



THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER

What's INSIDE

- 1 Pastor's post
- 2 Conti Pastor's post
- 3 Sips 'N Tidbits
- 4 Christian Education
- 5 Session highlights
- 6 Conti Session highlights
- 7 Fellowships, Birthdays
- 8 Prayer requests, Volunteers needed

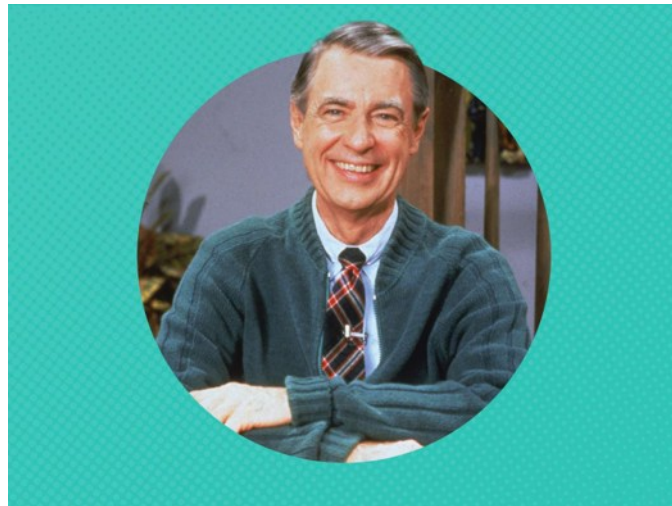


KEYS TO BIBLE CLASS
(in-person):
SUNDAY AT 11:15 AM

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

Pastor's Post

Won't You Be My Neighbor?



³⁴When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him.

³⁶"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it:

'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

– Matthew 22:34-39

I believe Fred Rogers will always be the most famous of Presbyterian ministers. This wasn't because he preached incredible sermons, or because he drew a flashy following. This was because he taught our kids – and all of us – that fundamental heart of our faith, in one charming song: *Won't you be my neighbor?* As Jayne likes to say, *it's always a beautiful day in the neighborhood* with that sort of invitation to neighborliness.

Continued on page 2

Pastor's Post

Continued from page 1

We live in a time where neighbors often do not know each other's names, or stories. There are entire podcasts dedicated to neighbors behaving badly, with bitter feuds ensuing. Fred Rogers' gospel invitation feels like it's been spoken into a void of individualism, self-sufficiency, and isolation. It has been estimated that the single greatest threat to neighborliness was the invention of air conditioning; porch chats became something of the past.

But I don't believe good things, like the good works of Fred Rogers, ever really die. I think God finds sneaky ways to interrupt our lives with the reminder of how good it is to want to take care of each other as neighbors. God's holy interruption in my neighborhood has come in the form of someone aptly named *Fred*. Fred is an 81-year-old retired airplane mechanic. Which means he is now a professional tinkerer. And Fred's favorite thing seems to be sitting in his open garage in an old folding chair, with a fan worthy of a music video blasting at him. Nearly every time I pass by Fred's garage on the way to ours, he is either in that chair or in his driveway tinkering. And I get the biggest smile and the biggest wave, as if I've just made his day. This is why I made sure to bring him cookies when his brother unexpectedly died. Never underestimate the power of neighborliness. It can be as simple as that genuine delight at seeing each other. The delight of getting to share the same space.

In a world that tells us that we should fear and be suspicious (or even surveil) our neighbors, I believe God is calling us to be a Fred. We are called to greet the difference in age or circumstance of another with joy at seeing them as a child of God. We are called to greet what we have in common with a joy that becomes familiar and cozy on even the longest days; a joy we get to come home to. We are good neighbors, not so we do not wind up on some wild podcast, because this is who God calls us to be.

I encourage you, where you live, but also just in the grocery store or especially when you see a visitor at church, to have the spirit of both Freds and get to know those around you. Practice faithful and inventive hospitality, so that no one feels they have to go this life alone.

Peace,
Pastor Whitney

YOUR CALENDARS

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

BELONGING CLASS

Sunday September 6, 13,
20 & 27

11:15 am– 12 pm

CONCERTS ON HARWOOD 2026

Piano Duet

*Michael Schneider &
Tak Yan Yeung*

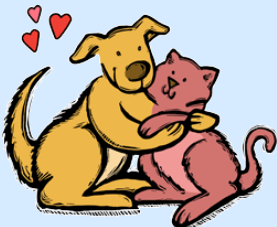
Saturday, September 12
4 pm

PNS Lunch bag assembly

Sunday, September 13
After Worship

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Saturday, October 3
10–11 am



SIPS ‘N TIDBITS

SPECIAL OFFERING

Worship & Music program
September 20

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.

