

## WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

Every week an update is sent via email, usually on a Thursday afternoon. If you are not receiving the weekly email please contact, [secretary@immanuel-ucc.org](mailto:secretary@immanuel-ucc.org) or call 610-777-7107.

Visit our Facebook page, website, or join our Immanuel Facebook group that engenders dialogue while we continue to be physically distance. Check it out by searching “Immanuel Shillington United Church of Christ”

## HYBRID WORSHIP

As we Widen Our Welcome with in-person worship at 9am, our services will continue to be live-streamed on YouTube

[www.youtube.com/immanuelucc](http://www.youtube.com/immanuelucc)  
and Facebook

[www.facebook.com/immanueluccpa](http://www.facebook.com/immanueluccpa)

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday  
9AM – 3PM

The office will be closed  
Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>

Can't make it during office hours?  
Outside mail slot by the office entrance is available for before or after hours drop-offs. Call if you have any questions.

# IMMANUEL

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

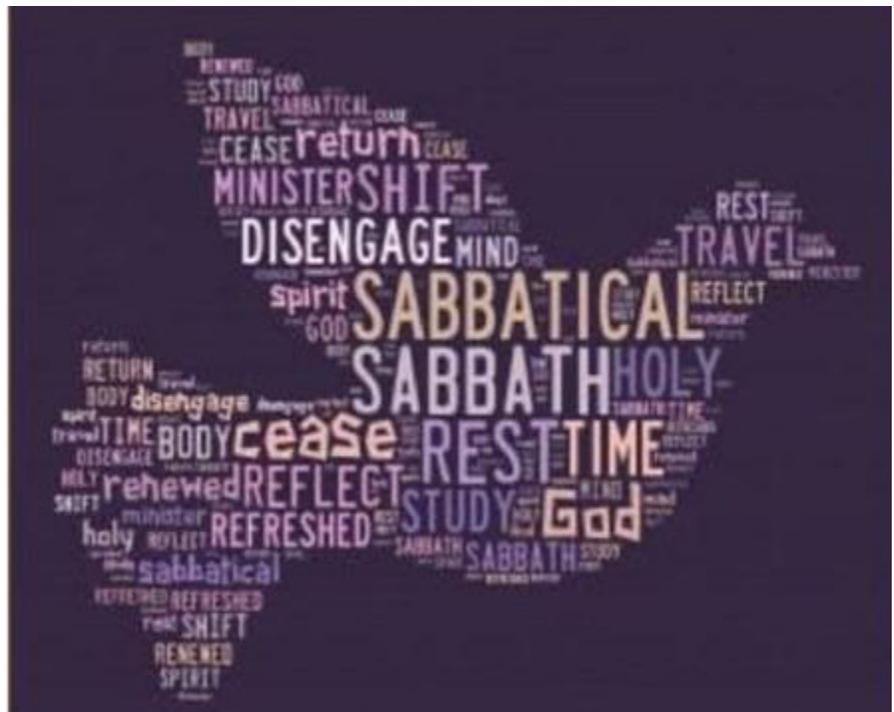
# NEWSLETTER

June 30, 2021

Rev Meg will be on sabbatical July 20 – October 11.

The word “sabbatical” is derived from Sabbath. Sabbath time is based on Genesis 2:1-42 in which God modeled and later instructed setting aside of 1/7th of our time for recreation and restoration. Later in scripture these words are offered as coming from God:

“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the Lord. For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits, but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the Lord (Leviticus 25).



Ministerial sabbaticals are resting periods for clergy. It is a time where they can step away from the pressures of weekly worship preparation, continuous evening and weekend commitments, and pastoral care of others and step into intentional personal reflection.

It is a time for drinking deeply from the Spirit's life-giving waters, for renewing enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment for ministry.

Likewise, the sabbatical provides the congregation with a time rich in revitalizing discovery and supporting one another in Christian community.

To ensure the uninterrupted time and space for this kind of renewal of our pastor, it is important to respect Rev. Meg's time away from IUCC. We kindly ask for your cooperation in honoring her boundaries. She will be spending time with her family, enjoying some travel and participating in continuing education.

Here is a brief summary of how we will attend to one another during the sabbatical time.

