

The Good News

Emmanuel United Methodist Church | D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 3

5115 Cortez Road West – Bradenton, FL 34210 – 941-792-3497

FIRST CANDLE SIGNIFIES HOPE

"PROPHECY CANDLE"

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.



SECOND CANDLE SIGNIFIES PEACE

"BETHLEHEM CANDLE"

The second candle, also purple, represents peace. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.



The third candle is rose and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy.

"SHEPHERD'S CANDLE"

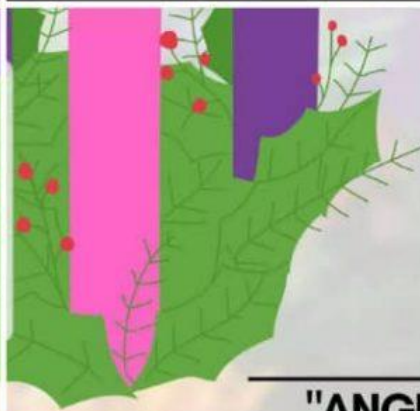
SIGNIFIES JOY
THIRD CANDLE



On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle that symbolizes love. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle".

"ANGEL'S CANDLE"

SIGNIFIES LOVE
FOURTH CANDLE



NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Beginning on December 1 read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each day. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus' life and wake up on Christmas Morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate



DECEMBER 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
UPCOMING EVENTS Tues. Dec 12 The Lunch Bunch (863-512-0678) Sun. Dec 17 Christmas Cantata Tues. Dec 19 Blue Christmas at Trinity United Methodist 6:30pm (941-747-3704) Sun. Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candle Light Service at EUMC 4:30pm & 6:30pm					1	2
3 Communion 1st Sunday of Advent 8:30am Coffee Hour McCay Hall 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Advent Study McCay Hall	4 S.T.R.E.A.M. Annual Assembly 6:30 pm	5	6	7 Advent Small Group- 6:30 pm online by Zoom	8	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30am Coffee Hour McCay Hall 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Advent Study McCay Hall	11	12 The Lunch Bunch 11:30 AM Beef 'O' Brady's Call for more info. 863-512-0678	13 Contact David Brown re/Choir Rehearsal cndnoles@verizon.net	14 Advent Small Group- 6:30 pm online by Zoom	15	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30am Coffee Hour McCay Hall 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Advent Study McCay Hall	18 2024 JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 	19 6:30 pm Trinity UMC	20 Contact David Brown re/Choir Rehearsal cndnoles@verizon.net	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 4th Sunday of Advent 8:30am Coffee Hour McCay Hall 9:30am Worship Service 4:30pm Christmas Eve Candle Light 6:30pm Christmas Eve Candle Light	25 HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	26	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve 8:30am Coffee Hour McCay Hall 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall 5th Sunday Offering FL United Methodist Children's Home	January 1, 2024 NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS In observance of the Christmas holiday the Church Office will be closed Monday, December 25 and will reopen Tuesday, January 2, 2024. If you have an emergency need during that time you may call our Assistant Pastor, Gayla Gabrielse, at 815-494-4673.				

Lunch Bunch!

You are invited to join your church family for an informal and fun lunch date at Beef 'O' Brady's, 4925 Cortez Rd. W., on Tuesday, December 12th, at 11:30am. Please sign up on your Sunday connect card or contact Kayline at: 863-512-0678 (text or call) or see her in church.

DECEMBER:

We are focusing on collecting, Canned Meats (tuna, chicken, etc.) for the Manatee County Food Bank. Please drop off your food donations either in the church Narthex or church office. Thank you for supporting the Manatee County Food Bank!





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER

2 David Brachey
10 Barbara Frank
11 Jean Colson
12 Bill Molinet
25 Carole Brigham
27 Doris Abston
28 David Brown

If your birthday or anniversary was missed, please contact the church office.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER

21 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Galbraith
23 Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Petschel
27 Mr. & Mrs. John Brigham
28 Mr. & Mrs. Keith Antworth

We want to better enhance your worship experience. If you need hearing assistant devices for use during the service, they are now available.

Please see Vernon Petschel, Head Usher



Keeping Up

Thank you for being faithful in your giving. It is through your generosity that the church can continue to operate and these gifts are very important and very much appreciated.

Here are the ways you can give to Emmanuel UMC

1. In Person on Sunday Morning
2. Drop off at the office in the mail slot located in the church office door.
3. Mail to the church at:
5115 Cortez Rd. W.
Bradenton, FL 34210
4. Easily online!

You may visit our website online and click the donate button to give digitally. You may also copy and paste the link below into your favorite web browser:

<https://www.eumcbradenton.org/online-giving>

Dear Emmanuel Church Family & Friends

Please remember these and our dear ones in Assisted Living, Hospital and Homebound in your prayers.

