



"Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

**Immanuel Congregational
United Church of Christ**

**God
is
still
speaking,**

Hello! Now I
really feel that

Pastor's Message

we've finally started the New Year. We've written our reports and had our Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is both dreaded and anticipated. Are our reports thorough and easily understood? Will the meeting be well attended? Will anyone be bothered by decisions made? I, for one, was happy we had a two hour meeting, Roxanne's goal. I've sat in meetings where I became one with the chair. There was some concern about the budget but there always is. And, Immanuel's doors are still open. With the help of God's wisdom and protection and our fervent prayers and it always will be.

I hope you will think and act according to my rallying cry "Inside out and outside in!" I believe that this is how we should proceed with decisions and programming. We

have so much to offer our community, and so many of the Oxford area needs

what we can help meet: great warmth, but also theologically progressive thinking.

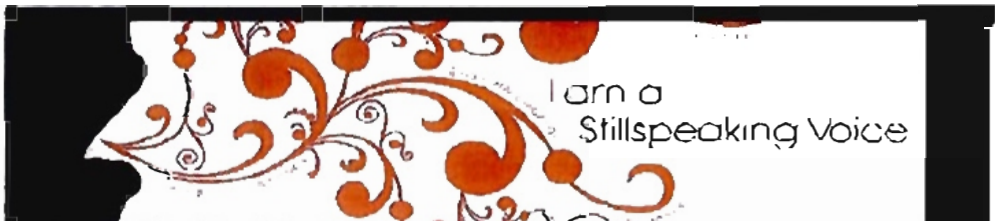
We have a terrific group for decisions, help, outreach and administration. We have an excellent church. With God's help and our prayers, we will move ahead!

**"...act
according to
my rallying cry
"Inside out
and outside
in!"**

February, 2011
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The Bell Tower
Immanuel Congregational, United Church of Christ
www.icucc.org



Free Meals Community Program- The following churches are offering free meals from 5:30 to 6:30 on their designated night.

MONDAY: Lake Orion United Methodist Church, **2nd Monday** of the Month. 140 E. Flint St. Lake Orion.

TUESDAY: Immanuel Congregational Church, Every Tuesday evening. 1 Hovey St., Oxford (Held jointly with the members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church.)

WEDNESDAY: Oxford United Methodist Church, Every Wednesday 21 East Burdick St. Oxford.

THURSDAY: Christ the King Church Every Thursday, 1550 W. Draher, Oxford.

Love, Inc's "Bed, Blessings and Beyond" is in desperate need of various items at this time. Especially needed are: Conditioner, shampoo, lotion, deodorant, soap, shaving cream and feminine hygiene products. Items should be dropped off at Immanuel Church. Place your donation on the donation table in the Fellowship Hall Please call Janet Caporale with questions at (248)202-4140

Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry-Prayer support, conversation and a little knitting & crocheting are the hallmarks of our Prayer Shawl Ministry! Open to men and women. Prayer Shawl Ministry meets

after church on the second Sunday of the month. For more information, contact Tammy Martin at (248)858-8461.

Make a Joyful Noise!

Join

Immanuel Choir-Join Ken Martin and Ann McKinley and gang in raising our voices in prayer and celebration. No experience needed! Wednesday nights 7:30-9am. Sunday mornings 10.15 for warm-ups.



Remembering...

It is with great sorrow that we recognize the passing of Wendy Cowell and Keith Poulson.



We pray God comfort and support the families of these two incredible people who have been a part of our church family for many years. They will truly be missed.

Special Congregational Meeting

Please note that there will be a special congregational meeting following church on February 20th. Agenda: Approval of Constitution with changes and approval of six month budget.

News Briefs

Reconstructing Immanuel Church Retreat

Who: Pastor, Board Members, Appointees, Officers, and volunteers interested in growing our church

What: Plot out a church calendar, choose committee chairs, select meeting nights, and pull our teams together to achieve our goal to be the Church of Jesus Christ that God would have us be.

When: Saturday, February 12, 9am to 3pm.

