



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

**Immanuel Congregational
United Church of Christ**

**God
is
still
speaking,**

Pastor's Message

Don't you just love that Chrysler 300 ad on TV? It's honest and forceful and it

gives me such a sense of empowerment. If you haven't seen it, it's a series of flashes of cities that Detroit is not. "It's not The Big Apple, is not the Windy City and it's certainly not the Emerald City." The whole time, a shiny black Chrysler 300 is being shown driving around the familiar streets of Detroit. Finally, the voice-over says, "What it is, is Detroit, and here's what we do: We build cars." The last shot is the car, with the bold words "Imported from Detroit" under it. The first time I saw it I was goose-bumpy. We've been feeling so badly for so long about beaten up Michigan, and especially Detroit.

That ad told me something about us. Yes, we've had a rough time, but, like that ad, it's starting to change around here. Here are three things Immanuel is not: We are not narrow-minded. We are not stingy and we certainly are not cold toward visitors. Those three are church killers, and we aren't about any of them.

What are we then? We are generous both prayerfully and materially. We enjoy each others, company and welcome newcomers warmly. I just read the Stewardship Minutes and was once again so pleased with us and our

giving spirit. What can we do to keep on growing? We

can talk about it outside the church instead of just telling each other how nice we are. Talk to friends about your friends at Immanuel. (I started here because I know somebody here) Invite people, unashamedly, to our events and then BRING THEM! Introduce them around. Let them see who we are, and how we are. As Jesus said, we mustn't "hide our light under a barrel"!

April, 2011

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

HE *is risen*



News Briefs

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 "Little Luxuries" Items, including full-sized soaps, shampoo, deodorant, lotion and other personal 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.

Coming Soon...Mark your calendars today for the American Red Cross Blood Drive on May



23rd, from 2-8pm Participation benefits Brittany Cavanaugh through their scholarship fund.

Christmas In Action

The Building and Grounds Committee has adopted as their ministry the "Christmas In Action" program of Oakland County.

Bring your hammer and work gloves and join us as



we help seniors right here in Oxford with minor repairs to their homes, yard work and other chores. Open to all 12 years and older. Saturday, April 30, 8am to 6pm. To register, call Art Nagasaki at 248-969-6056. For more information visit: www.ciaoaklandcounty.org/

Immanuel Spring Clean-up

Spring is here! Time to put on our best face!

Grab your work gloves and your yard tools and join us for our annual spring clean-up.

Saturday, April 16, 9am-3pm Refreshments will be offered





Council Notes:

Church Council Meeting

March 3, 2011

Council Minutes for March 3, 2011

Attending

Art Nagasaki, Dave Bailey, Ken Martin, Liz Wilson (Pastor,) Nate Morialke (guest,) Roxanne Todd

Meeting opened with prayer.

Shout outs:

Nate Marialke's Band use of the church. This is a Christian band named after the singer. Plan to use the sanctuary to film a music video, the song is called "My Soul to Rest in God Alone." Nate wants to do this on March 6th from 1:30 to 2:00. Discussion on the cost for the use of the sanctuary and agreed to the offer of \$150 plus a concert for the community that benefits our church later. The video filming should not disturb normal church operations. They plan on helping us promote the church on youtube by placing the name under the credits. Ken moved, Art seconded, Motion Carried.

UCC- kitchen staff spaghetti dinner for May 13, 2011 from 5:30 to 8:30. \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 children over three, free for children under three, family \$20.00. To be held in the fellowship hall with use of full kitchen. Proceeds will be split between the Kitchen team for their ministry and the general fund.

Ken moved to approve, Dave seconded, Motion Carried

Pastor reports that she needs the Congregation to move forward for Sunday school, toddler through adult. After worship Sunday school for adults. She asked council to pledge money to get things moving. Fund raisers should help to pay for booklets. Council voted unanimously to back the program.

