



THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2025

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KEYS TO BIBLE CLASS

(in-person):

SUNDAY AT 11:15 AM

BIBLE STUDY (virtual):

TUESDAY AT 7:30 PM

Pastor's Post

Though we know one another's names and recognize one another's faces, we never know what destiny shapes each life. The script of individual destiny is secret; it is hidden behind and beneath the sequence of happenings that is continually unfolding for us. Each life is a mystery that is never finally available to the mind's light or questions. That we are here is a huge affirmation; somehow life needed us and wanted us to be. To sense and trust this primeval acceptance can open a vast spring of trust within the heart. It can free us into a natural courage that casts out fear and opens up our lives to become voyages of discovery, creativity, and compassion. No threshold need be a threat, but rather an invitation and a promise. Whatever comes, the great sacrament of life will remain faithful to us, blessing us always with visible signs of invisible grace. We merely need to trust.

- From *To Bless the Space Between Us*, by John O' Donohue

Two years. October 1, 2023 is when I stepped over the threshold into being the permanent pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. I am, I will admit, a sentimental one. And so I have found my spirit pondering these two years, and taking measure of what has changed in that time, and what has remained the same, and what has deepened.

When I arrived at Emmanuel, this was a church marked by a change. I could feel the longing for a pastor who would stay. I could feel the exhaustion of you hard workers flirting with burnout. I could feel the anxiety, the held breath, the tense shoulders and spirits. I could feel the desire to just have someone else carry not all, but at least part, of the burden for a bit. I sensed a church feeling resilient and courageous and active, and yet, in the deepest corners of souls, unsettled.

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Pastor's Post

I also came with many feelings. As Carlos and I discussed, this was a grand gamble really – to be your transitional pastor for six months or so, all the while knowing I felt called to be your permanent pastor. You would get a lot of experience in observing my preaching, my pastoral care, and my leadership style. And you might appreciate it, but you might not! There was a unsettledness in my spirit, too. I feared that those six months could turn into an extended interview process, with each sermon, each pastoral care situation analyzed for whether I was suited to stay. My spiritual director helped me practice a ritual of release in this time: I let go of the uncertain future, and tried to be in the moment. One day at a time; one Sunday at a time.

Once I was called to be your permanent pastor, that threshold, as all thresholds do, brought new possibilities and challenges. I began to dream of what longer-term visions for this church called Emmanuel might be. I began to deepen in relationship with you, because you could finally trust that I wasn't going to leave.

At the two-year mark, I am returning to this wisdom of John O' Donohue. Much is hidden from us. We don't know what each new year might bring, for good or ill. But we are here. And that is an affirmation from God that we need to be. Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, through your many trials, is here. God needs us to be. We are then free to be courageous together in this sacrament of life we share in this place and beyond it.

As I ponder my own thresholds as your pastor, I invite you to do the same. How can you recognize and mark this season of your life, and your faith? Who is your companion on this journey? Where is God calling you, within and beyond our church, to have courage?

Perhaps the biggest gift of these past two years is something that often can take even longer than that: trust. I feel a sense of trust from you. You, I hope, feel a sense of trust from me. Together, we are learning that life-long lesson of what it means to truly trust God.

Thank you for trusting me to be your pastor these past two years. You are, each of you, a gift to me, and to this world. Your being here is a huge affirmation from God.

Peace,
Pastor Whitney

YOUR CALENDARS

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

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, October 7
5:30-7 pm

LITTER STOMP

Saturday, October 11
8:30-10:30 am

STEWARDSHIP

KICK-OFF LUNCHEON

"A Future with Hope"
Sunday, October 12
After Worship

ACTIVITY FAIR

Sunday, October 19
After Worship

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAYS

New dates starting October 24



TRUNK OR TREAT

Friday, October 31
5-7 pm

SIPS 'N TIDBITS

CRAFT FAIR- EPC TABLE

This year the craft fair will be on November 8 from 9 am to 3 pm and donations of handmade craft items and house plants are needed for the church table.

