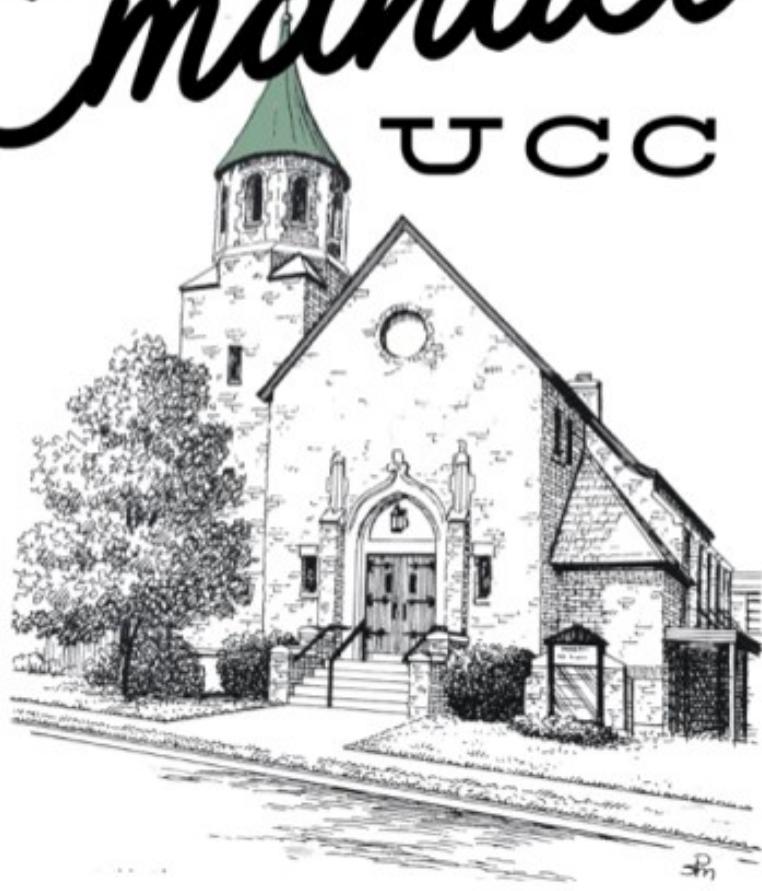


Emanuel

UCC



Good News!

January 2026

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

Financial Secretary: Kelly Crawford

Buildings and Grounds: Matt Roethemeyer

Worship Coordinator: Ann Fields

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

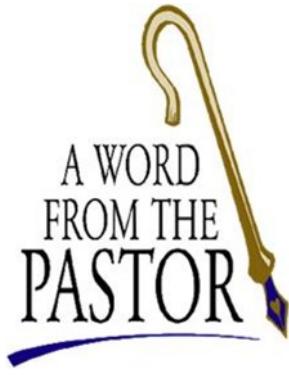
Pastor: *Cell: 715-294-0157 ~ Email:* pastorjoshuarau@gmail.com

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



“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

—Psalm 118:24

Dear Friends in Christ,

January often feels like a holy pause—an invitation to breathe after the rush of Advent and Christmas. The decorations are put away, the calendar quiets just a bit, and we are given space to rest, reflect, and begin again.

This season reminds us that it is okay to slow down. After weeks filled with gatherings, celebrations, and full schedules, January offers us permission to take a breath. To notice God’s presence in the stillness. To listen again for God’s gentle voice. New beginnings do not always arrive with noise or fanfare; often they come quietly, wrapped in grace.

As we look ahead, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for the life and ministry of Emanuel. God is at work among us—in worship, in service, in fellowship, and in the everyday moments when we care for one another and our community. The new year invites us not only to set goals, but to deepen our trust that God continues to shape us into a people of welcome, love, and hope.

