



THE MESSENGER

AUGUST 2023

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KEYS TO BIBLE CLASS

(hybrid):

SUNDAY AT 11:15 AM

BIBLE STUDY (virtual):

TUESDAY AT 7:30 PM



From the Transitional Pastor's Desk

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche
Ordinary Time

Photo by Gretchen Wiegand

We are, without a doubt, in the dog days of summer that are August in Texas. For some, school is kicking off again, and with it, anticipation, perhaps anxiety, and a return to familiar rhythms. For others, these days bring yet more sweltering heat, electric bills that are far too high, and dwelling places that are far too warm. For many of us, August is a sort of pause button to the year – not quite yet at the new beginnings of September when the days (hopefully!) begin to cool around the edges. There is no big holiday, no big change . . . just late summer life. August is the embodiment of what in the church calendar we call Ordinary Time. However it may sound, or feel, Ordinary Time is a gift to us, even in August. Because we can, in these dog days of summer's end, take a moment to be exactly where we are, as we are. We can, with God's help, take stock of what has come before, and what we hope for in the coming seasons. Ordinary Days are thresholds for the new life we know God will bring, the rain that will eventually fall, the coolness we do not create that will eventually come as a gift. And on this day, this ordinary day, we can thank God for this threshold place. We can, with the words of Beth Richardson, ask God to bless this place, this day, this ordinary time.



Bless this day,
All plants and creatures,
All people near and far.
Bless the flowers
That sing praises with their beauty,
The grass
That cushions my step.
Bless those who stand
With loved ones who are sick,
With friends or family who are lost.
Bring healing, bring wholeness.
Bless the world,
Its war-torn places,
Its broken villages,
Its frightened children.
Bless our bodies,
Our hearts,
Our hands,
That we may be blessings
To all we meet.

(Beth A. Richardson, Christ Beside Me, Christ Within Me: Celtic Blessings, Upper Room Books, 2016.)

May God be with you in these ordinary, threshold days, bringing you life, even now.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Honoring Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez as Pastor Emerita of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

**Sunday August 13
at 10 am
Followed by reception**



DESSERT BINGO
**Sunday, September 17
11: 15 am**



**CONCERTS ON
HARWOOD**
Piano Recital
by Tak Yan Yeung
**Saturday, September 30
4 pm**



It is the month of August and it is time to get the Church Directory updated. Please read carefully:

1. If **ONLY** any your contact info has been changed including physical address, please email me with the updated one. No need to contact me if nothing has changed from your end.
2. Should you require to update your photo, please email me your recent picture - solo/couple/family whichever is applicable.

Late date to receive either or both: August 27 (no exceptions)

Once the new directories are printed, a future announcement will be sent in one of our Wednesday weekly emails and in the newsletter. Please be on the lookout for it.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Jessica Pereira
Office Administrator
E: office@emmanuelpc.org
T: 817-545-0251

LIKE, FOLLOW,
SUBSCRIBE!



Christian Education News

Thank you to everyone who participated in **Emmanuel's Serving Our Neighbors VBS and the Community Food Drive for NEED** the last week of July! Special thanks to VBS leaders Melissa Durkee, Molly Park, Tonia Thompson, and Leah Wyckoff for all their efforts to plan and organize the VBS sessions and projects!

Be sure to check out the outdoor Mental Health display put together during VBS and temporarily installed in the northwest corner of Emmanuel's property, near the walking trail and the labyrinth.



Regular Group Gatherings Schedule for August

Emmanuel group gatherings take place both in-person and online. Online meeting links are included each week in the Emmanuel Weekly Email and are also available by contacting the church office (office@emmanuelpc.org). The current weekly schedule for online gatherings is:

Sunday's

11:15 AM: Keys to the Bible class (hybrid) meets for Bible study in Room 5 and online following worship. The class is studying the Book of Acts. Contact Ray Karriker (rkarriker@gmail.com) for the link to join virtually.

4:00 PM: Children and Youth Check-in and Devotional (virtual). Children and youth meet with two adult sponsors to share how they are doing, read and reflect on scripture, and pray together.

