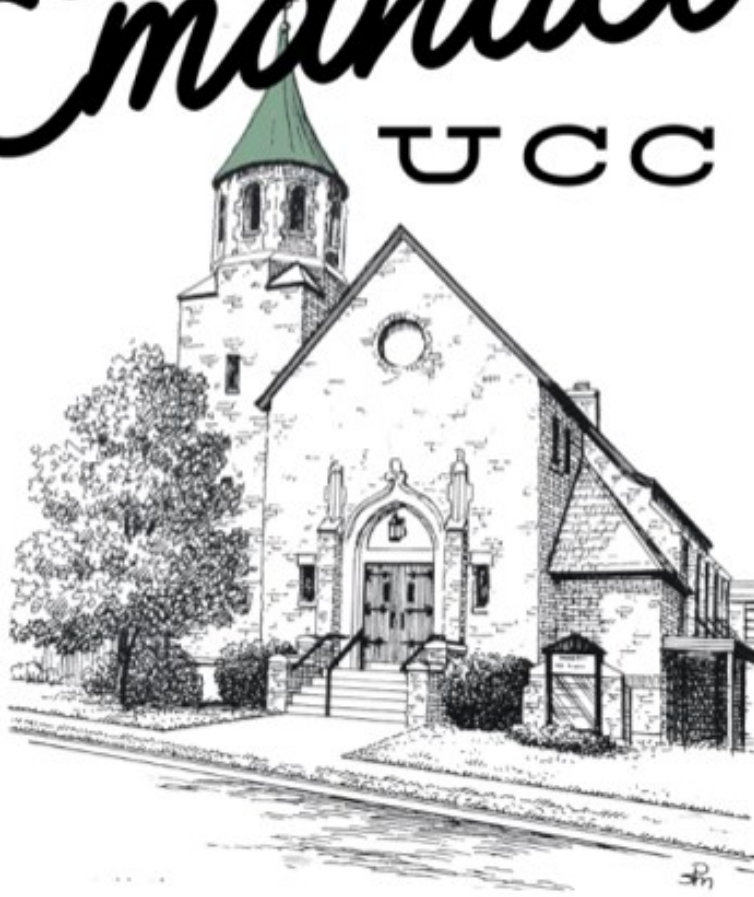


Emanuel

UCC



Good News!

December 2025

Welcoming. Witnessing. Worshiping... through Christ.

Our Staff

Pastor: Joshua W. Rau
Choir Director: Kelly Crawford
Organist: Christy Shinn
Administrative Assistant: Debra Hoffmann
Office Assistant: Alyssa Rau

Our Leadership

President: Jimmy McCormack
Vice President: Katie Beardslee
Treasurer: Pat Holley
Secretary: Geoff Shinn
Buildings and Grounds: Matt Roethemeyer
Worship Coordinator: Kelly Crawford
Lay Services Director: Matt Zschille
Head Usher: Layton Beggs

*Church Council Meetings are the 2nd Sunday at 8:00 am.
All members are welcome to attend council meetings.*



Visitor Info



Ways to Give

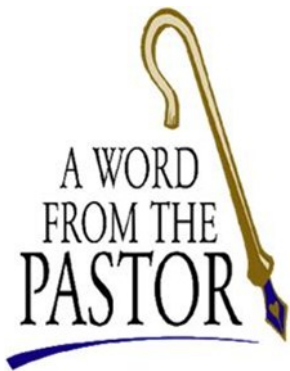
Pastor: Cell: 715-294-0157 ~ **Email:** pastorjoshuarau@gmail.com

Office: 573-243-3323 ~ **Email:** office@euccjackson.org

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9am-3pm

Website: www.euccjackson.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/euccjackson ~ **Instagram:** [@euccjackson](https://www.instagram.com/euccjackson)



“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” — Luke 2:11

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter the month of December, our hearts turn once again to the familiar and beautiful story of Christmas; God choosing to come near, to dwell with us, to bring light into every corner of our world. Luke tells us that the angels delivered news of great joy for all people, and this is the joy that still fills our lives and our church today.

