CONNECT, GROW AND HAVE FUN

Sunday School Classes for All Ages at 9:45am:

- Preschool and Kindergarten - Room 3
- 1st through 5th grade – Room 6
- 6th through 12th grade - Youth Room
- Adult Class meets in Witherspoon Hall Rooms 12/13. Current class is Dialogues: The Refugee Crisis led by Dan Johnson.

Youth Group:

- Sunday nights from 5:00 – 7:00pm Includes dinner, games and bible fellowship for youth ages 6-12th grade.

Bible Studies:

- **Men's Bible Study -** We are a great group of guys who gather for a time of fellowship, digging deeper into God's Word and sharing life together. Currently studying Romans. Mondays at 10:00am in Witherspoon Hall.
- **Women's Bible Study** meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 10:00am in Witherspoon Hall.
- **Agape Women's Circle on November 11 -** We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:00am, held off campus. Contact Mary Kay at ausmbush3@gmail.com for more information.
- **Lydia Women's Circle on November 16** at 6:30pm. Join us for refreshments and the Horizons Book Study. We meet on the third Monday of each month at 6:30pm in Towner Hall.

Fellowship Groups:

- **Join the Immanuel Choir!** Participation in choir is open to all (ages 15+) who desire to serve through sacred music. No prior choral experience is necessary, and no audition is required. **Rehearsals are on Thursdays at 6:30pm.** Questions? Email Lori Stuckey, Interim Director of Music Ministries at lorstuckey@hotmail.com
- **Desert Sages Games on Tuesdays** from 10:00am – 12:30pm. Come make new friends, play a variety of card and board games, eat popcorn and then top it off with dessert! Held in Witherspoon Hall.
- **Crafters Group on Thursdays** from 10:00am – 2:00pm. Want to unleash your inner artist? Express your creative talents? Join our Crafters Group - all skill levels and craft projects welcome. Meets in Witherspoon Hall 12/13.
- **Wednesday Night Meals** – Let us do the cooking! Join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month) from 5:30-6:30pm. Meals are $10.00 each/$5.00 for kids 12 and under. Meets in Witherspoon Hall.

Mission Outreach:

- **Casa Maria Sandwiches on Saturday, October 31** from 8:00 - 9:00am. If you want to participate - each brown bag lunch should include two sandwiches (no mayo please); one fruit item, and two cookies. Drop off station is in parking lot by Witherspoon Hall Kitchen.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Sunday, October 25

- 8:30am Alternative Worship Service
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Traditional Worship Service
- *No Youth Group*

Monday, October 26

- 10:00am Men's Bible Study
- 6:00pm / 7:00pm Cub/Boy Scouts

Tuesday, October 27

- 10:00am Desert Sages Games
- 6:00pm TOPS
- **6:00pm Ministry Teams Meeting**

Wednesday, October 28

- 7:30pm AA

Thursday, October 29

Church office closed

- 10:00am Crafters Group
- 6:00pm AA meeting
- 6:00pm Radio Group
- 6:30am Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 30

- church closed

Saturday, October 31

- 8:00am Casa Maria Sandwich Ministry

Sunday, November 01

- 8:30am Alternative Worship Service
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Traditional Worship Service
- 5:00pm Youth Group

Welcome to Immanuel
October 25, 2026 8:30am
ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

Gathering Music	*Here I Am to Worship,* Tim Hughes
Welcome & Opening Prayer	Rev. Duane Mullen
***Song**	*A Mighty Fortress,* Getty & Bailey
Prayer of Confession	
***Passing the Peace**	
***Hymn 581**	*Glory Be to the Father*
Children's Message	Sean Shifflette
Prayer for Understanding	Tom Schnabel
Psalm Reading	Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17
Scripture Reading	Matthew 22: 34-46
Sermon	Rev. Duane Mullen
***Song**	*Oceans,* Crocker, Houston & Ligthelm
Offering	*With Every Remembrance,* James M. Stevens
***Doxology 606**	*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
***Prayer of Dedication**	Tom Schnabel
Prayers of the People	
The Lord's Prayer	
Announcements	Cheralynn Baylor
***Song**	*10,000 Reasons,* Redman & Myrin
***Charge and Blessing**	
***Sending Music**	*10,000 Reasons*

*Please stand as you are comfortable when noted by an asterisk.

WELCOME TO IMMANUEL

First time at Immanuel? We are so glad you chose to worship with us today! We would like to give you a welcome gift bag – it's full of goodies and helpful information about our church. Please see an usher to receive yours. Giving envelopes, hymnals, Bibles, printed music and other materials are located on the worship cart inside the sanctuary on the left side by comfort room window.

