

EMMANUEL'S STORY

Our first service on January 7, 1990 was held in a Bingo hall with about 106 charter members. Two years later we purchased the Hope Street property, and under founding pastor Robert Loffer's leadership, our first building was completed in 1992. Additional offices and meeting rooms were added in 1998, during Reverend William Carrell's pastorate, but we soon outgrew this space as well.

Our new sanctuary was built in 2006, a sturdy steel construction designed for the ages. Because of a substantial gift and a successful building campaign, this beautiful place of worship is completely debt free.

Our old sanctuary is now a full-time Fellowship Hall, used not only for church functions, but also as a meeting place for local organizations, including T.O.P.S., Parish Nurse Programs, and a variety of other informational and educational seminars and events open to the public.

Reverend Barbara Laucks was Emmanuel's pastor from 2000 until her retirement, during which time the caring ministries in our congregation, our community, and beyond were expanded.

Our new pastor, Reverend George Miller, brings with him a love of scripture and gifts of preaching, hospitality and pastoral care.

To quote some of our members: *Emmanuel is a place where the people show their faith by supporting one another; it is a place of worship, strength and encouragement; it is a place of loving without judgment; there is a genuine sense of family here.*

Founded on Faith
Built with Hope
Growing in Love

A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH



Creator God, who has called each one of us from our separate lives to form one congregation, give us a spirit of unity and love. Continue to call us to further unity with other people, that many of our petty differences may one day soon seem small to us as they do to you. Help us to live a common life in which our differences enrich us rather than divide us, our mistakes unite us in forgiveness rather than exclude us in judgment, and our goal is to serve rather than be compulsively served. Give us the courage and faith to be the church we profess to be.



GOD IS STILL SPEAKING



Sharing God's Love
with Everyone

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3115 Hope Street, Sebring, Florida 33875
1.8 miles west of Highway 27 on Hammock Rd.

Rev. George Miller, Pastor

A place of worship, prayer, study, and fellowship where God speaks love, tolerance and acceptance; where traditions are honored; where listening for God's new Word is encouraged and put into practice; where all are welcome regardless of age, gender, gender orientation, race, religion, or cultural background.

WORSHIP SERVICE:

Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

COMMUNION:

Celebrated each week, and open to all. The first Sunday of the week Communion is served at the 9:30 service; all other weeks at 8:45 a.m. in the Chapel.

STUDY AND SUPPORT GROUPS

Various week-day options
Newcomers always welcome

Phone: (863) 471-1999
E-mail: eucc@earthlink.net
SebringEmmanuelUCC.com

No matter who you are
or where you are
on life's journey,
you're welcome here.



Emmanuel Cares for its Own

The Caring Callers and Stephen Ministers of Emmanuel work closely with the pastor to attend to the needs of any in the church family who are sick or hospitalized, those who live in care facilities, and those who need transportation to doctors, worship services and other church functions. Communion is brought to those who are unable to attend church. A Christmas offering benefits retired clergy and spouses.

Emmanuel Cares Beyond its Walls

Emmanuel supports many local charities with goods, services and funds. Among them are: The Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, New Testament Church and Mission, Peace River Center of Hardee/Highlands Counties for victims of domestic violence and rape and those with mental health issues; and residents of Sebring's Magnolia House. We are also a supporting member of the Heartland Food Reservoir for Highlands and Hardee Counties.

Emmanuel supports the United Church of Christ's wider church mission through its One Great Hour of Sharing program that helps feed the hungry, provide services for displaced people, and respond to natural disasters in more than 70 countries. Our annual Global Missions Fair raises funds for Heifer International. We also contribute to the Church World Service, helping those in many countries in the world become more self reliant through education and programs of social and economic development.

Emmanuel strongly believes that preaching the Good News to our neighbors must also be accompanied by our being the Good News, as we continue to seek new ways to open our doors and our hearts to those in need.



Emmanuel United Church of Christ is a member church in the United Church of Christ organization consisting of more than 5,500 other congregations that grew out of four major Protestant denominations who came together in 1957.

United Churches of Christ feel a call to be peace and justice churches, and realize the challenge to grow. We know our need to be nourished by Scripture and to grow spiritually. Our hope is to include people of all family styles.

We govern ourselves democratically. Emmanuel United Church of Christ is responsible for its own affairs, including how money is raised and spent and how social issues are addressed. We join with other congregations for shared ministries in our communities and beyond. As a member church in the United Church of Christ, we believe that cooperation and ecumenical work are the will of Christ when he prayed " ...that they may all be one." (John 17:21)

With other United Churches of Christ, **Emmanuel believes that we are an expression of the Body of Christ in the world today.** We have a strong, common center enriched by great diversity. This open spirit has been expressed by the phrase: "in essentials, unity; in non-essentials, diversity; in all things, charity."

To learn more about the expansive ministries and missions of the United Church of Christ, explore their national website: ucc.org

&

Florida's United Church of Christ site: ucdfa.org



Church Life at Emmanuel

Meaningful worship services provide inspiration for everything we do. Timely, well-prepared sermons related to Scripture help us find new and creative ways to show God's love, in a welcoming, reverent yet casual atmosphere, enhanced by live music and audio-visual presentations.

Coffee hours after worship allow fellowship to continue, and during the winter season pot luck suppers are followed by programs of interest. Bible Study and support groups are offered at various times during the week.

Music opportunities include a full choir, ladies' ensembles, men's quartets, vocal and instrumental soloists, and a four-octave bell choir under the direction of Minister of Music Connie Carter, with organist Sue Shellhammer.

The Willing Workers, a dedicated group of helpers, maintain the buildings and grounds, and are "paid" with refreshments provided by other volunteers.

Fundraising events help to support our church's ministry and mission, thanks to many hard working, talented members. The spaghetti dinner in January, the yard sale in February, and the Harvest Home Craft Festival in November provide a variety of ways to enjoy fellowship and teamwork.

For current up-to-date information at Emmanuel, visit:

www.SebringEmmanuelUCC.com

