



THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2023

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STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN AND LUNCHEON
October 8, 2023, 11 am

The Stewardship Campaign this year is from 2 Corinthians 3:2-3.

The only letter of recommendation we need is you yourselves. Your lives are a letter written in our hearts; everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you. Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This "letter" is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts.



We are telling the story of why Emmanuel matters to us motivates both our giving to the church and our inviting of other people to be a part of this family. Evangelism and stewardship go together. We have asked church members to tell us why they like EPC and we video taped them. If you attend the Stewardship luncheon on Sunday October 8th after church you can see our story. We will be having a Spaghetti Dinner cooked by Linda Villareal and we are asking you to bring either a salad, bread or dessert. The sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. We will hand out your pledge card, time and talent survey sheet and a bulletin on how we spend our money in the church.

We will have a Stewardship poster in the Narthex where you can add a sticky heart with a few words on what you like about EPC. We ask you to put your resources where your heart is. We spend our money on what matters to us. Giving to the church, big or small, is a key way of doing this.



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

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





How We Spend Our Days

When it comes to scheduling our days, I believe there are two different kinds of people. There are the people who glide through their days, doing what they feel they need to do, without the need to ever write anything down or schedule it. And then there are people like me – I used to make *agendas* for my play time with my cousins when we would visit our family hunting land when I was a child: 1. Go for a walk. 2. Climb a tree. 3. Find interesting rocks. 4. Snack on a tortilla . . . You can guess which sort of person I am.

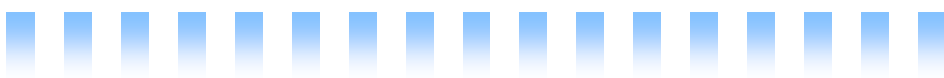
I like a schedule, and I often live by a combination of my desk planner and my online calendar. This is not a bad thing. But, I believe that new beginnings – like being *officially your Pastor* – are times to take stock of how we're doing things. Of *why* we're doing things. Of what is most important, and urgent, whether it is officially on the schedule or not.

I often ponder Annie Dillard's words in *The Writing Life*: "How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives. What we do with this hour, and that one, is what we are doing. A schedule defends from chaos and whim. It is a net for catching days." In many ways, her words are obvious. And yet, we do not often consider how we are spending our lives. We just live them. Those of us who are schedule-inclined record them. But we all go through our days, both good and bad, all the same. The question new beginnings ask of us, of me, is: if our schedules are nets, what do they contain? Are they made up entirely of todos and tasks and meetings and appointments and productivity, or do they bear a little bit of that childhood schedule of mine, with time built in for joy, for discovering, and for wonder?

I suspect some of you would love for your days to have a bit more whimsy and wonder to them. To catch something like joy in the net of your life. I also suspect that as a church, we need to carve out space together for discovery and wonder. Space to ask why we do what we do. Space to dream of what God could be calling us, to not just *do*, but *be*. Space to know the ease of being so beloved by God that all of our "doing" springs not from desperation or obligation, but from the deep wells of God's Spirit within us. How can you carve out this space for yourself? How can you carve out this space in the many ways you serve our church family, in your committees, activities, and plans? How can we create this sort of imaginative space for each other in these new days of shared ministry together?

How we spend our days is how we spend our lives. And, as we all know too well, this life is never really long enough. Let's not waste any of this fleeting time on operating out of obligation or confusing our productivity with our worth. Let's instead dig deep into those places of joy and meaning, so that what we pour into the lives of one another, our communities, and this world is of God, and not of our own importance. Maybe some of us will schedule this sort of thing, and some of us will find other ways to give shape to our time. However this happens for you, create space in your days (which is to say, in your life) for God to surprise you. We cannot find this space if we are exhausted by the misguided idolatry of productivity. We can find this space when we know the true source of all of our energy and ministry and work: the God who took time to walk through a garden in the morning light, the God who once took a nap right in the middle of a storm, the God who is poured out fully on us all, beyond measure.

Peace,
Whitney



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

(visit our website for more calendar listings)

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, October 3,
5:30-7:30 pm
(more details on page 3)

STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON

Sunday, October 8
11 am
(more details on page 1)

EPC WORK DAY (with lunch)

Saturday, October 14
8 am-1 pm

LITTER STOMP

Saturday, October 14
8:30-10:30 am
(more details on page 3)

BLUE/JAZZ JAM

Saturday, October 14
3-5 pm



with THE CLUBHOUSE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

Saturday, October 28
5-6:30 pm

SIPS 'N TIDBITS



PAYPAL QR CODES FEES

The Finance Committee would like to update you on the transaction fees we incur each time someone uses a PayPal QR Code to pay EPC. Each transaction we receive from PayPal has a fee associated with it. The fees are: 2.88% plus an updated fixed fee per transaction.

Example: We receive \$10,000 from a member and we get charged a fee of \$288 so our net payment is \$9,712 to our checking account plus a new fixed fee per transaction. PayPal is a business that is in business to make money. We have paid PayPal \$1,279.09 in fees this year. Cash or checks are preferred as we get to keep all of the money in our checking account.

