



THE MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2026

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KEYS TO BIBLE CLASS

(in-person):
SUNDAY AT 11:15 AM

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

Pastor's Post

EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2701 HARWOOD RD BEDFORD, TX + WWW.EMMANUELPC.ORG

LENT IN THE WILD

DWELLING
WITH THE
DESERT
MOTHERS

February 18 7pm +Ash Wednesday+ Into the Wild
Matthew 4:1-11

February 22 Solitude and the World of Ourselves
2 Corinthians 13:5-13

March 1 Being Where We Are
Psalm 91

March 8 The Art of Discernment
Psalm 25

March 15 Spiritual Companionship
1 Samuel 18:1-5

March 22 Embodied Asceticism
Isaiah 58

March 29 +Palm Sunday+ Humility and the World of Others
Matthew 21:1-11

April 2 7pm +Maundy Thursday+ Choosing the Way
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 3 7pm +Good Friday Tenebrae Service+

April 5 +Easter Sunday+ Becoming Wildly Human
Matthew 28:1-10

**WORSHIP 10AM
SUNDAYS**

"To pray with the desert mothers is to enter into their space, to risk stepping into the vast emptiness of the desert where the sky glitters with stars brought into being by God. To pray with the desert mothers entails coming to terms with our hungers and thirsts, our cravings in the wilderness, our unspoken, wild yearnings for community and for God's presence."

- Mary C. Earle *The Desert Mothers: Spiritual Practices from the Women of the Wilderness*

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They were called *ammas*, the Greek word for mothers. These were the women of the 4th century of Christianity, after Christianity had become a state religion. These women took to the wild to discover many things: freedom, autonomy, devotion, solitude, humility, and community. But their main desire in the wilderness was God. There they encountered a God who forged relationship not in easy, comfortable surroundings, but in the wild: in sand-scrubbed terrains, in every precious drop of water, in haunting quietness, in the dark night and sunrise of the soul.

In our time of instant gratification, of the constant pressure to perform our faith in just the right way for others, of increased isolation and fear and dread, we need the wisdom of these women. We need the *ammas* to show us the way back – an ancient way of following Jesus into the wilds where we can remember our own agency, our worth, and our purpose. We need the *ammas* to show us the way forward – to discover a modern ascetism that honors the body woven through with spirit, and a peace within ourselves that comes from God to us as pure gift.

This Lent, these *ammas* beckon us to leave our comfortable distractions and disjointed over-functioning and journey with them into the wild with Jesus. There, we will meet our true faces. We will be exactly where we are, unafraid of truth. We will practice the slow way of listening for the Spirit to speak. We will find companions for the journey. We will rediscover our purpose together. We will walk with humility, and we will rediscover our wild, free, full humanity.

Sometimes, the only way forward is back. Let's follow the wisdom of these desert mothers, the *ammas*, into the very heart of God found in the wild and untamed places. There, we will see ourselves, as we truly are. We will see this world as it truly is. There, we will see God.

Peace,
Pastor Whitney

YOUR CALENDARS

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

SCOUTS SUNDAY

Sunday, February 8

10 am Worship

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18

7 pm

NEED cleaning and repairs

Saturday, February 28

8am-1pm

INTERGENERATIONAL WORKSHOP (LENT)

Sunday, March 8

After worship

PNS LUNCH BAG ASSEMBLY

Sunday, March 15

After worship

SHRED DAY

Saturday, March 21

10am-12pm

HABITAT FUDRAISER

March 29 (Palm Sunday)

After Worship

SIPS 'N TIDBITS

SCOUT SUNDAY

February 8, is Scout Sunday. Members of our Pack will attend and be recognized during the Children's Gathering.

NOTE: After the service, they will collect donations for the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING, and the proceeds will go to our own EPC Local Benevolence Fund. Please remember to bring some cash or use the QR code, which will be available there.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

New directories are ready and placed in your mail folder. If you haven't received it or wish to have a digital copy, please contact me.

