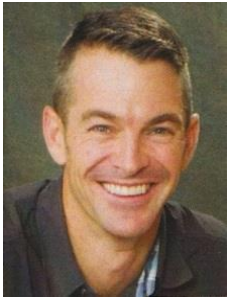




NOVEMBER 2020

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



“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

The Thanksgiving season is upon us and yet, for reasons that require no explanation, 2020’s celebration will be markedly different than years past. For one, large gatherings are limited, travel is discouraged, and in-store shopping, the life’s blood of Black Friday, almost non-existent. Additionally, the wells from which we generally fill our buckets of gratitude appear to have run dry. Jobs have been lost, businesses closed, health shattered, and families divided. For many, Thanksgiving 2020 looms more as a harbinger of loss, than a traditional holiday of hope, a seasonal reminder of the much that has changed or been lost forever.

And yet, as sincere and valid as these sentiments may be, I feel that they reveal a fundamental misunderstanding of the season. The first celebrants of Thanksgiving didn’t feast because of their plenty, but because they had lived through a period of intense suffering. They gave thanks for God’s grace in the provision of life, not the fact that their homes and larders were packed with possessions.

The spirit of our nation’s first thanksgiving celebration reveals a focus shared by few today. We celebrate excess. We party from positions of prosperity. We give thanks in specific circumstances, those we feel give us cause for joy. 2020 certainly hasn’t provided many, if any, of those, has it? And

yet, the apostle Paul called the Thessalonians to constant joy, continual prayer, and thanksgiving in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for His people (1 Thess 5:16–18). To the Philippians, he called for joy in the Lord, always. Where such sentiment was so important, he even said it again, “rejoice in the Lord” (Phil 4:4).

Convicting words for us, Immanuel, and often misunderstood when we miss Paul’s exhortation’s emphasis. Notice how the Apostle doesn’t demand thanksgiving “for” all circumstances, but “in” all circumstances. We aren’t commanded to give thanks for the sufferings we endure as the result of sin. But we are to be joyful in those situations, for trials, such as 2020 has provided in abundance, test our faith and develop perseverance so that we may be mature and complete followers of Christ (James 1:2–4).

Immanuel, as we celebrate Thanksgiving 2020, let us give thanks that our lives are hidden with Christ in God for He is our life, and when He appears we will be with Him in glory (Col 3:3).

Rejoice!
Pastor Andrew



The church office is open for business on **Monday, Wednesday and Thursday** from 9:00 to 1:30.



Sunday Worship

As we worship together, remember

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

The 11:00 service will be available on 92.9 FM in the parking lot and online at:

<https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelBaptistChurchSalisbury>

Tuesday Morning



Everyone is invited to join us in prayer Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. in Immanuel's prayer room. If you would like to join

by zoom, contact the pastor for an invitation e-mail.

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

November 4 & 11

RAs, GAs, Youth and Adult Bible Study will meet at 6:30 p.m.

November 18

6:15 Covenant Meeting – This is the annual discussion of the 2021 proposed budget. Come to hear Ministry reports; to become aware of all that is being done in the Lord's work here at Immanuel. The budget will be available in the sanctuary and the office on November 8th for you to examine in preparation for the meeting.

RAs, GAs & Youth **WILL** meet.

November 25

There will be no activities at church.

We hope you enjoy some family time on the eve of Thanksgiving.

Thursday

All ladies are invited to join a Bible study every Thursday at 4:00 p.m. on zoom. The class is studying the book of John all month. If you would like to join, contact Kristin Shockley for details.



We regret that there will not be a church family Thanksgiving dinner this year. We hope that you have a pleasant celebration with your loved ones while remembering all God's blessings!

Connie Jones

31446 Old Ocean City Road
Salisbury, MD 21804



IMMANUEL ON MISSION

WMU

Mali People Group

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

World Hunger

Our collection of the Bread Banks on World Hunger Relief Sunday amounted to \$311.16. Immanuel has collected \$1,371.06 towards this mission in 2020. It's amazing how just dropping your coins in the bread bank periodically adds up. Won't you pick up a bank in the back of the sanctuary and join us in reaching the hungry!

MD/DE State Missions Offering

We have collected \$1,814.00 towards our goal of \$2,600. We will continue to collect for this mission through Thanksgiving.

imb

LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

The week of prayer for Lottie Moon Christmas offering begins November 29th. You can see videos and read stories each day at www.imb.org. Immanuel's goal for this international ministry will be \$7,800.00.



