



Immanuel United Church of Christ | 1526 S. 18th Street | Lafayette, IN 47905 | web: [ucc-immanuel.org](http://ucc-immanuel.org)  
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## Unwrapping the Gifts of Christmas

Part of the magic of Christmas is unwrapping Christmas presents. I always love seeing all the presents around the Christmas tree, colorfully wrapped with beautiful holiday bows and a special note. And I love the wonder and excitement of watching children and adults unwrap a special Christmas gift from someone who loves them and has taken special time to select just the right gift. Then there is that special magical moment when they unwrap the gift and their face lights up as they see the gift and exclaim with joy how wonderful the gift is and embrace and the one who gave it.

This Christmas we will be unwrapping God's gifts to us of hope, peace, love and joy. Join us as we journey to Bethlehem and gather around Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus that first Christmas and unwrap God's special gifts to us. Through Christ, we can unwrap the timeless gifts of hope, peace, love and joy.

We invite you to pause from the busyness of the season. Follow the star. Sing with the angels. And come and worship Christ. Let your heart be filled with the wonder and love of God come to us in Christ, born in a humble manger to Mary and Joseph, while angels sang, shepherds kept watch, and magi worshipped.

We hope you will discover anew the magic of God's love at Immanuel as we celebrate and sing the joy of Christmas and the wonder of God's love in Christ.

Join us for these special celebrations and make your Christmas even more sacred and joyous!

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas! –Pastor TJ

**Join us for these special celebrations and make your Christmas  
even more sacred and joyous!**

**Christmas Pageant December 10th at 10:45am with Fellowship dinner following**

**DEC 24: Christmas Communion 8:30 am & 10:45 am**

**Christmas Eve Children & Family Service 6:00 pm**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Readings & Carols 7:30 pm**



## December Events

December 3 Pageant Practice 9:45am  
December 3 Youth Christmas Party 4-6pm  
December 9 Jubilee Christmas 9:00am  
December 9 Youth make Christmas Cookies 1-4pm  
December 10 Christmas Pageant 10:45am  
December 10 Carry in Dinner 12:00pm Fellowship Hall  
December 10 Family Caroling Event 2-5pm

December 24 Christmas Communion  
8:30am Contemporary Service  
9:45am Sunday School  
10:45am Traditional Service

Christmas Eve Services  
Christmas Eve Children & Family Service 6:00 pm  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Readings & Carols 7:30 pm



## Advent Readers

If you would be interested in being a reader and candle lighter during the Advent season. Please sign up on the sheet which is located on the table in the gathering space. We will need readers for both first and second service.



## Christmas Sermon Series: Unwrapping the Gifts of Christmas

DEC 3: Unwrapping the Gift of Hope  
DEC 10: Immanuel Christmas Pageant (Single Service Sunday at 10:45 am with Fellowship Dinner following) Unwrapping the Gift of Peace  
DEC 17: Unwrapping the Gift of Love  
DEC 24: Christmas Communion 8:30 am & 10:45 am Unwrapping the Gift of Joy  
Christmas Eve Children & Family Service 6:00 pm  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Readings & Carols 7:30 pm  
DEC 31: Join Us For Special Sunday Morning Services on New Year's Eve

## December Special Offerings

December 3 Staff Salaries      December 10 Staff Salaries  
December 17 Veteran's of the Cross Christmas Fund  
December 24 Pastor's Discretionary Fund





## Youth Activities

Dec. 3 Make Advent Wreaths 9:30am  
Dec. 3 Christmas Craft Party 4-6pm  
Dec. 9 Make Christmas Cookies 1-5pm  
Dec. 10 Christmas Carry in with Santa 12pm  
Dec. 10 Family Caroling Event 2-5pm  
Jan 7 Ice Skating Event 1-4pm



## Victory Lane Homework Club

Meets every Monday and Wednesday from 4:30-5:30pm - Free Tutoring-Snacks-Quality Adult Supervisor For more information see Marcy Ritchie or Amy Russell.



## Bible Sunday

Sunday November 12th was Bible Sunday where we presented our 4th graders with their own Holy Bible. Congratulations Isaac Collin Buckles.