Jessica Pereira
Office Administrator
office@emmanuelpc.org

MISSION PROJECT WITH NEED

On Saturday, February 28, we will be helping our friends at NEED (Northeast Emergency Distribution) to get ready for a busy year. We will be doing some much needed cleaning and organizing of the facility. We will begin at 8:00 am and work until 1:00 pm. Gloves, masks, and some cleaning supplies will be provided, but we need brooms and mops to clean the floors. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

CONCERTS ON HARWOOD 2026

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

- **Flutissimo! Flute Choir**

Saturday, May 9 at 4 pm

- **Piano Duet**

Michael Schneider and Tak Yan Yeung

Saturday, September 12 at 4 pm

- **Flute Recital**

Mary-Christine Stingley

Saturday, December 5 at 4 pm

These events will take place at 2701 Harwood Road, Bedford TX inside the sanctuary. Admission is free to the public. Donations are appreciated.

Visit our website for more information.

<https://emmanuelpc.org/concerts-on-harwood/>

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Lenten Group Discussions: *Lent in the Wild*

You are invited to participate in weekly Lenten Groups discussing the Scriptures and spiritual practices from Pastor Whitney's Lenten series *Lent in the Wild: Dwelling with the Desert Mothers*. Groups will also read and discuss the short book *The Desert Mothers: Spiritual Practices from the Women of the Wilderness*, by Mary C. Earle. Groups meet:

- Tuesday online at 7:30 PM for an hour.
- Sunday in-person at 11:15 AM in Room 5 for 45 minutes after worship

To reserve a copy of the book and/or to sign up for the Group Discussions, see the Lenten display outside the sanctuary or email [Leah Wyckoff](#).

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). For more information on how to participate, [contact the church office](#).

February's weekly group gathering schedule is:

Sunday's

11:15 AM:

- **Keys to the Bible Class** (in-person). Meets weekly in Room 4 and is studying the Book of Acts. Contact [John Stocking](#) for more information.
- **Lenten Group Discussion** (in-person) starting February 22 in Room 5. Discussion of the Scriptures and spiritual practices from Pastor Whitney's Lenten series *Lent in the Wild: Dwelling with the Desert Mothers*.

Youth Check-ins Sunday afternoons:

- **Sunday, February 8 at 4 PM (on-line)** Youth Check-in devotional and prayer.
- **Sunday, February 22, 3 PM - 5 PM.** In-person meeting at Emmanuel with activity TBD.

6:45 PM: Book Mavens Youth and Adult Book Club (virtual) are reading *Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*, by Steve Sheinkin, with John Field leading. To participate, contact [Leah Wyckoff](#).

Tuesday's

7:30-8:30 PM Lectionary Bible Study: Sunday worship scriptures (virtual). Online discussion of the scriptures for Sunday's worship, with leadership rotating among participants. Beginning February 17th, they will have Lenten Group Discussions as described above. Contact Leah Wyckoff (<mailto:klh@sbcglobal.net>) to receive the study emails and meeting link.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Session Committee Report

- Session elected Ken Richardson as Chair of the congregational Nominating Committee.
- Learned that Personnel and Finance Committees have approved the proposed Terms of Call for Whitney for 2026 to be voted by the congregation at the Annual Meeting
- Was informed of the following Intergenerational Workshop Dates:

