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 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 HOBO 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**


**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.
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!
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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 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 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

Uniting in Christ
Listening to God

Merry Christmas