



**Immanuel**  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
Frankfort, KY

# CONNECTIONS

To Experience & Express God's Unconditional Love

Volume 5, No. 2 - February 2026

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## Tell Me Something Good: Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent

This year, Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18, otherwise known as "Ash Wednesday." Once again, I will be using resources from "A Sanctified Art" to support sermon and worship development, as well as to provide personal devotional guides for the season.

The 2026 theme is "Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News this Lent." The theme developers at A Sanctified Art describe it this way:



*hear, see, and taste what is good.*

*We often describe Jesus' ministry as "radical," which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground." Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots, back to what grounds us: loving our neighbor, caring for the vulnerable, pursuing justice and mercy, and resting in God's unending grace.*

*The good news is extravagant, untamed, illogical, and persistent. ... The good news is alive in the world.*

*We hope this series will provide fertile ground for conversation and worship, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. This Lent, may the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. Let the good news ground us. And let that good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to*

I am so excited to dig into this series and journey through Lent by really searching for the good news that roots our lives and sustains our faith.

We will read stories of Jesus' miracles, watch his compassion in action, and discern how we can bring that good news to the world around us in new ways. During this season in our culture and world when it is so easy to be discouraged and lose hope, I am eager to see how these resources help shape our congregation into people who journey beside Jesus faithfully as he seeks to share that good news in healing and transformative ways!

*Pastor Emily*

### Our Vision

To experience and express God's unconditional love.

### Our Kingdom Mission

To live like Jesus Christ by unconditionally loving all people, compassionately serving God's world, openly discussing issues of faith, and intentionally inviting others to grow with us as followers of Christ, our Lord and Savior.

## Zambia - Field of Hope Update

The year 2025 has reminded us how quickly life can change. We experienced the heartbreaking loss of our beloved Lonnie Turner, less than a year after the passing of his wife, our dear Mama Fran Turner. These two remarkable individuals were the heart of Partners In Development. Their unwavering dedication and love for others transformed countless lives - not only in Zambia, but across many nations around the world.

As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the year ahead, we would like to share some of the highlights from The Field of Hope in 2025:



- Four students completed high school, including Pelekelo - a survivor of a crocodile attack whose life was saved through Partners In Development. She now looks ahead to her college years with hope and determination.
- Two university students graduated, one in clinical medicine and the other in agricultural science. Clinical medicine graduates typically serve in remote and rural areas, bringing vital healthcare to underserved communities. Agricultural science equips our people with skills to fight poverty and build a brighter future.
- We celebrated a strong harvest of maize and groundnuts, which supported our feeding program and helped ease poverty within the community. We are hoping and praying for an even greater harvest this season.
- A new solar system was installed at the farm, increasing production capacity and improving overall efficiency.
- Solar systems were also installed in the homes of the most vulnerable. With ongoing load-shedding in Zambia affecting both home-based and industrial businesses, this support has been life-changing.
- Children in rural Kazuni received school supplies and soccer balls, bringing joy, encouragement, and opportunities to learn and play.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the generosity of our donors. Your kindness and support have made a profound impact on the lives of our people. You have given them hope - hope that circumstances can improve, hope that they are not forgotten, hope that someone cares.

Let us continue walking alongside our communities and helping build a better future. Together, we honor Lonnie and Fran's legacy by extending hope to those who need it most.

In gratitude and hope for your support,

Stephen Turner

## Gratitude from Partners in Development



Dear Immanuel Baptist:

Partners In Development (PID) is extremely honored to receive your financial contributions.

Your donations benefit many desperately poor people in Africa. The people we help have no voice, no one to advocate on their behalf, and receive little or no assistance from wealthier non-profits and non-governmental organizations.

Sincerely,

Greg Toulson, Treasurer

## Cameroon Update

Greetings from Cameroon,

We continue to appreciate your favor and support for us. There are many who have survived through their challenges, living amongst us today just because of your acts of kindness:

- The man and the elderly woman who were severely attacked by malaria fever. They received treatments and had their medical bills paid.
- A female student almost had to drop out of school. Her school fees were paid and she was able to continue school.
- Two families lost their properties due to fire. We

were able to rent an apartment to accommodate each of them, including their children, for three months.

The total amount of \$300 was shared in the ratio of 1:1:1.

May your sources forever be fruitful!

