



# THE MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2024

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## Pastor's Post

There is a popular meme going around that shows a bedraggled creature gazing confusedly above the words, "Me on Monday January 84<sup>th</sup>."

It seems like January has hit all of us a bit hard. I was signing something today, and the person at the desk reminded me of the date: January 30, 2024. I reflexively quipped, "Gosh, it's *still* January!" She replied with an enthusiastic, "THANK YOU. This month is forever long."

January is always a full one in the life of a church, what with the training and ordination/installation of officers and the annual congregational meeting. But this particular January, with its pendulum swing from drip-all-your-pipes-y'all temperatures to read-a-book-outside temperatures has left us all a bit ragged. Never mind that Lent arrives on *Valentine's Day!*

If you find yourself pondering bears who get to hibernate all winter and the first thing you feel is envy, you have been Januaried. My prayer for each of us is for slightly quieter days, even as we continue all the beautiful and needed things like worship each Sunday, and Book Mavens, and NEED volunteering, and Lenten planning, and Wednesday Work Crew, and outreach, and tending to the grieving and sick in our church, and Bible studies. How might we find some ease in the midst of our days, so that February does not leave us ragged at the end of it?

I think this is why my sermon series for Lent, **enjoyLENT: fasting from fear, feasting on joy**, is so needed this year. (And maybe even needed earlier than usual.) We need time to lean into a season of preparation for Easter that is not more bare branches and cold weather, but rather, the joy of remembering the God who journeys with us. We will journey from saving joy (Isaiah 12), to creation joy (Isaiah 35), to wise joy (Ecclesiastes 9:7-11, 13-18), to compassionate joy (James 1:1-4, 19-27), to complete joy (John 16:16-24), to self-giving joy (Hebrews 12:1-4, 12-13), and finally, to resurrection joy on that Emmaus Road (Luke 24:13-32). If in January, tiredness has been our companion, let joy be our companion this new month and new season.

*Continued on page 2*



**KEYS TO BIBLE CLASS**  
(hybrid):  
SUNDAY AT 11:15 AM

**BIBLE STUDY (virtual):**  
TUESDAY AT 7:30 PM



*Continued from page 1*

I believe that joy is borne not of delusion but of radical honesty: with God, and with ourselves. Perhaps this is why I have found such kinship in the prayers of Kate Bowler in her book *The Lives We Actually Have: Blessings for Imperfect Days*. Kate gives us permission to pray with utter honesty, and when we do, I believe joy waits around the corner. The first blessing in her book is entitled, “for this ordinary day.”

*Lord, here I am.*

*How strange it is, that some days feel like hurricanes  
and others like glassy seas  
and others like nothing much at all.*

*Today is a cosmic shrug.*

*My day planner says,  
rather conveniently,  
that I will not need you,  
cry for you, reach for you.*

*Ordinarily, I might not think of you at all.*

*Except, if you don't mind,  
let me notice you.*

*Show up in the small necessities and everyday graces.*

*God, be bread.  
Be water.  
Be laundry.*

*Be the coffee cup in my hands  
and the reason to calm down in traffic.*

*Be the gentler tone in my insistence today  
that people pick up after themselves for once.*

*Be the reason I feel loved  
when I catch my own reflection  
or feel my own self-loathing  
fluttering in my stomach.*

*Calm my mind,  
lift my spirit,  
make this dumb, ordinary day  
my prayer of thanks.*

May we be surprised by joy this Lenten season. The first joy is this: *January is over, y'all!*

Peace,  
Whitney



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

*(visit our website  
www.emmanuelpc.org for  
more calendar listings)*

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 14  
7 pm

### LENTEN WORKSHOP

(all ages)  
Sunday, February, 18  
11:15 am  
(refer page 5)

### PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER LUNCH BAGS

Sunday, February 18  
(refer page 3)

