



5 Grover Street  
Concord Heights NH 03301

Contact information:

- Pastor: Rev. Bill Donahue
- Phone: (978) 503-7484
- E- mail address: [icconcordnh@gmail.com](mailto:icconcordnh@gmail.com) Website: <https://www.immanuelcommchurch.org/>

*To Know God and to make Him known through fellowship, prayer, and service.*



April 2026

**Memory verse for the month: Romans 8:11**

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

**NOTICES:** *Easter Lilies - in remembrance of... see Patti Cote or Belle Ash*

Good Friday service April 3 @ 6:00 PM  
April 5 Easter service 10 00 AM

**Weekly:**

Bible study Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM (Library)  
Bible study 101 Sunday mornings started March 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 AM (basement)  
Friday Mornings - Prayer Hour Friday mornings at 8 AM (Sanctuary)  
Bible Study Friday mornings at 9:30 AM  
Tuesday Evenings Men's group at 5:45.PM  
Men's 260 Accountability group Wednesday's 5:00 PM  
The Chosen Series Friday at 6:30 PM

**Monthly:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month we serve communion and we have our Friendship Sunday potlucks. Join us and bring a friend. **.(No potluck In April)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday - Men's breakfast April 11<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 AM come and share what God is doing in your life (Steve Fulk is our men's group leader.)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Mission Moment – information about one of our mission projects is shared during the service.

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday –April 14<sup>th</sup> @11:30 AM ICC Women's Group - Bring a Friend!

**Continue to join us for our sermon series:** “Call upon the Lord and he will answer”.

Structure of the Lord's prayer

1. May your name be holy
2. May your kingdom come soon.
3. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
4. Give us our daily provisions
5. Forgive us our sins as we have forgiven those who sinned against us
6. Don't let us yield to temptation
7. Rescue us from the evil one

Conclusion of the series: Easter Sunday message “Your kingdom, Your power, Your glory”.

### **Reminders:**

Continue to prepare your heart for Easter. Read the gospel of Mark

**In preparation for Easter** earnestly see God for he's a reward for those who do so.

6:03 Pray for ONE (2Peter 3:9)

Continued prayers for our shut-ins, those who are ill, had recent surgery, grieving, dealing with difficult challenges. For our church, our country, our world. Take note of our weekly “Prayer Requests” and keep those requests in your daily prayers.

Let's read the Bible in one year together. <https://bible.alpha.org/en/> or with Our Daily Bread devotional booklets which are available at the back of the sanctuary.

*Gifts given in memory of someone or in honor of someone still living, will be added to our Memorial Fund. The names of those honored by these gifts will be read aloud at our service on Remembrance Sunday, May 24, 2026*

**Meal train Purpose:** to provide evening meals to someone recovering from hospital stay, injury, or other need for a limited time based on need. What's needed: Volunteers willing to prepare a meal as need arises. and deliver said meal to person if able. Also needed: volunteer drivers to deliver , if person preparing meal cannot do delivery. It would be nice to have a list of people to call on when the need arises. Contact Belle Ash if you can help.

## **Concord Female Charitables Society:**

The Concord Female Charitable Society annual turkey banquet, meeting, and entertainment is Tuesday April 14th at Alan's Restaurant in Boscawen. Doors open at 5 pm and the meal is served at 5:30 pm. The tickets are \$25 – see Joni. No tickets are sold at the door.

**Missions** — The Operation Christmas Child boxes we packed in November have been delivered to children in **Thailand**. It's not too early to start selecting gifts for our 2026 boxes. Stores are putting out warm weather items now, like flip-flops and inflatable balls, and after-Easter clearance sales may have cute bunnies or other toys at reduced prices.

It's never too early to shop for Operation Christmas Child. You may find shirts, socks or toys at end-of-season sales. Or, you may want to start making gifts. If you knit or crochet, see Fran for ideas or patterns. Do you work in wood? Little boys love wooden cars. Please see Karen, Gail or Fran with your ideas

**Friendly Kitchen** needs condiments (ketchup mustard or hot sauce) this month

**Kairos** of NH is planning the Kairos Inside Men's team to go into the Concord Men's Prison in May and the Kairos Inside Women are also gathering a team to go into the Concord Women's Prison to bring people closer to Christ and give them hope and encouragement. If you are interested in being a part of Kairos of NH, please contact Wayne and Susan Andrews.

**ICC Women's Group** The Women's Group is not just for ICC members. Any woman is welcome, so come and bring a friend!.

Our Co-Chairs for 2026. are Susan Andrews and Kimberly Palmer

## **Messages**

### **Prayer of Pain and Loss**

by Susan Libby-Andrews

Lord, we hurt so much. We grieve for the one we have lost. It is tearing us apart inside. How can we stop this pain that seems to go on forever?

We have the Holy Spirit in our heart, but our heart is so broken. The emotional heart inside us is in such pain we cannot bear it. The hurt is uncontrollable and the pain seems to overwhelm us at times. We ache so badly that we cannot cry out or scream with the anger we feel.

All we can do is weep and pray. The weeping subsides but is always in us. The pain lulls, but is always near the surface. We know you are there, but feel lost and alone.