This season reminds us that joy is not simply a feeling, but a gift from God—a gift rooted in the promise that we are never alone. In a world that can feel hurried, heavy, and uncertain, Christmas whispers once more that hope is born, peace is possible, and love is stronger than all that is broken.

Here at Emanuel, we are blessed to share this season together as a faith community grounded in grace, compassion, and welcome. I am continually grateful for the ways you embody Christ’s love—through your generosity, your prayers, your service, and the simple kindness you offer to one another. You help make Emanuel a place where the joy of Christ is seen and shared.

And at the heart of it all stands the greatest gift we could ever receive—Jesus Christ. His birth changes everything. In him, God’s love takes on flesh. In him, we discover forgiveness, purpose, and life. In him, we find a Savior whose light no darkness can overcome.

As we journey through this holy season, may we gather often for worship. I invite you to join us for these special events:

Mid-Week Advent Worship Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the chapel –this is our time of reflection and quiet in the midst of the Advent Season.

Christmas Eve Worship December 24th at 10:30 pm in the Sanctuary—we gather around candlelight, carols, holy communion and the wonder of Christ’s birth.

Christmas Day Worship December 25th at 10:10 am in the Sanctuary– we gather to celebrate the newborn King on the morning of His arrival; we will share in holy communion as well.

May each gathering draw us closer to the heart of God and to one another.

As we celebrate this holy season, Alyssa and I send our love, prayers, and warmest blessings for a Merry Christmas. May your home be filled with peace, your heart with hope, and your life with the joy that comes only from Christ our Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Josh



Upcoming Events

Wed.	Dec. 3	- Choir Practice 6:00 pm - Mid-Week Advent Worship in the Chapel 6:30 pm
Thurs.	Dec. 4	Live Nativity 6:00-8:00 pm
Sat.	Dec. 6	- Holiday Market 10:00 am-2:00 pm Ignite Worship 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
Sun.	Dec. 7	- Faith & Fellowship 9:00 am - Traditional Worship 10:10 am
Tues.	Dec. 9	Fellowship Hall reserved
Wed.	Dec. 10	Mid-Week Advent Worship in the Chapel 6:30 pm
Thur.	Dec. 11	Bethany Circle in Fellowship Hall 12:00 pm
Sat.	Dec. 13	- Clothing Closet open 9-11 am - Ignite Worship 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
Sun.	Dec. 14	- Faith & Fellowship 9:00 am - Traditional Worship 10:10 am * <i>Gifts for Baby Jesus</i> - Christmas at the Parsonage 1:00-5:00 pm - Church Council 5:00 pm at the Parsonage
Wed..	Dec. 17	- Choir Practice 6:00 pm - Mid-Week Advent Worship in the Chapel 6:30 pm
Sat.	Dec. 20	Ignite Worship 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
Sun.	Dec. 21	- Faith & Fellowship 9:00 am - Traditional Worship 10:10 am <i>Children's Christmas Program</i> - After worship—Birthday Party for Jesus & Potluck Lunch
Wed.	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service 10:30 pm
Thur.	Dec. 25	Christmas Day Worship 10:10 am
Sat.	Dec. 27	Ignite Worship 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
Sun.	Dec. 28	- Faith & Fellowship 9:00 am - Traditional Worship 10:10 am

Special Note: Ignite Worship on **December 6** will be held at **4:00 pm** instead of 5:30 pm.

Weekly Use of Church Facilities

Every Monday	TOPS 11am
Every Tuesday	Guitar Lessons 3:30-6:30 pm
Every Wednesday	Optimist 12:00-1:00 pm

Greeters-December

Dec. 7	Roxie Davis Dorothy Rowley
Dec. 14	Joy Kessler Ann Fields
Dec. 21	Brenda Pender
Dec. 28	Mark Statler

Altar Flowers-December

Poinsettia Garden donated by members of Emanuel

Readers-December

Dec. 7	Shirley McCormack
Dec. 14	Keagan Zschille
Dec. 21	Macklin Zschille
Dec. 24	Lincoln Roethemeyer
Dec. 25	Chris Crawford
Dec. 28	Debra Hoffmann

The due date for submissions for the January newsletter is December 28, 2025. Please send submissions to: office@euccjackson.org or call 573.243.3323.