**Worship Life** - We have an extraordinary array of worship leaders for our Sunday services including but not limited to Pastor Beth, Rev. Nease, Rev. Knox. Stephen, our Minister of Music, will continue to provide leadership as well.

**Pastoral Care** - This sabbatical time gives us all the opportunity to reach out even more to support and care for one another. Pastor Beth along with retired clergy of our congregation will be on call for those in need of support. To inquire about Pastoral Care for yourself or another, please contact the church office.

**General Ministry and Business** – Immanuel is blessed with a capable and committed staff. Bethany Kirkner, Director of Strategic Operations [operations@immanuel-ucc.org](mailto:operations@immanuel-ucc.org) and Zachary Kuhn, Consistory President [IUCCconsistory@gmail.com](mailto:IUCCconsistory@gmail.com) can be reached at any time for clarification of our ministry within and outside the walls of Immanuel. Your prayers, mission involvement and worshipping presence contributes to our living Christ's message of hope in the world today.

## EXPLORE | CONNECT | JOIN

On Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> Immanuel welcomed 14 households into our membership family. Brief introductions were shared via the screens during worship. You can also find them shared within our Facebook group "Immanuel Shillington United Church of Christ."

## BRIDGE PASTOR ~ BETH EUSTIS

Along with welcoming new members on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, we also welcomed Beth Eustis as our Bridge Pastor. The role of Bridge Pastor is to provide pastoral leadership and care while our Search Committee seeks our next settled Associate Pastor.

This is a part-time position that is focused on nurturing the adult spiritual formation opportunities of our congregation. In addition, Beth will also assist with the leadership of worship and offering pastoral care. You'll note in Beth's bio that she is a Member in Discernment approved for ordination pending a call. This means she is credentialed to serve a congregation but does not yet have authorization to preside over the sacraments (communion and baptism). Her ordination will confer the title of Reverend and the grant the privileges of presiding over the sacraments.

Beth can be reached at [clergy@immanuel-ucc.org](mailto:clergy@immanuel-ucc.org) and will work remotely and on IUCC's campus. We give thanks for this opportunity to minister together. Welcome Beth!

Pastor Beth Eustis is a 2020 graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary and a Member in Discernment. She is a 20 year member of UCC at Valley Forge and has previously served as a Bridge Pastor there and also at St. James UCC in Limerick. She lives in Thorndale and is the proud mother of Nick and Ben. Pastor Beth is so excited and humbled to be serving at Immanuel and is looking forward to meeting everyone and serving as a disciple of Christ together!



## 5 FOR 5 CHURCH

Thanks to YOUR generosity, Immanuel was recently named a 2020 "5 for 5 Church" helping the UCC's national and international ministries that rely on churches' contributions for basic operating support and mission. Being 5 for 5 means that our church is a leader, providing support to Our Church's Wider Mission and the 4 Special Mission Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need and The Christmas Fund.

## COVID UPDATE

We appreciate your continued attentiveness to living out our “love of neighbor” by honoring COVID response protocols. Our latest update in light of national and local guidance:

For non-worship activities:

- Vaccinated individuals only need to wear masks on campus when they are engaging children for an extended time (more than 15 minutes) in close proximity (less than 3 feet). This applies to indoor and outdoor activities.
- Unvaccinated individuals are asked to wear masks indoors. They may go unmasked outdoors unless they are engaging children for an extended time (more than 15 minutes) in close proximity (less than 3 feet).

For worship:

- The Consistory meets July 6th. Revisions to our current protocol will be reviewed at that time. Current protocol: All, regardless of vaccination status are requested to wear a mask while attending indoor worship. Update will be communicated via weekly email blast or by contacting the church office.

To ensure your own comfort level, all are welcomed to wear a mask regardless of location or vaccination status.

