



## The Way Forward - Be Deeply Caring for Others

One of the characteristics of Emmanuel identified during our Way Forward consultation is that we are a congregation that “Cares Deeply for Others.” Now this may feel like a no-brainer to most of you, but not all congregations do this, nor would they describe themselves this way.

Several stories emerged of people who would go the extra mile. Not only has this congregation been welcoming, but that welcome has been supported by a number of the saints of the church who accompany people on life’s difficult journeys. Everything from going the distance with someone until they could walk, to accompanying a blind child through their journey of Sunday School week after week, to scores of stories of people “being there” for those in deep personal pain. We have stories of standing by, with and for, not only those close to us, but people we barely know. This congregation has a history of caring for refugees, even now!

If someone comes to Emmanuel, the stories suggest that we are there for them in thick or thin, regardless of where they come from.

What does this do for our mission? Rather than trust that we will always be deeply caring as a congregation, we must continue to look for opportunities where we can be our best selves. It means that the leadership of

the church will invest in ministries that are consistent with our character of being deeply caring. Where we discover areas that don’t fit this characteristic, we will need to let them go or discover ways to reclaim our deep caring postures.

When we do this, we become a congregation that is congruent with its character. Our public self and our private self are integrated. We become more consistent and outsiders will experience us as being authentically ourselves. When this happens, we become a church that backs up its claims that we are Christ’s ambassadors to the Conejo Valley.

Suggestion: Deeply caring for others has been demonstrated with those we hardly know. Are you caring for anyone new to the faith or community? Pray for openings!

Faithfully yours,

Craig



## Daniel Manoiu & Friends - Concert, July 23rd



This summer the sanctuary will sizzle as Daniel Manoiu, Emmanuel’s accompanist, dazzles his audience while performing original compositions and a variety of musical genres at his debut concert at Emmanuel, *Daniel Manoiu & Friends*, on Sunday, July 23, at 5 p.m. Daniel will be joined by several guest artists.

Included are soprano Daniela Podobea, tenor Orson Van Gay II, and mezzo soprano and bandura player Siuzanna Iglidan.

The concert will feature virtuosic piano solos, operatic arias and songs, and traditional bandura music, as well as the world premiere of Daniel Manoiu’s new piece *SoCal Suite* for piano, inspired by the vistas and culture of Orange County, Port of Los Angeles and Thousand Oaks. Daniel is an award-winning composer and pianist born in Bucharest, Romania.

Daniel has won prestigious national and international competitions, including the AMSA World Piano Competition in Cincinnati, OH (3rd Prize), the Rivere D’Oro Giovanni Talenti Competition in San Bartolomeo, Italy (1st prize), and a Society of Composers, Miami chapter, film scoring award.

*Continued on Page 2*

# Sample Singing with Summer Choir!

For those who enjoy worshipping God through music and the fellowship of other music lovers, Emmanuel Choir invites you to sing with the summer choir during July. Emmanuel's summer choir will help lead worship on July 16 and July 30. The choir is off on July 9 and July 23.

Rehearsals begin at 8 a.m. Sunday mornings July 2 and 30 for the 9 a.m. service. Rehearsal for the July 16 service will begin at 9 a.m. since the church will be having a combined service on the church lawn at 10 a.m. to celebrate the completion of Camp Joy. Anthems will be easy to learn, and the hymns and praise music for that morning's service will be reviewed. Thursday night rehearsals are over until September 7. All who love to

sing are welcome to come praise the Lord at the summer services through song!

Special music will be performed on the Sundays when the choir is off. On July 23, the service will feature Emmanuel's accompanist Daniel Manoiu and guest artists, offering a preview of the music they will perform that evening at 5 p.m. at a very special concert featuring original compositions, classical and world music.

The choir is off in August and will resume leading worship on Sunday, September 10. For more information on the choir and its summer program, call Lance Merrill weekdays in the office at 805-498-4502.

## Daniel Manoiu & Friends - Continued from Page 1

Daniel wrote the score for the Romanian-American film *Puzzle for a Blind Man*, which was featured in numerous international festivals across Europe and the United States. He is currently part of the faculty at AMDA

College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts and an active film, TV and video game composer in Los Angeles.