Warmest Regards,  
Eny Bunyui, Cameroon



## Infant Resource Center Update

As we have come to the end of the first month of my tenure as Director of the Infant Resource Center, I'd like to take a moment to express my gratitude and excitement for what is to come. This program has been a pillar of our church ministry for as long as I can remember, and I'm honored to be chosen to oversee it. In going through files, photos, and boxes, I'm reminded of the women who came before me and the love and work they put into supporting our neighbors in need.

I'd like to thank Anna, Karen, and Gena for spending time showing me the ropes and answering more questions than they may have expected. I'm also grateful for the outpouring of encouragement I've received from the congregation. Serving the community in this way is not an easy task, but I know helping hands and loving prayers will always be at the ready.

My goal will be to keep you updated on the IRC's impact and ways you can support the work. In the coming weeks, I'll complete an inventory of items we have, meet with



community partners to determine ways we can collaborate, and start mapping out what the rest of 2026 will look like. Please reach out to me if you have any ideas, especially for potential funding!

Thanks again,  
Sara Jenkins

## Infant Resource Center Wishlist



As Sara has been inventorying the Infant Resource Center items, she has identified needed supplies that would best help us to support the smallest members of our community.

If you would like to support the IRC in tangible ways during this exciting season of transition, please see the

wishlist she has put together and consider purchasing an item at <http://tinyurl.cc/IRCWishlist>

You can also give online through the church website (select "Infant Resource Center" as the fund) or by check to Immanuel Baptist Church.

## PRAYER AND CARE

### Deacon of the Week



#### Week of February 1

Karen Dungan  
502-320-1940  
kddungan.com



#### Week of February 8

Mike Hatcher  
502-875-0321  
mhatac43583@aol.com



#### Week of February 15

Cathy Thomas  
502-436-6010  
bworm777@hotmail.com

#### Week of February 22

Andrew Tippett  
502-330-4287  
atippettky@gmail.com



The Deacon of the Week is here to support you with any ministry needs or to respond to any prayer concerns.

Please feel free to reach out to them any time during the week of their service!

## DISCIPLESHIP

### New Sunday School/Conference Space and Hospitality Corner

As you know, two of our adult Sunday School classrooms are in the process of moving to the hallway behind the sanctuary.

In order to make room for a Godly Play classroom for the children, the Koinonia Class has moved to Room 134, at the end of the Adult Sunday School hallway. This is also the room where our Parents/Families of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) group meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m.

In the coming weeks, the Adult II and IV combined class will move to Room 132. This will allow all our adult Sunday School classes to be on the same hall and make space more intimate for conversation.

Andrew Tippett and Pastor Emily have been working with Liberty Telephone and Security Services, Inc., to set up a conferencing space in Room 132 so that the Adult II and IV class can easily maintain their hybrid setup in that room and other councils and teams can make hybrid options available for their meetings as well. We are just about finished getting this set up, but are waiting on a few additional cords to complete the installation. This will be an exciting upgrade to the church building.

Deacons and Church Council will officially move their meeting space to Room 132 as well.

You may also have noticed a new hospitality station at the back of the Sunday School hallway. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to set up a cabinet unit, complete with mini-fridge and Keurig machine in order to

have an easily accessible drink station for our PAL group and Sunday School classes. It seems that it has already been put to good use.

Since it is in the back corner, it may not be as accessible as intended. In the coming weeks, we may try moving it to a more regularly traveled part of the hallway. Please be sure to check it out and grab a refreshment when you are in the building!



## WOMEN'S RETREAT

# Sign Up Now for the Women's Retreat

All women are invited to attend the Women's Retreat to Paducah to see theologian, author, and podcaster Kate Bowler speak at Immanuel Baptist Church Paducah. More detailed information to come, but the loose schedule is:

- Leave Friday morning - lunch either on the way or upon arrival
- Visit the Quilt Museum
- Check into hotel and rest or roam
- Reservations for Dinner at Freight House (owned by Top Chef Contestant, Sarah Bradley)
- Event on Saturday morning - ends at 12:30 p.m.
- Lunch in Paducah
- Back home before dark

The event cost is:

- \$225 for private room
- \$150 for shared room (two people, two beds)

Cost includes hotel room, event registration, and quilt museum fees. Breakfast Saturday morning is included with the event. Attendees will be responsible for lunch Friday, dinner Friday, and lunch Saturday, as well as any souvenirs purchased in Paducah. Scholarships are



available for those who would like to attend, but cannot afford the full amount, so please do not let finances stop you if you are interested in attending!

