

# THE MESSENGER



## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Friday, June 4th and Saturday June 5th, Habitat for Humanity workdays on this year's Presbyterian House, 5104 Libbey Ave, Fort Worth! Volunteers are needed to work on exterior trim; no experience needed. The home dedication takes place Saturday, June 5th at 8 AM. Register to volunteer [here](#).



JUNE 20, 2021

## June 2021

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Summer Sundays at EPC  
ALL SERVICES ARE ALSO  
AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:  
[emmanuelpc.org](http://emmanuelpc.org)

10:00am Worship  
(Sundays)

7:00pm Bible Study  
(Tuesdays)

2701 Harwood Rd.  
Bedford, TX 76021  
817-545-0251  
[emmanuelpc.org](http://emmanuelpc.org)

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## WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY RETURNS!!

It's time!

I'm happy to announce to you that we are worshipping in the sanctuary now! (AND we will still offer online worship!).

[Please check the website regularly for what kinds of other activities we can do at this time together.](#)

It may seem like a no brainer as to how we enter back into worship but it requires some thoughtful planning and muscle to rearrange chairs and get some repairs finished up. We ask for your patience in the weeks to come as we yet again change our technology and approach to meet the new needs inside the building.

Here's what you will likely experience:

- Expect to be welcomed by a friendly face with a temperature check and requirement to wash hands/sanitize and mask up before entering the building.
- Even though the choir is fully vaccinated and will be closer than the rest of us, we will be asking the congregation to keep households 6 feet apart. To help with this rows will be twice the distance they were before.
- We will worship masked 100% of the time.
- Please continue to preprint or use your device for your worship bulletin. (a few extra copies will be available as they have been)
- Communion Sundays will still be "bring your own" for the time being.

Not everyone will be here. An early look at the survey results makes it clear 1/5 of us are not comfortable returning on April 25. That has to be okay and I ask you to respect those kinds of boundaries with each other. It is also okay to attend in person and have a hug refused. I must admit being vaccinated and hugging my vaccinated family the first time was shockingly awkward and difficult. Asking permission for body contact is always a sign of respect and love. Saying no is a sign of trust and no less a sign of love than the other. How we honor the protocol and respect boundaries with each other will either make people want to come back or it will not. That will be up to those attending to proclaim by actions our natural hospitality within respect for each other.

Finally, think of the last time you went to a grand opening of a store or restaurant. Have you noticed how often they will be open for a few weeks to work the challenges out before hosting a "Grand Opening"? We will do the same. For the season of Easter (now through May 16), we will be helping each other get this right. On Pentecost, May 23, we tentatively hope to have a celebration of being back worshipping in our facility.

As always, we continue to watch the numbers in Tarrant County and the region as a whole. If those numbers creep back up, we will return to parking lot worship or just online as the Covid-19 protocol on our website prescribes. Continue to help your family, friends, and neighbors get the vaccine and continue to wash hands, keep socially distance, and wear a mask. It will be some time before we are done with dealing with Covid-19.

Rev. Dr. Kyle M Walker, Transitional Pastor, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Bedford, Texas

## TRANSITION

Your transition is in motion. I'd like to go over this process of calling a pastor with you in detail. Because something like this has to be communicated several times, we will leave this in your weekly news for the next several weeks in hopes most of the congregation will see it and read it. It will also go into your monthly newsletter one time. Stay tuned for a survey.

The graphic shows, from the bottom up, the process of searching for and calling a new pastor. Let's define the terminology behind the steps pictured there:

Candidates for Pastor of EPC: Known as Ministers of Word and Sacrament (or Teaching Elders), candidates for this position, with very few exceptions, hold a bachelors degree and a Masters of Divinity. As part of their ordination credentialing in the PC(U.S.A.), they will have gone through background checks, psychological evaluation, career counseling, professional formation, reference checks and examination by each presbytery they have served in (if they have) including Grace Presbytery if they should be EPC's candidate.

