

Dear Friends and Members,

Summer has finally arrived and for the next couple of months, many of us will be making vacation plans or plans of just taking some time off. Some will be going out of town for a week or two, while others will decide to stay home, still others will have friends and family visiting.

The wonderful thing about summer is that most of us feel like this is a time we can relax, get a few extra things done around the house, enjoy the company of our friends and family, and just take some time off from the everyday hustle and bustle.

But summer does not mean we forget about church. Actually, summer is the time when the church could be buzzing with activity. Here at Immanuel UCC there are a few activities that you could get involved in during this time. There is the Cream Puff Sale, VBS and Service by the Lake. All these activities bring us closer together during the summer months.

With these events taking place, the question for all of us is; what else will we do to make Immanuel a more "Happening Place" during summer? We call ourselves a spiritual family and families do things together during the summer, so maybe you might have a suggestion of something we can do that will bring us closer. Bring your suggestions and let's see if we can make them happen.

Also, remember, even though it is summer, we need to realize that church is a place where we should flock to every Sunday. Why? Because church is where our spiritual family is, church is where our fellowship is, and church is where we should be getting renewed weekly. When we come to church on Sunday, we should be fellowshiping, encouraging, being supported and being loved. We should come, not wondering "what will I get out of church today?" but rather thinking, "what do I have to offer during church today" or "who do I need to support with my friendship today".

We need to remember that we are all a vital part of this church. We all need to figure out how we can best support one another. Sunday morning is just one way of showing one another we care enough to be in fellowship with each other.

I know that it is hard to make it to church on a regular basis, especially during the summer. I would encourage each one of us to look seriously at our life during the week and see where we are being fed spiritually and where we are feeding others spiritually. We need one another. We need to keep one another in our prayers. We need to be in relationship with one another. Church on Sunday is just one way that we are reminded of the family of faith to which we belong.

And while I am on the subject of summer vacations and time off, I would like to remind you that if you do take a Sunday off, please do not forget to keep up with your tithes.

We all know that summer is the hardest time on most churches financially. While we are in the process of finding a permanent minister, if we let our finances slip, we run the risk of missing out on a good candidate because candidates look at finances carefully before pursuing a church. This has been a long process for you, and I personally would like the next stage to go smoothly. I would not want to see you miss out on someone just because our finances have slowed down. So the bottom line is; if the church is to go forward, we need to do our part financially to make the future happen. God's word tells us that all we have first came from God and therefore we should give back generously because of all that Christ has done for us.

Finally, summer is a great time for all of us, but we cannot forget how vital church is for us. Even though we might be on vacation, we need to remember our relationship to God and our promises to this church.

As we look to all that lies ahead for us, during the summer and the future, let us remember whose we are, and all the church and God means to us. Let us not forget to keep one another in our prayers and let us continue to pray for the health and future of Immanuel UCC.

Shalom to all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeannie".

Rev. Jeannie