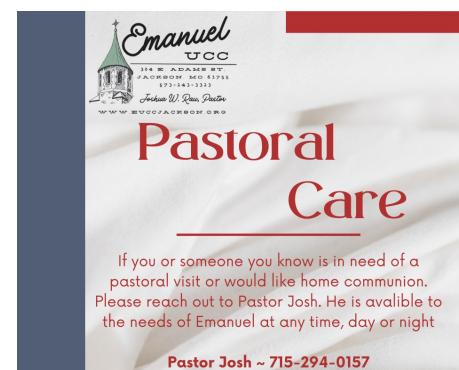
A new year also invites reflection. Who is God calling us to be in this season? How might we live out Christ’s love more fully in our homes, our church, and our community? At Emanuel, we step into this year grounded in faith, strengthened by relationships, and guided by the Spirit’s leading. Each act of kindness, each prayer lifted, each moment of worship becomes part of the story God is still writing among us.

My prayer for you in this new year is simple and heartfelt: may you know God’s peace in your breathing, God’s joy in your days, and God’s presence in every step ahead. May this year be one where we continue to grow together—faithful, hopeful, and confident that God is doing a new thing in and through us.

Thank you for being the church. Thank you for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your love. I am grateful to walk into this new year with you.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Josh





Upcoming Events

Thur.	Jan. 1	New Year's Day <i>Church Office Closed</i>
Sat.	Jan. 3	Ignite Worship 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
Sun.	Jan. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith and Fellowship 9 am • Worship 10:10 am —Installation of Church Council
Mon.	Jan. 5	Stewardship Committee Meeting 6 pm
Tues.	Jan. 6	Epiphany
Wed.	Jan. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meditations from Emanuel • Choir Practice 6 pm
Thurs.	Jan 8	Bethany Circle 2 pm in church parlor
Sat.	Jan. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing Closet open 9-11 am • Ignite Worship 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
Sun.	Jan. 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Council 8 am • Faith and Fellowship 9 am • Worship 10:10 am
Wed.	Jan. 14	Meditations from Emanuel
Sat.	Jan. 17	Ignite Worship 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
Sun.	Jan. 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith and Fellowship 9 am • Worship 10:10 am • CBE meeting after worship
Wed.	Jan. 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meditations from Emanuel • Choir Practice 6:00 pm
Sat.	Jan. 24	Ignite Worship 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
Sun.	Jan. 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith and Fellowship 9 am • Worship 10:10 am
Wed.	Jan. 28	Meditations from Emanuel



Pastor Josh will be on vacation **January 21-28**.

Debra will be in the church office on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday during that time.

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—January

Jan. 4	Rick & Pam Brown
Jan. 11	Roxie Davis Earlene Sokolowski
Jan. 18	Alyssa Rau
Jan. 25	Heather & Layton Beggs

Readers—January

Jan. 4	Alyssa Rau
Jan. 11	Heather Beggs
Jan. 18	Cathy Sievers
Jan. 25	Lay Service

Altar Flowers—January

Jan. 4	Poinsettias
Jan. 11	TBD
Jan. 18	TBD
Jan. 25	TBD



Stewardship Corner

It's a new year with resolutions to make and thoughts of the things we want to change about ourselves or our lives. The key is setting small specific, achievable goals like, read one page of the Bible everyday or do one good deed a day.

We, the stewardship committee, will be setting our goals in a meeting on January 5. How can we be better stewards? How can we help encourage you to be better stewards? What can we do to support our church and community?

We want to encourage everyone to continue the support of the food pantry. You can do it with a monetary donation or by bringing in food to put in our barrel located by church bell.

Suggestions:

- * Peanut Butter and crackers
- * Spaghetti and Sauce with meat
- * Pancakes with syrup (get the complete pancake mix)
- * Soups
- * Stews
- * Vegetables
- * Canned meat (Vienna sausages, tuna, chicken)
- * Personal hygiene products
- * Sugar
- * Tea or Kool-Aid
- * Flour
- * Canned fruit
- * Powdered milk
- * Chili with meat

Most of us have never been food deprived or had to worry constantly about our next meal. If you have questions about the food pantry please ask Pastor Josh or one of the committee members.