PNS LUNCH BAG ASSEMBLY

PNS lunch bag assembly returns on September 13 after Worship. We need food donations. When you stop by the grocery store, please consider buying these items:

Protein items, fruit cups, pudding, snack crackers and chips.

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church



We are actively looking for a reliable, trustworthy Childcare Worker for our nursery. If you know of anyone who is currently looking for a position and will do amazing with infants and toddlers, please help spread the word out. Full job description can be viewed on our website:

<https://emmanuelpc.org/job-opening-childcare-worker/>

CONCERTS ON HARWOOD 2026

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

- **Piano Duet**

Michael Schneider and Tak Yan Yeung
Saturday, September 12 at 4 pm

- **Flute Recital**

Mary-Christine Stingley
Saturday, December 5 at 4 pm

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



Many thanks to the A Refreshing Summer VBS leadership team!. Our intergenerational VBS was held on Saturday, August 15th. A relaxing, fun time of fellowship, study, and creativity was shared by participants as they explored rest, Sabbath, and renewal through study and activities centered on Exodus 20:8-11 and Jeremiah 31:25. The VBS leadership team was:

- Rev. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Bible study leader
- John Field, Food and refreshments
- Frank LeCocq, Icebreaker activity & CE Chair
- Caroline Loy, Art workshops
- Molly Park, Planning team
- Ken Richardson, Energizers leader
- Tonia Thompson, Bible study leader
- Leah Wyckoff, Spa/self-care stations

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 group gathering schedule is:

Sunday's

11:15 AM:

- **Keys to the Bible Class** (in-person). Meets weekly in Room 4. They are starting a study of the Book of Hebrews in September. Contact [John Stocking](#) for more information.

Youth Check-in Sunday afternoon:

- **Sunday, September 13 at 4 PM (online)** Youth and adult sponsors meet online to share prayer concerns and a devotional.
- **Sunday, September 27 at 3 PM (in-person).** Youth and adult sponsors meet for an activity TBD.

Book Mavens Youth and Adult Book Club (virtual) are reading *A Knight of the Seventh Kingdom*, by George, with John Ferrandino leading starting September 13th. They meet online at 6:45 PM on Sunday's. To participate, contact [Leah Wyckoff](#).

Tuesday's

- **7:30-8:30 PM Worship Scripture Discussion (virtual).** Online discussion of the Scriptures for the next Sunday's worship. Contact Leah Wyckoff (<mailto:klh@sbcglobal.net>) to receive the study emails and meeting link.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Session Committee Report

- Ratified actions taken by Session between the June and August session meetings'
- Was reminded that Whitney will be offering "Belonging" classes the four Sundays of September, following worship
- Discussed ways to support Becky Baker as she undergoes treatment and that volunteers or contract help might be needed in the church office
- Was reminded that Whitney will be presenting a five-part sermon series on the stewardship theme "Emmanuel Dreams"
- Session was reminded of Whitney's workshop on Christian Zionism/Nationalism based on a sermon preached at Emmanuel during the 2025 Summer of Holy Curiosity
- Learned that Whitney has been invited to attend the Presbyterian Foundation's Youngish Pastor Gathering in Fort Worth October 28th-30th
- Was informed that Whitney will be presenting on Christian Nationalism at Des Moines Presbytery's meeting in November
- Session was invited to attend the screening of the documentary "The Librarians" at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Denton, on Saturday, August 29th, from 6:30-8:30 PM
- Session voted to approve the updated Manual of Administrative Operations, with thanks to the task force members Molly Bolles, Melissa Durkee, Jude Langsdorf, and Whitney Wilkinson Arreche for their work on the document
- Was updated that 5 of the art donations from Wanda Asire's estate have been sold and that the remaining 3 will be taken to an art gallery
- Session was reminded that Praesidium training needs to be completed as soon as possible and Chris Cable will check on officers' updated training status
- Session learned that the Antiracism Covenant Task Force (Elaine Hsieh, Helen Sink, James and Sheryl Taylor, and Whitney) has met twice and is at work
- Was informed that the Childcare Worker search task force would meet after session to consider three applicants and encouraged session to thank volunteers who are staffing the nursery during this time
- Voted to call a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, September 20th, following worship to approve revised Church Bylaws
- Discussed the proposed new EPC logo and tagline and will continue the conversation at the September session meeting
- Reappointed Sheryl Taylor as session liaison for Inquirer Miriam (Molly) Bolles and learned that Molly will need to meet with session prior to her October 15th appointment with Committee on Preparation for Ministry to consider moving her to Candidate status
- Was informed that the difference between assets and liabilities at the end of July was \$2,751.84 and that the General Fund Balance is a healthy \$117,907.03
- Learned that the Christian Education Committee is considering the educational resources available from Trinity Presbyterian, Denton, entitled People for Justice in Palestine program
- Was informed that the compressor will need to be replaced covering upstairs (unit 2) at a cost of \$2,489, using funds from the Capital Goods Escrow fund
- Voted to purchase a 12-month CD to hold Roofing Escrow funds
- Voted to invite Sarah Crowther Dixon, Director of UKirk TCU, to introduce the program and to include a special offering for this ministry
- Learned that NEED's current focus is jelly, canned tuna or chicken, and jello or pudding cups

