



May 2020

*“We exalt God above all by evangelizing, equipping
and embracing all nations.”*



“I thank my God every time
I remember you.”
Phil 1:3

Immanuel,

Paul’s words of Philippian remembrance reflect my heart for you during these unprecedented days. It has been some six weeks since we were able to be together in what we now longingly remember as a “normal” worship gathering. What initially promised to be but a brief period of separation has morphed into a season of indefinite “stay-at-home” isolation. While all around us screams “Spring,” “sun” and “fun”, we find ourselves fighting fear and feeling the cold of loneliness while lost opportunities pile up like the pollen on our parked cars. It is almost cliché to say that we are sailing in uncharted waters. And while our nation’s leaders are desperate to guide us, it is readily apparent they feel the same way, whether they have admitted it or not. None of us were prepared for this. None of us anticipated this. But all of us are affected by this. For some, the immediate impact has been lessened. Their daily routines have remained the same, for the most part. They continue to work, make money, and engage the outside world. For others, their entire system seems to have collapsed overnight. Students left school thrilled with the prospect of unanticipated grace—a second spring break! Only to find out quarantine means no

homework and no time with friends. Small businesses closed, perhaps grateful for the uncalendared government holiday. But now, a bailout bill later and with more promised to follow, all face serious questions of sustainability. Churches reluctantly canceled services, but confident things would soon be back to normal some attempted to make sense of this season with the analogy of a spiritual fast. Just as abstinence from things that we need breeds appreciation, so might this stay-at-home result in richer love for times together. Sadly, what seemed a solid comparison at the start now resembles a recipe for starvation. Everyone has been affected by COVID-19 and yet, while much is different, Immanuel, that which matters most remains! Our Savior reigns! (Rev 5:11–14) His tomb is empty! (Matt 28:5–6) His love is sure! (Ps 136:1) His faithfulness, great! (Lam 3:23) His grace, matchless! (2 Cor 12:9) His peace passes all understanding! (Phil 4:7) His mercies are new every morning! (Ps 30:5) His kingdom, advancing! (Matt 11:12) His mission, moving forward! (Acts 1:8) His Spirit, always with us! (Matt 28:20) And He is coming back!!! (Acts 1:11). May we cling to these truths, Church. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Phil 1:3–6) In these days apart, I urge you to

continue to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose” (Phil 2:12–13). May we not be anxious about anything “but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present [our] requests to God” (Phil 4:7). Let us make every effort to think about that which alone is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable. “If anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things” (Phil 4:8). And cling to the promise that [our] God will meet all our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:19). Rejoice!

Pastor Andrew



The church office is open on **Thursday only from 9:30 to 1:00**. The voicemail and e-mail are being monitored. In an emergency please contact one of your Elders.

MAY

- 3 Maryln Stimson
Josh Brewer
- 6 Quinn Morgan
- 8 Dee Ward
- 9 Beth Bratten
- 11 Faye Parker
- 13 Hope D'Agostino
- 17 Ed Hooker
Joan Phillips
- 18 Heather Moon
Kayley Parsons
- 20 Isaac Dethloff
- 21 Esther Nyoni
- 22 Kat Reeves
- 25 Hannah Van Zandat



A Word from the Elders

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I pray that this newsletter finds you in good health and longing to reunite with fellow believers in worship of our great God and Savior! We have not met as an assembly for over a month now, and I am still regularly encouraged when I have talked with some of you about your longing to once again join in worship with fellow believers. Your elders are currently thinking of ways we can reassemble and still maintain “social distancing” as recommended by our government officials.

The Apostle Paul’s second letter to Timothy is a good reminder to us as believers in how we should look on our current situation. Paul says in 2 Timothy 1:3-7,

“I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

We are to long for the time when we can come back together and join in united fellowship worshipping the Creator of our universe. We are not to have a spirit of fear but to trust in a Holy Sovereign God. So, what I mean by this is, do we really believe our theology? Do we believe that God is totally in control of all things? Or has God abandoned us and allowed this fallen world to overrule His divine providence? Saints, we need to trust God in sickness and in health, in poverty and in prosperity, and not

allow fear to rule over our lives! The psalmist reminds us: *“The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him. The Lord is the strength of His people; He is the saving refuge of His anointed”* (Ps. 28:7-8).

Finally, we as citizens of God’s heavenly kingdom are reminded by both Peter and Paul to honor our government officials. *“Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king”* (1 Peter 2:17). *“...for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity”* (1 Timothy 2:2). However, with that being said, God has ultimate authority over our lives. Peter and the other apostles in Acts 5:29 when charged by government officials to curb their zeal for sharing God’s truth replied, *“We must obey God rather than human beings!”* And the writer of Hebrews (10:25) reminds us *“not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”* So, there is a tension for us as believers as to how much we submit to government officials and when do we follow God’s command – this is what your Elders need to prayerfully consider.

Please continue to pray for us!!!

~Mike Law



Thank you for continuing to support the church and its missions. Tithing has remained steady and we have raised \$3,852.00 for Annie Armstrong North American Missions. We also have raised \$380.00 towards the Pure Water Pure Love Mission.



How to continue tithing during this time when we are unable to meet together.

1. Mail a check to the church and the office staff will be sure it gets deposited.
2. Use the online giving platform. This method allows your deposit to go directly to the church account and we still record it on your yearly financial statement. The online platform allows you to give from a credit card or checking account. To give online go to www.immanuelby.org. On the bottom right of the page is a “Give Online” tab. It opens a page that says “Click here to give.” It will then ask the amount, frequency, date to give and where the money should be designated, i.e. – Tithes, missions, etc. Hit “Select”, then “Next” and a contact page will open. This is where you enter your info and either credit card or bank info. Then hit “Finish.”

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sara Baranowski at 410-430-7910.



