



# THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2023

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## Food Donations

### PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER LUNCH BAGS ASSEMBLY

On Sunday, November 12th, we will be putting together lunch bags for the Presbyterian Night Shelter. We will do this immediately after church in SoRelle Hall. We will also offer a light lunch of soup and bread. Please consider donating any of the following items.

- Fruit Cups in pop-top cans or easy open containers
- Single serve tuna salads/ other meat products in the foil packs or pop-top cans
- Energy bars, protein bars
- Beanie Weiner's
- Single serve items like cookies, pretzels, cheese crackers
- Individual bag of chips
- Jell-O /Pudding/ Applesauce
- Water in plastic bottles.

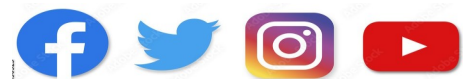
We have plastic utensils and napkins at church.

We already have gallon size freezer bags at the church to put these items in.

All items need to be brought to the church by November 10.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me:

Melissa Durkee  
 mdurk@sbcglobal.net  
 817-689-4234



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

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

# Pastor's Post

## *Releasing and Reclaiming*

It's official! I am installed as your pastor, and as my spouse Carlos likes to say, installed without any glitches. I am beyond grateful for this calling not just to be *a* pastor, but to be *your* pastor, here. I hope you realize what a special church we all have – a church with big personalities, big heart, and big energy to make a difference in our community and the world.

Now, at the official start of things, we get to dream. We get to imagine what life-giving patterns and practices need to be sustained in the years ahead. We get to imagine what new things God might be calling us to, together, and take some first steps out in faith. You who have had to function so long in survival mode – through a pandemic, through building damage, through heartbreaking pastoral transitions – now get to ease your worries a little, and settle into newer, healing rhythms. It must be said that you have done so very well at surviving, and even in the midst of it all, thriving. Emmanuel Presbyterian Church exists because of each of your commitment and faith. You should feel very proud of your faithfulness. This is not pride; this is acknowledging how you have shown up for each other and this church in ways that matter. Well done, good and faithful servants.

Now that a new chapter has begun for me and for you, I encourage you to do an exercise of release and reclaiming. Take some time and consider all the hard things you have had to carry. Consider writing them down. Where are the raw places? The places of grief? The moments of struggle? Name them and honor that you, and the church, survived all of these. Then, prayerfully and thoughtfully, release these to God. Perhaps this will be a release of bitterness you have against another person. Perhaps it will be a release of operating out of obligation rather than calling. Perhaps it will be a release of unfair expectations of yourself or others. Let these things that do not serve you, or God, or this church, go. You do not need to carry them any longer. Let them go, knowing Jesus comes to unburden us all.

Next, take some time to consider those things that are precious to you about this place. Those activities and moments that bring you life. Those people who sustain your spirit. Those dreams that you just haven't been able to let go of. Reclaim all of these. Maybe you will reclaim your calling in this place. Maybe you will reclaim your sense of joy in your relationship with God. Maybe you will reclaim what first brought you to this place. Hold tight to these, knowing God is in them.

If you feel comfortable, I welcome you to share with me what you are releasing and reclaiming on behalf of this church we all love. This is a new day! It is a perfect time to take stock of what we need to release or reclaim as we live into God's calling as Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. In doing this, we create space in our hearts and imaginations for God to lead us into an unknown but exciting future. I can't wait to see what God will do.

Peace,  
Whitney

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

(visit our website for more calendar listings)

### LOVING AND EMPOWERING OUR NEIGHBORS

Saturday, November 4  
8 am - 2 pm

### PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER LUNCH BAGS ASSEMBLY

Sunday, November 12  
after service

### ADVENT WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 3  
11:15 am

### CONCERTS ON HARWOOD

*Concert Bells of Fort Worth*

Tuesday, December 5  
7:30 pm

### ITASCA

*Children's Gift Delivery & Christmas Party*

Saturday, December 9  
2:00 pm

## SIPS 'N TIDBITS

### TRUNK OR TREAT

Thank you to all those who came and set up their trunks. It was a huge turnout with over 80 kids showing up. It was a great event and a whole lot of fun! Here are some of the pictures. For more pictures check our social media pages.



## INSTALLATION SERVICE OF REV. DR. WHITNEY WILKINSON ARRECHE AS PASTOR OF EPC

Thank you to all those who came and witnessed Rev. Dr. Whitney being sworn in as our Pastor of EPC. We would also like to thank the Deacons for the delicious food and cake. We are grateful that God has showered blessings to us and continues to do it as we enter a new and exciting phase with Whitney as our Pastor.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

## **Community Issues Class: Meets Nov 12 and 26**

A Community Issues class will begin meeting after worship on the 2nd and 4th Sunday's of the month starting November 12th in Room 4. Based on input from interested participants, the class has chose to discuss Creation Care for November - January. Visitors are welcome to participate. To be added to the class email list, contact Molly Bolles ([miriambolles@gmail.com](mailto:miriambolles@gmail.com))

## **Regular Group Gatherings Schedule for November**

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 online 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.
- **Community Issues class** (in-person) meets in Room 4 on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. They are discussing Creation Care for November - January.