Operation Christmas Child

“In the midst of a pandemic, children are frightened, families are struggling, and people don’t know what they have for the future...Operation Christmas Child is a powerful way to share

the message of God’s love...church partners worldwide are stepping up into the gap and are ready to...share the Gospel.”

Take a box home to fill and return to church no later than **November 8th**. You can also build a Shoebox online for \$25.00 at samaritanspurserg.org/occ. Any donations given to this ministry through the offering plate will first be used for postage of the boxes we collect (\$9.00 per box) and then towards packing boxes online. Please make your check out to Immanuel Baptist Church and designate “Shoebox Ministry” on the memo line. Most importantly, pray for the children who will receive our gifts this year.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Sara Baranowski, 410-430-7910.

FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Not sure how each of you are staying focused on what’s true in the midst of so much confusion but for me it requires time in God’s word throughout the day and encouragement from our many mission partners that the Gospel is still changing lives. We have much to be thankful for with our schools slowly reopening, Bibles recently delivered to Mission Cry, updates from James & Sarah that he’s recovering from the virus and Paul & Laurel and family returning to the Congo this month. With that in mind, the church will be sending an email every week to highlight missions with praise and items for prayer to enable every one of us to participate despite continuing restrictions. So much of what I read online and in print makes clear that God is doing what we cannot as believers across the country and around the world pray, give, send, and go to reach the lost.

I’ve been encouraged greatly watching the prayer gathering in Washington DC that brought an estimated 50,000 to the nation’s capital on September 26th. You can join the 3.8 million who experienced the same online praying with hope and expectation as the march stopped at seven locations

to offer praise, confess sin, and give thanks to a God who hears, praying for our nation in troubled times and the world in the grip of a pandemic. Find photos and videos at PrayerMarch2020. For more items of praise and prayer, I’ve been following the IMB Pray, joining many for 175 Days of Prayer for International Missions and reading on that same site the many exciting reports of God working through our missionaries in every region around the globe. The most encouraging for me is to hear from Mike with so much enthusiasm for Bible collection and shipping God’s word to believers persecuted and struggling greatly in other countries. God is up to much!

~ Heather van Brackel

Faith Partnership with East Salisbury School

Please pray for our many students who are at home for virtual learning and much controversy about them returning to the classroom this year as our County struggles to navigate new mandates and develop policies in response. Thank you to Sara and Johanne for purchasing candy and delivering to the school when we were asked to donate for a drive thru Trunk or Treat. We hope to post signs to express that we are praying for the students since just a handful of staff will be distributing to families.

The Christian Shelter

The Christian Shelter is providing a place for adults and children in need of housing, food and clothing in our community. It’s a busy place with students learning virtually, mothers and toddlers enjoying the day nursery full of books and toys while renovations are underway one guest room at a time. Devotions are a staple after every meal served in the bright dining room and food and clothing are more accessible next door thanks to our scout’s recent project!



This local ministry operates solely on donations and contributions from the community so our gift last month of laundry and cleaning supplies was gratefully received by the staff. We hope to continue practical support next year as we make the Christian Shelter an Immanuel mission partner. In the meantime, please pray for the few who are ministering to our near neighbors in Jesus' name and for new opportunities for us to come alongside in the future.

Thanksgiving reminds us of our many blessings so we **invite our members to consider donating fresh linens and towels** for the staff to give to their residents at Christmas time, something to take with them when they move back into the community.

To contribute monetarily to this effort, please mark "Christian Shelter" on your check or tithing envelope.

Our goal is:

40 Washcloths

20 Towels

10 Twin XL sheet sets

5 Full sheet sets

A box will be provided in the sanctuary and the office.

Bible Collection with Mission Cry

We are so thankful for Mike & Eden carrying a van bursting with Bibles to Mission Cry again recently. That trip was scheduled to coincide with an interview on Mission Network News! Mike talked about collecting 200 Bibles that first year and making a trip to Michigan. This year he is serving as the state coordinator for Delaware, Maryland and Virginia collecting over 400 Bibles though many churches were closed for months. "Despite the COVID pandemic, God has been moving and supplying us with more Bibles than we gathered last year. I am extremely grateful for the love and support from all my brothers & sisters at Immanuel Baptist Church in this ministry. Thank you to all who donated this past year! I will keep the boxes in place as long as Bibles continue to come in. I firmly believe that giving out the word of God is important. Especially in these uncertain times. God bless." Mike is praying for someone to help him contact many more churches on Delmarva this next year. Be sure to ask him about Mission Cry and be blessed by his great enthusiasm for God's word getting into the hands of those waiting.

