



LOOKING AHEAD

February (Tentative Dates)

- 4th Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings
Via Zoom
- 15th Presidents' Day
- 17th Ash Wednesday
- 21st Annual Congregational Meeting
Via Zoom

March (Tentative Dates)

- 4th Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings
Via Zoom
- 14th Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 17th St. Patrick's Day
- 20th First Day of Spring
- 28th Palm Sunday



Immanuel Union Church

693 Jewett Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10314
718-448-1584

February Birthdays



2/1	Zachary Iken	2/12	Brian Henningsen
2/3	Danny Orlando		Jennifer Iken Walsh
	Ned Rogers	2/22	Angie Sorrentino
2/9	Laney Dahl		
2/10	Gregg Jacobson		
2/11	Mary Coffey		

Coffee Hour



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- Envelope Distribution

Suspended

From the Pastor's Desk

To All Who Thirst for Solace and Concern,

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Psalm 63:1

A hunter tells the following story: Rising early one morning, "I heard the barking of a number of dogs chasing a deer. Looking at a large open field in front of me, I saw a young fawn making its way across the field and giving signs that its race was almost run. It leaped over the rails of the enclosed place and crouched within ten feet of where I stood. A moment later two of the hounds came over, and the fawn ran in my direction and pushed its head between my legs. I lifted the little thing to my breast, and, swinging round and round, fought off the dogs. Just then I felt that all the dogs in the West, could not and would not capture that fawn after its weakness had appealed to my strength.

It's February and normally this is the time where the splendor of human love is put on display. Although, it's been a long time since I have been considered young, I imagine children still exchange Valentine's Day cards, while the more mature of us continue to exchange flowers and candy.

This February commemorates an anniversary that we all wish didn't exist, this month brings to memory a year of change that in January of 2020 we would never have imagined.

I don't know about you, but when I look around I feel as though circumstances around us are changing so rapidly, that I wake up more dazed than the day before. If you are anything like me, you could relate to that helpless baby deer. The fear and anxiety that we face each day, can have a crippling effect on us as we do all that is possible to keep our heads above the water line. We feel just as cornered as that fawn, and as a result we may act or react as irrationally as that baby deer.

Fight or flight, how have you been processing the events of this past year? My sister-in-law is the CEO at a mental health facility, where on Tuesday she told Leslie that her staff in the lock down unit were ready to quit in mass. This was because the anxiety of the residents has become so acute lately, that the professional care nurses and aids just want to leave. She said this pandemic is causing mental health trauma. How have you been dealing with the stress that comes along side of Covid-19? Where do you run when you are plagued by anxiety or fear? For some, the short walk to the medicine cabinet will suffice, for other a visit to the local liquor store will do. In the past many sought for comfort in the throes of promiscuity, but in this age of masks and social distancing, that fountain of comfort has pretty much dried up.

This past year has brought with it many social challenges, which demonstrate the physiological reactions known as fight or flight. An example of flight is revealed in the way many Manhattanites are abandoning the borough for greener and safer places to settle, whereas fight is being seen in increase of incidents involving rage. A sampling of 34 of the nation's largest cities has revealed a marked increase in homicides increased in nearly all of the 34 cities in the sample. Those who monitored the changes in rage in these 36 cities, concluded that urgent action is necessary to address these rapidly rising rates.

From the Pastor's Desk (con't)

What distresses you? What physiological reactions does our current social climate evoke within you? Most of us are familiar with the words of David in the 23rd Psalm, where he wrote about "**the valley of the shadow of death**" is as much God's right path for us as the "**green pastures**" which lie beside "**quiet waters.**" This means that the Christian life is not always tranquil. God allows hardships in life, because He knows that genuine Christian character is strengthened through trial and danger.

Think about the story of the baby deer jumping into the very arms of not just a hunter, but a deer hunter. Even though we all know what it's like to respond to difficulties with fear and anxiety God wants us to rest securely in His arms.

The Good Shepherd alone can protect us from tumult that surrounds us all through His abiding presence. When we ourselves, are in our helpless estate, He invites us to cast our anxieties upon Him because He cares for us; or better still- He is our care giver. When we trust God in leading us where He wills, we find that He has prepared a table for us, that He has anointed our head with the choicest of oil, and that our cups are meant to overflow with the wine of true joy.

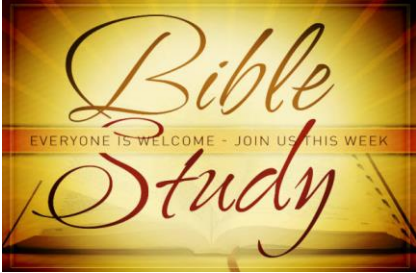
In the book, *A Shepherd Looks at the 23rd Psalm*, Phil Keller a shepherd himself sees this as the preparation of the lush tablelands where the sheep graze in the summer. A good shepherd will make preparation before the sheep's arrival, removing any physical hazards, destroying any poisonous plants, and driving away any predators. Keller explains how ancient shepherds used a mixture of olive oil, sulfur, and spices to protect their sheep from insects, and promote the healing of infectious skin diseases. In the Bible, oil and wine reveal joy and sustenance, since olives and grapes take time to grow, and oil and wine require time to prepare. Therefore, during times of turmoil or war, these preparations were not performed. Also, in the dry, barren lands of the Middle East, oil and wine have a very high value. In Palestine, where the sun shines so fiercely most of the year, the temperatures continually soar up into the hundreds, the skin would become cracked and broken and throats would become parched so the oil moisturizes the skin, and the wine refreshes the parched throat.