Do you have one or two items you could donate to the EPC table? All proceeds from the sale of items go to the church. There will be a box in the library for craft donations beginning November 1. Please label your items with your name and price them.

Please no plants until November 7. Then please label the plants with your name and the name of the plant, price them and put them in the library. Unsold and unclaimed items will be donated. Thank you in advance.

If you have questions, please text Lisa K.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAYS

October 24, 25, 29, 31; November 1, 5, 8, 14, 15. Saturday, November 1 is the special day with St Philip and EPC volunteers (changed from Oct 15).

Please go to this link to sign-up in advance. <https://emmanuelpc.org/habitat-for-humanity/>

BELONGING CLASSES

*Exploring Membership
at Emmanuel Presbyterian
Church*

**Sundays
November 2, 9, & 16 2025
11: 15 am—Noon**

Contact Whitney for questions.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

New directories will now be printed in January 2026 instead of fall. Future announcement will be sent out when printing is completed.

CONCERTS ON HARWOOD 2025

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

- **Amy Faires and Swang Lin, violin recital –**
Saturday, December 6th at 4 PM

All these events will take place at 2701 Harwood Road, Bedford TX inside the sanctuary. Admission is free to the public. Donations are appreciated.

Visit our website for more information.

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

New Maker Space Underway

Emmanuel's Christian Education committee is working with the Facilities committee to transform Room 106 in the Christian Education wing into a Maker Space. The room will have supplies and tables for people of all ages to work on creative projects, including art and sewing projects. Supplies available will include art supplies, sewing supplies, and a sewing machine. The Christian Education committee will coordinate use of the room, including scheduling room use, sourcing supplies, and keeping the space in order and ready for use.

Potential uses of the Maker Space include:

- Groups and individuals working on sewing/fiber projects for mission/outreach
- Groups doing creative art projects where space and easy-to-clean flooring are needed
- Repair Cafe textile repairs
- Classes on basic sewing skills and art techniques

Visit **Emmanuel's Activity Fair after worship on Sunday, October 19th** for more information on the Maker Space and how you can get involved!

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). For more information on how to participate, [contact the church office](#). September's weekly schedule for gatherings is:

Sunday's

11:15 AM:

- **Keys to the Bible Class** (in-person). Meets weekly in Room 4 and is studying the Book of Acts.

Youth Check-ins Sunday afternoons:

- **Sunday, October 12 at 4 PM (on-line)** Youth Check-in devotional and prayer.
- **Sunday, October 26 from 3 PM - 5 PM.** In-person meeting at Emmanuel in the new Maker Space (CE Wing Room 106) to work on Emmanuel Craft Fair projects.

7:00 PM: Book Mavens Youth and Adult Book Club (virtual) are reading and discussing Mary Shelley's classic *Frankenstein* in September, with John Ferrandino leading. To participate, contact [Leah Wyckoff](#).

Tuesday's

7:30-8:30 PM Bible Study: Sunday worship scriptures (virtual). Online discussion of the Scripture and readings for Sunday's worship, with leadership rotating among participants. Contact Leah Wyckoff (<mailto:klh@sbcglobal.net>) to receive the study emails and meeting link.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Session Committee Report