Continued on page 6

BOARD AND COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Session Committee Report

Continued on page 5

- Upcoming *Mission and Social Justice* activities include:
 - ⇒ NEED days August 31st and September 29th
 - ⇒ Presbyterian bag assembly after worship on Sunday, September 13th, following worship
 - ⇒ North Texas Giving Day Thursday, September 17th
 - ⇒ National Night Out at Delga Park, Fort Worth, on Tuesday, October 6th, 5:30-7:30 PM
 - ⇒ Litter Stomp at 1912 Portland, Fort Worth on Saturday, October 17th, from 8:15-10:30 AM
- Learned that the Nominating Committee will schedule its initial meeting soon
- Was reminded that the remaining 2 Concerts on Harwood for 2026 are scheduled for September 12th and December 5th
- Heard that the Youngish Group attended the Rangers game on August 22nd with the Grace Presbyterian Young Adult group
- Upcoming *Outreach* events include:
 - ⇒ Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 8th
 - ⇒ Trunk or Treat on October 30th
 - ⇒ Craft Fair on November 14th
 - ⇒ Christmas Dinner on December 20th
- Intergenerational service on August 9th was well-received
- World Communion Sunday on October 4th may include portions of the service in different languages
- All Saints Service will be held on November 1st at 4:00 PM
- Reminded session that members have the opportunity to bring their own flowers for worship but need to notify the office so that flowers are not ordered from Cooper's Florist.

LABOR DAY **SEPTEMBER 7, 2026**

Church office will be closed on
Monday, September 7 for Labor Day.
We will reopen on
Tuesday, September 8 at 8 am.



Lois Circle

(1st Thursday of each month, 12 pm)

Thursday, September 3

Raven's Grill

Texas Star Golf Course

1400 Texas Star Pkwy.

Eules 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, September 21

Anna's Mexican Grill

1009 Cheek Sparger Rd.

Colleyville

For more information contact:

Katie P.: xxx-xxx-8254

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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

Denise K 9/25

Linda G 9/25

Cheryl D 9/28

Puzzle!

One of a Kind

The scrambled words and phrases below are all drawn from Scripture. Unscramble each one to reveal the correct biblical term or phrase. After solving them, transfer the circled letters in order to the lines at the bottom of the page to uncover the final message.

1) eiVn _ _ _ _

2) iLLy fo teh elaVly

3) abLm fo dGo _ _ _ _

4) estMar _ _ _ _

5) eJuss _ _ _ _

6) okRe _ _ _ _

7) rdBea fo eiLf _ _ _ _

8) higLt fo hte dorWl _ _ _ _

9) voaSir _ _ _ _

10) doLr _ _ _ _

11) ishCrt _ _ _ _

12) ehSprhed _ _ _ _

13) hTe doWr _ _ _ _

14) rncPie fo cePae _ _ _ _



What do all these words have in common?

Answers: Vine; Lily of the Valley; Lamb of God; Master; Jesus; Rock; Bread
of Life; Light of the World; Savior; Lord; Christ; Shepherd; The Word;
Prince of Peace; Names of God's Son



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 B. Edwards 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. 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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