Daniela Podobea, an operatic soprano, was born in Romania and grew up in a family of musicians. Her father, Gheorghe Mogosan, is an acclaimed internationally known baritone. Daniela began



studying music at the age of seven at the Sigismund Toduță Academy of Music where she studied oboe, piano and voice. This was a stepping stone towards discovering her voice and exclusively developing herself as an operatic soprano. She moved to Los Angeles in 2009 and has continued her career as an operatic singer.

Tenor Orson Van Gay II possesses a unique voice that captivates the audience with his charisma and command of the stage.



Orson Van Gay II

His performances showcase vocal talents that have brought him constant recognition throughout Los Angeles and in a number of productions with LA Opera's educational outreach touring productions, including *Orpheus*, where he starred in the title role in the 2014 and 2015 seasons. After a successful three-week premiere of *Open Door Days* at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Van Gay toured with the production of *Puccini Opera Tales* throughout the greater Los Angeles area this past spring.

Siuzanna Iglidan is a mezzo-soprano, bandura player, pianist and composer from the Ukraine. She received her MA in Performing Arts from Odessa National Antonina Nezhdanova Academy of Music in the Ukraine. Siuzanna has won more than 30 Ukrainian and International music competitions. She discovered her operatic voice in her late 20s and became a protégé of Mauro Trombetta, the Artistic Director of the National Opera of Rome. In the United States, Siuzanna continued her professional voice development with soprano Marya Lou Basaraba. She has performed in concerts, recorded and composed film music, and volunteered in fundraising events benefiting orphans from the Ukraine.



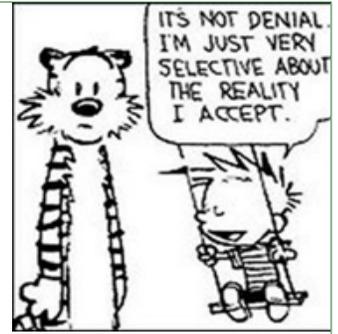
Siuzanna Iglidan

The concert is free and open to the community.

## Just Between Us...

Human beings have a long history (think Adam and Eve) of using denial to shield themselves from realities they want to avoid. Instead of truth, we create fantasy – “If I don’t acknowledge it, it isn’t real.” Troubled relationships, the increasingly difficult teen, a health concern, the ‘explainable’ DUI, personal flaws - denial is a coping mechanism that protects us facing what is, a way out of these things that cause us distress. And, truthfully, denial can be a cushion, helping us pace our feelings as we begin to accept and adjust to new information about ourselves or our world, but in the longer term, denial leads to bigger problems with bigger consequences. Even Peter, with all his passion, was in deep denial of his own weakness when he adamantly (perhaps arrogantly) told Jesus, “I will never disown you” (*Mark 14: 31*), even after Jesus told him he would! Confronting with brutal honesty the painful reality of who he really was and what he had done

(*Mark 14:72*) was essential to his development as a leader in Christ’s church. Indeed, reality is often harsh, and it is the rare person who is never ‘in denial’. So we learn to face it squarely, even gently, one day at a time. We function best and become our best when we do. We don’t have to like reality, approve of it, or even do anything about it, but for our mental health, we need to accept that it is.



Barbra Winter

*Barbra is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with City Impact providing counseling at Emmanuel Church in Thousand Oaks and Moorpark Presbyterian Church. She can be reached at 805-214-8116.*

## Photos from the Zambia Mission Trip



## Deacons' Corner: Summer Rides Available if Needed

Providing transportation to the church body is one of the Deacon Ministries Emmanuel offers. Linda Christensen, the Deacon in charge of the Transportation Ministry, wants Emmanuelites to know that even though it is summer and lots of people are on vacation, rides are still available for those who need them.

The Transportation Ministry is designed to provide transport needs for members on a local-area basis: rides to/from church, rides to doctors’ appointments or the hospital, etc. The Deacon in charge of transportation arranges rides for those in need by utilizing volunteers from the congregation. That person may also provide

rides. Although the Deacons have a list of available volunteers, they are looking for new volunteers to sign up on an on-call basis (only when a ride is needed).

The church office often gets new requests for ride service. They contact the transportation deacon with the need. The Transportation Ministry is a much needed service and has been highly appreciated in the past and is also highly rewarding to all involved in providing this ministry. If you have a need for transportation or know someone who does, or if you would like to volunteer with this ministry, contact Linda Christensen at 805-990-4532.