March 8th	middle of Lent
May 24th	Pentecost
Aug. 9th	Blessing of the Backpacks
Nov. 29th	1st Sunday of Advent (tentative)
- Heard that Frank LeCocq will serve as Chair of Christian Education
- Learned that Codi Gragg, childcare worker, has completed Praesidium training and plans to reorganize the nursery
- Heard that worship committee has 3 new members and thanked Melissa Durkee for agreeing to oversee the ushers
- Was informed that the goal is to have at least one member of the Safety Task Force present for special events (concerts, etc.)
- Session voted to approve changes to the 2026 Budget as shown in V1.4
- Session voted to grant permission for Nancy Cable and Tonia Thompson to list the art pieces from Wanda Asire's estate and to report revenue to session which will be deposited in unrestricted memorial funds
- Elected Jude Langsdorf to serve as commissioner to Special Meeting of Grace Presbytery on January 24th (subsequently, postponed, due to the weather)
- Elected Melissa Durkee and Tonia Thompson as commissioners to the Stated Meeting of Grace Presbytery on February 26th at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Flower Mound
- Learned that Emmanuel ended calendar year 2025 with a surplus of \$36,940.01 versus a predicted deficit of \$22,264
- Was informed that Finance moved \$3,000 from General Fund balance to increase the Capital Goods Escrow to \$18,000
- Session voted to move \$150.41 from the Vaccine Clinic Fund and to write a check to the Angel Fund to benefit Meadow Creek Elementary kids
- Session noted that Presbyterian Night Shelter bags will be assembled on March 15th
- Session voted to approve the fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity on Palm Sunday, March 29th, with a potluck lunch
- Future Concerts on Harwood:

May 9	Flute choir		Sept. 12	Piano duet		Dec. 5	Flute concert
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- Outreach dates for 2026:

Shred Day	March 21st	10-noon
Blessing of animals	April 18th	10-11 am
Arbor Daze	April 25th	9 am-2 pm
Trunk or Treat	October 30th	5-7 pm
Craft Fair	November 14th	9 am-3 pm
Christmas Dinner	December 20th	5-7 pm
- Learned that choir Easter cantata will be performed during worship on April 12th, the Sunday following Easter
- Heard that the Lenten theme will be "Lent in the Wild: Dwelling with the Desert Mothers" and that Ash Wednesday is February 18th



Fellowship Opportunities

Lois Circle

(1st Thursday of each month, 12 pm)

Chili's - Bedford

2101

76021

CANCELLED

Airport Fwy
Bedford, TX

For more information contact:
Donna R: xxx-xxx-5464 or
Denise K: xxx-xxx-8665



Ruth Fellowship

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

Monday, February 16, 2025
6:30 pm

Los Jimadores Tex-Mex Tequila Factory
3314 Harwood rd.
Bedford TX

For more information contact:
Joyce.: xxx-xxx-5458

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stay-up-to date*



To submit newsletter articles, events or any other information,
please email office@emmanuelpc.org
by the fourth Sunday of the month.

BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY Birthdays

Angela T. 02/14

Barbara E. 02/23

Brett T. 02/12

Helen T. 02/06

Joyce M. 02/25

Ken R. 02/05

Louise McM. 02/22

Margaret B. 02/10

Mary Ann R. 02/24

Nancy H. 02/05

Ray K. 02/20

Ruth S. 02/08



We offer three ways to submit prayer requests at this time. Please choose one.

- ◆ You may scan the QR code on the right or on the church bulletin
- ◆ Write your prayers on the slips of paper provided in church service
- ◆ Send via email to 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!

HOSPITALITY SUNDAYS

Do you have gifts for hospitality and welcoming people? Emmanuel's Deacons are looking for volunteers to host refreshments after worship on a Summer Sunday. Host by yourself or partner with a friend or family member, whatever works for you. Sunday Hospitality hosting involves about 20 minutes of setup before worship, then serving food after worship and cleaning up. We have some treats on-hand in the fellowship hall freezer and funds are available to reimburse you for food purchased.

To sign up, contact Helen S. or write your name on the Sunday Hospitality schedule in the narthex. Thank you for considering it!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

The Christian Education is asking for people to volunteer occasionally in the Nursery on Sundays. 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 R. 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!!

EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2701 Harwood Road
Bedford TX 76021

**2701 HARWOOD RD, BEDFORD TX 76021 | 817-545-0251 | WWW.EMMANUELPC.ORG
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