FLOWER FUND

Please pay \$35 to EPC for the Flower Fund if you sponsored a week this year. There are no invoices being sent out. Note which week you are paying for on the check or envelope. Thanks so much!



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Delga Park 1001 Nixon Street, Fort Worth, 76102

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 5:30 PM- 7:30 PM

Party with 18 foot slide. Hot dogs, fire truck, community leaders, vaccine/health clinic to support the Greenway neighborhood and 6:8 project.

LITTER STOMP

1912 Portland Ave, Fort Worth 76102

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 8:30 AM- 10:30 AM

Help with the Greenway neighborhood clean-up



Musical Notes

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Psalm 95: 1-2

It's good to have the music ministry back in full swing. We have a very musical schedule ahead of us with Advent and Christmas coming up. I have been blown away by all of the musical gifts in this church. From Concerts on Harwood to Chancel Choir, and Grace Notes to Handbell Choir, we have a rich musical foundation here. On September 30th, Tak presented a magnificent piano recital as part of the Concerts on Harwood series! I can't wait to see where this concert series takes us in the future.

The music ministry at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church is filled with amazing musicians and passionate learners. We are about to start working on our Christmas Cantata and would love to have some new faces or returning faces join us! Don't be worried if you can't read music, you won't be alone. We welcome those willing to learn new skills. In handbells and chancel choir, we welcome mistakes and work through them to become better musicians. Above all else, our ministries serve to glorify God every week. If you have ever been curious about joining the music ministry, come try it out. Handbell Choir practice from 6:45 PM to 7:30 PM and Chancel Choir practices from 7:45 PM to 8:30 PM.



NEWS & NOTES FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE



Passing of the Offering Plate

Here at Emmanuel, we are a very generous and giving faith community. The Worship committee has decided to return to the practice of 'passing the offering plate' starting in October. We will have the ushers to manage this process and you may be asked to assist from time to time. The Choir section will have a separate offering plate available in the choir loft.

NOTE: We will continue to have a plate at the back of the sanctuary for your prayer requests. These will continue to be provided to the pastor just prior to the Prayers of the People timing in worship.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Whitney (pastor) or anyone on the Worship Committee whose members include: Jayne Johnson, Sheryl Taylor, Mary Ann Reed, Katie Phillips, Ray Karriker, Ken Richardson, or Brittney Axton.

Sunday Announcement Guidelines:



Here at Emmanuel, we have a busy social calendar that may require some additional information to be shared with our congregation. Below are some guidelines to make the Sunday morning announcements process both effective and efficient. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Whitney, church office staff, respective Committee Chairperson, or anyone on the Worship committee.

Guidelines:

- If a printed note will suffice, this info can be inserted into the Sunday bulletin and/or listed on the calendar. No need to make a verbal announcement unless new or revised information is needed.
- Contact the church office to ensure your announcement (and presenter) is written on the Office whiteboard so we can plan accordingly. This is the liturgist's resource to check before worship begins.
- If you are the presenter, before service begins, please be seated in the front row of the sanctuary near the pulpit. This time-saver helps you be ready to walk directly to the pulpit and share as soon as your name is called.
- Limit your brief announcement to 1-2 mins or less, so we can move onto the actual worship service. Having a short set of written reminder notes can help your message be bright, be brief and then you can be gone (back to your seat)!

Sharing quick details with visitors and our church members supports our faith community! Thank you in advance for your assistance.

EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BEDFORD TEXAS PRESENTS

BLUES/JAZZ JAM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023

3:00 PM- 5:00 PM

Free outdoor event

2701 Harwood Road,
Bedford TX



WWW.EMMANUELPC.ORG

817-545-0251



FALL EVENTS

AT

EPC



EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
BEDFORD TEXAS PRESENTS

TRUNK OR TREAT

with THE CLUBHOUSE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

OCTOBER 28, 2023
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

2701 HARWOOD ROAD,
BEDFORD TEXAS



Learning & Serving Together at Emmanuel: Fall 2023

Learning Together

Weekly

Sundays at 11:15 AM

Keys to the Bible Class (hybrid). Book of Acts.
Community Issues Discussions (in-person).
Starts Oct 22.

Sundays at 4:00 PM

Youth Check-in & Prayer (online).

Tuesdays at 7:30 PM

Bible Study on Sunday scriptures (online).

Saturdays at 11:00 AM

Book Mavens Book Club (online). Youth and adult cross-generational book discussions.

Seasonal Events & Studies

Quarterly Intergenerational Workshops (in-person). Advent Workshop Dec 3.

Advent Study beginning week of Dec 3

Serving Together

Monthly

- NorthEast Emergency Distribution (NEED). Fill client food orders. 5th Monday, Tuesday, and Friday of the month. Two shifts: 10 AM—12:30 PM/12:30 PM—2:30 PM.