Recent Requests

Continuing Concerns

Anita Hobbs
Bill Deutsch, Jr.
Corky Parker
Debbie Chick
Doris Abston
Duane & Mary Bollinger
Freda Divan
Grayson Posewitz
Heang Prom
Ira Bashore
Jim Warrender
John Bookheimer
Juanita Clark
Katherine Peterson
Kay Austin
Kris Bennett
Mike Poling
Nan Merrill
Paul Pante
Pete Chick
Phil Nilsen
Rick Newberry
Sara Wannemacher
Sharon Locasio
Sharon Roach
Sharon Shoemaker
Steve Arnold
Teresa Schmitt
Tom Mastropleto

NEEDING PRAYER?

If you would like to be added to the listing of prayer requests please feel free to reach out to our Assistant Pastor Gayla Gabrielse at 941-792-3497 or email: mickeykids2@gmail.com

Church Stats

Record of Faithful Giving Weekly Budget \$ 5,530.00

NOV.	General Offering
11/5	\$ 5,177.00
11/12	\$ 3,623.98
11/19	\$ 2,411.00
11/26	\$ 1,481.00

NOV. Sunday Attendance

11/5	73
11/12	67
11/19	74
11/26	76

Sunday School Bible Study

NOV.	10:45am
11/5	13
11/12	11
11/19	11
11/26	No Class

OCT. Online Viewers

	FB	YOUTUBE
10/1	1	33
10/8	N/A	36
10/15	1	15
10/22	1	16
10/29	1	16





DECEMBER 1-31

Dec.1: Romans 13-16
 Dec.2: 1 Corinthians 1-4
 Dec.3: 1 Corinthians 5-7
 Dec.4: 1 Corinthians 8-12
 Dec.5: 1 Corinthians 13-16
 Dec.6: 2 Corinthians 1-2
 Dec.7: 2 Corinthians 3-7
 Dec.8: 2 Corinthians 8-13
 Dec.9: Galatians
 Dec.10: Ephesians
 Dec.11: Philippians
 Dec.12: Colossians
 Dec.13: 1 Thessalonians
 Dec.14: 2 Thessalonians
 Dec.15: 1 Timothy
 Dec.16: 2 Timothy
 Dec.17: Titus; Philemon
 Dec.18: Hebrews 1-6
 Dec.19: Hebrews 7-10
 Dec.20: Hebrews 11-13
 Dec.21: James
 Dec.22: 1 Peter
 Dec.23: 2 Peter
 Dec.24: 1 John
 Dec.25: 2 John; 3 John
 Dec.26: Jude
 Dec.27: Revelation 1-4
 Dec.28: Revelation 5-9
 Dec.29: Revelation 10-14
 Dec.30: Revelation 15-18
 Dec.31: Revelation 19-22

LIKE AND COMMENT

Please feel free to like, share and comment on our posts. We love to hear from you and we are always grateful when you share the news with others.



EUMC continues to support Prine Elementary our neighborhood school.

We have a wonderful opportunity this Christmas to participate in an Angel Tree.

The Angel Tree is in the lobby of the church. The names of the children are on the angel ornaments hanging from the tree.

Please be sure that you write down on the clipboard which number tag you took so we know which of us will be bringing the wrapped gift (NO BOWS) for which child. Thank you so much in advance, for your generosity!



Poinsettias \$7

This year we will again be getting our annual poinsettias from Cortez Kiwanis Club. They are lush, florist quality poinsettias. 100% of all proceeds are used to assist the youth of Manatee County. Order forms are available. Orders and payment are due no later than Sunday, December 10.

Find us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/churchinbradenton>

The Christmas Mailbox!



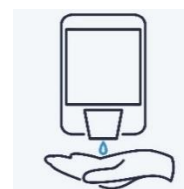
Christmas cards make this time of year special. An excellent, tried-and-true, way to promote love and friendship in our church is **The Christmas Mailbox**. Just bring your cards (no address or postage needed) and place them in the alphabetical mail slots. **The Christmas Mailbox** is located in the Church Narthex. Extend your card list to many you don't know, it will brighten their day. The cards will be a blessing. **Remember – to check the Christmas Mailbox each week to see if you have cards.**



Have you arrived back in town for the season? Please let the church office know by stating it on your Sunday Connect card, or by contacting the church office at 941-792-3497. Please include any information you would like the church to be aware of (address, email, birthday, anniversary, etc.). Thank you!

Protect Yourself and That Will Protect Others!

As we greet more and more of our winter friends and family let's remember to still wash our hands, use hand sanitizer, eat fresh veggies, drink plenty of water and be well.



