

Happy Birthday!

- 2 Bruce Guerrant
- 3 Holly Hilliker
- 8 Penny McCreary
- 9 Carolyn Bolton
- 9 Grace Tomlinson
- 10 Yizhen Zhao
- 12 Samm Wright
- 13 Frances Harris
- 13 Woody Harton
- 14 Kathryn Holley
- 14 Raychel Pantan
- 14 Lester Zeager
- 16 Patty Ploehn
- 17 Donna Hrinchuk
- 17 Jim McGee
- 23 Rod Green
- 31 Yuexian Hong

Don't forget to contribute to the Belvoir Ministry Fund throughout the year. We will use the money each December to buy books for the Belvoir children.

Happy Anniversary

- 2 Dong Soo Lee & Hankyung Oh
- 15 Harry Ploehn & Carolyn Bolton

Silent Night

Immanuel Baptist Church

1101 South Elm Street
Greenville, NC 27858
Phone (252) 758-1240
www.ibcg.org

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A Letter From The Pastor

Isaiah 52:7-9

*⁷ How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"
⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy.
When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.⁹
Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.*

I did not grow up celebrating the season of Advent. However, at this stage in my life, out of all the seasons on the church calendar, it is now my favorite of them all. Advent is filled with the eager expectation of the coming of our Lord. A season of transcendence that unifies the past fulfilled promises of God with a future promised hope. It is the season when we, the church around the world, celebrate the coming of Jesus to this earth while also holding on to the promised second coming of Christ. It is the season when the Lord has promised to restore the world with hope, love, joy, and peace, as heaven meets earth once again – just as it did when Jesus came to earth in the form of a baby 2,000 years ago. What a joyous promise this is.

As I think about this year's Advent, I can't help to think of how meaningful it is in the midst of a global pandemic. More than ever, our world so desperately wants to once again celebrate something good, peaceful, and joy-filled.

The prophecy in Isaiah 52 proclaims with great joy, "Your God reigns!" It is in this promise that we have every reason in the world to burst into songs of joy together. Yes, even in the midst of the now infamous year of 2020.

In the midst of our brokenness, in the midst of our sickness, and even in the midst of COVID-19, our God has, does, and will reign forevermore. There is no trial too big or hurt too small that will ever separate us from the comfort of the Lord. Perhaps the greatest promise that Christmas brings is that God meets us right where we are. Jesus didn't come to meet us in our perfection. Jesus came to meet us in our brokenness. So this Advent season, rejoice and be glad, for the same God that redeemed Jerusalem is the same God who will redeem you and see you through every waking moment of your life.

Grace and Peace,

Asher

JOY



Immanuel Baptist Church
1101 South Elm Street
Greenville, NC 27858
252-758-1240
www.ibcg.org

Rev. Asher Pantan, Senior Pastor
Rev. David Archer, Associate Pastor
Mrs. Holly Hilliker, Children & Youth Director
Mr. Ishmael Strickland, Worship Leader
Mrs. Bettie Jungers, Administrative Assistant

A Note From Brother Lee

In this challenging time, you might wonder, “What on earth God is doing now?” To put it simply, according to the Scriptures, God is building His family (His Kingdom) all over the world. That’s what God is up to. In each generation, God is making Himself known among people. We see this work of God from the first page of the Bible. From the beginning, God intended to build His people, who will love God with all their hearts and love each other. That is the very reason God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the garden of Eden; and God walked with them. Though we lost this loving community because of our sin, God still remains committed to restoring His Kingdom (His family) in His Son, Jesus Christ.

If we, people of God, serve this God, who saves the lost and builds His Kingdom throughout the world, we need to reflect on these questions: “Why did God lead us to live in Greenville? Why did God allow me to be with people around me and the workplace?” God has placed (and called) you so that people around you can be blessed with you in Christ Jesus (Gen. 12:3). This means at least two

things for us. First, we need to witness the love of God in Christ. Second, we ought to follow the word of God each day. As Abram followed God’s instruction and was a blessing to “all the families of the earth,” so we will be a blessing to others as we faithfully walk with God (Gen. 12:3, ESV).

For the past few months, I have sensed that, in prayers and reading of the Bible, God is directing me to go back to Korea to serve people there. I am going as our King leads me and my family. I want to express my gratitude to both congregations of Immanuel and the Korean Mission of Immanuel. My family and I have been able to grow in Christ with you together. I hope and pray that we can be together and enjoy fellowship with each other in Christ again when God consummates His Kingdom on this earth!

In Christ,
Taekgeun Lee



drop a check off at the church and Sylvia Wheless will do your shopping.

Please consider adopting a Christmas Angel this year. Immanuel has 17 angels left who need adopting. You can stop by the church and select your angel. The angels with blankets attached are located on the table by the parlor. All gifts need to be taken to the Salvation Army by Wednesday, December 16. Or, you can drop them off in the church parlor by Monday, December 14 and Sylvia Wheless will take them to the Salvation Army. If you are unable to shop, you can mail or

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Bell ringers are needed for this Christmas season. If you are willing to ring a bell this year, please contact Kim at the Salvation Army at 756-3388 to sign up.



A Season Of Giving

As we enter the Christmas season, one of the traditions of Immanuel has been to buy poinsettias in memory or in honor of family members and/or friends and place them in the window seals in the sanctuary. Since we have postponed meeting in person, due to Covid-19, it is the consensus of the deacons that this year those wishing to participate in this tradition make a financial donation instead that will be split between the Benevolence Fund and the Missions Council Fund. Both of these funds need some additional money and serve those in need in the community.

Two Ways To Do This:

- 1) You can drop off your funds at the church (9am-3pm M-TH and 9am-1pm F)
- 2) Or you can mail funds to the church
1101 South Elm St
Greenville, N 27858

Include The Following Information:

In Memory of _____ Given by _____

In Honor of _____ Given by _____

The list of donations will be displayed during the December 20 worship service and emailed on December 21.

Please make donations by Wednesday, December 16.

If you have questions please feel to contact Pat Dunn, Chair of the Deacons



Meetings & Events

- Wed, Dec 16th** - Church Conference via Zoom and Lan Line, 7 PM
- Thurs, Dec 24th** - Church Office Closed. Christmas Holiday
- Fri, Dec 25th** - Church Office Closed. Christmas Holiday
- Fri, Jan 1st** - Church Office Closed. New Years Holiday