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY 'FUN'DRAISER DINNER

*(St Patrick Day Theme)*  
Sunday, March 17  
5 pm

CONCERTS ON  
HARWOOD 2024  
*Organ Recital with  
Aaron Walton*  
Saturday, April 27  
4 pm

## SIPS 'N TIDBITS

### PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER LUNCH BAGS

On Sunday, February 18th, we will be putting together lunch bags for the Presbyterian Night Shelter. We will do this after worship at Intergenerational Workshop (Lent activity). Light lunch will be offered. Please consider donating some of these items:

- **Fruit Cups in pop-top cans or easy open containers**
- **Single serve tuna salads/ other meat products in the foil packs or pop-top cans**
- **Energy bars, protein bars**
- **Beanie Weiner's**
- **Single serve items: cookies, pretzels, cheese crackers**
- **Individual bag of chips**
- **Jell-O /Pudding/ Applesauce**
- **Water in plastic bottles**

All items need to be brought to the church by February 11.

Thank you,  
Mission and Social Justice Committee

### CONCERTS ON HARWOOD

*A Classical Music Concert Series  
Sharing the Joy of Classical Music with our Neighbors*

Thank you for making season 2023 of CONCERTS ON HARWOOD a successful series. Your presence and donations meant a lot. Special thanks to Tak Yan Yeung, our amazing organist, for spearheading these concerts.

Announcing CONCERTS ON HARWOOD *Season 2024*:

- ⇒ *Organ recital* with Aaron Walton: April 27
- ⇒ *Trumpet recital* with Christopher A. Heldt: Summer 2024
- ⇒ *Flute Recital* with Mehrdad Gholami: September 14
- ⇒ *Soprano Recital* with Jung-Ah Chou: Fall 2024

Check out our social media pages - Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) for photos of Season 2023.

This year's Lenten theme is '*enjoyLent. Fasting from fear. Feasting on joy!*'  
Ash Wednesday and Holy Week schedule below.  
Intergenerational Workshop will be held on Sunday, February 18 after Worship service.  
(more details on page 5).

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church Sermon Series



Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m. February 14

Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Feb 18–March 24

Maundy Thursday Service 7 p.m. March 28

Good Friday Service 7 p.m. March 29

Easter Worship 10 a.m. March 31

*Breathe a little easier this Lent,  
and lean into joy with us.*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

### **Intergenerational Workshop: *Practicing Joy for Lent***

You are invited to an Intergenerational Workshop after worship on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, where we explore Emmanuel's Lenten theme of *enjoyLent: Fasting from Fear, Feasting on Joy* through hands-on stations focused on the practice of joy. A light lunch will be served and one of the stations will be putting together sack lunches for our neighbors at Presbyterian Night Shelter. Plan to join us!

### **Regular Group Gatherings Schedule for February**

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](mailto:office@emmanuelpc.org)). The current weekly schedule for 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](mailto: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.

**7:00 PM: Book Mavens Youth and Adult Book Club** meet online to discuss their February book *Amari and the Night Brothers*, by B.B. Alston, with Molly Park leading. For information on how to join, contact Leah Wyckoff ([klh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:klh@sbcglobal.net)).

#### **Tuesday's**

**7:30-8:30 PM Bible Study** (virtual). This study group discusses the biblical texts that are used in the next Sunday's worship service, with leadership rotating among the group. Starting February 20<sup>th</sup>, they begin a four-week discussion of the practice of joy from a biblical perspective, using Scriptures and themes which tie to those Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche will explore in her *enjoyLent* sermon series. For information on how to join, contact Leah Wyckoff ([klh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:klh@sbcglobal.net)).

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS- Session Committee Report**

Session was informed that the year 2023 ended with a \$42,498 surplus rather than the projected \$28,827 deficit.