We are going to actively start the Dime-a-Day program. Please give a Dime a Day for each member of the family for the whole year. The total is \$36.50 a year for each person in your family. This can be done online or in the collection plate. Be sure to write on your check and/or envelope, Dime-a-Day. The money collected will be used for special projects or needs of the church.

When you think about being a better steward, remember talents count. Sing in the choir, crochet or sew for the prayer shawl project. If you love to organize or clean, contact the office. If you like talking on the phone or writing letters, call the older people in your neighborhood and check on them, or write a note to someone who is not feeling well or is grieving. There are so many ways we can be good stewards. Smile at someone in the grocery store, help someone take their groceries to the car, pass it forward.

Come to church and support our church and our pastor. Watch online and share it with friends. Invite your friends to church. Give an offering to church so we can continue our mission work.

Have a blessed new year and good luck with establishing goals and resolutions.

The Stewardship Committee Members: Rick Brown, Larry Bock, Chris Crawford, Dorothy Rowley, Marilee Roethemeyer, Cathy Sievers, Pastor Josh, Alyssa Rau , secretary and Louise St John, president.

The due date for submissions for the February newsletter is January 26, 2025. Please send submissions to: office@euccjackson.org or call 573.243.3323.

Gifts for Baby Jesus

On Thursday, December 18 Pastor Josh & Alyssa, Pastor Sam & Marilee delivered the “Gifts for Baby Jesus” to Unleashing Potential in St. Louis.

Thanks to all who provided gifts.



Christmas Program



Holy Family: Bailey, Brooke and Joni Beggs

Sunday School Children are singing “Away In a Manger”

Narrators: Clara Beggs and Keira Crawford

Thank You

Thanks to all the families who donated poinsettias in memory of their loved ones. The Poinsettia Garden beautified our sanctuary during the season of Advent and Christmas.

If you would like to keep your poinsettia, please pick it up after worship on January 4. Those not picked up will be discarded on January 8.



Dear Friends,

As the Christmas season has unfolded, Alyssa and I have been deeply moved by the many heartfelt expressions of love you have shared with us. Your kind words, thoughtful cards, generous gifts, and prayers have truly touched our hearts. We are so grateful to serve alongside such a caring, compassionate, and faith-filled community. Your encouragement is a reminder of the beauty of this church family and the joy we share in Christ together.

Thank you for blessing us so abundantly during this holy season. Please know how much you are appreciated and how thankful we are for each of you.

With love and gratitude,
Pastor Josh & Alyssa

Thank You

Dear Members of Emanuel United Church of Christ and Pastor Joshua Rau

On behalf of the Jackson Ministerial Alliance, I want to express our sincere and heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful evening, Thursday, December 4, 2025 at the Live Nativity Scene.

The night truly became a wonderful evening for many of our community to enjoy the sights and sounds of the anticipation of our Savior's birth again this year. We appreciate your caring and loving commitment to host such a meaningful night for all to come and enjoy despite the cold temps. Next year December 3, 2026 will be the Live Nativity.

THANK YOU so much for hosting our Live Nativity Scene. Thank You for everyone who had a part in setting up the stable, P.A, system, music, costumes, refreshments, decoration, cleanup, and so much more to make this an evening for our community and all who came to celebrate the birth of Christ again this Advent leading us to Christmas Day.

Emanuel has hosted this event for a long time and each year the members of Emanuel and Pastoral leadership now with Pastor Joshua have made it an even greater event to be a part of. Your hospitality and warmth is truly a welcome to all who receive the joy and love of Christ's birth in their hearts!!

Blessings this Advent Season

Peace and Hope

*Rev. Samuel E. Roethemeyer, President
Jackson Ministerial Alliance*



Women's Ministries



Bethany Circle

Bethany Circle held their annual Christmas party at noon on December 11 in the fellowship hall. There was food, fun and fellowship.