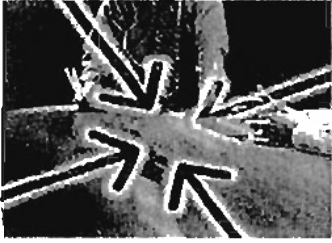
Bagels & Cream Cheese, beverages and Lunch will be provided.

Where: Home of Liz Wilson. 1965 Davison Lake Rd, Oxford.

RSVP: Roxanne (248)628-6872



2011 Council		
Roxanne Todd Moderator	(248)935-4603	StrScout97@aol.com
Ken Martin Vice Moderator	(248)858-8461	Martintk@sbcglobal.net
Joe Tubbs Clerk	(248)628-6872	Michigander0875@aol.com
Lori Hanft Treasurer	(248)627-9423	lorihanft@yahoo.com
Amy Wilson Member-at-Large		
David Bailey Church Delegate	(248)969-0911	baileyastro@gmail.com
Property Ministry Umbrella		
Tammy Martin Pastoral Relations Rep	(248)858-8461	Martintk@sbcglobal.net
Continual Gift Umbrella		
Christian Life Umbrella		



Council Notes:

Church Council Meeting
January 5th, 2011

Meeting called to order by Roxanne Todd at 7:25 p.m.

Present: Liz Wilson, Roxanne Todd, Ken Martin, David Bailey, Art Nagasaki, Lori Hanft and Joe Tubbs.

Music Director Search- Joe, David and Ron met to discuss use of organ midis to help suppliment special music. Customary wages for an organist for this size church (according to the Music Director at Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church, Elise Sobe) is about \$75 a week. We would need to add about \$1,000 to our budget to pay this ammount and be able to attract talent to fill this position. Oakland University may have music students who could play for us. Allen Organ has additional organ music discs available at \$35 each that we could use to expand our library. Motion was made by Art Nagasaki and seconded by Ken Martin to purchase them.

Pastor Liz Wilson's contract was reviewed. Ken moved that we accept the contract and was seconded by Art Nagasaki. Motion carried. A service of recognition and installation of board/team members and officers will be held on January 30th. A service recognizing the continuing service of Liz will be held at the same time

It was decided that a ham would be purchased for the Annual Mecting with a pot luck for additional dishes. Committee reports are still needed for the annual report. Additional items on the Agenda will include: God is Still Speaking family quilt, Ex-offender Support Group by Joe Tubbs, Idea Boards and a brief meeting for new officers and board members to select a date for a retreat.

May 15th was selected as the date for honoring Barb Theurer for her service to Immanuel. Date is contingent on Barb's availability. Further discussion was tabled to the next meeting

Discussion on a standing emergency procedures for dealing with furnace, electrical, plumbing and kitchen appliance emergencies. It was felt that when faced with a critical need, contacting members of the Building & Grounds committee could be cumbersome. Item referred to Art Nagasaki for action by the building and grounds committee.

Discussion on Board and Committee Retreat. Time and date to be determined following the annual meeting.

Discussion on keys and church access. Open doors of an unattended church has been a continuing problem. Keys must be retrieved from people who are no longer members, and office doors must remained locked especially on Tuesdays.

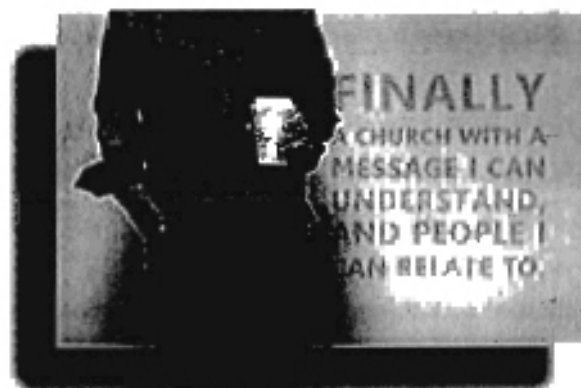
Meeting adjourned at 9:30.