Old business

Funds for furnace repair taken from the Future Faith fund to allow breathing room for the budget. Art agrees that it be an option to use it for fixing the furnace and the locks on the doors to the fellowship hall. Council adds that such transfers will be evaluated on a month to month basis as long as repair expenses don't exceed \$1,000.

Art made the motion; Joe seconded it. Motion Carried

Music director search

Ken reports that he asked someone from the middle school, and was declined. Organ midi 35.00 Roxanne will order, and will present a bill to Lori. Organist search is still pending.

Honoring Barb

Refer to Congregational Care requesting that Janet and Ann to take charge.

Board and Committee retreat

Roxanne reports the first part went well. The second part not so well. Vision statement was presented to council to be put in the news letter pending councils approval. Christian life, and Continuing Gifts needs representatives at council meetings to make council more productive. Ken appointed to choose a leader from Continuing Gifts to come to council meetings. Roxanne feels we need another retreat May 14, 2011, at Pastor Liz's house from 9:00 am till 2:00 pm. Lunch and breakfast included.

Standing emergency procedures

Furnace, electrical, plumbing, and appliances. Art is not exactly sure on how to set up but he got something done. A folder set with phone numbers to all utilities, and procedures on what to do in case of an emergency. Art is looking for guidance on what to add to it. Was told to keep it simple, so that if Sue or Liz were ever unavailable somebody would know what to do.

Key policy report

Muriel Beltz created a Key Policy and presented it for council's approval. Deposit for key will be added to building use form so that the person given the key will return it. This will also be added to the policy.

Policy and procedure manual was appointed to Roxanne to be presented at the retreat, to discuss new laws to protect the church incase of an emergency, and to keep the church safe from lawsuits.

Phone tree update

Liz said Joy should be appointed to the job of contacting everyone incase of an emergency and appoint someone else to help.

Fat Tuesday is all systems go, except that the advertisement was left out of the newspaper by the Oxford Leader. Needs card tables. Dave will put up signs on the streets.

Kroger skiffs

Roxanne is signing up for the Community Rewards Program at Kroger. 5% of all purchases made by members who have registered their Kroger Card will be returned to the church.

Still Speaking voice quilt.

To be put together at the second Sunday supper. Roxanne plans to take pictures of people for iron on transfers.

Lounge lift

Art and Roxanne found things they can do in space in the church, including; paint the acoustical tiles in the lounge, remove the drop ceiling, and replace the carpet. Property and grounds meeting to plan this, at a later date, Clean up will be discussed also, for grounds, basement, and catacomb.

Business cards for Liz. Roxanne brought a proposal price for \$16.72 for 500 cards. To be ordered.

Burdick street sign; tabled Pending group meeting.

Multimedia system

Laptop projection and screen- Ken found that the projectors didn't fit the light we have in the sanctuary. It would produce too much light and not show on the screen. It would cost \$ 1200.00 to purchase a projector that would work with the light in the sanctuary, Pending price on the screen that need to be used as well.

New business

Liz would like her name on the Marquee. Council approved.

Roxanne talked about low risk government bonds. Liz expressed her concerns with past experiences with T bills. Art suggested I.R.A bonds that he asked his financial adviser about. Found C.D.s that generate money. The rate of return at 5.15%, high quality return at 3.1%, this would help increase income from money in funds we aren't doing anything with.

Open and affirming

Our goal is to have an open and affirming church. The class to help us on our way costs \$85.00 a person. A 50% scholarship for any person that would be interested in attending, Pending Irene and Dave confirmation.

Meeting closed at 9:45pm



February 24, 2011

Congregational Meeting

Budget Approval/Constitution Approval

Meeting began at about 12:10

The new budget was presented to the congregation, with the changes that the congregation asked the Council to make at the Annual meeting.

Changes Include:

Pastors pay reduced to \$22,140.00

Stewardship increased from 0 to \$100.00

Total Budget decreased from \$89,164.56 to \$87,650.20.

Ken Martin explained to the congregation job descriptions for Music Director, Choir Director and Organist and gave an update of the work in progress for an organist and director.

