



THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 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

Staying Curious

Theology is such a huge and hugely interesting subject. Actually theology is much more than a 'subject.' It's more like a form of seeking, a quest; and that is why for me theology is not so much about answers, as about questions; not so much about knowing, as about wondering; not so much about gaining knowledge, as about enriching your perspective on experiences that make you wonder.

Stephen Cherry, God Curious

Well, y'all have certainly put me through my paces with this Summer of Holy Curiosity series! We explored service and selflessness, grace and forgiveness, hypocrisy and faith, LGBTQIA+ affirmation in the bible, presbys and predestination, Christian nationalism, trauma and PTSD in scripture, intergenerational storytelling, Jesus' siblings, Jesus our phosphorus – bright morning star, hotheads and shepherds, and finally, decolonizing Christianity with that old camp song Pharoah, Pharoah! Whew. What incredible curiosities you have had (and this wasn't all of your prompts)!

This series has been such a blessing to me as I've had to learn many new things, and lean into wonder with you. And as we come to a close on this particular season of curiosity, let this be your gentle nudge: keep wondering, keep questioning, and keep a note of themes or ideas as they come to you, because I have a feeling we'll do this series again. Greet your holy curiosity each new day, whether you are curious about the life of someone who moves through the world differently than you do, or curious about where God is on the move in the midst of new transitions, or curious about exploring new parts of yourself through trying a new prayer practice, or art form, or movement. Stay curious, friends! The adventure continues.

Peace,
Whitney

YOUR CALENDARS

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

GUNS TO GARDENS

Saturday, September 6

9 am-12 pm

New Mount Rose Missionary
Baptist Church, Fort Worth

PRE-WORKDAY

Saturday, September 20

8 am—1 pm

(lunch provided for attendees)

PNS LUNCH BAG ASSEMBLY

Sunday, September 21

after Worship

CONCERTS ON HARWOOD 2025

Flute recital

with

**Mary-Christine
Stingley**

Saturday, September 27

4 pm

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, October 7

5:30-7 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.

STORY PATH

Check out our Story Path featuring the picture book “What the Crow Saw Below”. This Story Path is located on the public pathway at the west side of the sanctuary and was created by our Holy Curiosity VBS team.



See Christian Education, page 3 for more information.

SPECIAL OFFERING

WORSHIP & MUSIC PROGRAM

September 21

This offering is used to purchase worship items and supplies and also helps Emmanuel's music leadership offer special music programs not otherwise possible through the annual budget.

CONCERTS ON HARWOOD 2025

A Classical Music Concert Series

Sharing the Joy of Classical Music with our Neighbors

- **Mary-Christine Stingley, flute recital –**
Saturday, September 27th at 4 PM
- **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

Blessing of the Backpacks: *You Got This!*

Emmanuel's CE Committee celebrated the start of the school year by providing students, faculty, and school staff with a backpack tag in worship on August 10th. Over thirty backpack tags have been given to members and friends of the Emmanuel community involved in education. We continue to pray for a successful academic year of growth and learning for students, teachers, and school staff!



Group Gatherings Schedule for September

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, September 14 10 at 4 PM (on-line)** Youth Check-in devotional and prayer.
- **Sunday, September 28 from 3 PM - 5 PM.** In-person meeting at Emmanuel.

7:00 PM: Book Mavens Youth and Adult Book Club (virtual) are reading and discussing John Green's book *Everything is Tuberculosis* in September, with Molly Park 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 Inquirer Molly Bolles to observe as part of her Presbyterian polity training at seminary and welcomed Kristin Hartwell from the Board of Deacons
- Learned that Whitney's Stepping Up to Supervision Training was most helpful
- Heard that Whitney will be attending the PCUSA General Assembly Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations Meeting in Louisville September 8th-11th
- Received a church safety update and was apprised that only 2-3 current officers still need to complete Praesidium Training
- Voted to decrease the size of session from 12 members to 9, over a three-year period, filling the 2028 Class with 3 (rather than 4) members
- Voted to increase the size of the Board of Deacons from 6 to 9 members over a three-year period, filling the 2028 Class with 3 (rather than 2) members, if possible
- Named Molly Bolles, Melissa Durkee, Jude Langsdorf, and Sheryl Taylor to serve with Whitney on a task force for update the Manual of Operations
- Voted to disperse \$750/semester from the Molly Bolles Support Fund
- Voted to hold an EPC Activity Fair from 11:15-noon on Sunday, October 19th
- Session was encouraged to sign up to volunteer in the church nursery
- Learned that Marji Breault, Lisa Keyes, Bev Ferrandino, Sue Pranke, and Leah Wyckoff have been asked to form a landscaping sub-committee to improve the church's curb appeal
- Approved the Facility Rental Fee schedule as presented, along with rules for Building Use
- Approved renting of SoRelle Hall on September 13th to Linda Villarreal and Linda Greenwell to host a baby shower for their niece Ursula Villarreal
- Was informed that the Stewardship Task Force (Nancy Cable, Linda Villarreal, Linda Greenwell, John Field, and James Taylor) would meet with Whitney August 25th to begin their work on the campaign for 2026 entitled "A Future with Hope"
- Learned that the Stewardship Luncheon was scheduled for October 12th
- Voted to advertise and encourage participation and donations to the Guns to Gardens Event on Saturday, September 6th, from 9-12 at New Mount Missionary Baptist Church, Fort Worth
- Approved Outreach and Connections Committee's action to send \$150 from craft fair profits to send to the Hill country to aid in recovery efforts from the devastating floods of July
- Upcoming events:

October 31st Trunk or Treat Friday, 5-7 pm

November 8th Craft Fair Saturday, 9-3

December 21st Christmas dinner Sunday, 5 pm

- Was made aware that Worship Committee discussed and determined that using two sets of Communion servers works best
- More ushers are needed and brief training will be offered following a Sunday service



Lois Circle

(1st Thursday of each month, 1 pm)

Thursday, September 4, 2025

12:00 noon

Buttermilk Café & Bakery

337 Pipeline Road,
Bedford TX 76022

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, September 15, 2025

6:30 pm

Wise Guys Pizzeria

322 S. Park Blvd.
Grapevine

For more information contact:

Jayne J.: xxx-xxx-1134

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Subscribe to
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



SEPTEMBER

birthdays

John P. 9/07

David T. 9/12

Denise K. 9/25

Linda G. 9/25

Cheryl D. 9/28



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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