Gifts for Baby Jesus

One of Emanuel's mission projects is done through support of **Unleashing Potential** (the former Caroline Mission). They provide safe programming for multiple ages of youth, infants through high school.

Wish List--clothing, pajamas, underwear, shoes, puzzles, books, games, or toys (No war toys please). They especially need items for children aged 6 and under. The gifts should be fully wrapped with a tag that states exactly what is inside (boy gift, girl gift, size, color, etc.) so that the wrapped gift may be given to an appropriate child with only needing to change the tag to one with the child's name.

Nonperishable food items or a monetary gift for UP can also be sent.

UP truly appreciates our support. Your tangible gifts are important to those they serve.

We will be collecting gifts December 1-14. We will bless the gifts during worship on Sunday, December 14.

The gifts will be delivered to St. Louis the week of December 15.

Operation Christmas Child



Emanuel UCC collected 29 shoeboxes to be sent to children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thanks to all who contributed a shoebox and/or made a financial donation.

Stewardship Corner

Just a little reminder about the food pantry. When you purchase things to donate, think about the fact that these families may not have meat, butter, or milk, etc. Some suggestions: Buy the Mac n cheese with the Velveeta cheese, buy canned tuna or canned chicken and add crackers, tea or coffee is a special treat, complete pancake mix where you just add water, but don't forget syrup. It is suggested that if you buy vegetables try getting the pull tops because there may not be a can opener available. Just think about basics. Thanks to everyone who donates and passes our good fortune and love forward.

As this year comes to an end, thanks to everyone who has been supporting all of our missions and being the stewards that God wants us to be. As the holidays approach, remember our neighbors and the elderly. Do an act of kindness. Remember a smile brings joy to someone.

We are blessed to be a part of such a giving church. We are sharing the love and passing it forward. Pray for our church family.

Thanks for all you do!

Stewardship Committee



Advent and Christmas at Emanuel

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Ignite Worship

A Contemporary Worship Experience
Saturday 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Traditional Worship

Liturgical Worship Celebration
Sunday 10:10 am in the Sanctuary
with Sunday School at 9:00 am

Holy Communion the 1st Saturday and Sunday

Mid-Week Advent Worship

Wednesday Evenings December 3, 10, 17
6:30 pm in the Chapel

Christmas Eve ~ December 24

Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion
10:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Christmas Day ~ December 25

Worship with Holy Communion
10:10 am in the Sanctuary



IGNITE ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

Light Has Come

Come join us as we move from darkness to light—
reflecting on hope, peace, joy, and love as Christ
draws near.

Saturday 5:30 pm



HOSTED BY THE JACKSON MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE AND EMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LiveNATIVITY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

6:00-8:00 PM

304 East Adam's street, Jackson MO

FREE EVENT

Visit the Live Nativity, listen to
carols from area churches, and
enjoy delicious refreshments.

FUN AND FELLOWSHIP TO JUMPSTART

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON!

Non-perishable food items will be
happily accepted for the Food Pantry



Emanuel UCC's Annual Pop-Up Shop

Holiday Market



 Saturday, December 6

 10 am - 2 pm

 304 E. Adam's, Jackson, MO

 Local Vendors with Unique Gifts & Handmade Items

 Holiday Treats & Seasonal Refreshments

 Fun Raffles, Giveaways, & Special Surprises



EUCC STEWARDSHIP

QUILT RAFFLE

NOVEMBER 2025

DRAWING HELD DECEMBER 6TH AT HOLIDAY MARKET

2 TICKETS FOR \$5 OR 5 TICKETS FOR \$10

GET YOUR TICKETS ON SUNDAY'S AFTER WORSHIP

PROCEEDS TO GO TO SPECIAL PROJECTS
WITHIN THE CHURCH



You're Invited to

CHRISTMAS AT THE PARSONAGE

Join Pastor Josh and Alyssa as they open their home to all this holiday season. Come see the parsonage all decorated for the season and enjoy refreshments and experience the spirit of Christmas.