A \$25 deposit is due upon registration in order to secure a spot. The final balance is due by February 15. You can register in the church office or online.

Please invite friends!

## WORSHIP

# Update On A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church

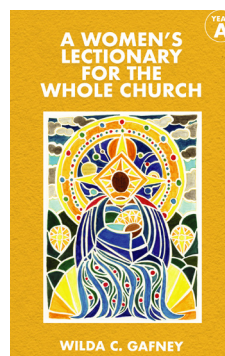
Since Advent, many of you have noticed something a little different in the bulletin: most of our scriptures have come from a translation called *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church*. The Women's Lectionary centers the voices of women by lifting up biblical stories featuring women and/or bringing attention to where women have been minimized to uplift the male perspective.

One aspect of the Women's Lectionary that I understand has been a little jarring for some is that it uses feminine language for God. The editor of this translation, Wilda C. Gafney notes, "Exclusively masculine language constructs and reinforces the

notion that men are the proper image of God and women are secondary and distant."

Though our church has a long history of believing that women should not be secondary and that God is a being beyond gender, I know the feminine language has rubbed some the wrong way.

My intent in using this translation has been to open our eyes to different ways of viewing God and the stories of our faith. I do not, however, want



the use of this translation to be a hindrance to hearing the scripture or living more deeply into our commitment to "grow deeper in our understanding of God."

In effort to be more attentive to the jarring impact of such a translation, you will see that, at times, I will "adapt" the translation or use a different translation. Most times, I have kept the feminine language when that is a direct translation from Hebrew. My hope is to continue adding in some of the language that will stretch our understanding, but not too much that it is a distraction. I will keep monitoring how this is being received and respond accordingly.

## Year-End Giving

If you take a look at the Stewardship Report on the back page of this newsletter, you will notice that the giving in 2025 exceeded our budgeted income for the first time in a long time. As mentioned in the December/January edition of *Connections*, this tremendous outcome was made possible by some extravagant gifts made by church members who want us to be able to continue to dream big, even during a budget cycle (or two) which will require us to spend significant amounts of money on building repairs.

Randy Carter, our Thriving Congregations mentor, liked to remind the Thriving Congregations team that “what we celebrate, we repeat.” So, I want to celebrate this important milestone in the church:

**We ended the year with offerings 6% above what we budgeted!**

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of you, who made this possible. In coming to IBC, I had been told that your generosity was a sight to behold, but now that I’m experiencing it first-hand, I am blown away.

Unfortunately, due to the roof and some other unexpected expenses, we still spent \$21,360.39 more than we brought in in 2025. Without the “over and above” giving of a number of Immanuelites, this number would have been significantly higher, and would not be a sustainable deficit in the years to come.

While I am working with the staff and Church Council to monitor spending through the year as one step towards not exceeding our income in 2026, my hope and prayer is that we will allow ourselves to be inspired by the generosity that allowed us to dream bigger in 2025 and consider how more of us might increase our giving, even with one time gifts, to extend the celebration of our ability to meet and exceed an audacious budget for another year to come!

- Pastor Emily

## GRATITUDE

### In Gratitude



Susan and Chuck Wolfe wish to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and well-wishes for Susan during her long-running ordeal with sciatica and diabetes complications. They truly have been appreciated.

Chuck and Susan

I would like to sincerely thank my church family for the prayers, love, and support you showed me during

Noland’s illness and following his passing. Your kindness, encouragement, and presence meant more to me than words can express. I am especially grateful for the care and thoughtfulness shown to my family and me, including the beautiful meal provided after the service. Thank you for walking with me through such a difficult season and for lifting us up in prayer. With love and gratitude,



Wyvette Williams

Dear Friends at Immanuel Baptist,

Thank you so much for your recent donation to ACCESS. We could not feed and shelter as many as we do without generous supporters like you! In December, we served 1,722 meals and gave out 31 food boxes to families in need! We are so grateful for your partnership in helping us make a difference in the lives of those we serve in the community!