## INTRODUCING “BRAVE SPACE” CAMP

*It's time to think “connecting” rather “distancing” when you hear the word “social”! We are thrilled to introduce a new program at Immanuel – BRAVE SPACE: 4 Connections.*

*BRAVE SPACE is designed to celebrate our differences and our authenticity by connecting with others. Last month, a \$9,000 grant was awarded to Immanuel to implement an interfaith children's camp followed by a professionally-facilitated, tough-topic **conversation** series held with our members & neighbors in the fall.*

*The funds were awarded by the **Hawley & Myrtle Quier Fund of Berks County Community Foundation** as part of the \$100,000 “You Are Here” Berks program. The goal of this special grant for non-profits is to foster human connection in our community. Projects that breakdown polarization, create a sense of shared community, highlight different points of view, and showcase a variety of voices were prioritized for selection.*



This interfaith program is open to all children who have finished K-6th grade and will be held both outdoors and indoors on Immanuel's campus.



During these age-appropriate activities, students will play and learn as they get to know their neighbors and practice valuable skills in communication, respect, and empathy. We will also work on our program's signature project: painting chairs to set up a brand new outdoor conversation space on IUCC's campus! Join us for one or all of these Sundays - August 8 (11:00-3:00), August 15 (11:00-3:00), and August 22 (beginning at 11:30, leading up to the Music Made Local Concert). To sign up for this program, contact Kelly Barnett, [barnettkellym@gmail.com](mailto:barnettkellym@gmail.com), or the church office, [secretary@immanuel-ucc.org](mailto:secretary@immanuel-ucc.org). Thanks to the **Hawley & Myrtle Quier Fund of Berks County Community Foundation** there is no cost to join this program!

## 2<sup>ND</sup> GRANT AWARDED

Ahoy Matey! We're honored to announce that Immanuel Preschool has been awarded a grant from the First United Church of Christ Mission Fund of Berks County Community Foundation. In 2017, after 264 years of serving the community, First United Church of Christ closed. The church transferred its endowment to the Community Foundation to continue the church's mission. Since the fund was established, it has awarded more than \$150,000 in grants to local organizations. IUCC is one of 9 local organizations to receive funds in 2021. Thanks to the funds, qualifying children from neighboring PA Pre-K Counts programs will be able to learn about pirates, science or the Olympics at upcoming Summer of Fun camps. Our goal of engaging with Governor Mifflin School District and mission of offering Christian-based pre-K fun and exploration continues to blossom.



## LIFFT ~ SENIOR MINISTRY ~ BREAKING BREAD ~ GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT

Immanuel's Adult Education & Ministries will be taking a summer break and reconvene in September. Look for more information to be shared in the August/September weekly emails and newsletter.

## MUSIC MADE LOCALLY CONCERT

Next outdoor summer concert on **Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>** featuring the IUCC Rock Band. Food Trucks will be available starting at 6pm and music will start at 7pm. Come early - grab dinner, a snack, or dessert – set up your chair or blanket by the stage and hang out with friends. Lawn games and activities for the whole family will be set up too.

## CONTAINERS & POLLINATORS

When you return to campus you won't be able to miss the beautiful planters located at the sanctuary & office entrances as well as spread across the covered walkway to Fellowship Hall. Purchased with funds from our Easter Hope Blooms collection and planted with love by our own green-thumbed, financial secretary Kathy Arnold, they add color and nature's beauty to our campus. Even our neighbors have come over to comment! Many thanks to Amy Muckey of Stein Flowers for selecting the summer beauties.



In celebration of National Pollinator Week, we've broken ground on our Pollinator Garden thanks to a grant from the PSEC Climate Justice Team. Did you know that pollinators like bees, butterflies, and bats, provide 1 out of 3 bites of food we eat? Say thanks by planting native plants & supporting local farmers! Visit [pollinator.org](http://pollinator.org) for more information on how you can help whether you have an apartment or acres of land.

## MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES & ACTIVITIES

### Summer Jazz Camp

Hosted by Mike Eben and Berks Arts, July 12-16, 9am-Noon, at Immanuel UCC. For more information and sign-up link at [www.immanuel-ucc.org/event](http://www.immanuel-ucc.org/event)

### Immanuel Summer Arts & Music Camp AND Preschool Summer Olympics Camp

While preschoolers attend the Summer Olympics Camp from 9-11:30am, older siblings and friends (ages kindergarten through 6th grade) are welcome to **attend Immanuel's Summer Music/Arts Camp on July 26 – July 30 from 9am-12pm** featuring the basics of ukulele. Preschoolers can join their older siblings for the final 30 minutes of each day's camp. On Friday there will be a shared performance and a frozen treat. Sign up by contacting the office at [secretary@immanuel-ucc.org](mailto:secretary@immanuel-ucc.org).



