an appreciation for eating at home and not fast-fooding it a lot.

I hope each of you will consider participating in this time of reflection of things lost and found.

Peace,
Melissa Durkee
Christian Education Committee

Group Gatherings Schedule for April

Emmanuel's group gatherings may begin to transition into a hybrid of both virtual and in-person outdoors in April, as Tarrant County COVID risk levels have moved into the orange level. Currently, all groups continue to meet virtually; if groups transition to meeting outdoors in-person, that will be communicated via the Emmanuel Weekly Update emails. You are welcome and encouraged to participate as you are able!

Online meeting links and phone numbers are included each week in the Emmanuel Weekly Update email and are also available by contacting the church office (office@emmanuelpc.org). The current weekly schedule for online gatherings is:

Sunday's

8:30 AM: Keys to the Bible class meets for Bible study. The class is starting a study of Matthew using N.T. Wright's Matthew for Everyone resource.

11 AM: Fellowship Hour. This time for checking in and sharing prayer concerns is open to everyone. Prayer concerns from this gathering are shared by email to congregants during the week.

4 PM: Children and Youth Check-in and Devotional. Children and youth meet with two adults from the Christian Education committee for about 45 minutes to share how they are doing, read and reflect on scripture, and pray together.

Tuesday's

7 PM: Weekday Evening Bible Study meets and explores one of the Scripture passages from the previous Sunday's worship.

Saturday's

11 AM: Children and Youth Book Club meets to read and discuss books. The books are appropriate for ages 10+, and the group includes interested adults. Contact Leah Wyckoff (klh@sbcglobal.net) to be included.

Members and Friends of EPC

Have you or a family member been financially affected by the COVID-19 quarantine? The Mission Committee received approval from Session to create a Pandemic Fund for distributing money to members and family who need it during this quarantine. Members and friends of the congregation are eligible to receive payments, as are their parents, children and grandchildren. We are able to supplement payments of rent, utilities, insurance, car payments and repairs, medicine, and food. (Cable bills are excluded.) Funds will also be given to established local partners such as Mission Central and NEED.

The application process is simple and confidential. Please reach out to Pastor Kyle or Christine to begin the process. (817-545-0251 and finance@emmanuelpc.org or kyle@emmanuelpc.org) If you have questions on the fund itself, please reach out to Kristin (817-308-2670 and haveahartwell@gmail.com) who is the moderator of the fund's task force. If you are able to donate to the fund, prayerfully consider doing so by writing "Pandemic Fund" in the memo of your check or making the appropriate selection online.

Most importantly friends, hear the reassurance from Genesis 26: 24 which is echoed in the Gospel: "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your dependents for the sake of my servant Abraham."



Please remember to send your prayer requests to prayer@emmanuelpc.org. These requests are received by and prayed for by the pastors. If you so desire, these requests can also be included in the Prayers of the People and in the weekly ePrayer email. Be sure to designate in the email if the request is for the pastors only or if it can also be shared with the congregation.



Opportunities

Ruth Fellowship (Virtually)

Lois Circle (Cancelled)

Men's Dinner (Cancelled)

Board and Committee Reports

SESSION:

- Elected Scott Keyes to serve as second session member on the Nominating Committee.
- Learned from the Covid task group that statistics are still in the red zone but heading toward orange as case numbers are headed downward.
- Received a report from Facilities Committee on steps taken toward repairing storm damage and negotiations happening between the insurance adjuster and the restoration representative. Bids for the new sprinkler system and upgraded insulation were discussed.
- Session voted to empower the Finance Committee to consult with Grace Presbytery Director of Property Management and attorneys regarding next steps to be taken with Kids Kampus regarding the money they owe Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, totaling over \$17,000.
- Session named a Restoration Task Force, comprised of Rick Thompson, Mary Ann Reed, and Scott Keyes.
- Session was reminded that the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering is scheduled to be received on Palm Sunday, March 28th.
- Session learned that the Parking Lot Bingo has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 20th, at 3:00 PM.
- It was reported that Christine Shah's last day will be March 31st, with a drive-by going away party in the parking lot on Saturday, March 20th, following bingo.
- Becky Baker begins training with Christine on March 8th to begin as Financial Administrator on April 1st.
- Session learned that the Habitat for Humanity online event will be re-scheduled for a later date and not take place on March 7th.
- Session was informed that two scholarships have been awarded from the Sheila Holley Scholarship to students connected to the 6:8 Project.
- Cowtown Clean-up is scheduled for March 20th from 8-11 am.
- Vaccine flyer distribution has begun, a joint project of Mission and Evangelism. The flyers give info on how to register, along with info about Emmanuel.
- Jazz in the Parking Lot is scheduled for Sunday, March 28th, at 3:00 PM

Finance:

February Income:	\$16,521.04
February Expense:	\$19,416.58
Local Benevolence Special Offering:	\$ 570.00

LECTIONARY

04/04

Acts 10:34-43 or Isa. 25:6-9, Psalm
118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor. 15:1-11 or Acts
10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

04/11

Acts 4:32-35 and Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-
2:2; John 20:19-31

04/18

Acts 3:12-19 and Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7;
Luke 24:36b-48

04/25

Acts 4:5-12 and Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-
24; John 10:11-18

BIRTHDAYS

04/01

Melissa Durkee

04/01

Nicholas Ferrandino

04/03

Jim Mahon

04/04

Marji Breault

04/06

Helen Richardson

04/06

Sheryl Taylor

04/07

Laura Mahon

04/08

Ema Fielder

04/09

Becky Moriak

04/10

Karen Thompson

04/16

Mike Hannasch

04/20

Maurine LeCocq

04/24

Dane Pranke

04/25

Teresa White

04/28

Connor Park

CIRCLES

Lois Circle (SUSPENDED)

Esther Circle (SUSPENDED).
(Second Tuesdays at 9:30am at the church.)

Ruth Fellowship's (Virtually)

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

New Address/Phone Information:

Pete Stone
224 Verano Ct.
Fort Worth, TX 76108
Daughter - Jill - Phone #817-733-7120