## Cary Home Stocking Project

Once again we have been given the privilege of providing Christmas stocking for our friends at Cary Home. Our Baby Quilters have made beautiful Christmas stockings for these youth. We are asking for your help in filling those stockings. If you are able to help you can drop off your donations bucket in the gathering space. We also have list of acceptable items. Monetary donations are always welcome.

## Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal's

Nov 19—9:45am, Nov 26— 9:45am, Nov 29—6:30pm, Dec 6— 6:30pm,  
Dec 9—4:00-6:00pm Dress Rehearsal



## Children's Christmas Pageant

**December 10th— 10:45am**

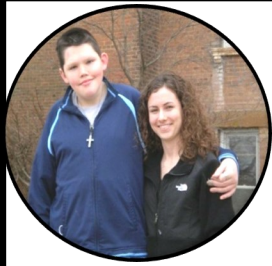
Please arrive by 9:45am. Please wear Black pants or skirt and white, red, or green shirt or a combination of the 3 colors



## Family Caroling event

Please join us on December 10th for a family caroling event we are planning to leave from the church at 2pm go sing to the shut in at some of the area nursing homes. We will take cookies and cards that the youth have made. We plan to return to the church around 4pm. This should be a fun Christmas event for the whole family. Everyone Welcome.





## Bench in Memory of Lisa & Grant

We are collecting plastic lids to have a bench made in Memory of Lisa & Grant. If you would please save your plastic lids and drop them off at the church. We need 200 pounds of plastic lids to make a bench. There is a list on the bulletin board outside the office with the details of what lids are acceptable. Thanks for your help.



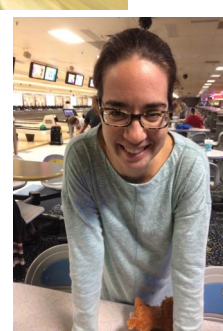
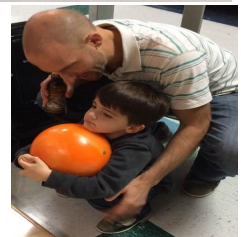
## Ladies Fellowship Clothing Program Elementary Schools K-4th Grade

Needed item include Hats, Gloves, Sweat Pants, Underwear, and socks. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Last year we were able to help 4 local schools. Contact Ellen House or Jean Sharp for any questions you might have. A box for donations is located on the lower level of the church next to the Alpha- Omega Room.

## Trunk or Treat



## Bowling for Jesus



### Fellowship Activities

**Ladies Fellowship**, will meet December 18th at 6:30pm at the home of Jean Sharp

**Dorcas Circle**; Christmas Party at the home of Carol Wallace, 2115 Birch Lane, Dec. 12th at 1:30 PM, Rowena will have a Christmas Story, Carol will give Devotions. Each should bring items for the YWCA's Crisis center.

**Book Club**, Book club will not meet in December. On January 9th, 2018 we will meet to discuss The Quiet Child by John Burley.

A gripping psychological novel about family, suspicion, and the price we are willing to pay to protect those we love the most.

**Men's Brotherhood**, will meet December 19th at 11:45 at MCL

**Mary and Martha**; will meet Wed., Dec. 20th. All Immanuel friends are invited at 11:00 a.m. for a Christmas program of readers' theatre and/or at Noon for a buffet luncheon. The Circle will gather at 10:30 a.m. for a business meeting

**Extension Homemakers**, will have their Christmas party and gift exchange on Dec. 5th at 12:00pm. The community donation will be toys, wrapping paper, bows and tags for the Salvation Army Children's Christmas

**Hand Quilting Group**, meets Wednesday's from 10-2 on the stage in Fellowship Hall. Bring a sack lunch.

**Baby Quilters**, meet the 1st & 3rd Monday's from 9:30-2:30 in the HOB0 classroom to make quilts for local NICUs.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**, Meets the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10-11:30am in the Parlor. Everyone is welcome.

**Health Ministry**, Please call the office or Marilyn, 474-6487, for appointments. Home visits are also available upon request.

### Christian Education:

Every Sunday, 9:45 am.

**The Hobo's Class**, led by Gary & Cathie Gangwer, to discuss the sermon and scripture lesson for that Sunday.

**Livin' Life 21-41 Class**, led by Clay & Sue Huenemann, where you can RECHARGE your spiritual batteries for the week ahead.