### Worship Musicians Needed!

Do you have a musical talent? Are you in a local group or organization that is looking for opportunities to perform? Are you willing to share your time and talent with our Immanuel worship community? Contact Stephen to connect about participating in summer worship!

## BROADWAY GOES TO CHURCH

Back by popular demand with all new songs and shows, we return in the fall of 2021 to explore the crossroads between our faith and some of our most beloved musicals. Stephen is looking for a core group of adults and students to meet 2-3 times over the summer to help create and prepare music for this worship series. E-mail Stephen to get involved.

## PRESCHOOL UPDATE

Camps are in full swing! Check out our website, [immanuelpreschool.com](http://immanuelpreschool.com) to sign up for these adventures or to enroll for the 2021-2022 school year.

## PROPERTY UPDATE

There is always plenty of repair and maintenance work for our staff and volunteers to do on our beautiful campus, but this year, in addition to the routine maintenance, many additional projects have been completed or are in process to enhance our mission and ministry at Immanuel.

- New monitors and projectors have been installed in the sanctuary along with the live stream video system to enhance our worship experience in-person and remotely.
- Fellowship Hall is now a separate security area with its own key pad at the entrance. We've received bids for a replacement screen in that area, and we're preparing for more energy efficient replacement windows for the kitchen, breezeway and parlor to be installed.
- The outdoor stage received a landscape update by Mike O'Neil and Jim & Jo Smoker. Bob Eberly and Jeremy Reazor cleaned up the stage and capped the concrete.
- Check out the Container & Pollinator article about more landscaping upgrades.
- The main office entrance landscape project that was begun in the Fall with the help of memorial gifts will be completed as well. Kathy Arnold has been tending to annuals that were purchased through contributions at Easter.
- The property team is waiting for final bids for repair and resurfacing the parking lot.
- Be on the lookout for new, updated signs both outside and through the interior of the building.

All of these enhancements to our grounds welcome the community to our ministry opportunities and show that we are a vibrant, welcoming congregation. We are grateful for the continued financial support that allows for this kind of work to continue. If you have the time, talent or some experience to help the property team with some of these and other upcoming short term projects, please contact the church office.

## JUNE 2021 IUCC FINANCIAL UPDATE

As we approach mid-year, we'd like to check-in regarding IUCC's year-to-date financial position and communicate important information regarding our finances to our congregation. Generally speaking, we are finding our actual income and expenditures to be in line with or more favorable than the budgeted amounts giving us a surplus of income over expenses as of May 31, 2021. As the year continues, we expect the surplus to decrease. Based on our current projections and with your continued generosity, we expect to finish the year with a break-even or slight surplus position. Below is some additional information regarding specific financial items:

- Our giving remains strong thanks to you, our congregation!
  - Year-to-date contributions have totaled just over \$200,000, or 101% of the total budgeted amount through May 31, 2021. We thank you for your continued financial support of our ministries. Especially during the uncertainty and financial instability that many individuals and businesses have experienced throughout the pandemic, we are grateful for the outpouring of love that the church has continued to receive and specifically for the financial support that you have provided.
  - We ask for your continued financial support through the remainder of the year which will enable us to continue to provide the various local outreach ministries, service offerings, educational opportunities, and other programming that make us who we are.
- The Still and Again Fund which was created last year in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic has continued to receive funds totaling over \$7,500 in receipts so far this year. We continue to resource local mission opportunities that directly impact those who are struggling due to the pandemic and we expect to utilize the remaining balance of the Still and Again Funds by the end of this calendar year.
- Our preschool was able to operate in person for the full school year. And although it was not a "typical" year neither operationally nor financially, it was a wonderful success to have an open, in-person preschool for the duration of the 20-21 school year.
  - Class sizes were reduced for the safety of students and staff, which led to lower tuition income for the school year.
  - We are so appreciative of all of the work done by our Preschool Director, the Preschool Teachers, Assistants, Substitutes, and Staff, and our Office and Custodial Staff to make sure that a safe environment was maintained throughout the school year.
  - Because we experienced several closures (due to COVID and the winter weather), our school year had to be extended by over a month from its original expected end date.
  - Despite all of the obstacles, the financial performance of the preschool is expected to be nearly break-even, which is a true accomplishment in this pandemic year.