Please take a moment to fill out the **Connection Card** and let us know that you are here and also if there are any changes to your contact information or a prayer request.

The Nursery is Open for children ages infant to 3yrs. Our Comfort Room is available in the Sanctuary for parents of young children who need comfort and care. We also have children's activity bags, and the playground is open.

Time Together for Children ages 3 - 5, from after the Children's Message in worship until the worship service ends. Please pick up your children in Towner Hall Room 3.

Join us for fellowship and refreshments after the services today. We meet in Witherspoon Hall for coffee and refreshments. It's a great way to catch up with friends and make new ones!

Participants: Rev. Duane Mullen, Pastor Kris Goorsky, Minister of Christian Formation: Lori Stuckey, Interim Director of Music Ministries; Tom Schnabel, lay reader; Sean Shifflette, children's message; Ed Vander Woude, Audio/Video

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Online Giving – If you would like to make an offering online, please use this QR code. Accepts all major cards, Venmo, Apple Pay, or Google Pay. Giving envelopes are located on the worship materials cart.

IMMANUEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9252 E. 22nd Street, Tucson, Arizona 85710
520-296-2253 www.immanuelpc.org
Office Hours – Monday – Thursday, 9am -3pm

Discovering and displaying Christ in here and out there

PASTOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

Dear Immanuel Christians,

Our scripture this week is Matthew 22:34-46, containing one of the most well know interactions with Jesus in all of scripture, and is followed by one of the most obscure. Jesus is asked which is the greatest commandment; I don't need to type it, you already know both of them.

But don't skip over verse 34 which starts with, "But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees…" Jesus doesn't mince words. He has angered the Elders and chief priests of the temple, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Herodians, and now the Pharisees again.

In Jesus time on earth he called people, and I quote, "evil, wicked, adulterous, unbelieving, perverse, sinful, sinners, hypocrites, serpents, a brood of vipers, children of the devil, children of hell, blind fools, lost, whitewashed tombs, ignorant, dogs, pigs, ravenous wolves, worse than Baal, worse than Sodom and Gomorrah, faithless, twisted, robbers, thieves, liars, Jezebel, wretched, pitiable, poor, naked, prostitutes, Satan, Synagogue of Satan, and Throne of Satan."

And these aren't one-offs, either. Jesus calls people hypocrites, depending on the translation, at least 12 times in Matthew's gospel account. And in this same gospel, Jesus levels no less than 42 insults in just 28 chapters; 16 of those insults in Matthew 23 alone; the chapter immediately following our above scripture.

Now for the good news… or not. In the Revised Common Lectionary, the teaching scriptures laid out by the church, most will teach Matthew 23:1-12 on November 1, 2026, which does not contain a single harsh word by Jesus. And, which the PC(USA) has omitted from this year's teachings. The remainder of Matthew 23 is omitted entirely from the teaching schedule of the revised common lectionary, universally.

So, asking for a friend, what's wrong with the church today? I offer at least two honest answers. First, I am concerned that we as Christians cannot truly know the love of Christ if we skip the uncomfortable things he said and did. Because often enough in scripture, Jesus' love looks like brutal honesty. And second, the avoidance Christians have for what Jesus really said illumines what he means when he refers to the Pharisees as whitewashed tombs. Clean and white on the outside, and rotting on the inside.

Jesus also said, "If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." Mark 8:38

Let me encourage the saints, keep reading scripture. God is inconvenient; then again, life without God is much, much worse. It is hard, but so is love. To paraphrase The Princess Bride, "Life is pain…" [true for Christians, too!] "… anyone who says differently is selling something."

The way toward God's love, and obeying these two greatest commandments, is through Jesus' teachings, not around them. For Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." And God said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

Yours in this Shared Love of Christ,
Pastor Duane

NEWS AND EVENTS

Office Note: The office will be closed on Thursday, October 29. Pastor Duane will be available by appointment only.

All are invited to attend the service of the Military Order of the World Wars held on **Sunday, November 1 at 2:00pm** at the Tucson Women's Club located at 6245 E. Bellevue Street. Refreshments after the service. MOWW is a patriotic, non-partisan organization of veterans. MOWW provides opportunities to support veterans of all ranks and service, youth patriotic education, college ROTC and high school JROTC, Scouting, monuments and memorials, public safety/law & order, national and homeland security programs, and stimulate love of our country.