Help us to understand that our heart will mend and the pain will become bearable. Help us to know that the Holy Spirit is still growing inside and will always hold us up. Help us to feel

some happiness and love through the tears and the aching of our heart. Help us to go on knowing that through the Holy Spirit we will be with our loved one again.

Teach us to believe that our loved one is in Heaven. Teach us to trust that their soul is at peace with You.

Teach us to know that they are with You in Your house. Teach us that they go before us to prepare the way.

Give us the courage to continue on our path that You have set before us. Give us the faith to be in prayer, knowing that You hear and will always be with us. Give us the ability to trust that all is well in your Kingdom and we will be there someday.

Give us the hope that we need to do your will here and to help others see the way.

Thank you, God, for the time we have had with the loved ones that have gone before us. Thank you God for the loving memories we hold in our fragile hearts for those loved ones. Thank you God for the peace that those memories give us as we fellowship together.

Thank you God for the strength to continue to love, work and pray in Your name. In Jesus' name. Amen

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Pastor Bob at the Portsmouth UMC has a great lesson for all Christ's followers (reprinted with permission from their newsletter):

In this week's message, Pastor Bob shared a funny story about two blind men who had both been healed by Jesus. When they met, they were filled with joy—celebrating the beauty of sight, the colors of flowers, the faces of loved ones, and the wonder of seeing Jesus himself.

But their joy quickly turned into an argument.

One insisted Jesus healed him using mud placed on his eyes and by washing in the Pool of Siloam. The other said Jesus simply spoke the words, "Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you." Soon they were arguing about which method was correct, eventually dividing over the issue—what Pastor Bob jokingly called the first church split between the "Mudites" and the "Antimudites."

The deeper question, however, was this: what went wrong?

Both men had shared the same miracle. Both had been blind and both had been healed. Yet instead of celebrating the grace they had received, they argued about the method.

Pastor Bob reminded us that sometimes people with perfect eyesight still cannot truly see. There is physical blindness—and there is spiritual blindness.

As the Gospel story from John 9 shows, the religious leaders could not rejoice over the miracle of a man receiving sight. Instead, they focused on the fact that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath. They were more concerned about rules than about the life-changing grace that had just taken place.

Even the disciples initially asked who was to blame for the man's blindness. Jesus answered clearly: neither the man nor his parents had sinned. Rather, the moment became an opportunity for God's glory to be revealed.

Pastor Bob reminded us how easy it is for people—even within the church—to fall into judgment, blame, and criticism rather than joy. Instead of celebrating blessings, we often pick them apart.

But Jesus calls us to something different. Rather than asking who is to blame, we are called to rejoice in what God is doing. The miracle was never about the mud, the water, or the method. The miracle was about the healing power and love of God.

Pastor Bob closed with a powerful reminder: the Gentle Healer is still present with us today. Jesus meets us where we are—with our hurts, our struggles, and even our spiritual blindness.

Pastor Bob ended with a memorable line: "Here's mud in your eyes!" — a reminder that through Jesus, our vision can be restored and our hearts renewed.

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### Here's a little story my mother wrote many years ago.

Living in the country requires a lot of taxi service for mother. She's the one who usually gets the girls to 4-H, the boys to Cub Scouts and someone home from basketball practice. One night as I was preparing supper the telephone rang. A young girl's voice said, "Mama will you come get me at school?" I thought of all I had to do and said, not too cordially, "I suppose I could." Then, just as she was about to hang up I said, "Hey, wait a minute, you must have the wrong number, my kids are all here!"

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## Happy Birthday

Richard Bolduc – April 11<sup>th</sup> (89 years young)  
Susan Andrews - April 26

*If you would like us to add your birthday to our list - please note the month and day on a communication card.*

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### NOTICES FROM Council:

April 12 Tom Bailey will be our special guest he will be preaching on Fishes Of Men.

April 26 Adult teen challenge will be sharing Testimonies.

We have purchased new communion cups that will be easier to open. The juice will be on the top and the bread will open from the bottom. Please do not open your juice until you have opened your bread. We don't want you to spill it on yourself. If you have any difficulties please ask a fellow brother or sister to help you. The communion cups will be available the first Sunday of every month, please get your communion cup along with your bulletin as you come in for Sunday Worship.

We will have 2 spring clean up days. As soon as those dates are available we will post them in the bulletin and communication cards. Any and all help is appreciated to keep our church clean.

Terri has put a table next to the coat rack in fellowship hall. This table will be used if you have any items you want to pass along to others. We are trying to keep the fellowship hall clean. We are not the only ones using it.

Matt Morris is the new acting Assistant Treasurer and Debbie Paquin is back up acting Assistant Treasurer.

There will be no Pot Luck for the month of April  
Next council meeting is set for April 19, 2026.

Current work in the basement will be new lighting, updating the electrical and putting up emergency exit signs..

**Thank you:**.. To everyone who makes Immanuel such a special church family.

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**Check our website:** <https://www.immanuelcommchurch.org/>

Our services are being live streamed on YouTube at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings and the recordings are there for you to view at your convenience. You will find our weekly bulletin and newsletter available there. You can conveniently donate to the work of our church.

*If you have Items for the May issue of our newsletter please get them to Ruby Bartlett ([rcbart5242@gmail.com](mailto:rcbart5242@gmail.com)) by **Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**.*