The subsequent page includes a summarized Statement of Activity for the period January 1, 2021 through May 31, 2021. Questions regarding IUCC's year-to-date financial performance can be directed to one of the following individuals:

- Mark Myers, Director of Finance – IUCC Staff: marksmyers1@gmail.com
- Bill Buskirk, Committee Chair - IUCC Finance Committee: buskirk944@msn.com
- Colleen Kunkle, Treasurer – IUCC Consistory: colleen.r.kunkle@gmail.com

Thank you again for your support and prayers of the financial aspects of IUCC.  
Kindly, Colleen Kunkle

	ANNUAL		YEAR TO DATE				2021 Variance (Actual - Budget)	Notes
	2021	2020	2021	2021	2021			
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL			
<b>INCOME &amp; GIFTS</b>								
FINANCIAL GIFTS	\$ 459,906	\$ 198,418	\$ 198,418	\$ 200,772	\$ 2,354			
INVESTMENT & ENDOWMENT INCOME	\$ 126,500	\$ 56,670	\$ 54,730	\$ 63,182	\$ 8,452		Investment performance exceeded expectations.	
OTHER INCOME & FUNDRAISING	\$ 600	\$ 27,938	\$ 1,195	\$ 28,521	\$ 27,326		Includes restricted giving related to memorials.	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 587,006</b>	<b>\$ 283,026</b>	<b>\$ 254,343</b>	<b>\$ 292,475</b>	<b>\$ 38,132</b>			
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Variance</b>		
						<b>(Actual - Budget)</b>		
<b>AREA OF MINISTRY</b>								
MINISTERIAL & OPERATIONAL PAYROLL EXPENSE	\$ 406,082	\$ 133,892	\$ 158,453	\$ 145,397	\$ (13,056)		Reflected unfilled staff positions, some of which have now been filled.	
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS, & INSURANCE	\$ 123,000	\$ 42,200	\$ 49,446	\$ 52,730	\$ 3,284			
OFFICE SUPPLIES & OTHER ADMIN EXPENSES	\$ 37,360	\$ 14,272	\$ 13,708	\$ 15,628	\$ 1,920			
MUSIC LICENSE, INSTRUMENT, & MUSICIAN EXPENSES	\$ 10,500	\$ 3,831	\$ 4,130	\$ 4,142	\$ 12			
CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS & OTHER EXPENSES	\$ 8,300	\$ 2,459	\$ 3,458	\$ 1,607	\$ (1,851)			
EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION EXPENSE	\$ 4,800	\$ 620	\$ 1,900	\$ 412	\$ (1,488)			
OTHER ONE-TIME EXPENSES		\$ 7,643	\$ -	\$ 35	\$ 35			
<b>PASS-THROUGH Expense Net of (Income)</b>								
IMMANUEL PRESCHOOL OF SHILLINGTON (Income)	\$ 3,264	\$ 29,510	\$ 13,998	\$ (4,666)	\$ (18,664)		Does not reflect June preschool expenses, which will bring this closer to zero.	
UCC PARTNERSHIP PASSTHROUGHS (Income)	\$ 8,608	\$ 3,850	\$ 4,528	\$ 4,332	\$ (196)		(Income) indicates amounts received not yet passed through.	
LOCAL OUTREACH & MISSION TRIPS (Income)	\$ 6,900	\$ (821)	\$ 2,875	\$ 2,724	\$ (151)		(Income) indicates amounts received not yet utilized for mission trips.	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 608,814</b>	<b>\$ 237,456</b>	<b>\$ 252,496</b>	<b>\$ 222,341</b>	<b>\$ (30,155)</b>			
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ (21,808)</b>	<b>\$ 45,570</b>	<b>\$ 1,847</b>	<b>\$ 70,134</b>	<b>\$ 68,287</b>			