



A CLIFTON NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH STRIVING TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS

The Reflection

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

November

WWW.IMMANUELPRESBY.ORG

Change.

Do not be conformed to this world, [c] but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2(NRSV)

In this passage, the word for transformed comes from the Greek word “metanoia”, which means a shift in thinking, a paradigm shift, a change of an inward reality.

In October of 2013, my wife Debbie and I went to the Missional Developers Assessment Conference in San Anselmo, CA. It was sponsored by the PC/USA and it gave great insight on where the church was in 2013 and what kind of leadership is required for the church in this present culture. It gave us a good picture of the changes in our denomination and helped to further our growth in understanding of the change necessary in the church universal.

The analogy that one of the facilitators used was of the need for “adaptive change leadership”. Often we feel like when we have challenges put before us in the church, or in any organization or institution, that we can fix our issues that need fixing by simply making technical changes. For instance, if we break our leg, we can put it in a cast, take care of it, stay off of it, and rehab it. If we do steps A through B, then our foot will probably come back stronger than before. That’s also the mentality in organizations when

faced with a changing culture or challenging issues. If we just “work harder” or “smarter” (terms I’ve personally used!), we can “right the ship”.

However, that’s not what the church needs today. It does not have a broken foot, it has lost its foot and it needs to adapt and have “adaptive change leadership”.

We are living in a new cultural reality when it comes to church. People generally have either distrust or disdain for the church, or are simply ambivalent or don’t care. I meet both university students and adults many times who consider themselves “church refugees”. At one time they felt comfortable, at home in the church, but now feel like the church has left them or has sold them a bill of goods that they don’t understand, want, or need.

The church has often responded to these refugees, as well as to others, with a consumer and/or corporate-business model or mindset that attempts to address perceived needs. Often, the church simply has not done enough listening, deep listening to the real needs of the culture around us. We go about “our business” in a paradigm that the world simply doesn’t get, it is foreign to them.

We need to change, we cannot settle for “business as usual” or status quo. We cannot make cosmetic changes, it’s not simply about budgets or program changes, we need to listen deeply to the culture around us and seek out what God wants us to do and adapt to God’s

purposes for this world that may look radically different from the way we’ve done “church”.

People are searching for deeper relationship with others and, ultimately with God. People desire and need relational connection and they need the Truth. The Truth, as revealed in Scripture and in the world, which is Jesus Christ. A God who is incarnate...one of us. They need to see this Jesus, this God, demonstrated through honest living in the culture, not against the culture.

I do not have the answers. (Plus, I’m running out of room for my monthly article.) But, I do know that we need a transformation and renewal of our minds, and our souls, in order to be the body of Christ, the church, to the world around us. We need adaptive “change”, or metanoia, leadership.

As our church discusses looking for visions, strategies, or a “road map” if you will for the future, know that this Pastor is doing the same. May we all be changed, transformed, renewed as we go on this journey together.

God’s Peace,

Rich

Look For:

Stewardship “Transformation” 2017 letter and pledge form are in the mail. Pledge Sunday is November 20.

Prayer Requests

Please join us in prayer for the following:

- Kai, friend of Jay Erisman
- Emma Lou Hartkemeier
- Rita Snook, mother of Kathy Smart
- Liz Ragouzis
- Chris Wells, brother of Donna Jean Wells
- Alex Agenbroad
- Mary Schmidt
- Parker Lillie
- Kathy Decker
- Joey, husband of Brooklin Taylor
- Suzanne Sutton, sister of Babs Graves
- David Sterner, brother of Mark Sterner
- Otto Warmbier & family, North Korea
- Reed, friend of Jay Erisman
- Carol Aufman
- Bob Siegfried
- Andrew & Anita Moerlein

- Mike Domenick, friend of Erica Slusher
- Jan Erisman
- Reed, friend of Jay Erisman
- Carol Aufman
- Jerry & Darlene Pielage

Lianfair

- Rosemarie Libbert

Westminster Winter Park, Florida

- Rev. Sherwood Anderson
 1111 S. Lakemont Ave #406
 Winter Park, FL 32792

- Our Church Staff
- Those struggling with loss
- Hearts that earnestly seek God
- Families and loved ones of military personnel
- People struggling financially
- Members and friends absent from our fellowship