- We enjoyed a delicious soup and salad lunch.
- There was lots of great conversation and sharing.
- Christmas games were played.
- Secret Pals for 2025 were revealed.
- Names were drawn for new secret pals for 2026.
- We had a cookie exchange and each member went home with several kinds of delicious cookies.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Cathy Sievers



Clothing Closet

Emanuel UCC is pleased to offer free clothing to anyone in need through our Clothing Closet Ministry

2nd Saturday of each month

9:00 am-11:00 am

~~~~~

320A East Adams St.

Jackson, MO 63755

(white house on the corner of E Adams & Georgia St)

\* PLEASE NO DONATIONS AT THIS TIME \*

[www.euccjackson.org](http://www.euccjackson.org)

573-243-3323

## Women's Fellowship

Notes from Special Meeting on December 7, 2025.

Election of officers was held. Nomination motion was made by Joy Kessler, 2nd by Cathy Sievers, and all approved for the officers for 2026 to be as follows.

President - Kelly Crawford  
Vice President - Heather Beggs  
Treasurer - Earlene Sokolowski  
Secretary - Catheryn Hartle

\*\*In an effort to help alleviate some work from the President a calling committee has been formed to arrange food donations & help for events that the Women's Fellowship handles (such as Optimist meals, special services like World Day of Prayer and others).

Reimbursement to Catheryn Hartle for Band Bag expenses was done after motion from Earlene, 2nd by Ann Fields, and all approved.

Debra notified the group that our church will be Hosting the World Day of Prayer on March 6, 2026. (Due to their construction IC is not able to host and we volunteered to do it for them). Help will be needed that day for refreshments and serving.

Respectfully submitted,

*Catheryn Hartle  
Women's Fellowship President*



Representatives from Women's Fellowship set up a Flavored Water Bar for the faculty and staff at West Lane Elementary on Monday, December 15. This was done as part of our continued Faith-Based Partnership with Jackson R-2.

## Requests from the Church Office

As we enter 2026, the office staff is requesting your help as we prepare for the projects and events of the new year.

**Church Calendar**—If you or your organization will be sponsoring an annual event or a special event, please notify the church office of the requested date as early as possible so that it can be placed on the church calendar. This will help prevent conflicts in scheduling.

**Church Fellowship Yearbook 2026**—New information regarding church organizations, church committees, etc. will be needed. Yearbook will be prepared in January.

**Church Annual Report for 2025**—see details below.

## Annual Report for 2025

It is the beginning of a new calendar year and that means it is time to look back at the happenings of the previous year and to share that information with all the members of the congregation. Therefore, it is time for all church organizations, committees and leaders to submit a written report summary of their activities, missions, accomplishments, etc. to the church office for inclusion in the Annual Church Report. Also include things such as meeting schedules, officers, financial information, and any other noteworthy items.

The annual report should tell the story of our church for 2025. Therefore, we need information from the following groups (*and any others that may not be in this list*): Church Council, Finance, Audit, Christian Board of Education, Women's Fellowship, Bethany Circle, Margaret Puchbauer Scholarship Committee, Pastoral Staff Relations Committee, Stewardship Committee, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Clothing Closet Ministry.

*Emanuel UCC Office Staff*

### Annual Report Information

Due in the church office by

**January 26, 2026**

# 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*



# Church Council Minutes

Below are the unapproved minutes from the December 14, 2025 Church Council Meeting. Minutes will be approved at the next council meeting.

## EUCC Council Meeting Minutes 12/14/25

Meeting Members: Kelly Crawford, Katie Beardslee, Pat Holley, Matt Roethemeyer, Jimmy McCormack, Ann Fields

Members absent: Matt Zschille, Geoff Shinn, Layton Beggs

The meeting was called to order at 5:28 with an opening prayer by Pastor Josh.

Previous minutes were available for review. Motion for approval of previous minutes made by Kelly and seconded by Matt R. 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 was repaired by Matt. He will add weather stripping soon.