Churchinbradenton.com
OR Eumcbradenton.org



Mission Outreach

The Florida UMC Home



The Florida United Methodist Children's Home was established in 1908 to provide a home for orphans and other children that had nowhere else to live.

Today it serves as a diverse ministry with two campuses that include residential, therapeutic group, foster and emergency shelter care. The Home also provides independent living assistance and a community child care center.

Every 5th Sunday we collect a special offering for the FUMCH. Prayerfully consider what you might contribute to this life changing ministry on **Dec. 31**.

If you are writing a check, please make it out to:
Emmanuel United Methodist Church, & designate
Children's Home on the "memo" line.

Offering Envelopes

Each giver who makes a contribution to the church is assigned a giving number. This is how the Financial Secretary keeps tracks of your donations. The counters then know where the donations are to be distributed. Everyone who gives has the opportunity to order a box of envelopes.

Please call or email the church office to let us know if you would like envelopes ordered for 2024. The following information is needed:

Contribution Envelope # _____ (If you don't know your # we can look it up for you).

Do you want Contribution Envelopes for 2024?

Yes or No

Do you want Monthly Contribution Envelopes or Weekly

Contribution Envelopes?? Both sets have Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas envelopes including the monthly envelopes.

Please indicate below your choice.

____ Monthly Contribution Envelopes
____ Weekly Contribution Envelopes



Church office phone #: 941-792-3497

Church office email: secretary.eumc@gmail.com

As the year nears its end and tax season is upon us, your Finance Committee would like to remind you Emmanuel United Methodist Church is a **Non-profit organization** and donations are **tax deductible**.



For We Walk By Faith of **GIVING** 2024

Pledge Statements

If you haven't already done so, please turn in all pledge cards as soon as you can, preferably before the end of 2023.

You can also send it by mail to the church at Emmanuel United Methodist, 5115 Cortez Rd W, Bradenton, FL 34210 or bring with you to the next service.
Thank You!

2023 Year End Contribution Statements

Thank you for your generous giving in 2023!!
As 2023 Year End Contribution Statements are being prepared please assure that the church office has your correct mailing address.

SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Contributions collected on Sunday morning are used for the general budget of the church. If you would like to designate your offering to a specific fund, please use a contribution envelope found in the pew or your pre-numbered giving envelope.

When using an envelope that is not pre-numbered, remember to write your giving number or your name, so that you can receive credit. Include your check number and the designations you would like. Thank you.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS:



Coffee/Fellowship

Everyone is invited to join us in McCay hall before the Sunday morning Worship service. Coffee ready at 8:30am!



Annual Assembly
Monday, Dec 4 at 6:30pm



"A Song Was Born At Christmas"

Sunday, Dec 17 at 9:30am
A Musical Celebrating the Birth of the Messiah

Service of Remembrance

This year, Emmanuel will join together with Trinity United Methodist Church for their Blue Christmas Service, December 19 at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 3200 Manatee Avenue West in Bradenton for the annual Blue Christmas service. This service is for any who finds this time of year difficult. If you have had a loss of some sort, you find the season a bit overwhelming or you need a time of quiet rest with God, this is where you will find the respite you need. Plan to join us there or if you need to car pool, let Joy know at the church office at 941-792-3497.

TRINITY'S NUMBER: #941-747-3704



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!

Sunday, December 24
4:30pm
6:30pm



JUST A WORD FROM GAYLA

Gayla Gabrielse, Assistant Pastor

As I was looking in some old cards and papers in a Christmas box I pulled out of my storage area I found this lovely reading. I have no idea of the author and the paper is old but the words are beautiful and I want to share them with you. My love to all of you and may your Christmas be a wonderful season as we once again, with great joy, celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

CHRISTMAS BEATITUDES

BLESSED are they who find Christmas in the age-old story of a Babe born in Bethlehem. To them a little child will always mean hope and promise to a troubled world.

BLESSED are they who find Christmas in the Christmas star. Their lives may ever reflect its beauty and light.

BLESSED are they who find Christmas in the joy of gifts sent lovingly to others. They shall share the gladness and joy of the shepherds and wise men of old.

BLESSED are they who find Christmas in the fragrant greens, the cheerful holly and soft flicker of candles. To them shall come bright memories of love and happiness.

BLESSED are they who find Christmas in the happy music of Christmas time. They shall have a song of joy ever singing in their hearts.

BLESSED are they who find Christmas in the message of the Prince of Peace. They will ever strive to help Him bring peace on earth, goodwill to men.

WELCOME TO EMMANUEL!

Welcome aboard **Karen Ponader** to our music department! She will be starting with us on the first Sunday in January. We will miss David and Carolyn Brown and thank them for the years of their service here at Emmanuel. Their last Sunday is, December 31.

