



THE MESSENGER

MAY 2024

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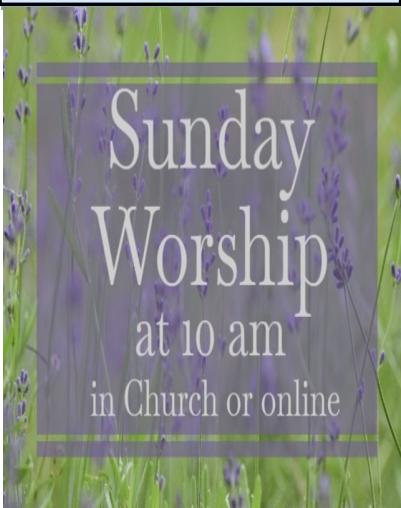
Disrupted by Beauty

An angel (you know who you are!) who has been visiting our church fairly frequently heard of my upcoming preventative surgery and gifted me with the most incredible care package: lotion, a candle, prayer charms, an incredible note of support, and among all the other kindnesses, a copy of Cole Arthur Riley's book *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*. I cannot begin to describe what a companion those words are to me on this journey of wholeness.

Cole Arthur Riley is something of the theological antidote to a Joel Osteen-style *live your best life now!* theology. It's not that she doesn't want us to live our best lives. It's just that she practices a faith that is not found in perfecting ourselves or performing our faith in a sort of spiritual competition to be the very best. She offers us radical realness, which is of course theologically speaking, radical incarnation. Faith that is not about perfection but about honesty. Faith that is not about disembodied pure souls but about complicated bodies struggling toward wholeness.

And it is not just my particular body on this journey, y'all. I see you on that path, too. Surgeries expected and unexpected, illnesses surprising and painfully persistent, grief fresh or very old, change that brings life and change that brings terror. As I told our elders at our April Session meeting, I see how all of you are carrying so very much, and yet you are still showing up for one another, for this church called Emmanuel, and for our community in powerful ways. We may not be living our "best" life now in the sense of perfection, but we are definitely being God's incarnate community of hope in the midst of all our church family carries in this season. This is a beautiful thing to witness. Sometimes when you are living through seasons of grief or change or illness, just getting through the day is a victory. But I find in my own spiritual life that prayerful words can be a handhold to get us through those days – something tangible and incarnational [in our bodies] and real. Words that we can cling onto for dear life because they point us to the One who never lets us go.

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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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So, I am brought back to Cole Arthur Riley's Black Liturgies. She quotes Octavia Butler, who wrote, "The world is full of painful stories. Sometimes it seems as though there aren't any other kind, and yet I found myself thinking how beautiful that glint of water was through the trees." Riley then invites us into a prayer practice that maybe you need this day:

Inhale

Tragedy doesn't own me.

Exhale

Even here, there is beauty.

Inhale

I am more than my pain.

Exhale

My story won't be reduced.

She leaves us with a question: *When was the last time beauty disrupted you?*

May we find in our days journeying together toward wholeness that we are disrupted by God's beauty – beauty in water through trees, beauty in care packages of compassion, beauty in worshipping together and in serving our neighbors together. We do not have to live our "best" life to live our most beautiful life, because we find this life in God, and in our church family. Make some space to bear witness to that beauty today, and maybe bring a little of it to someone who needs to be reminded that their struggle is not all they are. They, like all of us, are beloved. Let's live our most beloved life now.

Peace,
Pastor Whitney



Pastor Whitney and Carlos (and Otter) are home, and delighted to be closer to Emmanuel!
Their new address is 1457 Evergreen Drive Lewisville, Texas 75067.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

MO-RANCH MEN'S CONFERENCE

May 3-5

FREE SHRED DAY

Saturday, May 11
9 am-11 am

PENTECOST WORKSHOP (all ages)

Sunday, May 19
11:15 am

CONCERTS ON HARWOOD

*Trumpet Recital by
Christopher A. Heldt*
Saturday, June 15
4 pm

SPECIAL OFFERING

Pentecost offering

Sunday, May 19

SIPS 'N TIDBITS

FREE SHRED DAY

Mark your calendars! Join us for Shred Day, hosted by Emmanuel Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, May 11**, 9am-11am.

Gather up those old bills, statements, and documents piling up at home and take advantage of this opportunity to securely dispose of personal documents that may contain confidential information.

Registration is not required.

OPEN FLOWER CALENDAR DATES

We have some open dates for flowers if you would like to honor a friend or relative. Open dates include June 9 and 16, July 28, September 15 and 22, and October 20.

Please contact Claire Morris, if you would like to give flowers for the sanctuary on one of these Sundays: 817-307-5917.

Flowers may be taken home after the service on Sunday. Please pay \$35 to Emmanuel by your day for flowers, noting "Flowers for xx/xx/xx" on your check or envelope.



Sign up for workdays at the Habitat for Humanity project (May 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 18, 24, 25, 29).

On May 22, we collaborate with St Philip Presbyterian Church, Hurst, for a special workday.

<https://emmanuelpc.org/habitat-for-humanity/>



CANCELLATION OF BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Due to heavy rain on April 20, Blessing of the Animals was cancelled.

