

THE MESSENGER



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

BUILDING GOD'S HOUSEHOLD THROUGH EDUCATION



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

God's youngest family members need support for developing their full potential in both faith and life. Susan Byrne, who attends First Presbyterian Church of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, helps organize tutors for Willow Brook Elementary School, and nearly half come from First Presbyterian. Willow Brook is in a low-income neighborhood and many of the students' parents are working multiple jobs to make ends meet, while others are incarcerated or absent. The second grader that Susan tutors holds her hand the whole time they are together, working on building his reading skills. She says, "No one is as glad to see me all week as that little boy. He's so bright but just needed a little help with reading." The Pentecost Offering supports the education of every child in this country through the Educate a Child, Transform the World national initiative. The portion we retain, supports programs for children right here in our own community. Our congregation is joining the whole church in building for our future, in building individual lives of faith. Won't you join us?

Pentecost Offering Day MAY 31, 2020

During this Pentecost season, we join together to build a life of faith and build the household of God with our children, youth and young adults.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

BRADY-ELLIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND - SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020

This fund is collected in memory of two Emmanuel members, Bob Brady and John Ellis, to help financially support our youth to offset college education costs.

May 2020

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Spring Sundays at EPC ALL SERVICES ARE ONLINE

AT:

emmanuelpc.org

10:00am Worship

2701 Harwood Rd.
Bedford, TX 76021
817-545-0251

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Emmanuel's COVID-19 Pandemic Response to the Community

The Emmanuel Mission and Social Justice Committees invite your participation in the congregation's efforts in-progress to provide support and care to our communities during this health crisis. Opportunities underway include:

- **Providing cloth face masks** for distribution to both Emmanuel and Mid-Cities community members. Happy Hands and friends have made over 100 cloth face masks for distribution.

- 38 masks were distributed in April to 11 Emmanuel families
- 20 masks are being provided to 6:8 Project Summer Lunch Volunteers
- Additional masks have been provided to community members.

If you or someone you know needs masks, contact Margaret Bonner (office@emmanuelpc.org) to arrange either pick-up or home delivery.

- **If you would like to sew/donate supplies for masks**, contact Leah Wyckoff (klh@sbcglobal.net).

Sewing cloth scrub caps. Nurses and healthcare workers (including housekeeping staff) who come in contact with COVID-19 patients use cloth scrub caps to more comfortably hold on their face masks for twelve hour shifts. Karen Thompson is coordinating this project to provide caps to Fort Worth's Texas Health Resources Southwest Hospital, where Alice Thompson is a nurse. Several Emmanuel congregants are assisting and more help is needed. Karen needs people to cut out caps, sew caps together, and sew on buttons. She also needs donations of **cotton fabric** (minimum 1/3 yard lengths), 5/8" wide **grosgrain ribbon**, and 5/8" and 3/4" **buttons**. **If you can help with labor or donations**, contact Karen (karencbfw@sbcglobal.net).

- **Providing financial donations to NEED and other food assistance organizations.**

- Emmanuel's Session directed Local Benevolence funds to NEED in March.

- **Congregants who wish to donate** may send checks directly to NEED or to Emmanuel with NEED in the memo line.

- Face mask recipients who wish to give back are encouraged to give to NEED or other organizations providing food assistance in the community.

Organizing to distribute lunches via The 6:8 Project Summer Lunch Program. Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB) is planning an early start-up of their 2020 Summer Lunch Program sites, which includes The 6:8 Project house in the Greenway neighborhood of Fort Worth. Volunteers will provide meals for pick-up only from the 6:8 Project house to children in the Greenway neighborhood. Lunch distribution times are Monday, Wednesday, Friday from Noon to 1 PM, with the start date TBD by TAFB. **If you are interested in helping distribute meals, contact Leah Wyckoff** (klh@sbcglobal.net).

Pandemic Response Task Force

In addition to these efforts, the Mission and Social Justice Committees made a motion that was approved by Session to establish a Pandemic Response Task Force, consisting of Kristin Hartwell, Melissa Durkee, John Field, Chuck Schneider, and Rick Thompson. This task force will determine logistics of which congregational funds to use for relief, the application process for funds, and the parameters, and criteria for disbursement of funds.

Christian Education News

While we are not able to gather in-person for Church School classes during the COVID-19 pandemic, we do have several ways to study and to gather while remaining at a physical distance.

Online resources are available for *Faith Formation in the Home*. Illustrated Ministry, the ministry partner who provides our children's bulletins, is providing a free weekly packet of materials for all ages to use at home. We include the links to these resources each week in the Emmanuel Weekly Update emails under the heading *Faith Formation at Home*. Weekly online resources include:

- A two-page devotional based on one of Sunday's biblical texts with reflection questions.