- Jimmy installed a handrail at the clothing closet.
- The boiler is on and working.
- The parsonage heat is not keeping up. Langford suggests cleaning the ductwork due to buildup. Josh was quoted \$950 from Air Solutions and \$450 from Semo Solutions for 12 vents / \$10 per additional vent. Matt R. motioned to have the ducts cleaned and also purchase a safe heater for the back porch to keep that area warm enough. Kelly second. Motion passed.
- Matt kept the church a little warmer and cabinets open to save heat and pipes.
- Jimmy replaced the thermostat on the kitchen refrigerator. It seems to be working now. May look into using a digital thermostat when needing another repair.

Audit committee report: Will meet again in January. Will need new committee members.

Rental property: All is well.

Clothing Closet: Nine people came yesterday. Clothing will need to be reorganized during January.

Stewardship Committee: All is well. The quilt went to Joy Kessler. Made over \$100.

CBE report: Will meet in January. The children's Christmas program is next Sunday during church.

Lay Service/ Member Care report: A church member would like a ride to church once a month.

Worship report: All is well.

Head Usher report: Have moved to using 2 ushers for offering when necessary. Will keep 4 for communion.

### Pastor Report with notes from Pastor Joshua Rau

- Pastor Josh looked into creating a church Venmo Account for offering. We can create a non-profit account through Venmo & PayPal for 1% administrative fee. Matt suggested we add the Venmo along with the Breeze online giving. Katie motioned to approve. Matt seconded.
- Worship services coming up are the continued Wed night Advent services, Christmas Eve @ 10:30 PM, & Christmas Day @ 10:10.
- Jesse that teaches guitar is happy with his rental of the space.
- There is a baptism on Dec 21.
- The new facility use agreement went out to members last week. We will use this agreement for all events. Katie suggests getting a copy of the Jackson R-2 liability for any school events. Matt will look into this.

• Pastor Josh will be gone on Jan 24-25, 2026. He will have a lay member-led worship

## **•Old Business**

Church Mutual Insurance Quote was received. We're waiting on the renewal quote from the Insurance Board before choosing coverage for 2026. Pat received a quote from the Insurance Board but the information wasn't updated and they will have to send a new quote. Pat will send an email ASAP to make a final decision before the end of 2025.

## **New Business**

Council members chose new positions.

President - Jimmy

Vice President - Katie

Secretary - Geoff

Treasurer - Pat

Financial Secretary - Kelly

Worship - Ann

Buildings & Grounds - Matt R.

Lay Service - Matt Z.

Head Usher - Layton

Pat mentioned that bills from GoDaddy are not consistently communicated. Josh asked about looking into a new web and email provider. Council asked him to look into other options.

Jimmy brought notes from the Pastoral & Staff Relations Committee that Debra is resigning from the committee. The council will need to appoint a new member.

Pastor Josh's licensure was approved.

The Ministerial Alliance sent a thank you for the food pantry items received from the live nativity.

Jimmy read a letter from OCWM asking about donations.

The elevator is currently not up to code and the business we have used no longer has an inspector. Debra sent quotes about other companies and OTIS looks like the best option for us. We discussed the \$140 or \$190/month plans. Katie moves to use the OTIS plan that includes the annual fees. Matt seconds. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Jan 11, 2026 8:00 AM

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm with motion by Matt R., seconded by Katie with the Lord's prayer led by Jimmy.

Submitted by: Geoff Shinn, Church Council Secretary with notes supplied by Kelly Crawford

## **2026 Council Members with Terms of Service**

|                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| President:             | Jimmy McCormack (2027)              |
| Vice-President:        | Katie Beardslee (2027)              |
| Secretary:             | Geoff Shinn (2026) **Cannot rerun   |
| Treasurer:             | Pat Holley (2028)                   |
| Financial Secretary:   | Kelly Crawford (2027)               |
| Buildings & Grounds:   | Matt Roethemeyer (2028)             |