Ministry Spotlight: Marketing Committee

A lot of people have misconceptions about church marketing. Many believe that if a church is operating the way it should, marketing shouldn't be necessary. But if your image of marketing is limited to newspaper ads and commercials, you're missing the big picture. Marketing is about:

- Understanding your community, who lives here and what they need in a church. (Demographics)
- Refining our ministry to better meet those needs
- Identifying our target market and selecting the means to best reach potential members
- Telegraphing to the community who we are, where we are and what we stand for.
- Communicating to our members those events and ministries important to our church life
- Ensuring visitors have church literature in their hands that gives them the information they need before they leave the building
- Using whatever means available to follow Christ's great commission, never forgetting that He is with us always



To be sure, newspaper ads and press releases are important tools to communicating our mission to the community. Other tools include knocking on doors, our web-site, social media, participation in community events, our newsletter, welcome folders, road signs, billboards, T-shirts, doorhangers, post cards, bulletin boards; the list goes on. All have different levels of effectiveness and costs. The job of the marketing team is to utilize those media that are most effective for the lowest cost.

When Jesus sent His disciples out into the world, he sent them in pairs and on foot. The means have changed, but the message remains the same.

Luke 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Letters

Hello! First I want to say thank you so much for those cards to all of you. I hope that all of your holidays were wonderful. God bless you all. I'm excited to get out of this place and start a new life. Can you all please pray for me to be safe in this place because I'm worried on certain things. Let me tell you that when I received your cards it brought the biggest smile on my face ☺ I'm so looking forward to meeting you all. I love and miss my family so much. I've realized that God is real and family is all we got. Is there anyone in the church that is around my age? I'm 23 years? I hope I get a response back.

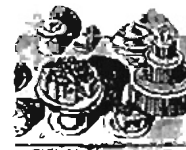
God Bless you!!
Much love and respect,
Martha Vanessa Flores

Stennett, Ky
November 2010

Dear friends,

I thought I'd write and see if you all may be able to help again this year through the holiday season. We're so thankful for all the help you've gave us all the past years. It's always made our holidays so much better. The weather here has been so nice. The trees are changing colors so fast and they're beautiful. We've had some cold nights with frost. Hope this finds all well. Please pray for our family. My grandchildren are growing up fast. Kelsey 17 years old a senior this year! Morgon 14 years old a freshman. Allen, 13 years old now in the 8th grade. All doing good in school. 2 little boys who's 4 year old twins. My girls kids. The gift certificates you all send have been so much help to us. I hope to hear from you soon. May God blessing be with all of you.
Your friend,
Ona Jean Hacker

FAT TUESDAY



Mark Your Calendars!
Fat Tuesday Community
Dessert Social/Bake Sale
is planned for Tuesday, March 8
from 7-9. Proceeds will benefit
Christian Ed.

A Bake-a-thon is being planned
to prepare desserts for the
occasion on Sunday, March 6th
after church. Bring your recipes
and prepare for an afternoon of
baking and fun!

More information will be sent out
soon.

WE NEED YOUR IDEAS!!!

Poster have been displayed in the fellowship hall asking for your ideas to improve our church through ministry, fundraising, worship and the building itself.

Think beyond these church walls; what have you seen done in other churches? What fundraisers have worked in other organizations you belong to? What has been missing? What services does the community lack? Add these ideas to our board for action by the teams and boards of our church.