- Welcomed Gabby Phillips to the meeting and approved the baptism of Hallie Kathryn Phillips and Emerson Kate Phillips on Sunday, October 26th during worship
- Learned that Molly Bolles received the Fred Kurz memorial scholarship from First Presbyterian Church, Arlington, on September 14th in worship
- Voted to approve gifted funds of \$1,517.23 to purchase one filtered water fountain and bottle-filling station
- Noted the bid from CBD Concrete of Colleyville, TX for the project related to the back steps from So-Relle and put that action on hold
- Approved using \$10,929 from unrestricted memorial funds to cover the cost of plumbing emergency issues in the women's restroom in the main building
- Was reminded that Stewardship Kickoff Luncheon is scheduled for October 12th and Dedication Sunday is scheduled for November 16th
- Was informed that Becky Baker's new part-time requires that she work 2, rather than 3 days per week at Emmanuel; she'll work the same number of total hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- Voted to approve Mission and Social Justice's request to transfer \$2,500 from Long Range Planning Fund to Local Benevolence Fund
- Learned that CE Room 106 is being cleaned out for maker space/craft space
- Learned that 34 people have completed Praesidium training, 18 of whom have undergone background checks in order to work with children
- Katie Phillips suggested that Melissa Durkee be asked to take the lead on the October 19th Activities Fair, with Katie's assistance
- Learned that Whitney will attend National Council of Churches Faith & Order Meeting in Boston October 12-15
- Was informed that Belonging Class is scheduled for interested adults November 2, 9, and 16, with Tonia Thompson assisting Whitney
- Learned that the Manual of Operations Task Force is working to schedule its initial meeting
- Elected Tonia Thompson and Jayne Johnson as commissioners to the Stated Meeting of Grace Presbytery on Thursday, October 23rd, at Northridge Presbyterian Church, Dallas
- Learned that Christian Education Committee is reviewing the Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy to determine whether changes need to be made and to add Book of Order references
- Was informed that an Intergenerational Advent workshop will be held in conjunction with Hanging of the Greens on November 23rd following worship
- Was reminded of the upcoming events:

* Friday, October 31st	Trunk or Treat	5:00-7:00 PM
* Saturday, November 8th	Craft Fair	9:00 AM -3:00 PM
* Saturday, December 6th	Concert on Harwood	4:00 PM
* Sunday, December 21st	Christmas Dinner	5:00 PM
- Learned that usher training may be scheduled before the end of the year
- Was informed that liturgists have been scheduled through the end of the year
- Heard that the Safety Task Force is working to keep the congregation situationally aware and informed session of a webinar scheduled for October 14th from 1:00-2:30 PM on safeguarding the congregation



Lois Circle

(1st Thursday of each month, 1 pm)

Thursday, October 2, 2025
12:00 noon

Raven's Grill
Texas Star Golf Course
1400 Texas Star Pkwy,
Eules TX 76040
For more information contact:
Donna R: xxx-xxx-5464 or
Denise K: xxx-xxx-8665



Ruth Fellowship

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

Monday, October 20, 2025
6:30 pm

Texas Road House
3000 Crystal Springs St.
Bedford

For more information contact:
Linda V.: xxx-xxx-7197

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stay-up-to date*



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

BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER **Birthdays**

Mark P. 10/01	Rick T. 10/16
Lisa K. 10/03	Anni W. 10/17
Nancy C. 10/09	Leah W. 10/17
Randal W. 10/09	Renee W. 10/18
Tak Yan Y. 10/09	Shirley M. 10/28
Susan La P. 10/10	Chris C. 10/29
Susan G. 10/12	

NEW OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY: 8 am-12 pm
(Jessica only)

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY:
8 AM- 1 PM
(Jessica & Becky)

Beginning October 6, Becky will no longer work on Mondays. She will now extend her office hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8 am to 1 pm.



We offer three ways to submit prayer requests at this time. Please choose one.

- ♦ You may scan the QR code on the right or on the church bulletin
- ♦ Write your prayers on the slips of paper provided in church service
- ♦ 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!

HOSPITALITY SUNDAYS

Do you have gifts for hospitality and welcoming people? Emmanuel's Deacons are looking for volunteers to host refreshments after worship on a Summer Sunday. Host by yourself or partner with a friend or family member, whatever works for you. Sunday Hospitality hosting involves about 20 minutes of setup before worship, then serving food after worship and cleaning up. We have some treats on-hand in the fellowship hall freezer and funds are available to reimburse you for food purchased.

To sign up, contact Helen S. or write your name on the Sunday Hospitality schedule in the narthex. Thank you for considering it!

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 R. 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!!

EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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