**Mission Study:** This is what you are currently working on. Jim Mahon, Ken Richardson, and Rick Thompson are the initial members of the task force working on this project. This document will include information about the church's history and mission as well as data about the community around EPC. Pictures and descriptions of activities of the church will also be in this document. Your mission study will need to be approved by Grace Presbytery before you can proceed with electing a Pastor Nominating Committee.

**PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee):** This is the search committee from EPC sent to identify a candidate to present to the congregation. Like other officers at EPC, the congregation votes on this committee's makeup and will vote on the eventual candidate. Grace Presbytery will examine and approve the committee's eventual candidate as well. In our system, the session is not involved in the call process of a new pastor. That relationship is established as a three way call of the congregation, candidate, and the presbytery.

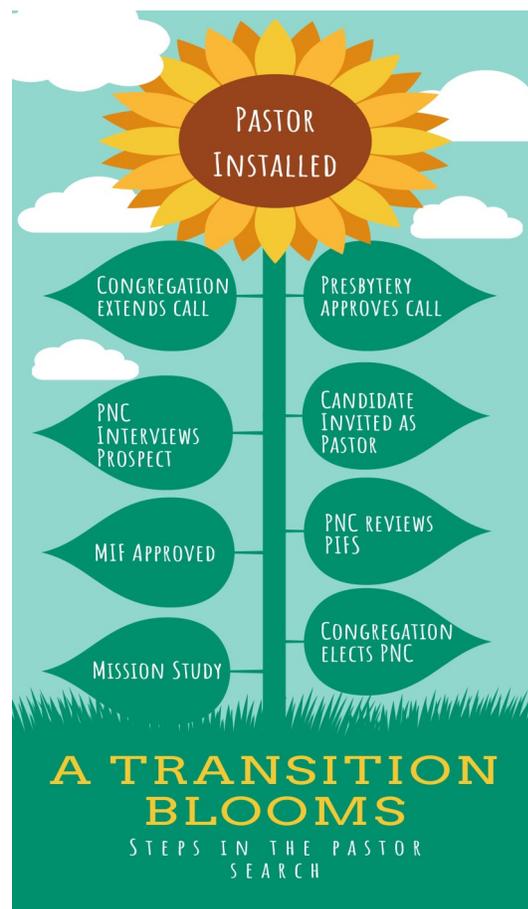
**MIF (Ministry Information Form):** Formerly known as the CIF, this is essentially a church's resume but it is more lengthy than a resume. It will contain much of the content of your mission study approved by Grace Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. This form is filed both with Grace Presbytery and with the Church Leadership Connection at the denominational headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky for matching.

**PIF (Personal Information Form):** This is essentially a candidate's resume but it is more lengthy than a resume. It will contain resume content, inventories of skills and preferences, and answers to questions about the candidate's successes, failures, and calling. The form is approved by the candidate's current presbytery and the Church Leadership Connection in Louisville and filed for matching.

**Discerning and Interviewing:** The longest period will be the time it takes to read through and review all the PIFs your PNC receives. The second longest period will be the time it takes to set up and engage in interviews over the phone or online meeting platforms culminating with in person interviews.

**How much will this cost?** Your PNC will need a healthy budget to do its work. There will be expenses around producing and mailing materials as well as paying for flights, lodging, and meals for the candidates who come for an in person interview. The church will also need to pay moving expenses for the pastor-elect. For this reason, your continued commitment to the church's budget is essential.

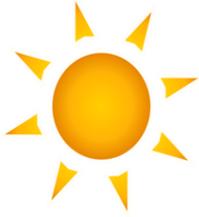
**What happens at the congregational meeting?** Once the congregation votes by secret ballot to approve a candidate at the eventual congregational meeting, the candidate will be invited to formally accept the call. The final vote count (but not names) will be shared with the pastor-elect. Candidates and the church can exit the process with each other at any time and this isn't unusual.



**How long will this take?** The current average timeline for the process of searching for a new pastor in our denomination is 18 months. From what I see of EPC, I expect that timeline to be average or sooner but predicting the Spirit is never a wise exercise!