If only we would learn from the baby fawn and jump into the extended arms of the Good Shepherd for protection, I believe that the crippling effects of fears and anxieties would have a far less impact upon our lives. If only we would seek the Shepherd's guidance, we will find the rest that He offers to our weary souls.

Holding On To the Shepherd For Deer Life,

Pastor Charlie

Bible Studies



The Sunday School series is suspended for the time being.

The Tuesday evening Bible Study will be held via zoom at 6:30.

See below to see how to connect to Bible Study or the Sunday Service.

From the Church Council

Due to new cases of COVID in the 10314 area, in person church services are not set to resume yet. We will continue to meet on Zoom. We will continue to monitor the situation as we are anxious to resume in person worship as soon as it is safe.

We are seeking a member of the Congregation at Large to join the House Committee. Sam Colucci and Dan Kish are members, a third member from the CAL is needed. The House Committee is involved in decision making regarding the Church's property and supervision of maintenance of the Church, this includes the building and grounds.

Mark Your Calendars

Congregational Meeting

Will be held on Sunday, February 21st via Zoom after the church service. All interested are welcome to attend and members will be able to vote on the Annual Reports and the Budget. We need 20 members for a quorum and we are hoping to get more people out on Zoom than could be possible on a wintery Sunday morning in the Church Hall.



Church Offering Envelopes/Annual Reports

Giving envelopes and copies of the Annual Report and Budget will be available Friday, February 12th, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, in the Church Hall, weather permitting. We will update you if the time and day changes. If you are unable to pick up, someone will drop them off to you. If you are able to pick up for a friend or neighbor or family member, we would appreciate you doing so.



Church Fair

The Church Fair has been postponed until the May. If anyone has cleaned out items that are good to sell at the Church Fair, we will be announcing dates to gratefully accept donations. Item collection will be contactless. Please call the church office for dates or to set up a drop off time.



**For Everyone's
Safety**



Let's look forward to
Spring 2021



Follow us on Facebook for details on all IUC events!



Easter Happenings

February 17th

Ash Wednesday

March 28th

Palm Sunday Service 10 AM via Zoom

April 1st

Maundy Thursday Service 7 PM via Zoom

April 4th

Easter Sunday Service 10 AM via Zoom

Upper Room

Bonnie Rogers will be mailing the Upper Room daily devotional booklets to those who are interested. If you would like to receive a copy, please call the church office.

Thank you to Bonnie for serving our church community in this way.

Offering Envelopes

If you would like to receive a box of envelopes for your donations and do not do so already, please call the church office at 718 448-1584 and we will put one aside for you. All donations are confidential, but by using envelopes your donation is logged and you will receive an annual statement for your records.



February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	3	4 Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings Via Zoom	5	6
7 Church Service via zoom 10:00	8	9 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	10	11	12	13
14 Church Service via zoom 10:00 ♥	15 Presidents' Day	16 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21 Church Service via zoom 10:00	22	23 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	24	25	26	27
28 Church Service via zoom 10:00						

Church News



Altar flower donations are suspended until the Church Service begins meeting in person.

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If you are not currently receiving offering envelopes and wish to be included, please contact the church office at 718-448-1584.

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Information for the March Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, February 19th. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net. Thank you.

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Need to talk? Want spiritual counsel? Have an emergency? If so, you can reach Pastor Charlie through the Church office from Monday through Thursday (8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) at 718-448-1584. If you have an urgent matter off-hours, call Charlie's cell phone: 718-290-3726. If there is no answer, leave a message and he will reply. He is usually off on Friday; however, if you have a need, he is always available- any time, day or night. Please don't hesitate to call him!

## ~~~~~ **How you can help the Hungry and Homeless:**

**Help Re-stock Food Pantries:** non-perishable boxed or canned food items are needed: canned meat, tuna, vegetables, and fruits, rice and instant potatoes, tomato sauce and pasta, macaroni and cheese, canned and instant soups, peanut butter and jellies, baby foods and disposable diapers. No glass jars, please. When you come to Church on Sundays, you can place donations in our Food Basket. Thank you all for sharing.

FYI – Richmond Senior Services has relocated to 729 Delafield Avenue, between Clove Road and Taylor Street.

# Social Media

Please check out our Website as well as our Facebook Page. We ask that you share the information, especially to your Facebook friends, by Liking and Reposting on Facebook. This is a great way to publicize our worship services, Bible Study and any special events coming up. We can all make a difference!

# Zoom Connection Instructions

(This link if you use for the computer)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8280501006>

Meeting ID: 828 050 1006

(One tap mobile from your smartphone)

+19294362866,,8280501006# US (New York)

Dial by your location from landline

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York) Then enter the Meeting ID: 828 050 1006

## Prayer List

Please keep the following:

### Health Issues:

Baldini Family  
Laney Dahl  
Carina DeGiulio  
Karen McCarthy  
Jason Proceszyn  
Jan Wiggin  
Alan Yurich

### Serving our Country:

Matthew Ciccone, USMC  
Grand-nephew of Ann Holland

### Shut-Ins:

Ethel Thomas

in your prayers!!!

If you would like to be on the Prayer List or would like to add someone, please call Gina in the Church Office at 718 448-1584.