In His Service,

The ACCESS Board Of Directors

### Share Your Thoughts!

Do you have a word of gratitude you would like to share? We would love to hear from you. Send your thoughts - short or long - to Joni at [joni@ibcfrankfort.com](mailto:joni@ibcfrankfort.com), and we will be glad to feature you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

# DEACON'S MEETING



**FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

**6:00 - 7:30 P.M.**  
1075 COLLINS LANE  
DEACON'S MEETINGS WILL  
NOW TAKE PLACE IN ROOM 132

# KIDS & YOUTH

UPCOMING EVENTS



**8 FEB**

**Family Luncheon**  
Meet at Davinci's following worship for a time of family fellowship!  
Davinci's Pizzeria  
805 Louisville Road  
11:45-1:15 PM

**8 MAR**

**Kids & Youth Bowling**  
Join us for dinner and bowling at Capitol Bowl!  
Capitol Bowl  
80 Anderson Road (Drop-off & Pick-up)  
5:00-6:30 PM

**31 MAY**

**Outdoor Service & Picnic**  
Join us for a special outdoor worship service and family-friendly picnic afterwards!  
Church Lawn  
1075 Collins Lane  
10:30-1:30PM

Stay up to date on Facebook or at [www.ibcfrankfort.com](http://www.ibcfrankfort.com)

2026

# Quarterly Business Meeting



Immanuel BAPTIST CHURCH  
Frankfort, KY

Sun, February 15, 2026  
11:40 A.M.  
1075 COLLINS LANE, FRANKFORT

JOIN US FOR  
*The Gathering*

A Breakfast Potluck  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
Sunday, February 15,  
9:15 a.m.

Join us for  
**CRAFTING GROUP**

Friday, February 13 | 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Saturday, February 14 | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.



**Immanuel**  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
Frankfort, KY

1075 Collins Lane  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
(502) 223-7601  
www.ibcfrankfort.com

## Opportunities at Immanuel

<b>Sunday, February 1</b>	<b>Friday, February 13</b>
9:30 am Bible Study	3:00 pm Crafting
10:30 am Worship/ Communion	<b>Saturday, February 14</b>
11:45 am Church Council Meeting	9:00 am Crafting
<b>Monday, February 2</b>	<b>Sunday, February 15</b>
6:00 pm Boy Scouts	9:15 am The Gathering
6:00 pm Baptist Mission Women	10:30 am Worship
<b>Tuesday, February 3</b>	11:45 am Business Meeting
6:00 pm PAL Meeting	<b>Monday, February 16</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 4</b>	10:00 am CCRTA Meeting
6:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>Tuesday, February 17</b>
<b>Thursday, February 5</b>	6:00 pm PAL Meeting
1:00 pm Line Dancing	<b>Wednesday, February 18</b>
<b>Sunday, February 8</b>	6:00 pm Choir Practice
9:30 am Bible Study	<b>Thursday, February 19</b>
10:30 am Worship	1:00 pm Line Dancing
<b>Monday, February 9</b>	<b>Sunday, February 22</b>
6:00 pm Boy Scouts	9:30 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Deacons' Meeting	10:30 am Worship
<b>Tuesday, February 10</b>	<b>Monday, February 23</b>
6:00 pm PAL Meeting	6:00 pm Boy Scouts
<b>Wednesday, February 11</b>	<b>Tuesday, February 24</b>
6:00 pm Choir Practice	6:00 pm PAL Meeting
<b>Thursday, February 12</b>	<b>Wednesday, February 25</b>
1:00 pm Line Dancing	6:00 pm Choir Practice
	<b>Thursday, February 26</b>
	1:00 pm Line Dancing

## Stewardship Report

2025 Ministry Plan	\$509,493.00
Amount Needed Each Week	\$9,798.00
Amount Needed Through December	\$509,493.00
Undesignated Receipts Through December	\$541,605.81
% of Annual Budget Needed	100%
% of Annual Budget Received	106%
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Church Checking Balance	\$326,075.19
Designated Checking Balance	\$129,271.28
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$455,346.47</b>

## Prayer List

Bruce Allgood	Janet Lewis
Norma Barnes	Scarlett Moore
Roger Crittenden	Ernie Murphy
Glenn Ison	Glenn Murphy
Gary Lawson	Mason Smith
Amie LeMaster	Rhonda Smith