

THE MESSENGER



National Day of Prayer - Thursday, May 6

Mother's Day - Sunday, May 9

EPC Yard Sale - Saturday, May 15, Time: 7:30am - 1:00pm

Pentecost Offering - Sunday, May 23 (This offering is used for both local ministries with children at risk and for General Assembly ministries with youth including national-level child advocacy.)

Memorial Day - Office is Closed Monday, May 31

May 2021

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Spring Sundays at EPC
ALL SERVICES ARE ALSO
AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:
emmanuelpc.org

10:00am Worship
(Sundays)

7:00pm Bible Study
(Tuesdays)

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

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facebook.com/Emmanuel

Presbyterian

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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



EPC YARD SALE!!

EPC Parking Lot

SATURDAY, MAY 15

7:30AM - 1:00PM

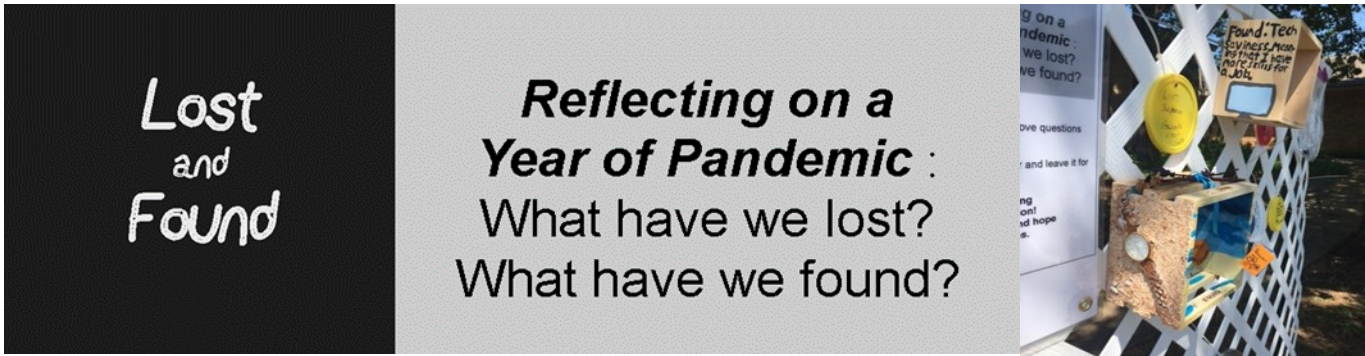
COME ONE, COME ALL!!

Tell your neighbors and friends!

Masks are required for all buyers and workers. Social distancing will be encouraged. No food or drink giveaways or bake items for sale. No public restrooms will be available. A maximum of 35 buyers will be allowed in the building at once to purchase books/magazines/CD's/records/electronics/PCs,TVs and related items.

All new donations must be brought to EPC Sunday 1-3pm OR Monday, May 9 - May 11, 1-3 or 6-8pm. Late donations will have to be set outside in the parking lot on Saturday and you must bring your own table or request one by Tuesday, May 11th.

Christian Education News



Phase II of Reflection Wall: Inviting the Community to Reflect

Many of you have written your reflections on the pandemic onto a plastic lid and tied it to the lattice of Emmanuel's outdoor *Lost and Found* display at the edge of the east parking lot. Additionally, members of the Children and Youth Book Club are creating art boxes with their reflections and adding them to the display.

At the end of April, the Christian Education Committee installed a second *Lost and Found* display near the walking path on the west side of the church. All people from the community are invited to share their pandemic reflections there.

Group Gatherings Schedule for May

Emmanuel's group gatherings are transitioning to a hybrid of both virtual and in-person outdoors in May, as Tarrant County COVID risk levels are reduced to the yellow level. The virtual Fellowship Hour is on hiatus as In-person Worship in the Sanctuary resumed in April and we are gathering outside after worship for fellowship. The Keys to the Bible class plans to meet in-person in the near future. You are welcome and encouraged to participate as you are able!

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). The current weekly schedule for online gatherings is:

Sunday's

8:30 AM: Keys to the Bible class meets for Bible study. The class is studying the Gospel of Matthew using N.T. Wright's *Matthew for Everyone* resource. The class plans to begin meeting in-person in May; watch the weekly emails for updates.

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

Saturday's

11 AM: Children and Youth Book Club 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) to be included.



ON MOTHER'S DAY, SUNDAY, MAY 9

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 or kyle@emmanuelpc.org) If you have questions on the fund itself, please reach out to Kristin (817-308-2670 and 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. 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, May 17, 2021
7:00 p.m.
Thirsty Lion
1220 Chisholm Trail
#100
Euless, TX 76039

Lois Circle (Cancelled)

Men's Dinner (Cancelled)

Finance:

March Income:	\$34,476.61
March Expense:	\$30,902.70
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,000.00

Board and Committee Reports

SESSION:

- Heard about correspondence received related to the origins of the Presbyterian Church in Euless, which will be filed with the church archives.
- Learned that the Nominating Committee will begin meeting soon to start its work and will need representatives from the choirs, men's group, and women's fellowship.
- Was apprised of Kyle's upcoming vacation/study leave use.
- Received information regarding specific plans for congregational transitional goals.
- Discussed emergency assistance procedure, especially for Sunday morning requests.
- Voted to schedule the EPC Yard Sale to be held inside and outside the building on Saturday, May 15th, from 7:30 am - 1:00 pm.
- Voted to allow the Clubhouse for Special Needs to temporarily use, without additional cost, the currently vacant Associate Pastor's office, the set of restrooms next to that office, and SoRelle Hall, following the yard sale, while renovation is being done in the GE building on their office, restrooms, and classrooms 101 and 103.
- Learned that foaming is scheduled to take place May 6th-12th, and that the sprinkler system is scheduled to be installed by mid-June.
- Was informed of partial payment from insurance of approximately \$100,000 for storm-related damage and apprised that the Restoration Task Force voted to require 3 of the 5 members to approve disbursement of monies for mitigation and rebuilding.
- Learned that a Community Lost and Found wall will be set up on the jogging trail on Wednesday, April 28th, similar to the one in the parking lot for members.
- Plans for a possible intergenerational Vacation Church School are being discussed.
- Learned that another Bingo parking lot party might be scheduled for August or September, that 21 people attended the March 28th Jazz in the Parking Lot, and that the April 24th Blessing of the Animals was well-attended (including 3 visitors).
- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering totaled \$1,000, as of April 14th.
- Voted to approve the grant request for \$5,000 from Grace Presbytery for winter storm-related damages.
- Noted that Sunday offering counters are needed now that in-person worship has resumed.
- Learned that Pentecost (May 23rd) will be a Welcome Back Celebration, to include "invite a friend/neighbor" and thanked Jayne Johnson for her Inside Worship Guide which will be added to the website and copied for hand-outs.
- Learned that the Mission Committee is contacting agencies regarding their need for summer volunteers, etc., and that the committee is reviewing the Benevolent Fund policies.

LECTIONARY

05/02	Acts 8:26-40 and Ps. 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8
05/09	Acts 10:44-48 and Ps. 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
05/16	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 and Ps. 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19
05/23	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezek. 37:1-14 and Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
05/30	Isa. 6:1-8 and Ps. 29; Rom. 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

BIRTHDAYS

05/10	Jane Rowlett
05/11	James Fisk
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
(3rd Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.)