DEC 14 | 1-5 PM
303 E. ADAMS ST. ~ JACKSON, MO



Women's Ministries



Bethany Circle

Seven members met on November 5 in the church parlor. Joys and concerns were shared followed by prayer. Lisa Dambach shared the devotion "Ungrateful Sparrow" and "The Legend of the 5 Kernels of Corn".

Secretary's report was read and approved and the treasurer reported a current balance of \$710.33 .

Business

- Operation Christmas Child boxes due Nov. 16.
- Women's Fellowship meeting scheduled after church on November 9.
- Members voted to adopt a Jackson R-2 school child again this year for Christmas.
- New officers for 2026 were voted on. They are: President-Debra Hoffmann, Vice President-Joy Kessler, Secretary-Lisa Dambach, and Treasurer-Dorothy Rowley.

Bethany Circle Christmas luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 11 at 12 noon in the fellowship hall. A cookie exchange is planned.

Ignite worship services continue on Saturday evenings.

Advent Sing will be at Emanuel on November 30.

Mid-week Advent services will be held on Dec. 3, 10, and 17 in the chapel at 6:30 pm.

Live Nativity on church lawn on Dec. 4

Christmas at the Parsonage will be Dec. 14.

Meeting closed with the Mizpah and refreshments were served by Dorothy Pensel followed by fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Cathy Sievers



Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship met in the fellowship hall immediately following worship on Sunday 11/9/25. Catheryn provided lunch as a small THANK YOU to the ladies for all they have done during her 3 years as President.

The meeting was called to order while everyone was finishing up their meal. The below list of items were discussed and voted on or tabled until a later meeting.

- Election of officers was tabled until a special meeting following worship on December 7
- Yearly donations were tabled until our February meeting.
- We need to schedule a date in Spring to do a closet clean up (closets mentioned were the old stage storage area, under the stairs, maybe the stage area behind the curtains)
- Butter braid fundraiser was delivered on November 11. Items are ready for pickup from deep freezer in old fellowship hall. Items are bagged and marked with names. Proceeds from the sale are going towards our sponsored children from the JR-2 Hope 4 Christmas event
- A motion was made by Ann Fields and seconded by Joy Kessler to sponsor 2 children for the JR-2 Hope 4 Christmas event (Alyssa & Joy will do the shopping/delivery)
- Motion was made by Debra Hoffman & seconded by Alyssa Rau to donate \$50 towards shipping cost of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child
- A motion to donate to the church general fund any proceeds from the sausage supper that was given to Women's Fellowship. Motion made by Joy Kessler and seconded by Katie Beardslee.
- Ladies were asked to bring finger food & help serve for the Advent Sing that Emanuel will be hosting on November 30.
- Reminder of appetizers & help needed for Live Nativity coming up on Thursday December 4th
- We were asked and agreed to help Jane Shinn during the day on December 4 to prep food for a customer appreciation meal. (Roxie, Ann, Joy, Dorothy, & Pat have volunteered to go). They will make a donation to our group for helping that day.
- Catheryn signed our ladies up to make brownies, cookies, and rice Krispie treats for the JR-2 Job Olympics that will be held on March 6th. Items will need to be bagged in individual servings.

Respectfully submitted,

Catheryn Hartle

Women's Fellowship President

Church Council Minutes

Below are the unapproved minutes from the November 9, 2025 Church Council Meeting. Minutes will be approved at the next council meeting.

EUCC Council Meeting Minutes 11/9/25

Meeting Members: Kelly Crawford, Geoff Shinn, Katie Beardslee, Matt Zschille, Pat Holley, Christy Bock, Matt Roethemeyer, Jimmy McCormack, Layton Beggs

Members absent:

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 with an opening prayer by Pastor Josh.