Quarterly

- Presbyterian Night Shelter. Making lunch bags.
- The 6:8 Project:
 - * Fall: National Night Out Party Oct 3; Litter Stomp Oct 14; Home Repairs Nov
 - * Winter: Christmas Party
 - * Spring: Cowtown Cleanup
 - * Summer: Kids Lunch Program
- * Pop-up Service Projects: TBD

Seasonal

- Habitat for Humanity. Fundraiser and home build construction.

Monetary Support

Local Benevolence Fund

NEED

Habitat for Humanity

Presbyterian Pan American School Scholarship

The 6:8 Project

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Regular Group Gatherings Schedule for October

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). 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) for the link to join virtually.

11:15 AM: Community Issues discussion (in-person) meets after worship beginning October 22 and is led by Molly Bolles.

A topic will be selected by group consensus. If you want to receive the survey to select the topic, contact Leah Wyckoff (klh@sbcglobal.net).

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 explores the Scriptures used in the next Sunday's worship. For information on how to join, contact Leah Wyckoff (klh@sbcglobal.net).

Saturday's

11:00 AM: Book Mavens Youth and Adult Book Club meets online to discuss their October book *Jacob Have I Loved*, by

Katherine Paterson, with Leah Wyckoff leading. For information on how to join, contact Leah Wyckoff (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

Whitney shared that she'll attend the PCUSA GA Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations Meeting October 16-19 in Louisville, KY

Advent sermon series and Bible study will be based on Expecting Emmanuel: The Women Who Prepared the Way by Joanna Harader

Was made aware that the Covid-19 Team continues to monitor levels

Safety Task Force received updated resources on a flash drive at the September 23rd meeting of Grace Presbytery

Those who have taken Praesidium Training will be notified automatically when it is time for annual refresher training

Commissioners Nancy Cable and James Taylor reported on the Stated Meeting of Grace Presbytery September 23rd at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas

Session voted to approve scheduling the Installation of Whitney Wilkinson Arreche as Pastor on Sunday, October 29th, at 2:00 PM

Received with regret the news that Scott Keyes has resigned from the Class of 2023, due to health reasons

Scheduled the October meeting of Session for Monday, October 23, 2023, at 7:00 PM

Noted the transfer of inactive member Robin Hammesfahr to First United Methodist Church, Grapevine

Was informed that Molly Bolles is working on a community issues series on mental health to be offered on Sundays following worship later in the fall

Voted to approve a special offering for the congregation to contribute toward \$10 gift cards to be distributed prior to Thanksgiving and Christmas

Voted to request that Finance Committee apply amount from budget designated for narthex furniture repair (\$500) and use the undesignated memorial funds for replacement of furniture in the Narthex and to purchase a loveseat and two chairs for the Pastor's office

Fall work day tasks will be covered by the Wednesday Work crew due to scheduling difficulties

Voted 7 yes, with 1 abstention, to approve renewal of the annual Charter Partner Agreement between Boy Scouts of America Longhorn Council and Emmanuel Presbyterian Church for Troop 254 for 2024, and authorizing John Field to sign as Charter Organization Representative

Learned that there will be a sign-up sheet for the October 8th Stewardship Luncheon; pledges to be dedicated on Sunday, November 12th

Learned that PayPal has cost the church \$1,200 so far this year and that Co-Treasurer Nancy Cable will make the congregation aware of this

Voted to move \$40,000 from the checking account to the Money Market account.

Was made aware that the Vested Networks Phone Contract will be renegotiated prior to renewal, removing the fax line and the two unused phones

Learned that Covid vaccines will be offered at the October 3rd National Night Out at Delga Park

Voted to send the \$268.75 from the Peace and Global Witness Offering to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Was informed that ushers will resume pre-pandemic practice of passing the offering plate beginning in October; with a plate to remain in the back for written prayer requests

Nominating Committee will begin its work September 27th

Staff reviews will begin in October



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.

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, October 16, 2023
6:30 pm

Jake's Burgers & Beer
520 S Main St
Grapevine TX 76051

For more information contact:
Linda Villarreal: 817-545-7197

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

Thursday, October 5 2023
1:00 pm

Chilli's Restaurant
2101 Airport Fwy, Bedford 76021

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



Finance:

August Income: \$43,886.69

August Expense: \$27,425.38

BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER
Birthdays

Mark Phillips 10/01
Lisa Keyes 10/03
Wanda Asire 10/07
Barbara Thompson 10/09
Nancy Cable 10/09
Randall West 10/09
Tak Yan Yeung 10/09
Susan LaPointe 10/10
Susan Griffith 10/12
Ester Stone 10/13
Rick Thompson 10/16
Anni Wordell 10/17
Leah Wyckoff 10/17
Renee Wood 10/18
Shirley Martin 10/28
Chris Cable 10/29

DID YOU KNOW?
Weekly Sunday bulletins are printed in the office on Wednesday mornings. It is always proof-read by the Office Administrator, Pastor and Director of Music prior to printing.



To submit newsletter articles, events or any other news,
please email 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 | 817-545-0251

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