Stay tuned to rescheduled future date.



CONCERTS ON HARWOOD 2024

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

- ⇒ *Trumpet recital* by Christopher A. Heldt: Saturday, June 15 at 4 pm
- ⇒ *Flute Recital* by Mehrdad Gholami: Saturday, September 14 at 4 pm
- ⇒ *Soprano Recital* by Jung-Ah Chou: Saturday, December 7 at 4 pm

These events will take place at the sanctuary, 2701 Harwood Road, Bedford TX.

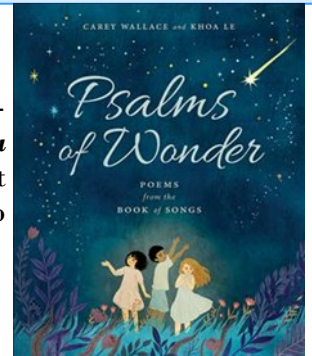
Admission is free to the public. Donations are appreciated.

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Summer 2024 Theme and May 19th Workshop: *Psalms of Wonder*

This summer, the Emmanuel community will explore Psalms through art, music, prayerful reflection, and discussion. We will begin our *Psalms exploration in worship and at a workshop for all ages on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th*. The workshop includes a light lunch, either walking the labyrinth or using a finger labyrinth, making a Spirit lantern to use at home, and engaging with music and the Psalms. We hope you will join us!



SAVE the DATE! 2024 All-Ages VBS Tuesday, July 30 – Thursday, August 1

Mark your calendar and plan to join us this summer for fellowship, learning, and hands-on projects. More details coming soon.

Regular Group Gatherings Schedule for May

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). Several groups are taking a break from regular meetings in May, including Book Mavens and Keys to the Bible.

The current weekly schedule for gatherings is:

Sunday's

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 discusses the biblical texts used in the next Sunday's worship service, with leadership rotating among the group. Beginning May 21st, they will discuss Psalm passages used in worship. For information on how to join, contact Leah Wyckoff (klh@sbcglobal.net).

BOARD AND COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS- Session Committee Report

Learned that a representative from the Deacons may be invited to attend the June session meeting

Was apprised of plans for preachers, pastoral care, and session moderator during Whitney's upcoming Medical Leave

Heard that Whitney will be on vacation July 25-28 (missing one Sunday)

Updates were given on those who have taken refresher course for Praesidium and it was reported that new officers were invited to take the course

Voted to elect Melissa Durkee and Jayne Johnson as commissioners to the Stated Meeting of Grace Presbytery on Saturday, May 4th, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Denton

Learned that the April 27th Concert on Harwood raised \$570 contributions with QR code contributions yet to be tabulated

Voted to accept donations to offset the cost of May 11th shred day. Voted to accept electronics at shred day from members only, for a fee per item

Rejoiced at the work done in the sanctuary to relocate the organ speakers and to refresh paint in the chancel area, thanking those involved in that work

Learned that trash by the dumpster had been removed, that estimates have been secured to remove two dead trees, and that consultations will take place regarding work to be done on the steps behind SoRelle Hall

Was made aware of the Stewardship Theme for the 2024 campaign "Let Us Build a House"

Heard that Presbyterian Night Shelter lunch sacks will be assembled June 9th, following worship

Was reminded that Emmanuel is responsible for providing lunch for the Habitat build on Saturday, May 25th

Celebrated that Whitney and Carlos have bought a home in Lewisville

Was informed by the Safety Task Force that the security camera at the front entrance has been adjusted, that defibrillator training may be offered, and that clean-up work needs to be done outside two sanctuary exits

Interested members were invited to join the Stewardship task force

Learned that the Pentecost offering will be collected on May 19th. Jazz Band will be part of worship for Pentecost as in past years

Melissa Durkee and John Stocking were thanked for their generous work at NEED; NEED service days for April are April 29th and 30th

Was informed that over \$9,000 has been raised thus far toward the Habitat build

Local Benevolence received \$640

Paperwork is being sent to Camp Gilmont in connection with Emmanuel becoming a member church, as voted by session in November of 2023

Was reminded that laying on of hands for Whitney will take place May 12th, prior to her medical leave



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

- ◆ You may scan the QR code 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.

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!!



Fellowship

Opportunities

Ruth Fellowship

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

Monday, May 20, 2024
6:30 pm

Zafiros Mexican Grill
5204 Colleyville Blvd
Colleyville TX 76034

For more information contact:

Sue Pranke: 684-225-0407



Lois Circle

(1st Thursday of each month, 1 pm)

Thursday, May 2, 2024
12:00 noon—new time

Los Jimadores Tex-Mex
3314 Harwood Rd, Bedford 76021

For more information contact:

Donna Reeder: 214-537-5464 or
Denise Karriker: 817-723-8665

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BIRTHDAYS



Jane Rowlett: May 10

James Fisk: May 11

Robin Valdez: May 12

Molly Bolles: May 15

Barbara West: May 19

Mary Ellen Fruehan: May 28

Jessica Pereira: May 29

Paul Bergman: May 30

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed on Monday, May 27 for Memorial day. We will resume on May 28 at regular hours.

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

EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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