**The Seekers Class**, led by Don & Janice Partlow, is beginning a one year study of the New Testament.

### Small Groups

**Women's Group**, led by Ruth Smith. Meet for dinner and discussion of the book unNatural Mom.

**Young Adult/Student Group**, meets Thursdays at 7:30 pm at Vienna Cafe in West Lafayette. Led by Brooke Flesher

### Saturday Morning

**Group**, meets every other Saturday at the Panera on Wabash Landing at 9 am. Led by Annie Buckles

**Adult Bible Study**, Led by Pastor TJ is currently studying the book of Acts; On Fire For God. Meets on Wednesday's at 6:30 pm. Meeting in the Library.

**Don't see a group for you?** Contact Ruth Smith at ruthmcsmith1987@gmail.com for resources to start one for yourself.

## **Pastor's Cookie Jar**



The Pastor's cookie jar is down to crumbs. Please consider helping to replenish it. Funds are used for both church and community people for emergent needs.

## **LUM Jubilee Christmas**

Immanuel UCC will be hosting Jubilee Christmas on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at

9:00am. Please help us warmly welcome 15 families. Our congregation will work to provide gifts for children, gift cards for teens, a ham, and a food gift card for each family. You can help by volunteering on December 9th, a volunteer form can be found in the Gathering Space. You can purchase gifts for children, too. Please choose an ornament from the board, also located in the Gathering Space, purchase a gift, and return the gift to church by December 3rd. We are also in need of monetary donations to purchase additional supplies, toys and gifts. Please consider giving to Jubilee Christmas.





# Happy Birthday

# Happy Anniversary

Natalie Ritchie	12/2
Karen Strueh	12/2
Brian Dickerson	12/3
John Diamond	12/2
Makayla Taylor	12/3
Laurie Ruemler	12/4
Jennifer Young	12/4
Kaycie Laughner	12/5

David Gottlieb	12/26
Paul Hawkins	12/27
Chad Lester	12/27
Rene Richardson	12/27
Jean Sharp	12/27
Barbara Taylor	12/27
Mark Austin	12/28
Sylvia Bechtel	12/28
Sha Meihls	12/28
Paula Imamura	12/29
Tom Lillpop	12/30
Wally Rogers	12/31

Brian/Rowena Dickerson	12/6
John/Mary Patterson	12/21
Clint/Milica Frank	12/22
Jeff/Janet Stearns	12/28
Newlin/Elizabeth Howard	12/31



Catherine Carney	12/6
Jim Hazlewood	12/6
Marquita Armes	12/7
Craig Wooldridge	12/7
Maggie Richardson	12/8
Mil Jones	12/8
Tommy Lillpop	12/9
Seockmo Ku	12/9
Richard Graves	12/10
Kelsey McGirt	12/10
Teresa Anliker	12/12
Nora Whistler	12/12
Melinda Gick	12/13
Hayley Jacobs	12/13
Robert Kraay	12/14
Rachel Richardson	12/14
John Blair	12/15
C.J. Collins	12/15
Chaz Kruger	12/15
Barb Blair	12/16
Thomas Cougill	12/16
Esther Kohler	12/16
Sarah McKee	12/16
Charles Richardson	12/16
Ashton Beaver	12/18
Brittany Brown	12/18
Jeremy Shepard	12/18
Tom Werner	12/18
William Wunsch	12/18
Shirley Babb	12/19
Tina Price	12/19
Tina Parker	12/21

Rodney Weast-	12/21
Stephen Clevenger	12/24
Robert Foresman	12/24
Nathan Caldwell	12/24
Sherry Reash	12/24
Sandy Formica	12/25

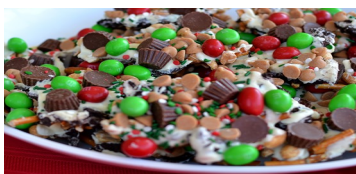
## Christmas Bark

1 lb. white chocolate (I use Ghirardelli white chocolate chips)  
 14 Oreos, broken into pieces (I use the plain)  
 1 and 1/2 cups pretzels, broken- I used the thin straight ones  
 1 cup peanut butter chips  
 1/2 cup peanuts  
 1/2 cup miniature Reese's cups  
 1/2 cup Peanut M&Ms (Christmas Colors)  
 Christmas sprinkles

### Directions:

Cover a cookie sheet with waxed paper or foil. Spread the broken pretzels, broken cookies & peanuts on the prepared cookie sheet. Melt the white chocolate in microwave until smooth (1 minute to 1 1/2 minutes, make sure to add a little canola oil).