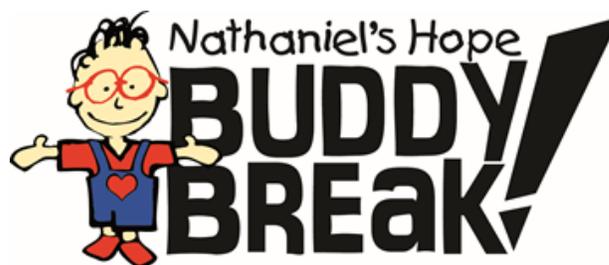
# Missionaries Gene & Sherry Pan

Recently Emmanuel - supported missionaries, Gene and Sherry Pan, along with their daughter, Eliana, visited our church family. They were introduced at both services, being available for questions and distributing literature on the patio during coffee time. Then they were the guest speakers at the Climbing Higher class at 10:30.



They work with YWAM and are currently based in Kona, Hawaii. Gene detailed their work with the underground church in China and the perils Christians continually face of being persecuted. There is an "official" Christian church in China where everything is pre-approved and "worship" takes place in churches. But true followers of Jesus Christ clandestinely meet in homes and other non public places to worship God in Spirit and in Truth. Some house church leaders have been detained or outright arrested, but God provides new ones. Gene gave his testimony of being a 2nd child in a then 1 child per family Communist regime. He is a 4th generation Christian and his parents paid dearly in money, persecution and possessions to bribe the officials to allow Gene to be born. He knows his life is a true miracle. It was a spellbinding story and everyone was hushed and quiet listening to this emotional story. God is alive and well in China and they indicated that the true Church is growing and attracting multitudes of new believers. Please pray for Gene and Sherry's YWAM work and ministry as they continue to commit their lives to spreading the Word in their native land. Several Emmanuel members fellowshiped over lunch at Mimi's with the Pans.

Buddy Break became part of the disability ministry at our church three years ago, and is now an ongoing ministry. We need more Buddies and volunteers to participate! Please consider taking the next Training 101, on



Saturday, September 2, during our next meeting. Our team is taking a break for summer; we will not meet in July and August. We are looking for helpers from 8:30 to 9:30am before our meeting starts to set-up the food table and also helpers to clean up at 1pm. Help would be very much appreciated! We are also in need of a person to lead the craft at our meetings, once a month, first Saturday of the month.



This ministry is a blessing to those families who have kids with disabilities and to the Buddies who give their time to become their friends.

Buddy Break will extend the outreach in our community to more families affected by disability with an event called "Make'M Smile", a festival to celebrate life and friendship, in June 2018. Please contact us at [BuddyBreak.EPC@gmail.com](mailto:BuddyBreak.EPC@gmail.com) for more information.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 7/10-13 Camp Joy!  
EPC Campus  
9am-Noon
  - 7/14-15 Camp Joy Campout  
on Front Lawn  
Starts at 7pm
  - 7/16 One Combined Service  
10am, Front Lawn
  - 7/20-23 Youth Mission Trip  
Mexico
  - 7/23 Classical Concert  
featuring EPC's  
Daniel Manoiu &  
Friends  
5pm, Sanctuary
  - 7/30-8/4 Sr. High Youth Camp  
Forest Home
- Coming in August*
- 8/4 Parents' Night Out  
5-8pm, Nursery, Rm 3-4

### Groups Meeting at EPC

#### Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10am, Room 6

**Does Not Meet - July 5th or 12th**

#### Men's Bible Study

Fridays at 6:30am, Youth Room

**MOPS & Mom's Next - Mother's of**

*Preschoolers & Elementary age,*

2nd & 4th Wednesdays - Returns in Fall

**MOTS - Moms of Teens & Beyond,**

1st & 3rd Wednesdays-12pm, Youth Rm

Returns in the Fall

**ROMEOS - (Retired older men**

*eating out*), Thursdays 8am at

the Newbury Park IHOP

### Camp Joy Reminders:

July 10-15, 9am-Noon, Monday through Thursday.

Registration starts at 8:45am

Water Day is Weds. July 12

Friday Night Campout for campers and their families, starts at 7pm.

Sunday, July 16 - Special Service on the Front Lawn to

celebrate Camp Joy. We welcome campers, their families and the community.