Welcome to the Family

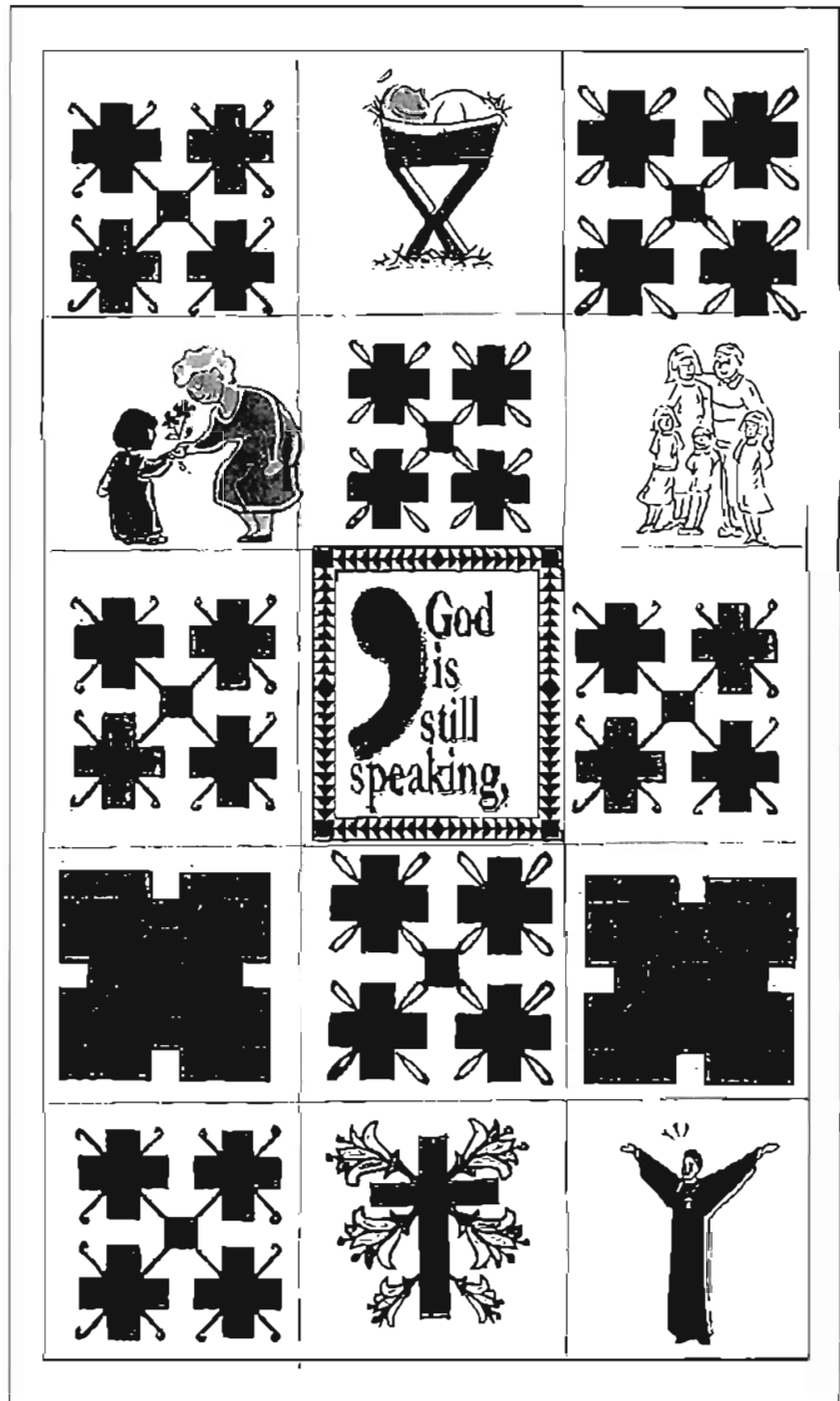
*Welcome to the family
We're glad that you have come
To share your life with us
As we grow in love
And may we always be to you
What God would have us be
A family always there
To be strong and to lean on*

*May we learn to love each other
More with each new day
May words of love be on our lips
In everything we say
May the Spirit melt our hearts
And teach us how to pray
That we might be, a true family*

We ARE a family! We each add our own experiences, our voices, our prayers and our talents to the fabric that makes Immanuel Congregational United Church of Christ.

We invite you to add a square to our family quilt. Use any medium you wish (fabric paint, embroidery, applique) or simply draw a picture we can print to a fabric transfer and iron in place! The Prayer Shawl Ministry has agreed to help stitch together our pieces along with squares representing our faith, our church teams and our ministries. When finished, the quilt will be dedicated and hung in the fellowship hall as a visual reminder of how we are a faith family; God our Father and united in Christ!