The number of pledges increased from 23,743.00 a balance of 47,423.00

Motion to except changes was made by Ann McKinley and seconded by Irene Slisinger.

It was brought up that the budget is still over expected income. Roxanne discussed ways to bring money into the congregation.

The budget vote was: 12 against and 17 in favor. The budget was accepted. A new budget will be drawn up by the budget committee in May for presentation to the congregation in June.

The motion to adjourn was made by Ken Martin, seconded by Irene Slisinger.

Meeting adjourned about 12:45.

By popular demand!

Judy's Heavenly Lemon Melt-away Cookies

1 cup Butter (only)
1/2 cup powdered sugar
2/3 cup cornstarch
1 cup flour

Cream butter and powdered sugar. Mix corn starch & flour in a separate bowl, then add to the butter-sugar mixture. Drop by teaspoonsful onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 15 minutes at 325 degrees. Makes about 2 1/2 doz small cookies.

Frosting

2 cup powdered sugar
3 tbsp lemon juice
1/4 c butter
1 tsp grated lemon rind
mix together

With thanks to Judy Vascasseno



"Your Church is Awesome!

God Bless You All!!!!

The Nate Marialke Band



Three weeks ago, Christian Rock performer, Nate Marialke and his band shot a music video in our sanctuary. The song, "Rest" is a beautiful piece and we look forward to seeing it posted to

Youtube. Besides paying for the use of our sanctuary, Nate has graciously agreed to include the name of our church in the credits and will perform in concert at some date in the future. If you can't wait to hear the song, visit Nick's website at: <http://natemarialke.com/> p.s. Thanks to Joe Tubbs who manned the sound board for the musicians during filming!

Giving is Good for You

Reprinted from the March 20 Bulletin Cover

Some people think that by giving, they're doing someone else a favor. In fact, they're doing themselves a favor. Yes, giving of our time, talent and even treasure is good for us.

Consider the personal benefits of giving. In their book, *The Power of Giving: How Giving Back Enriches Us All*, Azim Jamal and Harvey McKinnon write: "By giving, you can live to your potential, avoid loneliness, become fearless, touch your spirit and find meaning and fulfillment."

There's even scientific proof that people who give experience what's called "the helper's high." Stephen Post, author of *Why Good Things Happen to Good People*, says, "Researchers in many diverse fields have identified a physical biology of giving and positive emotions, a sense of warmth and joy in life. People even report feeling increased energy."

Does that mean that givers may even experience improved physical health? Yes, according to Dr. Cheryl Phillips, president of the American Geriatrics Society. "In my work with older patients, I have seen many times that people who stay engaged in volunteer activities remain more vital and independent than those who withdraw from the world. We know people who volunteer tend to feel better and even have longer lives," she says.

So science indicates that giving of one's time and talent can be emotionally and physically beneficial to the giver. But that doesn't go for giving money, does it? Yes it does. An article in the journal *Science* describes an experiment in which adults were divided into two groups. One group was given money to spend on themselves and the other was given money to spend on other people. "Participants who were randomly assigned to spend money on other people experienced greater happiness than those assigned to spend money on themselves," writes Dr. Elizabeth Dunn.

Another study of donors came to the same conclusion. When asked what it felt like to give, people described a feeling of excitement and joy when they wrote a check. "It's so important to them that half the respondents were willing to make compromises in other areas of their lives to sustain their philanthropy if necessary," says Penelope Burk, author of the survey.

All of this may be hard for people weaned on the "give until it hurts" motto to swallow. But those words aren't in the Bible! When Apostle Paul says that God loves a cheerful giver, he may even be saying that God created us to be givers because it would make us happy.