- A Bible story coloring page

- Children's bulletin, based on Sunday's Scriptures

- Other activities, such as illustrated prayers and card illustrations to color and send

Virtual gatherings are another option for study, fellowship, and discussion. Several weekly virtual gatherings are taking place and the meeting links and phone numbers are included in the Emmanuel Weekly Update email:

Children and Youth gather online with Pastor Chuck on Friday's at 3:30 PM

Fellowship Hour is open to everyone and takes place at 11 AM on Sunday. Between 15-20 people have participated each week and each person in the meeting is given the opportunity to check in and share joys and concerns with the group.

The Thoughtful Christian class will begin a book study via videoconference in May. If you are interested in participating, contact Leah Wyckoff (klh@sbcglobal.net) and watch the Weekly Update emails for details.

EPC Yard Sale 2020



Sale date: TBD from **7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Free hotdogs, chips and water bottles will be distributed during lunch to all!

The 2020 plan details this year and how Y-O-U can help!

Details:

1. **“Gracie”** the large storage pod will be set in front parking lot and available for donations starting TBD.

- **Drop-off options:** If you need assistance with unloading your vehicle, please stop by on Wednesday mornings or Sunday mornings (after church ser-

vice). Please have all items packed in closed boxes so we can stack them neatly and mark anything that is fragile. Plastic bags with blankets, towels and soft items are permitted

- If you need assistance with picking up **large items** (furniture, big boxes) please call or text: Jayne Johnson at 972.571.1134. Be sure to indicate in the subject line EPC Yard Sale and identify yourself with a call-back #.

2. **Items to donate this year:** furniture in good condition, lawn & garden items, plants (Yes, a plant-sale again this year! Start your pots, dirt and seeds now!), any household items, pictures, frames, inside/outside decorations, knick-knacks, jewelry, craft and office supplies, holiday items, books, movies, records, DVDs, electronics and computer items, TOYS, games etc. **NO clothes this time please.** P.S. Depending upon donations, a silent auction for ‘VERY Special’ items may occur.

3. Also start collecting grocery sacks, paper bags with handles for merchandise sales and wrapping.

4. **S-p-r-e-a-d the word:** We’re having a Yard sale this year and we need help! Check with your neighbors, friends, family and **EVERYONE** for donations too! Pick up *Help-Us-Help Others* flyer in the Narthex. As you drive around on errands especially on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays: notice who is having an Estate, Garage or Yard Sale. Stop by and say ‘hi!’ and Drop off the flyer with details. This flyer includes an offer for ‘free pickup’ of useable ‘left overs’ AFTER their sale too. A tax-donation receipt is available. Even if they don’t have anything to pick up, INVITE them to stop in and BUY THINGS on April 25th!



Ruth Fellowship (Cancelled)

Lois Circle (Cancelled)

Men's Dinner (Cancelled)

Board and Committee Reports

SESSION:

- Expressed appreciation to all participating in the virtual worship service being posted online during this time of shelter in place, with special thanks to Ken Richardson who skillfully pulls it all together.
- Learned of current actions and future efforts to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, including sewing of face masks and nurse caps, financial donations to NEED and other food assistance organizations, a monthly food drive, and encouragement to give to community organizations on North Texas Giving Day May 5th.
- Voted to establish a pandemic response task force, consisting of Kristin Hartwell, Melissa Durkee, John Field, Chuck Schneider, and Rick Thompson, to determine logistics of which funds to use, application process and parameters, and criteria for disbursement.
- Voted to give the local portion of the Pentecost offering to the 6:8 Project Summer Lunch Program, which is starting earlier this year, in conjunction with the Tarrant Area Food Bank.
- Received an update on Kids Kampus.
- Received a status report on the as-yet-to-be-rescheduled Emmanuel yard sale.
- Learned of plans for a future Senior Event for both congregation members and the community.
- Received a recommendation from the Worship Committee to not observe virtual Communion until at least June 7th.
- Learned that the Finance Committee approved upgrading to the Standard Level on MailChimp which allows more users.
- Was informed that the One Great Hour of Sharing offering totaled \$1,035.
- Was reminded that the Brady Ellis scholarship special offering is scheduled for May 3rd.

Finance:

March Income:	\$66,800.23
March Expense:	\$36,018.10

LECTIONARY		
05/03	Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10	
05/10:	Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14	
05/17:	Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21	
05/24:	Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11	
05/31:	Acts 2:1-21 or Num. 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Cor. 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39	

BIRTHDAYS		
05/10	Jane Rowlett	
05/11	James Fisk	
05/12	Robin Lyn Valdez	
05/19	Barbara West	
05/28	Mary Ellen Fruehan	
05/30	Paul Bergman	

CIRCLES		
	Lois Circle (SUSPENDED).	
	Esther Circle (SUSPENDED). (Second Tuesdays at 9:30am at the church.)	
	Ruth Fellowship's (SUSPENDED)	