

Life in the first Christian community: Acts 2:42-47: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."



We want to thank the many members and friends of Immanuel who made their 2017 commitments on Pledge Sunday. How inspiring it was to be there all together making that commitment to the future of Immanuel. To quote Pastor Aaron: "Words cannot contain my excitement over the energy that is building. It is fun and rejuvenating to be surrounded by people who bring an upbeat attitude and fresh ideas to our work together."

Stories of our church's impact abound. They may begin within the walls of the Immanuel campus but also extend well beyond -- stories of nurturing one another and stories of reaching out to others beyond our own family of faith. You have helped to write those stories that change lives. Thank you for your continuing investment in the ministries that energize our mission to embody God's love in the world. Your gifts of time, talent, treasure and influence have brought us to this moment.

The potential for growth, the possibilities for the future are here and now. We have the opportunity to live even more

fully into being a "church that serves". It truly "all starts here" and it all starts with you!

FAQ: If I have not yet made a pledge, when is my deadline?

Answer: There's still time. Please place your completed form in the offering plate on Sunday or send it to the church office by **December 31**.

How grateful we are:

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The children of Immanuel will be focusing on Jesus's commandment to "Love your neighbor as you love yourself" this Advent. *Here are two ways that everyone in the congregation can participate:*

Collect pop-tabs for Ronald McDonald House (RMH)!

Remove the pull-tabs from the tops of soda cans, soup cans, pet food cans, etc, and place them in the 'pop-tab house' at the entrance to the Sanctuary each week. They will be donated to an aluminum recycling company. The proceeds will help RMH continue to minister to the families of sick children.

Purchase coloring books and colored pencils for Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands (PCHH)!

The PCHH, located in southwest Virginia, is the largest foster-care home in the state of Virginia, and one of the few large enough for siblings to stay together. PCHH is in need of artistic coloring books and colored pencils to provide a therapeutic and creative outlet for the children in their care, ages 5 to 18. Immanuel children will be learning about the history, mission, and children of PCHH. Place your donations in the basket at the entrance to the Sanctuary. *For more information, visit* **www.pchh.org**.

