

Immanuel's Lighted Path

Winter 2018

IMPORTANT DATES

TOWNSEND TREE LIGHTING & CAROLING

DECEMBER 9- 4:30PM
TOWNSEND PARK

FAMILY CRAFT DAY

DECEMBER 15- 2PM

YOUTH GROUP WRAP A THON

DECEMBER 16
BEGINNING AT 11AM

MEN'S CHILI COOK OFF

JANUARY 27- 5PM



Hanging of The Greens Service December 2 11am

This special service reminds us of why we decorate our houses and churches as we do and allows many of the congregation to have a part in the celebration.



Blue Christmas Service December 16 6pm

The holidays can be difficult. During a time when people expect you to be merry and bright, the grief, loneliness and sadness in our lives does not just disappear. We hope you'll join us for this service of healing and peace to help soothe your soul.

Christmas Eve



Casual Christmas Eve Service 5pm

Our annual early evening service allows families with younger children to celebrate Jesus early enough to allow them to get enough sleep so they can be prepared for the big day. We will have hot chocolate and refreshments in a small party atmosphere for Jesus' birth.



Traditional Christmas Eve Service 11pm

This traditional Christmas Eve, Candlelight, Carol and Communion service is a great way to celebrate the holiday as we sing the classics and hear the story of the birth of the child who changed the world forever.



I am feeling a bit nostalgic this year. Christmas often brings this out in many of us as we like to look back to simpler times, or days gone by. Often we look back to our childhood when we had few if any responsibilities except to have fun, wish for things, decorate trees, presents, cards and cookies. We all have special memories that hopefully cause a smile to form, no matter what we may be going through this year.

I remember growing up in Ohio where the chance of a white Christmas was a reality every year and how I would hope and pray that the winter break would be filled with toboggan and sled rides down the family hill. Of course, when the snow would come my sisters and I would stay outside until we felt the first signs of frostbite or my mom would call out the door saying the hot chocolate was ready. My older sister, Porcia would always seem to make the best snow angels, for mine would never compare, and my younger sister, Vikki would usually hide behind me when the snowballs began to fly.

There were a few different memories of decorating the Christmas tree that stood out. For several years we had a small four foot artificial tree that we would have to put on a table to seem big enough for the room. Other years my dad would go out to the back of his grandfather's property and find a real tree to bring in to the house. Usually when he did this, he would not cut it down, but dig it up so that after Christmas he could replant it on the roadside of our property. After my dad put on the lights and my mom put on the garland, my sisters and I would take turns putting on ornaments so that we wouldn't fight over the ornament or the spot on the tree. (We never lacked for things to fight about.) When it was all done, we loved getting the silver icicles out and throwing them all around the room. At least that is what my mother claimed we did as she would find them ruining the vacuum for weeks.

My favorite part was Christmas Eve. It was the only night of the year we were allowed to stay up late. The church we attended had an 11:00 PM candlelight service and I remember sitting up in the balcony, staring at my candle for fifty minutes, almost oblivious to anything else happening as I was simply trying to stay awake long enough to see it get lit. Of course, when we did finally light the candles, I was told (far too many times, I am sure) to be careful not to light my sister's hair on fire.

When we finally got home in the wee hours of the morning, my mother would make hot chocolate and my dad would read the Christmas story from the Bible before we went to bed. If we hadn't fallen asleep yet, they would whisk us off to bed, knowing they would still be up for a few hours preparing for the big reveal in the morning. So many memories; these are just a piece. I am sure each of you have memories of your own that helped create the wonderment of Christmas that you enjoy each year. I hope in each of your stories there has been a Christmas service or a Bible reading.

This is the reason our Christmas Eve services are so important for the church and for society. For during these services we are helping to form joyful memories or rekindle those from years ago. I hope you plan on joining with us for one of these special services this year. Bring your family, your children and grandchildren and make memories that will last a lifetime, memories of the true meaning of Christmas.

I appreciate you letting me share some of my past, realizing that I am still in the process of making memories for my family as Tammy, Samuel, Joseph and I share our own Christmas traditions. Perhaps next year, I can share some of those.

Celebrating the joy of Christmas,

Pastor Hayden



Christmas Flowers

Christmas flowers in honor or memory of loved ones should be at the church by Saturday, December 22 by Noon.

Dedications for inclusion in the Christmas bulletin should be sent to Sue Clark by Thursday, December 20. Please send dedications to sclarkeudel.edu

This is a great way to remember and honor loved ones, while making our sanctuary beautiful for Christmas.



On December 9 at 4:30pm we will be joining the Town of Townsend for a Christmas Caroling Tree Lighting ceremony at the Townsend Park (just inside Townsend Village). The Town has asked us to lead the singing once again, and we hope that everyone will come out and join us. The Town will be providing hot chocolate and snacks. We hope to see you there!

YOUTH GROUP WRAP-A-THON

Bring your unwrapped gifts to the church on December 16 and let the youth prepare them for the tree! We offer this as a service to the church and ask that you give a donation if you wish to help the youth with their upcoming events, including the Youth Rally. Thanks in advance for your kindness



Immanuel Youth are making plans and are getting ready to attend the 2019 Youth Rally in January. About a dozen youth plus their chaperones are excited about this annual event that features tremendous bands, great speakers and wonderful worship. Please be in prayer that each participant will grow closer to God as we let the Word inspire us.



3M's donated \$100 to VBS this year and paid to have Fellowship Hall and kitchen floors cleaned and waxed.

They will be serving the Southern States Christmas dinner and will be going out as a group for Christmas dinner on 12/11.

In addition, the 3M's along with the Townsend Women's Club, are sponsoring a family from Townsend School for Christmas.

They are also making a \$100 donation to the Youth Group for the convention in January.



Adopt a Family



This Christmas season we are working with Neighborhood House to adopt several families from our community who are in need. Keep an eye out for our family wish list items in the sanctuary. If you have questions contact Tish Borchardt



If you have never been baptized or wish to know more about the sacrament, we invite you to contact Pastor Hayden in preparation for a Special Baptism Service to be held on January 13, 2019. This Sunday is liturgically the Baptism of the Lord Sunday and is a great time to celebrate the sacrament. For more information or to inquire about logistics, contact Pastor Hayden by January 6th at pastorhayden@verizon.net.



Any youth that will be 12 or older in 2019 that is interested in joining the church is welcome to enroll in our confirmation class to begin on Sunday evening in February. For more information, contact Pastor Hayden.



Immanuel has entered a new era: the age of anytime, anywhere giving. We are now signed up with Givelify, the mobile giving app for places of worship and charities.

Make your offerings, tithes, and gifts to special envelopes right from the palm of your hand. You can give to Immanuel wherever you are. Make us your home place of worship for quick one-tap access.



Amazon has a way for you to contribute to Immanuel UMC, through its Amazon Smile program. Just login at www.smile.amazon.com and select Immanuel Townsend as your charity and a portion of your sale will be directed back to us. The best part is it doesn't cost you anymore, yet the church gets a bit of the profit. It sounds like a win-win, so while you do your Christmas shopping, please don't forget to send a smile our way



As December 31st quickly approaches, please consider these important reminders regarding giving to Immanuel:

Contributions to Immanuel United Methodist Church are tax deductible as allowed by law.

IRS rules recognize a contribution on the day of delivery.

For contributions to be deductible for 2018, they must:



Be Postmarked By
December 31, 2018 and mailed to
PO Box 60, Townsend DE 19734



Be Given As Offering By
Last Service on
December 30, 2018



Be Donated Online at
www.immanueltownsend.com
before Midnight December 31, 2018