We extend our deepest sympathy to **George Webster** and his family in the death of his Uncle Rusty, who passed away on April 12th. Our prayers are with the family.



If you're looking for an opportunity to support an organization that can help people in need during this global pandemic. Please consider Baptist Global Response (BGR), a disaster relief and community development organization with a heart for helping people in desperate need.

BGR undergirds the work of Southern Baptists worldwide and partners with others who are like-minded. Baptist Global Response is not an official entity of the Southern Baptist Convention, but it is rooted in the soil of Southern Baptist life and committed to helping Southern Baptists who care connect with people in need around the world.

You can find more information about this organization and how to give on their website – www.gobgr.org



IMMANUEL ON MISSION

Even during this extraordinary time at home for so many, we have much to be thankful for. Though our society has become sorely divided in recent times, this pandemic has impacted everyone creating unexpected opportunities for the Gospel. We rejoice that the good news of Jesus and His salvation can mend the rifts and heal the lost who are all around us. NAMB missionaries need our prayers as they continue to work discipling new believers, training leaders and planting churches where God has called them.

During this unprecedented time, many of our folks have been making masks and reaching

out to family, friends and neighbors in acts of kindness and faithful prayer. In response to the crisis, Mission Cry sent out two shipping containers of Bibles and Christian literature to China by way of Hong Kong and Shenzhen. I'm so thankful that we are united by the Gospel and a certain hope and confidence trusting God is up to much!

WMU

Mali People Group

The Mali people are our church adopted unreached people. Please pray for them to come to salvation through Jesus Christ!!

Easter Offering

Our folks have been generous and again exceeded the WMU goal of \$3,500.00. To this date we have \$3,853.00 and will continue to collect towards reaching the over 273 million people in North America who do not know Christ.

We were unable to share the videos with you but if you're interested in what is happening with North American Missions, they are available at AnnieArmstrong.com.

GA's

The Girls in Action group is a program for girls ages 6 through 12 sponsored by the WMU. The girls meet each Wednesday evening from September through May.

The GA girls had prepared a presentation for the congregation about the "Pure Water, Pure Love" ministry. We hope that we can see it when we're able to worship together again. If you would like to give to this mission, please designate it on your giving envelope.

Wycliffe Bible translators

(From Paul & Laurel Morgan) "We thank God for allowing our family to be together through this pandemic. As for our return to Congo, I'm sure you can imagine that there are more questions than answers. There are many factors impacting us, closed borders being the

biggest one. Another challenge is that our visas will expire in the coming months and applying for new ones will take time. Thank you for praying for our family about this. Our kids also long to go home, and it's hard not to be able to tell them when we can go. Like many of you have also experienced, a lot of our work has now transformed into Zoom meetings, emails, and phone calls. Thankfully, our Congolese partners already have several years of experience in this since they had been forced to pursue remote digital communication options due to other travel challenges in our region. Also, we're thankful that the kids' homeschool routine continues on as normal when so many other things don't feel normal.”

IMB Missionaries

(From James & Sarah) “We wanted to take a minute to say how thankful we are for Immanuel Baptist and how you all have supported and encouraged us over the years. Your generous gifts have allowed us to meet specific needs related to our work that otherwise would have gone unmet. Your fervent prayers on our behalf have been a significant contribution in the partnership that we have. You all have truly been family and for that we are very grateful.”

James and Sarah also passed along several resources for this time of “social distancing” while so many of us are staying at home.

Download the [Affinity of South Asian Peoples prayer app](#) to pray in strategic ways for South Asia.

Engage children in fun and informative ways to learn and pray for South Asia through [the Caravan](#).

[Learn about Muslim fasting](#) and how to pray for Muslims during Ramadan (April 23–May 23)



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Medical Needs

Bounds, Amy
Bratten, Bill
Jordan, Kevin
Parks, Patty
Shockley, Brian
Simpson, Joyce
Stimson, Maryln

Long-Term Needs

Cheek, Virginia – Genesis
Muenster, Cindy
Powell, Missy
Straub, Marge – Wicomico N. H.



Immanuel's website can be found at www.immanuelby.org. Sermons since 2015 can be found there in audio format. Previous issues of the Voice can be found under the “Events” tab.

Immanuel also has a Facebook page where you can watch the sermon each week. All previous sermons are still there since the pastor began recording them.

rightnow MEDIA

Have you taken advantage of RightNow Media? If your first thought is, "I don't even know what that is," then let me walk you through it. RightNow Media is an online video streaming service that our church subscribes to that has Biblical content for you to view. It has Bible studies, devotionals, videos etc. You will find content for children, youth, college, men, women, parenting, marriage and so on. Immanuel even has a tab where the pastor has put some of his favorites and our current Bible studies.

We currently have the Psalm 51 and Psalm 23 studies on Wednesday nights. You can still watch these studies even though we can't meet at the church now. The Ladies Sunday School Class is studying the Parables of Jesus, which is also available to watch. This is a great tool to use during this time when we are asked to stay at home. Even when we are able to get out though, this platform still allows you to catch up if you miss a week. There's so much content available you're sure to find something that interests you!

How do you get it? Our church pays for the service, so it is free to you. This service is available on several devices: computer, iPhone, iPad, Android, Fire TV, Apple TV, Roku and Chromecast. You just need an e-mail invitation from the church so you can log on to your device. Ask Mike Law to send you an e-mail invitation, create your account and start watching!!



Hello church family! After a period of much consideration and prayer, our family will be moving to Richmond, Virginia to start the next chapter of our life.

Though we love it here and love our church family, due to work changes we have to move.

We have been very blessed this last 6 years of being in the IBC family.

We will greatly miss you all!

~ Herbert, Esther, Elinah, Rehema & Tafadzwa Nyoni



