



THE Lamplighter



“THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE
DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS
HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.”
JOHN 1:5



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LOOKING AHEAD

January

- 1st New Year's Day
- 6th Epiphany
- 8th Board/Trustee/ Council Meetings
- 14th AARP
- 19th MLK, Jr. Day
- 24th Pinewood Derby

February

- 5th Board/Trustee/ Council Meetings
- 8th Scout Sunday
- 11th AARP
- 16th Presidents' Day
- 18th Ash Wednesday
- 28th Blue & Gold Dinner



Immanuel Union Church

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

*The friendly church with a vision and a
future.*

Pastor's Letter

A Call to Arms to all Who Profess Faith in Jesus Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing today to share a burden that rests deeply on my heart and, I believe, on the heart of God: the call for us to become not simply a church that prays occasionally, but a church whose life, unity, and mission are sustained by prayer.

Last Sunday I proclaimed a message entitled *"Praying Through the New Year"*. My aim was to motivate our church regarding the importance of the members of IUC to be like-minded as we move into the future rowing in the same direction.

In Col 4:2-4 Paul exhorted the Colossian Church with these words, ***"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should."***

One thing that is clear from this passage, it is God's will that we pray to Him. We all desire to know God's will for our lives. But there are some things that you do not have to struggle to know. One of them is that God's clear will for you is that you pray to Him. The text says, ***"Devote yourselves to prayer."*** Therefore it is God's will for His people to pray to Him.

Throughout Scripture, the people of God are marked by their dependence on Him through prayer. Throughout Acts we've seen an early church that ***"devoted themselves... to prayer,"*** not as a ritual, but as a lifeline. Before decisions were made, before leaders were chosen, before missionaries were sent, the church prayed. When Peter was imprisoned, the church prayed earnestly, and God moved powerfully. Prayer was not an accessory to their ministry—it was the engine of it.

A praying church keeps Christ at the center. Prayer reminds us that the church belongs to Him, not to us. It humbles us, protects us from relying on our own strength, and keeps our hearts tender toward one another. When we pray together, we learn to listen together, discern together, and walk in unity. Prayer strengthens us in trials, anchors us in truth, and opens our eyes to God's work among us.

Pastor's Letter (con't)

Without prayer, even good ministries become hollow and lifeless. We may stay busy, but we lose spiritual power. We may gather, but we lack spiritual unity. We may plan, but we drift aimlessly without God's direction. A church that does not pray becomes a church that slowly leans on human wisdom instead of the Spirit's leading.

But imagine what God can do through a praying church. Imagine families strengthened because they pray together. Imagine burdens lifted because we carry them to the Lord as one body. Imagine worship marked by a deeper sense of God's presence because we have been seeking Him throughout the week. Imagine outreach fueled not by obligation but by Spirit-given boldness.

My prayer is that we would grow into this together. Let us commit to personal prayer, to praying for one another, and to valuing our times of gathered prayer. Let us pray as a first response rather than a last resort. And let us pray with the assurance that God delights to hear and answer the prayers of His people.

May the Lord shape us into a church that seeks Him earnestly, depends on Him fully, and reflects His heart faithfully as we pray together throughout the New Year.

Again, I'd like to invite everyone who is devoted to keeping IUC alive to meet each Sunday morning at 9:45AM for a time of targeted prayer for the future Ministry of IUC.

Your Servant for Jesus' Sake,
Pastor Charlie

Join Us Online!!



Sunday Church Service is will be via zoom at 10:00 AM. Check IUC's Facebook page for current topics. Like us on Facebook.

Sunday School begins at 9:00 AM.

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

Please check out our Website as well as our Facebook Page and YouTube Channel. 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!

How to connect to Bible Study or the Sunday Service:

This link if you use for the computer)

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

Meeting ID: 828 050 1006

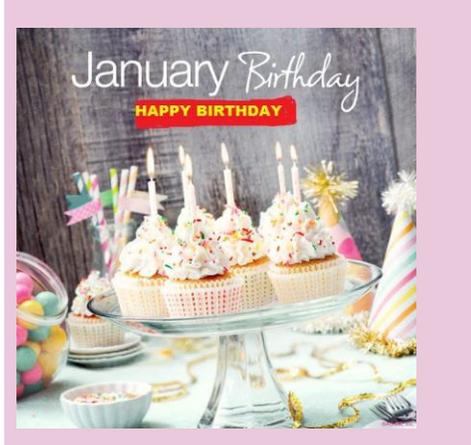
(One tap mobile from your smartphone)

+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

Milestones



Birthdays

1/1	Ruth Thompson	1/16	Rebekah Bossert Jo-Ellen Brannigan
1/3	Robbi Rosado	1/18	Caroline Michie
1/6	Bunny Matthius	1/20	Jamie Blissenbach
1/12	Jeffrey Forbes Smith	1/25	Melissa Iken Helen Jerlin

Announcements

- To order Altar Flowers to honor or memorialize your loved ones please call the Church Office.
- Offering envelopes for 2026 are available.
- 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.
- Electronic tithing is now available. Please visit the church's website at immanuelunion.org and click on the donate now button. You can send your donation through PayPal or use your debit/credit card. You can also donate using Venmo our user name is @ImmanuelUnion-Church.
- Information for the February Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, January 23rd. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net.

Mark Your Calendars

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|----------------------------|--|
| ➤ February 8 th | Scout Sunday |
| ➤ March 1 st | Congregational Meeting (after the service) |
| ➤ March 21 st | Vendor Fair |

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	5	6 Bible Study via zoom 6:30 Epiphany	7	8 Council Trustee/Board Meetings	9	10
11 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	12	13 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	14 AARP	15	16	17
18 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	19 MLK Jr. