



# THE MESSENGER

MARCH 2024

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## Pastor's Post

### *A New Thing*

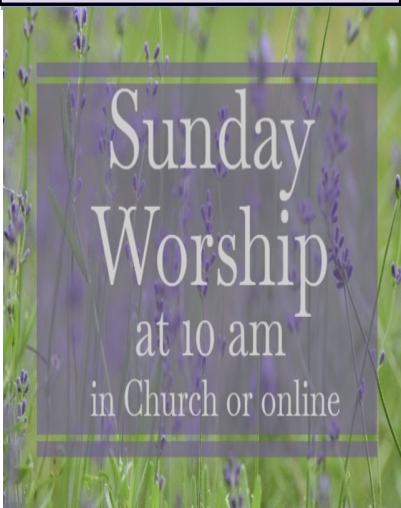
I drove home, my mind swirling with all there was to do, all the people I wanted to check on, and how little time I had to prepare before Holy Week and Easter was upon us (in March!). Suddenly, my tedious thoughts were interrupted by a loud “plop!” One large raindrop had fallen upon my windshield. My focus centered on it (and, of course, on driving my car), and a few seconds later, there was another, and then another.

The bottom didn't fall out suddenly—it was as if nature was trying to decide if it wanted to rain or not. Eventually, hours later actually, the rain did all pour from the heavens at once, agreeing that the time had finally come to dance on the earth.

I'm reminded of those beautiful words from the prophet Isaiah:

*Thus says the Lord,  
 who makes a way in the sea,  
 a path in the mighty waters...  
 Do not remember the former things,  
 or consider the things of old.  
 I am about to do a new thing;  
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
 I will make a way in the wilderness  
 and rivers in the desert.  
 The wild animals will honor me,  
 the jackals and the ostriches;  
 for I give water in the wilderness,  
 rivers in the desert,  
 to give drink to my chosen people,  
 the people whom I formed for myself  
 so that they might declare my praise.*

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

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



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God's newness comes, drop by precious drop. And goodness, don't we need that? Don't those of us wearied with doctor's appointments and diagnoses need a drop of that newness? Don't those of us inundated with demands on our time, who can't find a moment to ourselves, need a drop of that newness? Don't those of us wading through the waters of grief need a drop of that newness? Don't those of us trying to juggle family and friends and even church responsibilities need a drop of that newness?

We're thirsty, friends. Thirsty for joy. But the thing about joy is, it's most often surprising. You can't schedule or plan joy. Joy happens to us by God's grace. What we can do is lean into that joy when we receive it. This is the joy of new life springing up, even now.

Sometimes this new life comes one teeny, precarious drop at a time, so that we'll take notice of it and, for a moment, let go of our fretting ways. Sometimes it comes as a terrifying deluge, where we can't keep our head above water and have to let go and float. It always comes, this new thing of God. And as this newness comes, God asks that prophet's ancient question, "Do you not perceive it?" Truth be told, we often don't see it. We expect God to speak with a booming voice, and miss God speaking in the smiling "hi" from a child at the next table in a restaurant. We expect God to come in radical life changing glory and miss the new life that makes this day a bit more bearable than the one before it.

The new things of God are springing up all around us, whether we perceive them or not. But how rich this life is when we do! We then can become prophets of good news, prophets of joy, in a thirsty world. Prophets who do not worship the past or fear the future, but who fully and deliciously live in the present. Prophets who feast on joy.

Peace,  
Whitney



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

(visit our website  
[www.emmanuelpc.org](http://www.emmanuelpc.org) for  
more calendar listings)

## EPC SPRING WORKDAY

Saturday, March 16  
8 am-1pm



## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY 'FUN'DRAISER DINNER

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

## MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, March 28  
7 pm

## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, March 29  
7pm

## EASTER SERVICE

Sunday, March 31  
10 am

## SIPS 'N TIDBITS

### We N.E.E.D. March DONATIONS

During the month of March we will be focusing on the following items for N.E.E.D!

- bar soap/ body wash
- shampoo
- laundry soap
- dish soap
- shaving soap/razors
- toothpaste/toothbrushes
- deodorant



Any donations you care to give will be greatly appreciated.

Melissa D.

Join us for a potluck dinner,  
music, jeopardy and prizes  
and information about the  
Habitat house we will build  
in May.

### PNS LUNCH KITS - THANK YOU!

A tremendous Thank You to the EPC members and the Clubhouse for Special Needs for their food donations for the Presbyterian Night Shelter Lunch Kit assembly on Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024.

We received enough tuna packets, sausage, beef jerky, fruit and applesauce cups, crackers, nutrition bars, pudding, Danish and sweet treats to create 188 Lunch Kits. Special thanks to Barb Field and Kristin Hartwell who made delightful prayer cards for the Lunch Kits. A big Thank You to all who assembled the kits!



Such a wonderful spirit of giving is truly amazing.

EPC Mission and Social Justice Committee



**Check out GoodSearch @ [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)**

Now you can support Emmanuel Presbyterian Church by doing what you do almost every day - searching the web, the only difference is that you will have to use GoodSearch's search engine that supports charities.

How it works:

1. Search for Emmanuel Presbyterian Church Bedford - "Who do you GoodSearch for?"
2. Pick EPC and confirm it.

Search for anything online as you normally do. The 50% of advertising revenues generated from your searches will go to your selected charity (on average 0.01\$ per search)

You can search the Internet from the website or from your browser by installing the GoodSearch toolbar.

Features:

- Raise money for EPC by using the GoodSearch search engine.
- No financial or time cost to you.
- Half of the revenues from your searches are directed to EPC.
- Search from GoodSearch website or directly from your browser by installing the GoodSearch toolbar.
- Search results powered by Yahoo!

EPC Finance Committee



## **THE CLUBHOUSE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS**

*'The Clubhouse in Wonderland ~ It's all about Love'*  
Dinner and Auction event

It was a magical and fun night organized by *The Clubhouse for Special Needs* on February 17, 2024 at the Texas Star Convention Center, Euless TX. There was a silent and live auction, games, dancing and of course food. Some of us at EPC attended the event including the staff. Here are some of the photos of the event.



## **CONCERTS ON HARWOOD 2024**

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



- ⇒ *Organ recital* with Aaron Walton: April 27 at 4 pm
- ⇒ *Trumpet recital* with Christopher A. Heldt: June 15 at 4 pm
- ⇒ *Flute Recital* with Mehrdad Gholami: September 14 at 4 pm
- ⇒ *Soprano Recital* with Jung-Ah Chou: December 7 at 4 pm



All events will take place at the sanctuary: 2701 Harwood Road, Bedford TX76021

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

### Lenten Worship and Learning Theme: *Practicing Joy*

*Scripture invites us to experience joy as more than a passive response. We are urged to practice joy as a faithful choice...not because life is unfolding in a delightful way, but because, no matter what else may be happening, "the Lord is near" (Philippians 4:5).* -- Christine Chakoian

**Feast on joy during Lent** by exploring how "the Lord is near" to us and how we can practice joy. There are several ways you can do this:

- **Lenten worship** centers on joy, in the words we speak, the music heard and sung, and in Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche's sermons.
- Pastor Whitney has made this [beautiful set of images and scriptures](#), one for each week of Lenten worship. Hard copies are available outside the Sanctuary.
- [Practice Joy at Home sheet](#), with suggestions for practicing joy with people in your household.
- **Tuesday Evening Bible study group** discusses the themes and scriptures of joy used in worship each Sunday. Contact [Leah Wyckoff](#) to receive the virtual meeting link.

### **Regular Group Gatherings Schedule for March**

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 March book *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, with John Field 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. During March, they are discussing the practice of joy from a biblical perspective, using Scriptures and themes which tie to those Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche explores each Sunday 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

- Approved 2023 Annual Statistical Report for Emmanuel
- Noted that Whitney will be on vacation March 12th-14th.
- Heard about Dallas Area Interfaith Training Saturday, March 2nd from 9-4 at First Presbyterian, Dallas; Sheryl agreed to attend with Whitney
- Requested committee chairs to send Whitney complete committee membership lists
- Was informed about Whitney's future surgeries in the spring and fall
- Agreed to remove Covid 19 Team reports although Ken Richardson continues to update the website.
- Received reports from commissioners to the February 22nd Stated Meeting of Grace Presbytery at First Church, Fort Worth, from Melissa Durkee and Tonia Thompson
- Learned that there are conversations about the women of the church attending the Mo Ranch Women's Conference June 7th-9th.
- Voted to concur with the Evangelism Committee's motion to change its name to Outreach and Connection, noting that Bingo with hot dogs and chips is scheduled for March 10th, following worship
- Was informed that the Habitat for Humanity fundraiser is scheduled for March 17th at 5 PM
- Learned that spring work day is scheduled for March 16th from 8-1 with lunch provided
- Heard that the 2 new HP Desktop Computers and monitors have been installed and updated, the cost of which came from the Capital Goods Escrow account
- Was informed that information on how members might sign up to use Good Search as their internet search engine will be included in the March newsletter
- Learned that Melissa Durkee will continue to coordinate NEED, Kristin Hartwell will coordinate Presbyterian Night Shelter lunch bags collection, and Ken Richardson will continue to coordinate Habitat For Humanity. Ken Richardson and John Field will coordinate 6:8 efforts, Pat Wiegand will coordinate social justice efforts, and Molly Park will coordinate Earth Care activities.





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, March 18, 2024**  
**6:30 pm**

**MOD Pizza**  
 2321 State Highway 121  
 Euless TX 76039

**For more information contact:**  
**Jayne Johnson: 972-571-1134**



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

**Thursday, March 7, 2024**  
**1:00 pm**

**BJ's Restaurant**  
 952 North East Loop 820, Hurst 76053

**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**



- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Beverly Ferrandino<br>3/01 | Blaise Ferrandino<br>3/09 |
| Elissa Burnett 3/01        | Jeffrey Keyes 3/11        |
| Mike Morris 3/01           | Fred Thompson 3/17        |
| Christine Shah 3/02        | Josie Ferrandino 3/18     |
| Belgrace Kalubi 3/05       | John Ferrandino 3/20      |
| Annabel Mahon 3/07         | Donna Reeder 3/23         |
| Katherine Mahon<br>3/07    | Joyce Britton 3/25        |

**DIRECTORY ADDRESS AND CONTACT  
 NUMBER UPDATES**

**ANNI WORDELL**  
*Solstice Senior Living*  
 2300 Pool Road, Apt 237  
 Grapevine TX 76051

**BARBARA EDWARDS**  
 Landline: 817-267-5214

(The contact number of B. Edwards in the Directory is her landline and not cell number. Her address remains the same).

**MARY ELLEN FRUEHAN**  
 723 Water St  
 Apt 2005  
 Excelsior, MN 55331

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**

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Bedford TX 76021

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