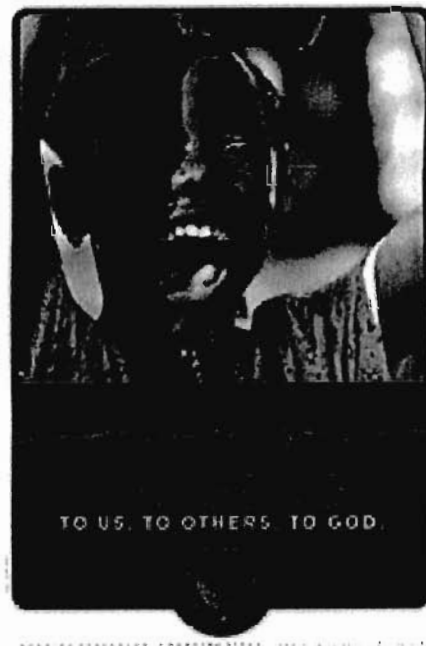
Ministry Spotlight: One Great Hour of Sharing

TOKYO, JAPAN – Nearly three weeks after the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami that devastated the northeastern coast of Japan, Church World Service reports that the country's domestic resources alone aren't sufficient to deal with the disaster, and there are still thousands who haven't yet received assistance.

From Tokyo, Takeshi Komino, CWS Asia/Pacific's head of emergencies, is coordinating CWS efforts in Japan. Over the weekend, Komino reported that "It is evident that even a very developed country like Japan is not able to cope with its domestic resources only, due to the magnitude of four nearly simultaneous disasters – a 9.0 earthquake, tsunami, nuclear threat, and freezing winter weather in affected areas.

"Survivors I interviewed echo the same point, that relief efforts reported in the media are not consistently reaching them, which tells us there is a huge variation on where needs are somewhat being met and not being met at all," he said.

"These people who are staying in extremely difficult conditions at the evacuation sites, they really do need everyone's help. Their basic needs must be met, and we need to be there when they re-formulate their communities. Governments can make systems and policies, but it's people who make communities. As the people centered organization that we are, we can formulate people-centered assistance, which is a key aspect in this relief and recovery," Komino says.



Church World Services is just one of the ways your donation to the One Great Hour of Sharing helps make a difference in the world! Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are utilized on average every 2.5 days to respond to a disaster. Around the world, around the year, OGHs changes lives. Throughout the Lenten Season, our church will take up a special collection in support of One Great Hour of Sharing. Envelopes are available in the lounge.

Pilate wanted to get out of sentencing Jesus, so he sent Him to another ruler.

Rearrange the letters of the given words and insert them in the blanks to create larger words that will complete the story.