Drizzle the melted white chocolate over the pretzel mixture, spreading with a spatula if needed. Before it sets, sprinkle on M&Ms, Miniature Reese's, Peanut Butter Chips and sprinkles. Place the tray into the refrigerator until set. Break into pieces and enjoy!



## Fish Fry



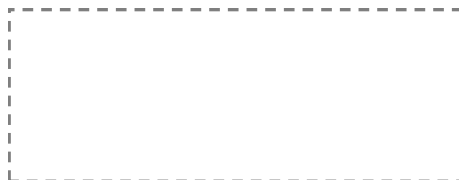
# December 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> 8:30am Cont. 9:45am Sunday School Youth make Advent wreaths 10:45am Trad. 12:00pm Confirmation 4:00pm Youth Christmas Party	<b>4</b> 9:30am Baby Quilters 4:30pm Homework Club 6:00pm CET	<b>5</b> 12:00pm Extension Homemakers 6:30pm Worship & Music	<b>6</b> 10:00am Quilters 4:30pm Homework Club 5:45pm Neighborhood Dinner 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Pageant Practice 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Jubilee Christmas 10:00am Prayer Shawl 1:00pm Youth make Cookies 4:00pm Pageant Dress Rehearsal 8:00pm Band Rehearsal
<b>10</b> 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Traditional 12:00pm Carry in Lunch 12:00pm Confirmation 2:00pm Caroling	<b>11</b> 4:30pm Homework Club	<b>12</b> 1:30pm Dorcas 6:00pm Book Club 7:00pm Elder's Deacons, Trustees 8:00pm	<b>13</b> 10:00am Quilters 4:30pm Neighborhood Dinner 5:45pm Neighborhood Dinner 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 5:30pm Great Banquet	<b>15</b> Wabash Center Christmas Party	<b>16</b> 8:00pm Band Rehearsal
<b>17</b> 8:30am Contemporary 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Traditional 12:00pm Private Party	<b>18</b> 9:30am Baby Quilters 4:30pm Homework Club 6:30pm Ladies Fellowship	<b>19</b> 10:00am E-Team 11:45am Men's Brotherhood	<b>20</b> 9:00am Mary Martha 10:00am Quilters 4:30pm Homework Club 5:45pm Neighborhood Dinner 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00am Private Party 8:00pm Band Rehearsal
<b>24</b> 8:30am Contemporary Service 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Traditional Service 6:00pm Family Service 7:30pm Candle Light Service	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas Office Closed	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00am 8:00pm Band Rehearsal	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8:00pm Band Rehearsal
<b>31</b> 8:30am Contemporary Service 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Traditional Service	<b>1</b> Happy New Year Office Closed	<b>2</b> 12:00pm Extension Homemakers 6:30pm Worship & Music	<b>3</b> 10:00am Quilters 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:00pm Band Rehearsal



*Uniting in Christ*  
*Listening to God*



If you move please let us know so you don't miss an issue of the Spire! If you prefer to read the Spire on our web page at [ucc-immanuel.org](http://ucc-immanuel.org) or do not want to receive the Spire through the mail please call the office - 474-6496, or send an email to: [info@ucc-immanuel.org](mailto:info@ucc-immanuel.org) Thank you.

**Inside the Spire:**  
 Pastor TJ's Greeting  
 Pictures  
 Youth news  
 Missions  
 Worship Themes  
 Ministry Meetings  
 Birthdays &  
 Wedding Anniversaries  
 Monthly Calendar

### December Events

Children's Christmas Pageant  
 December 10, 10:45am (1 Service Fellowship Dinner with Santa to follow)  
  
 Christmas Communion  
 December 24th; 8:30am & 10:45am  
  
 Christmas Eve Services  
 Family & Children 6:00pm  
 Birthday Party for Jesus  
 Candlelight Service 7:30pm

### Come join us and bring someone with you

#### **Every Sunday:**

Contemporary Service 8:30 am  
 Sunday School 9:45 am  
 Traditional Service 10:45 am

#### **Wednesdays:**

Everyone is welcome to attend  
 Wednesday Night Dinner 5:45p  
 and Adult Bible Study at 6:30pm