Learned that Whitney Wilkinson Arreche will be attending a silent retreat at Camp Gilmont February 11-14, returning for the Ash Wednesday service 2/14

Elected Melissa Durkee and Tonia Thompson commissioners to the Stated Meeting of Grace Presbytery on Thursday, February 22nd, at First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

Rejoiced that Whitney's article on Mustard Seed churches, highlighting Emmanuel, is included in the January issue of Presbyterian Outlook

Session members were encouraged to sign up to serve as offering counters

Was informed that intergenerational Sunday sessions are scheduled for February 18th, May 19th, August 18th, and December 1st

Learned that the new church website will be completed and launched soon

Voted to ask Ken Richardson to purchase and install new computer hardware and software for the two office administrators

Voted to move the \$480 in Restricted Memorial Funds to the Unrestricted Memorial Fund account

Voted to move \$20,000 in prepaid pledges for 2024 from the Money Market Fund into a 6-month CD at EECU

Voted to approve the corrected 2024 budget V1.0 which includes a projected deficit of \$49,603

Was informed that Presbyterian Night Shelter lunch bags will be assembled on February 18th

Elected Katie Phillips as Moderator of the 2024 Nominating Committee

Was reminded that Local Benevolence Special Offering will be collected on February 18th

Noted that the first Concert on Harwood for 2024 is April 27th at 4:00 PM - Aaron Walton, organ



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](mailto:prayer@emmanuelpc.org).

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!

### **WANT TO HOST HOSPITALITY SUNDAYS?**

A sign-up sheet will be available for those who would like an opportunity to host hospitality on Sundays after worship. It doesn't need to be fancy. If you would be willing to coordinate some form of treat to congregants after worship, please consider adopting a Sunday. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Helen Sink .

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

### **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED**

The Christian Education is asking for people to volunteer occasionally in the Nursery on Sundays. Kelly Balthrop is our nursery worker but our Child Protection Policy requires no less than 2 adults in the nursery with the children. This does not have to be on a regular basis but will give most of you a chance to enjoy being with the children.

There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex and the CE committee would appreciate the extra help. What a wonderful way to use your talents at Emmanuel!

### **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. One of the counters should be an ELDER and the other person a Volunteer. Thank you for volunteering!!



**Ruth Fellowship**

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

**Monday, February 19, 2024**  
**6:30 pm**

**Gloria's Latin Cuisine**  
5611 Colleyville Blvd, Suite 300  
Colleyville TX 76034  
*(Bring your spouse)*

**For more information contact:**  
**Mary Ann Reed: 817-991-4704**

**Lois Circle**

*(1st Thursday of each month, 1 pm)*

**Thursday, February 1, 2024**  
**1:00 pm**

**Empress of China**  
2030 Glade Rd #280, Grapevine 76051

**For more information contact:**  
**Donna Reeder: 214-537-5464 or**  
**Denise Karriker: 817-723-8665**

**Finance:**

December Income: \$33,096.24  
December Expense: \$89,253.42

**BIRTHDAYS**

**FEBRUARY**  
Birthdays

Ken Richardson 2/05

Nancy Hollingsworth 2/05

Helen Thompson 2/06

Ruth Stutts 2/08

Margaret Bonner 2/10

Brett Todd 2/12

Angela Takomana 2/14

Ray Karriker 2/20

Louise McMillen 2/22

Barbara Edwards 2/23

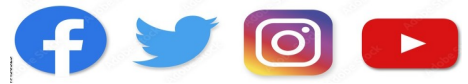
Mary Ann Reed 2/24

Joyce Morris 2/25

**ASH**  
*Wednesday service*  
**FEBRUARY 14**  
**7 pm**



To submit newsletter articles, events or any other news,  
please email [office@emmanuelpc.org](mailto:office@emmanuelpc.org)  
by the fourth Sunday of each month.



**EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

2701 Harwood Rd  
Bedford TX 76021

**LENTEN SEASON IS UPON  
US!**

Ash Wednesday and Holy  
Week schedule is inside.

**2701 HARWOOD RD, BEDFORD TX 76021 | 817-545-0251 | WWW.EMMANUELPC.ORG  
MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 663, BEDFORD TX 76095-0663**