Pilate sent Jesus to King H_____,
rode

who questi_____ Him. The chief
done

_____ts accused Him loudly. Herod and
spire

his sol_____s mo_____ Jesus, dressed
ride deck

Him in an e_____e, and sent
tangle orb

Him back to P_____e. _____ate said,
tail lip

"He has done no _____g to de_____
hint verse

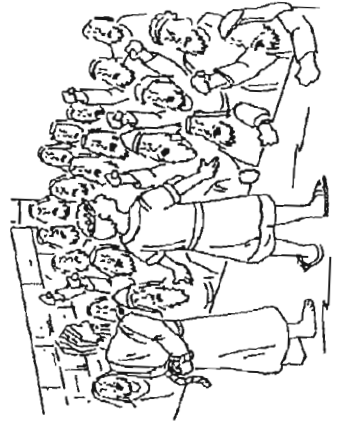
d_____I will pu_____h Him and
heat sin

re_____e Him." The people c_____
seal dire

loudly, "Crucify Him." So

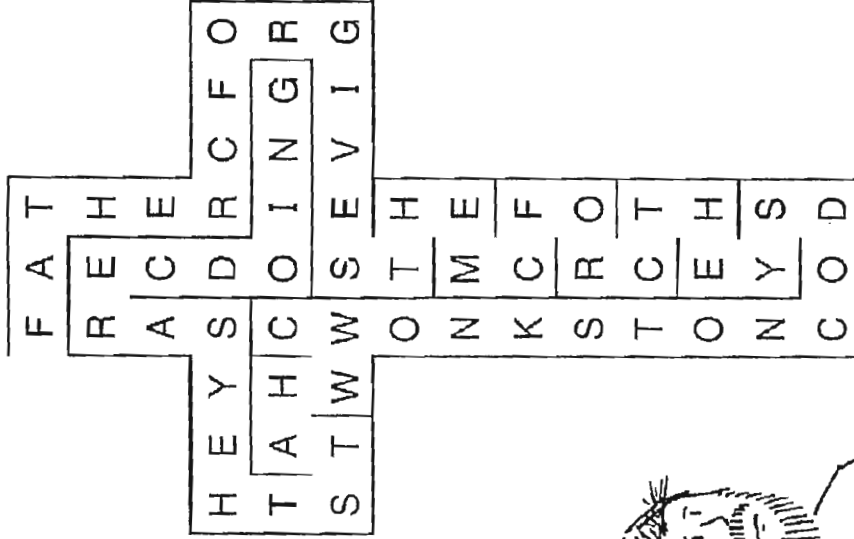
Pilate dec_____to
died

grant their_____nd.
made



The soldiers crucified Jesus along with two criminals.

Cross out every C and S in the cross.
Following the path, write the remaining letters on the lines
to find what Jesus said while on the cross.



Family Page

(Practice these emotions with the children. Then, encourage them to show those emotions during the story.)

Sad: hang heads and pretend to wipe tears away.

Amazed: wiggle hands in the air and make a surprised face.

Jesus' friends were **sad**. They were sad because they thought they would never see Jesus again. Suddenly Jesus appeared in the room with them. The friends were **amazed**. Jesus was alive!

Jesus said to the friends, "Peace be with you." Now Jesus' friends had so much to say to Jesus. They were **amazed** to see Jesus. They talked and talked to Jesus. Then Jesus went away.

Thomas was one of Jesus' friends. Thomas wasn't in the room when everyone saw Jesus. Thomas was still very **sad**.

"Thomas," the friends said, "we saw Jesus!" But Thomas said, "I don't believe you. I want to see Jesus. Then I will know that Jesus is still with us." *(Pause.)*

The next week, all the friends were in the same room again. Suddenly, Jesus appeared. Everyone was **amazed**.

Jesus said to Thomas, "Touch my hands. I'm really here." Thomas was **amazed**. Then Jesus turned to everyone and said, "My love will always be with you."

Everyone was **amazed** when Jesus said this. "Alleluia! Jesus will always be with us."

Project: Butterfly snack- Place a banana strip (body) in the middle of a plate. Then place a triangular sandwich on either side of the banana body for wings. Help children to make their own butterflies.



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.



Bible Study meets every Wednesday night at 6:30 to read the Scripture related to the week's liturgy and apply these lessons to our lives.

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Treasurer's Report – January 2011

Submitted by: Lori Hanft

Beginning balances:

Current operating balance: \$592.80

Benevolence operating balance: \$0.00

Our total receipts for the month of January were as follows:

Current operating income: \$5818.91

Benevolence (Mission) operating income:
\$644.29

Our total Disbursements for the month of January were as follows:

Current operating expenses: \$5244.44

Benevolence (Mission) operating expenses:
\$0.00

Ending balances:

Current operating balance: \$1167.27

Benevolence operating balance: \$644.29

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

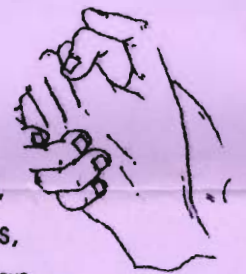
Be with those struggling with employment issues and the accompanying challenges.

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, 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,



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

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On Display....

Crosses



Perhaps you have a cross on the wall that inspires you or a treasured family cross handing down through generations. Maybe you've created a cross in wood, iron or cross stitch. If you have a cross you would like to share this Lenten Season, bring it to the Fellowship hall. Share its beauty along with its story!