

# A Note From Pastor Lee

Let's Look At The Spiritual Family

In Korea, May is called 'Family Month,' 'Children's Day' on May 5, 'Parents' Day' on May 8, 'Teacher's Day' on May 15, and 'Pastor's Day' on the last Sunday in May. Many people spend special time with their families in May and have a great time.

However, we are spiritual people. That is how God made us and called us into the church community. We are a spiritual family formed by the blood of Jesus. This May, I hope that we will have as much time to take care of our spiritual family as we take care of our physical family.

There are people who need my prayers, my material help, and my warm words of comfort if I turn my eyes a little. I hope that May will be a month when I can show those people the love God has for me. Looking back at the month of May at the last hour of May, I want everyone to experience that this is a spiritual family.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 5 Evelyn Brothers
- 8 Joan Calhoun
- 10 Eunice Zeager
- 14 Wyatt Judge
- 15 Jack Panton
- 21 Jeanette Moon
- 24 Norm Seibert
- 26 Phil Joyner

## Meetings & Events

### Sunday, May 8th

- Graduate Recognition
- Tirzah Baluch Senior Recital, Recital Hall at the School of Music, 3 PM

### Tuesday, May 10th

- Missions Council Meeting, Lena Jackson SS Classroom, bottom floor, 7 PM

### Sunday, May 15th

- Birthday Party for Jack Panton, Fellowship Hall, 12:15 PM. Pizza will be served

### Sunday, May 22nd

- Communion Sunday

### Wednesday, May 25th

- Church Conference, 7 PM

### Monday, May 30th

- Church Office closed in observance of Memorial Day



## Happy Anniversary!

1 RAY & DONNA HRINCHUK

7 GREG & AL JOYNER

23 ROD & MARLENE GREEN

31 DAVID & JANE ARCHER



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Rev. Asher Panton, Senior Pastor  
Mrs. Bettie Jungers, Administrative Assistant  
Rev. Dong Soo Lee, Korean Pastor



# Newsletter



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## A Note From the Pastor Rev. Asher Panton



What Brought You to Immanuel?

Dear Friends,

Through the many hours of conversations our vision team has had together, there was one overarching theme began to shine brighter than all the rest. It all stemmed from this question that was asked of our current members - "What brought you to Immanuel?" Out of all those who were asked, every single one could think back to the moment that helped them decide that Immanuel Baptist Church would be their new church home.

Do you know what this moment was for each of them? If you guessed a moment for *RELATIONSHIP*, you would be exactly right.

I believe that we were created by a relational God. We witness this firsthand in the unity of the Father, Son, and Spirit. It was not long into the creation narrative that we read of God giving humankind one another to live and work together on this earth. Relationships have always been a part of God's purpose for us.

So, back to our question, "What brought you to Immanuel?" - Whether it was a handwritten note, meeting a new friend in a Sunday School class, or an invitation out to eat, it was through the importance of relationships that our current members decided to stay.

At its core, not much has changed with modern day churches in our society. The churches that are flourishing right now are the ones who make the most of every

opportunity to help others build a relationship with Christ and each other. Whether it is through group outings, small groups, church meals, lunch invitations, or even sharing a coffee in church lobbies - these are all very intentional. Everything in this list is done to make a new visitor feel welcomed, included, and loved.

My question for us is this, if we were created for relationship, how are we going to do that well for all age groups and inclusively for all people? This question is exactly what the vision team faced, and the question we all face in our season ahead as a church. If we desire to reach new souls in our community, we must have a relational way to help them feel welcomed, included, and loved.

For example, if you want to reach young families, we must have things in place to relationally connect to young families. One example of this would be a small group intended for young couples. The college and career ministry has modeled this well. When a visiting student comes, there is no question that they will be greeted, cared for, and invited to a relational activity after service or sometime during the week.

So, now I ask you - what brought you to Immanuel? Maybe the answer to this question will unlock a new way to help us all open our doors to this community of Greenville both now and for years to come.



**Leah Joyner:**  
University of Utah-  
PhD in Parks and Recreation.  
Leah has accepted a faculty position  
at Sacramento State University



**Mehrdad Rezaie**  
M.S. in Computer Science



**Anjola Odunaiké**  
M.S. in Quantitative Economics  
and Econometrics



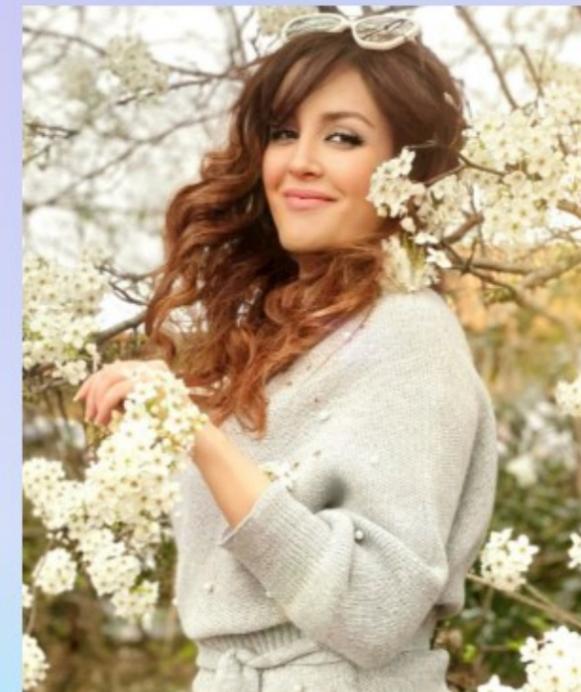
**Nidhi Sharma:**  
M.S. in Quantitative Economics  
and Econometrics



**Luz-Hazel (Lucy) Walrath:**  
B.S. in Communication Science and Disorders  
(minors in Psychology, Alcohol & Drug Studies)



**Hope Wilson**  
B.A. in Psychology  
(minor - Criminal Justice;  
mini concentration in German)



**Maryam Navaei**  
M.S. in Software Engineering



**Scarlett Goodwin**  
Christ Covenant School -  
Winterville, NC  
Salutatorian

*Congratulations*   
to our 2022 Graduates!