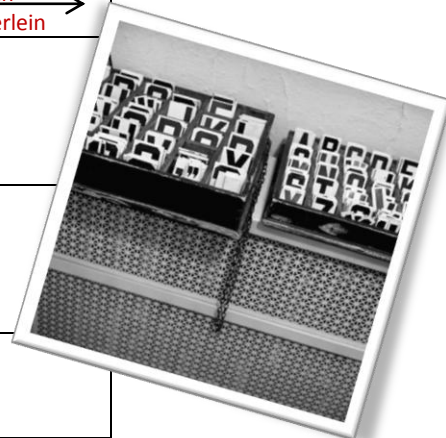


FOR ADDITIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS OR CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT

THE CHURCH OFFICE - (513) 751 - 0321
 EMAIL - SECRETARY@IMMANUELPRESBY.ORG

November Calendar + Birthdays

Rev. Rich Jones on Study Leave November 8-17		1	2	3	4	5
				Choir 7:30 p.m.		
6 Sunday Service 10:30am Communion Sunday	7	8 Bill Dean Election Day ← RJ-Study Leave	9	10	11	12 Justin Bowman Bradley Moerlein Karen Moerlein →
				Choir 7:30 p.m.		
13 Sunday Service 10:30am Dolly Days	14	15	16	17	18 Jean Soergel	19
				Choir 7:30 p.m.		
20 Pledge Sunday Sunday Service 10:30am Dolly Days	21	22 Session 7:00 p.m.	23 Rich Jones Camilla Parr	24 Thanksgiving Holiday	25	26
27 Sunday Service 10:30am	28	29	30			



News of the Church

Pastor's Reading

List- Pastor Rich has set up a small library in the foyer or you can check out the link below to order some of the books. Also, check out organizations that are friends and share a similar ethos or DNA to IPC. Go to: <http://immanuelpresby.org/our-connections/partners/>



Prayer Pillows are still being made; if you are interested in helping make these, please contact Debbie Jones at 513-295-5772

Minister's

Discretionary Fund is a discretionary fund which enables the pastor to assist members, friends and neighbors in need. Please consider making an extra gift to support this fund.



The Immanuel Guiding Team

(consisting of Emma Lou Hartkemeier, Michele Mansfield, Bill Smart, Erika Slusher, and Debbie Jones) are excited to extend invitations to the congregation to think creatively with them on experiments to invigorate community and engagement with others and our neighborhoods. More info to come soon. Questions? Contact Michele Mansfield.

Equal EXCHANGE: We are now offering Equal exchange/Fairly Traded Gourmet Coffee during our Coffee & Conversation time.



You can find out more information at: <http://equalexchange.coop/>

Enjoy! And if you are interested in purchasing any of this coffee that is mountain-grown by small farmers, it is offered by the Presbyterian Coffee Project - Community Fair Trade Buying Club through www.nku.edu/~longa/coffee/order.html

Flowers:

There is a new Flower Chart hanging on the bulletin board outside the Parlor. If you are interested in giving flowers for a Sunday worship, please sign your name and to whom they are for (in honor or in memory of a loved one, or just a special event or occasion.



2 CLIFTON YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

Interested? We have one for college students, one for 40 somethings. Contact Pastor Rich Jones: (513) 295-5818 or Rich.Jones@immanuelpresby.org



became the first minister of the church who

BACK IN TIME TO 1976...

On June 8, 1976, Immanuel hosted the Presbytery meeting. Presbytery published a history of Immanuel in their newsletter prior to the meeting.

The Immanuel congregation of 690 members has evolved out of a community need of nearly a century ago.

In 1879, there were a number of Presbyterian families living in Clifton who attended churches in the city or in Mt. Auburn. As there were no street cars, it was difficult for the children of this area to get to Sunday School.

In September, 1879, Mrs. Thomas Morrison and Mrs. Robert Sample decided to remedy the situation. They began seeking and obtaining the cooperation of the Episcopal minister in setting up a Sunday School. At the

time, Clifton was an independent village, and for a while, the Sunday School was held on Sunday afternoons in the Town Council Chamber. Later the group met at the school house because of a need for larger quarters

.So many adults attended the Sunday School services that it was decided to ask the president of Lane Seminary to send a student to teach an adult Bible class. Howard Billman volunteered to take the assignment and it was he who became the first minister of the church.

The church was organized in 1881 and was known then as the Clifton Presbyterian Church. In 1882, a lot was purchased at the corner of Clifton and Bryant Avenues. The first service in the newly erected edifice was held on Easter in 1884. In 1927, the sanctuary was enlarged and a modern education building was added.