Previous minutes were available for review.

Motion for approval of:

September minutes made by Kelly and seconded by Matt R.

October minutes made by Matt R. and seconded by Pat.

October congregational meeting made by Matt R. and seconded by Kelly. Council approved.

Treasurer and Financial reports given by Pat Holley. Will file for audit.

Report of Committees

Buildings and grounds report: The parsonage back door needs checked. Trouble opening/closing. Possibly the door frame needs fixed. The gutters need to be checked. The boiler has been started.

Audit committee report: Will meet again in January. Need suggestions for new committee members.

Rental property: Matt showed the tenant how to use the thermostats.

Clothing Closet: 18 people came for clothing yesterday. Need to check to see if the heat has been turned on.

Stewardship Committee: Did not meet in October

CBE report: Didn't meet in Oct. Will meet Nov 16. Matt R. motion to approve Lydia Shinn to start early on CBE. Pat seconded. Motion passed.

Lay Service/ Member Care report: All is well.

Worship report: All is well.

Head Usher report: Average attendance has been 70 lately

Pastor Report with notes from Pastor Joshua Rau Matt R. motion and Pat seconded about setting up a Venmo or PayPal account for the church to help facilitate online giving and include a QR code on the livestream. Motion passed. Pastor Josh will gather information and report back in December.

Old Business

Church Mutual Insurance Quote was received. We're waiting on the renewal quote from the Insurance Board before choosing coverage for 2026.

Membership Committee report & list - Handed out for Council review in Sept

Member Directory update. Motion to approve the status changes recommended by the membership committee made by Matt R. Layton seconded. Motion passed.

Sausage Supper - Financial Recap provided by Pat. The supper made \$1675.32 and an additional \$798 in contributions over and above the net proceeds stated above.

New Business

Building use request by the Cub Scout Pack that usually meets at IC. Because of IC's building project, they have discontinued the charter. Because of too many stipulations and not willing to pay building use fees, the request was denied.

Next meeting: Dec 14, 2025 5:00 after the parsonage open house

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 with motion by Matt R., seconded by Matt Z. with the Lord's prayer led by Jimmy.

Submitted by: Geoff Shinn, Church Council Secretary

October 2025 BUDGET COMPARISON

2025 BUDGET		
Annual Budget	Budgeted Contributions Monthly Average	2025 YTD Annual Budget thru October '25 (1 Mo)
\$235,086.00	\$19,590.50	\$195,905.00
	October '25 MTD Contributions & Other Income	October '25 YTD Contributions & Other Income
	\$7,343.40	\$167,698.47
	2025 October Excess (Shortfall)	Projected EOY 2025 Annual Budget Shortfall based on
	(\$12,247.10)	(\$33,847.84)

Financial Report

Pat Holley, Treasurer

**2026 Church Offering Envelopes
available in the vestibule.**

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL OFFERINGS & DEDICATED FUNDS NOT AVAILABLE TO FUND CHURCH BUDGET		
	Contributions in October '25	Contributions YTD 2025
UC Funds	\$300.00	\$1,850.68
Dime-A-Day	\$0.00	\$543.89
CWS Blankets	\$0.00	\$370.00
California Disaster Relief	\$0.00	\$595.00
FMSC	\$0.00	\$910.14
Food Pantry	\$0.00	\$190.00
Neighbors in Need	\$220.00	\$220.00
One Gt Hr Sharing	\$0.00	\$245.00
Strengthen the Church	\$0.00	\$415.00
Women's Prison Kits	\$0.00	\$250.00

Facility Use Update

In order to better support our ministries, ensure clear communication, and be good stewards of our shared spaces, the Church Council has adopted updated **Facility Use Guidelines**, effective immediately. These guidelines apply to **all individuals and groups—both members and non-members—who wish to use Emanuel's facilities**.