Immanuel Family Quilt

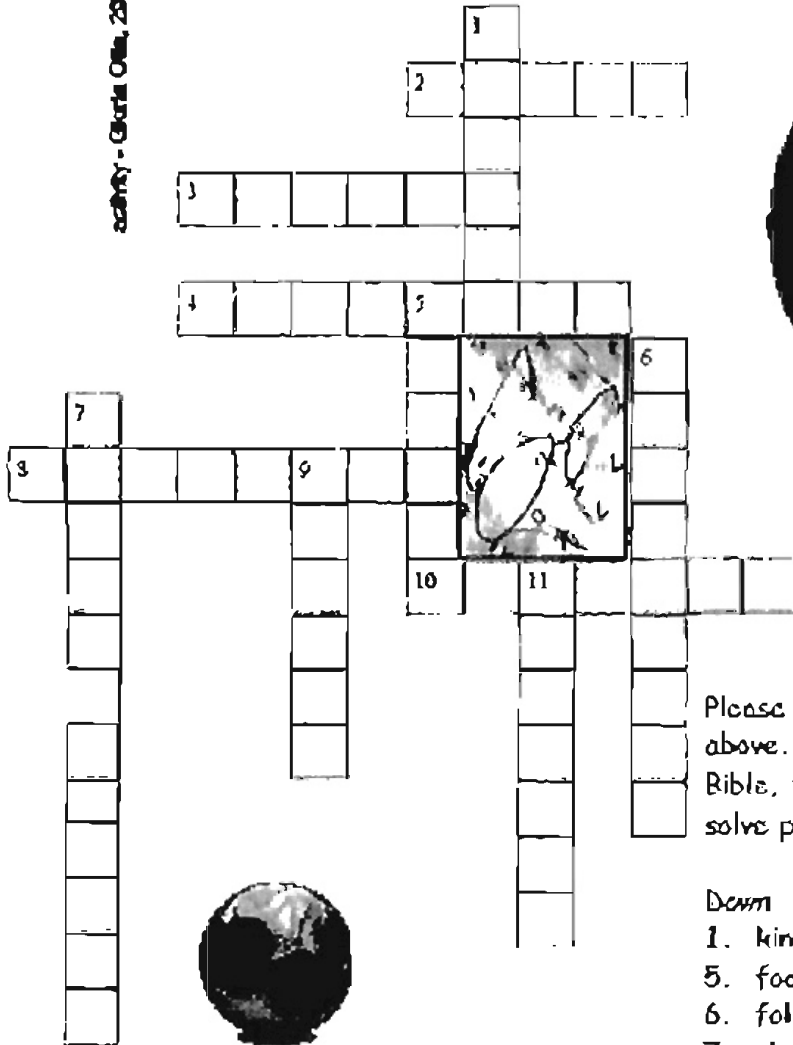


Plan for all creatures great and small!!

The Vision Beautiful

Matthew 5:1-12

activity - Gloria Olin, 2010



Instructions

Please read the Scripture reference given above. You will have to use the Inclusive Bible, the First Egalitarian Translation to solve puzzle using the clues below.

Down

- 1. kind
- 5. food
- 6. followers
- 7. slope
- 9. ridicule
- 11. peace

Across

- 2. compassionate
- 3. heart
- 4. messenger
- 8. grief
- 10. glad

After enjoying the technology-based activities, please go to WWW.SPIRITSEASONS.COM for more lessons.

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Family Page

God's Special Dream
(Based on Matthew 5:1-12)

Jesus invited his friends to come with him to the top of a hill. It was Jesus' favorite place because you could see so much when you looked around. (Encourage children to look around.)

"Dear friends," Jesus said, "God loves you. And God knows you are a blessing." (Each time you repeat "When you..." point to some of the children's paper figures around the hill.)

When you feel sad, God loves you and knows you are a blessing.