**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** meets online to discuss their November/December book *Making It So*, by Patrick Stewart, with John Ferrandino 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 is exploring the Scriptures used in worship. For information on how to join, contact Leah Wyckoff ([klh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:klh@sbcglobal.net)).



## **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!



## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS- Session Committee Report**

Committee Moderators were reminded to submit budget requests for 2024 prior to the November 5th deadline

First Community Issues class began on Sunday, October 22nd, led by Molly Bolles, scheduled for 2nd and 4th Sundays, following worship

Learned that there will be an Intergenerational Advent Session on December 3rd tied to the Advent study and that a live tree will be set up outside on Wednesday, December 6th

Session was reminded that Trunk or Treat with the Clubhouse for Special Needs is scheduled for 5:00-6:30 on Saturday, October 28th

\$10 gift cards will be distributed outside Kroger on November 18th and December 15th

Loving and Empowering our Neighbors (minor repairs in the 6:8 neighborhood) is scheduled for Saturday, November 4th, from 8-2

Itasca Christmas party is scheduled for December 9th at 2:00 PM

Lunch bags will be assembled for Presbyterian Night Shelter on Sunday, November 12th, following worship

Personnel will respond to feedback forms from staff and do reviews at the end of October

Voted to add a new account on the balance sheet for the EECU Checking Account, adding two 6-month CDs of \$20,000 each, totaling \$40,000, moving the money from the EECU checking account

Voted to place the insurance company refund check for lost revenue (income from tenant) following the February, 2021 winter storm into CDs at EECU, designated toward the parking lot fund

Thanks were expressed to Ken Richardson for his excellent production work on the stewardship videos

Voted to approve signing a \$50 Rental Agreement Request for use of SoRelle Hall on December 7th by Christina Leandro for a violin recital for her students

Those who assisted, inside and out, with Fall Work Day on October 14th were thanked for their efforts

Learned that Worship Committee is planning to create new paraments/banner for Advent using fabric/draping cloth, in consultation with the Pastor

Was informed that the Nominating Committee continues its work in inviting members to serve as Deacons and Elders

Learned of a Peace Walk scheduled for November 4th which subsequently was changed to an online conversation, due to recent world events

Was invited to participate in the Presbytery Fellowship Gathering October 28th at Austin College from 9-4

Was informed that Whitney will be on vacation November 20-25 and will be attending a Women in Ministry Cohort Retreat at Camp Gilmont November 28th-30th



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 at 214-460-7072. Many thanks from the Deacons!

### 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. Thank you for volunteering!!





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

**Monday, November 20, 2023**  
**6:30 pm**

**Spring Creek BBQ**  
 1509 Airport Fwy  
 Bedford TX 76021

**For more information contact:**  
**Tonia Thompson: 817-996-2821**

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

**Thursday, November 2 2023**  
**1:00 pm**

**Lazy Dog Restaurant**  
 2521 TX 121, Euless 76039

**For more information contact:**  
**Donna Reeder: 214-537-5464 or**  
**Denise Karriker: 817-723-8665**

**Finance:**

September Income: \$38,734.64

September Expense: \$34,420.29

**BIRTHDAYS**



NOVEMBER

Birthdays

Jayne Johnson 11/05

Philip Durkee 11/13

Kristin Morris 11/17

James Taylor 11/18

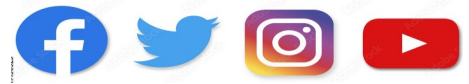
Taylor Wood 11/21





Ruth Fellowship women at  
 Jake's Burgers and Beer on  
 October 16, 2023

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

2701 Harwood Rd  
Bedford TX 76021

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church presents

### CONCERTS ON HARWOOD

A Classical Music Concert Series

*Sharing the Joy of Classical Music with Our Neighbors*

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, TX 76021

Donations are appreciated

Free Admission



Christmas Concert  
Concert Bells of Fort Worth  
Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 PM



[WWW.EMMANUELPC.ORG](http://WWW.EMMANUELPC.ORG) | 817-545-0251

## Links of GRATITUDE

Make this meaningful decoration for your Thanksgiving table.

**What you need:**

- Construction paper (in fall colors)
- Scissors
- Pen
- Jar
- Stapler
- Adult help

**What you do:**

1. Cut the paper into strips about 2 inches wide.
2. Place the strips and pen in the jar. Then set it in a prominent place in your home.
3. Throughout November, have family discussions about what you're thankful to God for. Write or draw each item on a paper strip.
4. Make a paper chain by linking and carefully stapling the strips.
5. Keep adding to your decoration and display it during your Thanksgiving meal.

2701 HARWOOD RD, BEDFORD TX 76021 | 817-545-0251 | [WWW.EMMANUELPC.ORG](http://WWW.EMMANUELPC.ORG)  
MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 663, BEDFORD TX 76095-0663