To help make the process smooth and consistent for everyone, please note the following requirements:

- **A Facility Use Application Request Form must be completed at least two weeks prior to event.**
- **A signed Facility Use Agreement must be submitted to the church office before the day of use.**
- **All forms are available on our church website or by contacting the church office.**

We ask for your cooperation as we implement these updates. Clear guidelines will help ensure that Emanuel remains a safe, welcoming, and well-cared-for place for worship, ministry, fellowship, and community events. If you have any questions about the new guidelines or need assistance completing the forms, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your understanding and for all the ways you help make Emanuel a place of grace, love, and hospitality.

Emanuel Office Staff

Happy Birthday! December



5	Amanda Scholl
7	Carol Ann Statler
11	Randy Drum
11	Alice Quigley
17	Nick Biri
17	Teddy Scholl
19	Susan Brown
19	David Cantoni
20	Doris Jost
20	Chris Penzel
23	Marcie Brown
23	Melanie Lutes
24	Heather Beggs
27	Rick Brown
28	Derrick Peetz
29	Susan Nekula

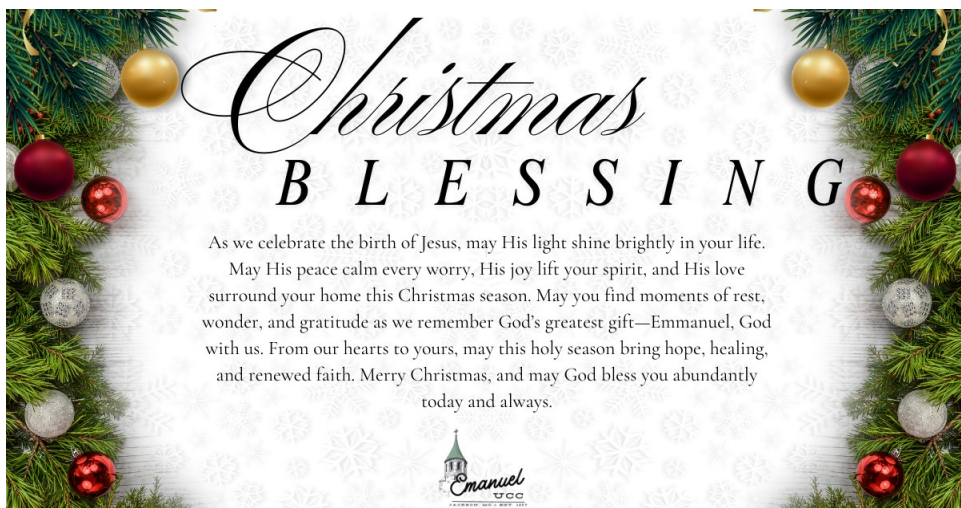


December

13	Kent & Judy Peetz, 39th
28	Alice & Randy Quigley, 41st
29	Connie & Michael Brothers, 52nd

Recommended Scripture for December

Dec. 7	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12
Dec. 14	Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11
Dec. 21	Isaiah 7:10-16 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25
Dec. 24	Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20
Dec. 25	Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-14
Dec. 28	Isaiah 63:7-9 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23



We Keep in Prayer

Please keep in your prayers those who are in need of healing and our shut-ins and homebound members. May God's grace surround them with comfort and care.

Mary Lou Abernathy, Pat Abernathy, LaDonia Beggs, June Borgfield, Larry Brockmire, Alice Koeppel, Robert Loos, Junior Peetz, Marvin Peetz, Helen Poston, Alice Quigley, Cathy Sievers, Cindy Smith

Emanuel United Church of Christ
304 E. Adams St.
Jackson, Missouri 63755
573-243-3323



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship With Us!

Ignite Worship A Contemporary Worship Experience	Traditional Worship Liturgical Worship Celebration
Saturday 5:30 p.m Fellowship Hall	Sunday 10:10 a.m. Sancturary
Holy Communion~ Monthly 1 st Saturday and Sunday	
Faith and Fellowship ~Sunday School 9:00 a.m.	