When you try to be kind to others, God loves you and knows you are a blessing.

When other people are mean to you, God loves you and knows you are a blessing.

No matter what happens, God loves you and knows you are a blessing.

Jesus looked around at all his friends. They were smiling. Jesus had so much more to tell his friends about God's special dream. And Jesus was glad that his friends knew that God loves them all and God knows that they are all a blessing.

(As you say the following chant, encourage children to do the actions.)

Jesus knows us. (Children point at themselves.)

Jesus loves us. (Place hands at heart level.)

Jesus helps us live and grow! (Reach up with hands and stand on tiptoes.)

Jesus knows us. (Children point at themselves)

Jesus loves us. (Place hands at heart level.)

Now this love we'll show! (Open arms out wide as if reaching.)



Game:

God loves us and knows we are a blessing all the time. Name a time (such as bedtime, playtime, meal time) and encourage children to act out what they would be doing at that time. Then call out "Stop. Close eyes." Everyone stops their playacting and becomes very still. Whisper, "God's love is all around you. God knows you are a blessing." Pause and ten, children open eyes. Repeat with another scenario.

Praise Place

"Praise Place" continues to provide foundational Biblical education and Christian nurture for children in first through 8th grade. Here we share the stories of our faith. Here we give children permission to question, to explore, to wonder and to express, each in their own unique way, their personal relationship with God.

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Elizabeth Wilson

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Email: lizzi@charter.net

Treasurer's Report – November 2010

Submitted by: Lori Hanft

Nov. income - 3143.60

Nov. disbursement - 3595.68

Current fund balance - 2785.93

2011 pledges received to date - 18

current fund - 36,252.18

benv. fund - 4028.02

total - 40,280.20

2010 pledges received at this point - 30

current fund - 61,600

benv. fund - 6844.00

total - 68,444.00

Thank-you to all who help support ICUCC and its
missions.

Prayer Circle

Please call the church at (248) 628-1610 and press
option 3 for prayer requests. Prayer requests may
also be sent to Janet Caporale at jan@caporale.net
or phone (248) 202-4140.

*Comfort God's children as they face the loss of
loved ones.*

*Be with our faith family members facing health
issues, surgeries, biopsies, tests and related
uncertainty*

*Be with those struggling with employment issues
and the accompanying challenges.*

*Bless and watch over our ministries; Community
Dinners, Prayer Shawl, Oxford/Orion FISH, Love
INC and Little Luxuries.*

*Blessings of friends in times of happiness and
troubles, struggles and success.*

*Be in an attitude of prayer as
you bring your prayers to the
Lord!*

Prayers are especially
welcome for: Gerald Call,
Jean Cruickshank, Marma Curtis,
Helen Dick, Ava Ferguson, Marian
Fitch, Art and Connie Habermehl, Peg
Hesketh, Kimberly Hughs, Ray Johnson, Joan
Kozachik, Sue Ann Laho, Joy Makedonsky, Mino
Kalbassi, Chuck & Aloha Mitchell, David & Willie
Ollie-Ray, Jan Overly, Kathy Poulson, Dru
Redmond, Tiffany, Kimberly and Mindy Domke,
Andy & Judy Vascasseno, Chris Zyroski, The Heil
Family, Jimmy Makedonsky's father, Betty and
her daughter, Mary & Margaret & Brianna T,
Perdema & Ted Duncan, Barb Kessler, Immanuel
Church, Love INC. Sue & Wally Lee, Joyce
Ferguson



Articles for submission should be sent to:
StrScout97@aol.com. Editor reserves the right
to edit submissions based on space and
content. Deadline for January News

January 26th

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God is still speaking

IMMANUEL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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Pontiac, Mi 48341

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9a.m.-noon

On Display....

Books that have inspired...



We've all read books that have made a difference in our lives for one reason or another. If you have a book or two you think others might like to hear about, display it in the fellowship hall. Mark it with your name so we can be sure you get it back.

If you'd like to donate it to our library, we'd like to know that too!