**How will the transition from interim pastor to installed pastor occur?** The affirmative vote by the congregation will serve as the transitional pastor's minimum 30 days notice. Extensions to an interim's service with you would occur at the request of the pastor-elect, by invitation of the session and with the agreement of the transitional pastor. Most of the time this happens because the pastor-elect needs time to find a home and make arrangements to move or allow a child to finish a school year where they are. Often, a pastor-elect will begin work on site before being installed by the presbytery. After a short time of planning an installation service, the pastor-elect will be installed by Grace Presbytery in a service at EPC. The pastor-elect plans this service in coordination with Grace Presbytery. Usually the congregation plans a reception following the service. Finally, you need to know you will be an attractive church for candidates. Let's keep being the church in motion and working at the process with integrity. Good things will come!

## Christian Education News



### **Summer Event Survey**

Emmanuel's Christian Education and Mission Committees are partnering to plan Summer 2021 Events that include a **Mission VBS in July or August for all ages** (children, youth, and adults) and monthly learning opportunities. We need your input to determine interest in and timing for these events! ***Please complete the short, five-question survey*** at <https://forms.gle/Md9ydtthk2XHTAomx9>. Thank you in advance for your responses and your support!

Summer Events:  
Your Input Needed!

### **Children & Youth Book Club Marks One Year Anniversary!**

A year ago at the request of Emmanuel's youth, we started a Children and Youth Book Club that meets virtually each Saturday morning at 11 AM. Book Club includes both youth and adults, and youth and adults trade off leading the discussions. Books are appropriate for ages 10 years and up, and include both fiction and non-fiction, traditional books and graphic novels. At the end of each month, we have a Book Club celebration with food to celebrate completing the book.

Recent books include *March: Book One and Two* (graphic novels by John Lewis about the civil rights struggle), *Swing It Sunny* (fiction graphic novel), Natalie Babbit's *Tuck Everlasting*, and *All Thirteen* (the 2018 cave rescue of the Thai boys' soccer team). Check out our [virtual Book Club Reading Room](#) to explore more of what we've read.

On our bookshelf for June is *Kira Down Under*, by Erin Teagan, an American Girls book. We welcome guests on a monthly basis; contact [Leah Wyckoff](#) if you are interested in participating.

### **Group Gatherings Schedule for June**

Emmanuel's group gatherings take place both in-person and virtually for June, as Tarrant County COVID risk levels are low due to vaccination rates and low numbers of cases at this time. 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](mailto:office@emmanuelpc.org)). The current weekly schedule for online gatherings is:

#### **Sunday's**

**8:30 AM: Keys to the Bible class** (in-person) meets in Room 5 (Library) for Bible study. The class is studying the Gospel of Matthew using N.T. Wright's *Matthew for Everyone* resource.

**4 PM: Children and Youth Check-in and Devotional** (virtual). 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** (virtual) meets and explores one of the Scripture passages from the previous Sunday's worship.

#### **Saturday's**

**11 AM: Children and Youth Book Club** (virtual) 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](mailto: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](mailto:finance@emmanuelpc.org) or [kyle@emmanuelpc.org](mailto:kyle@emmanuelpc.org)) If you have questions on the fund itself, please reach out to Kristin (817-308-2670 and [haveahartwell@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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**

Monday, June 21, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Big Daddy's Ship Store

Oak Grove Loop S., #200

Grapevine, TX 76051

For more information contact:

Nancy Cable

(817) 228-0632

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**Lois Circle**

Thursday, June 3, 2021

1:00pm

Cotton Patch

4020 William D. Tate

Grapevine, TX 76051

For more information contact:

Cheryl Dale

817-223-6023

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**Board and Committee Reports**

SESSION: (None available)

DEACONS:

**Finance:**

April Income:	\$210,972.10 (Includes Insurance Check for Winter Storm)
April Expense:	\$152,887.64
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 9,519.00