The 75th anniversary of the church was celebrated in May, 1957. On October 5, 1958, ground was broken for the construction of \$280,000 wing containing additional classrooms, offices, parlor, choir room and new kitchen. The new building was dedicated on December 13, 1959.

The dream, "Debt Free in '63," became a reality when in July 1963, \$18,430 was paid to clear the mortgage on the new addition.

Immanuel church continues to play an active part in the Clifton community under the leadership of the Reverend Sherwood W. Anderson, who has been moderator of Presbytery during the past year.

IMMANUEL BOOK CLUB

We are starting a monthly Women's Book Club.*

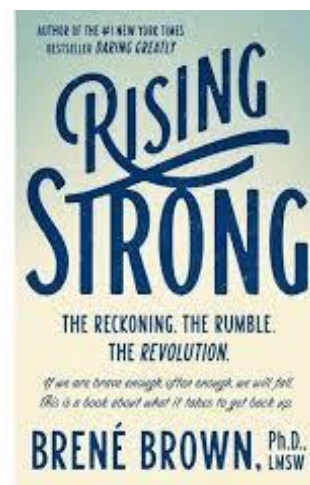
Our first book will be *Rising Strong*, by Brené Brown.

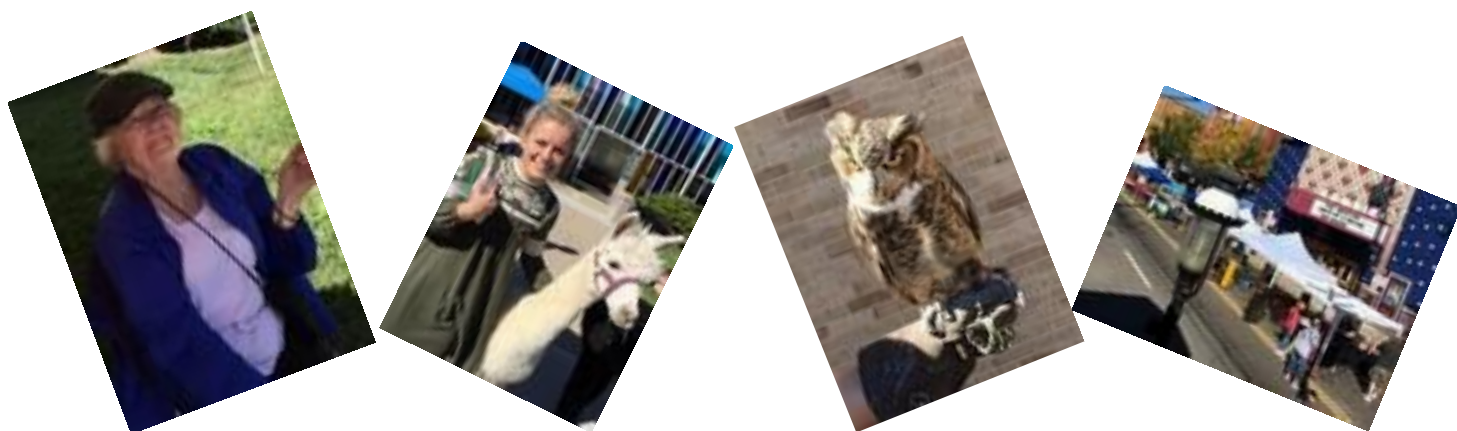
November 8th at 7 PM at Michele Mansfield's House

Call 513-310-3723 for address & info or if you need a ride.

*If there is an interest from the men of our church to participate as well, we will expand this further – perhaps on an alternating month basis.

It is the rise from falling that Brown takes as her subject in *Rising Strong*. As a grounded theory researcher, Brown has listened as a range of people—from leaders in Fortune 500 companies and the military to artists, couples in long-term relationships, teachers, and parents—shared their stories of being brave, falling, and getting back up...the process of regaining our footing in the midst of struggle is where our courage is tested and our values are forged. Our stories of struggle can be big ones, like the loss of a job or the end of a relationship, or smaller ones, like a conflict with a friend or colleague. Regardless of magnitude or circumstance, the rising strong process is the same: We *reckon* with our emotions and get curious about what we're feeling; we *rumble* with our stories until we get to a place of truth; and we live this process, every day, until it becomes a practice and creates nothing short of a *revolution* in our lives. (from Penguin Random House online <http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/book/s/234211/rising-strong-by-brene-brown-phd-lmsw/978081299>)





***Apple Fest @ Clifton Fest** was simply amazing! Thanks to all who helped make this year so great!*



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www.immannelpresby.org