Tuesday's

7:30-8:30 PM Bible Study (virtual). This study group explores the Scriptures used in the next Sunday's worship. For information on how to join, contact Leah Wyckoff (klh@sbcglobal.net).

Saturday's

11:00 AM: Book Mavens Youth and Adult Book Club meets online to discuss their August book *Melissa*, by Alex Gino, with Caroline Loy leading. For information on how to join, contact Leah Wyckoff (klh@sbcglobal.net).

Board and Committee Reports

SESSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Highlights of June 25, 2023 Session Meeting

- Received an update from Leah Wyckoff on recent activities of the Board of Deacons
- Learned that Nancy Hollingsworth was interested in joining Emmanuel as an active member on July 2nd
- Was informed of plans to record short videos from members on why they choose to be a part of Emmanuel as part of the upcoming stewardship campaign
- Whitney shared information regarding a Grace Presbytery learning event September 11-14 at Camp Gilmont designed to help churches make space for belonging for the LGBTQIA community.
- Learned that the door code would be changed soon and was given the new code
- Received information that the PNC has begun face-to-face interviews with candidates which will continue and that the committee anticipates concluding its work in August and bringing the name of the person they believe God is calling to serve as Pastor to the congregation for vote
- Was informed that 33 users have been invited, 20 have enrolled and 18 individuals have completed the Praesidium Training
- Learned that 27 individuals attended the classic Car show
- Was informed that 2 bids have been received on repair work for the A/C unit and that the supplemental check had been received from the insurance company related to renovation
- Learned that, following research, the church office will continue to use the Church Windows software
- Heard that the Habitat house construction was ahead of schedule and that the Tech Recycling Box is ready
- Was informed that Becky Baker planned to cover the phones from 8-10 am on Tuesdays, in Jessica's absence
- Learned that 77 people attended the second Concert on Harwood and that liturgist training was scheduled for July 16th



We offer three ways to submit prayer requests at this time:

- ◆ You may scan the QR code above right or on the church bulletin or
- ◆ Write your prayers on the slips of paper provided in church service, or
- ◆ Send via email to prayer@emmanuelpc.org.

These requests are received by and prayed for by the pastor. Be sure to designate in the email/form if the request is for the pastors only or if it can also be shared with the congregation.

All prayers received by Sunday evening will be included in the weekly prayer list. Prayers may be edited for clarity and brevity, but the essence will still be there.

Prayer requests received through texts are not recommended.

Thank you for sharing prayer concerns and participating in the congregation's prayer life!



AUDIO VISUAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you like to help with the sound system and video streaming in worship? If so, please contact Ken Richardson to participate in a training session.

SUNDAY OFFERING COUNTERS NEEDED!

For Sunday Offering Counters, sign up at Sign Up Genius. Thank you for volunteering!!



Fellowship

Opportunities

Ruth Fellowship

(3rd Monday of each month, 6:30 pm)

Monday, August 21, 2023

6:30 pm

Big Fish

414 S. Main st

Grapevine TX

For more information contact:

Linda Villareal

817-545-7197

Lois Circle

(1st Thursday of each month, 1 pm)

Thursday, August 3, 2023

1:00 pm

Café Sicilia

1548 Bedford Rd., Suite M,

Bedford 76021

For more information contact:

Donna Reeder: 214-537-5464 or

Denise Karriker: 817-723-8665

Finance:

July Income: \$14,906.02

July Expense: \$202,476.62

BIRTHDAYS



Carolyn Chase 8/04

Joyce Mulume 8/04

Estella Pyror 8/05

Angel Kalubi 8/09

Kennard Britton 8/10

Scott Keyes 8/16

Dina Ferreira 8/18

Helen Sink 8/23

John Stocking 8/31

Sue Pranke 8/31

ADDRESS CHANGE

Miriam Molly Bolles

1320 Sunset Ln
Bedford TX 76021

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road
Bedford TX 76021

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church presents
CONCERTS ON HARWOOD

A Classical Music Concert Series

Sharing the Joy of Classical Music with Our Neighbors

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, TX 76021

Free Admission

Donations are appreciated



Piano Recital
Tak Yan Yeung
Saturday, September 30, 4 PM

Christmas Concert
Concert Bells of Fort Worth
Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 PM