James and Sarah

It has been so good to be able to meet with people in person again! We've had a few opportunities to fellowship and re-connect (face to face...not on Zoom) with some of our close friends and partners here. What a blessing fellowship is with other believers! We were able to help with another Food/Flood relief project down south this past month. These projects have also provided opportunities to share the Good News. Praising God for these opportunities, for new life, and for new believers following in obedience through getting "dunked." We also got to travel out of our district for the first time in 6 months! We were able to meet up with a pastor and his family last week who recently "dunked" 8 new believers in their surrounding areas. During this lockdown time, their network started a couple of new churches out in another area. We were able to discuss with them about ongoing discipleship and leadership development. Pray for upcoming plans with these groups. Pray for the new believers as they learn what it means to be a believer. Pray for the new churches to reach out into their surrounding areas with the Good News.

Our original plan was to be heading your way in just a couple of weeks. For various reasons, we pushed our dates back a couple months. Our plans are now to be Stateside mid-December to mid-June. It's kind of sad writing this, realizing we would have been starting to pack up right about now, but we are at the same time excited that, as things are opening, we have a few more months to work in the fields here.

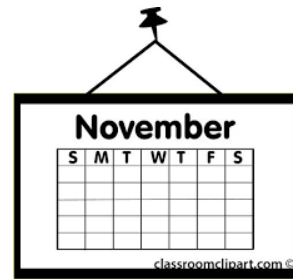
Paul & Laurel

Over the past several months of isolation, we have been surprised by new avenues of collaboration. In our group in Congo, we have struggled with the distance between locations and its effect on communication. But during this pandemic, several of our team were stuck back in our passport countries. It has been a great opportunity to work together! We have been establishing a department for Scripture Engagement, coordinating the efforts of three trainers (in Congo, California, and Ohio), one media specialist (in Canada), and an IT specialist (in Holland). Paul was thankful for the last few years of supervising the media work because he has learned about how the project funding system works and how the projects are run, so he has been able to contribute some practical experience to the discussions of how

to set up the new department. In addition, Paul has been developing a hermeneutics training for Scripture Engagement and some simple teaching tools that can be recorded in an audio format for distributing in our area. This has included a draft of a simple Bible book introduction to help orient rural teachers as they prepare to teach a passage from that book. We're aiming for these to be more informative than the introductions that are printed in the regional Bibles, but still simple so that someone could follow it easily in audio format. So far, Paul has created a draft of the introduction to Luke, which is being evaluated by our team, and he is working on one for Genesis. Related to this, Paul and the team have also drafted an overview to the whole Bible that will be distributed as two short video clips. This overview is about to be translated into the regional languages, Swahili and Lingala.

Concerning translation work, Paul has been assigned to two teams, Zande and Mba. For the Zande, he will be helping them with an intermediate translator training. In this training, we will focus on sharpening the team's skills as they move forward in their translation of Genesis. Our training was postponed until the first week of September because the team was actually checking Genesis 37-50 with a consultant. We are very encouraged by this because they have completed the checking session entirely via WhatsApp. Currently we do not have any expat workers at that translation office, so this team has managed to conduct the correspondence and the checking session virtually. This is a testimony to God's faithfulness in building up Congolese ownership of the translation task.

We are saddened at the passing of our former member Marjory Clark on September 30th. She was the secretary for Immanuel and the Eastern Baptist Association for more than 20 years. We extend our deepest sympathy to her son, George Fowler and his family. A graveside service was held October 7th. Our prayers are with the family.



November Birthdays

- 2 Kati Robb
- 3 Ken Baranowski
- 4 Rosa Bean
- 11 Diane Hann
- 15 Mary Cox
- 26 Josiah Morgan
Paul Morgan
- 29 Shane Wootten
Josh Webb

SAFETY SCHEDULE

November

During the current epidemic, many on the list do not attend the service. If you are a member of the safety team, please make sure the stations are covered.



The deadline for submitting items of interest for the **December newsletter** is **November 23**. Please observe this deadline.