| Head Usher:            | Layton Beggs (2026) **Cannot rerun  |
| Worship Coordinator:   | Ann Fields (2028)                   |
| Lay Services Director: | Matt Zschille (2026) **Cannot rerun |

# Financial Report

Pat Holley, Treasurer

## November 2025 BUDGET COMPARISON

| 2025 BUDGET   |                                               |                                                                              |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Annual Budget | Budgeted Contributions Monthly Average        | 2025 YTD Annual Budget thru November '25 (1 Mo)                              |
| \$235,086.00  | \$19,590.50                                   | \$215,495.50                                                                 |
|               | November '25 MTD Contributions & Other Income | November '25 YTD Contributions & Other Income                                |
|               | \$27,011.52                                   | \$188,846.19                                                                 |
|               | 2025 November Excess (Shortfall)              | Projected EOY 2025 Annual Budget Shortfall based on Income Thru November '25 |
|               | \$7,421.02                                    | (\$31,979.17)                                                                |

| CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL OFFERINGS & DEDICATED FUNDS NOT AVAILABLE TO FUND CHURCH BUDGET |                               |                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
|                                                                                          | Contributions in November '25 | Contributions YTD 2025 |
| UC Funds                                                                                 | \$3,000.00                    | \$4,850.68             |
| Dime-A-Day                                                                               | \$73.00                       | \$616.89               |
| CWS Blankets                                                                             | \$0.00                        | \$370.00               |
| California Disaster Relief                                                               | \$0.00                        | \$595.00               |
| FMSC                                                                                     | \$0.00                        | \$910.14               |
| Food Pantry & Family Thank Offering                                                      | \$401.00                      | \$591.00               |
| 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               |

# January 4, 2026





|    |                     |
|----|---------------------|
| 1  | Michael Brockmire   |
| 2  | Landon Trankler     |
| 2  | Logan Mouser        |
| 4  | Larry Statler       |
| 5  | William Schweer     |
| 7  | James B. Johnson    |
| 7  | Lola Mae Wheeler    |
| 7  | Logan Dahlia Scholl |
| 10 | Teresa Pensel       |
| 11 | Kadence Crawford    |
| 15 | Alice Benton        |
| 16 | Larry Hennecke      |
| 17 | J W Jones           |
| 17 | Dorothy Rowley      |
| 19 | Austin Bock         |
| 20 | Patti Jones         |
| 20 | Katherine Moonier   |
| 20 | Parker Peetz        |
| 21 | William Koppenaal   |
| 22 | Edwin Peetz Jr.     |
| 23 | Shirley Bock        |
| 24 | Tanner Beussink     |
| 26 | Amber McCormack     |
| 27 | Maklain Zschille    |
| 27 | Keagan Zschille     |
| 28 | Shelby Prokopf      |
| 29 | Sara Blechle        |
| 29 | Christina Shinn     |



## Recommended Scripture for January

|         |                                                          |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan. 4  | Jeremiah 31:7-14<br>Ephesians 1:3-14<br>John 1:10-18     |
| Jan. 11 | Isaiah 42:1-9<br>Acts 10:34-43<br>Matthew 3:13-17        |
| Jan. 18 | Isaiah 49:1-7<br>1 Corinthians 1:1-9<br>John 1:29-42     |
| Jan. 25 | Isaiah 9:1-4<br>1 Corinthians 1:10-18<br>Matthew 4:12-23 |

## 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, 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

**Saturday**  
5:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

**Traditional Worship**  
Liturgical Worship Celebration

**Sunday**  
10:10 a.m. | Sanctuary

Holy Communion ~ Monthly 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and Sunday

Faith and Fellowship ~ Sunday School | 9:00 a.m.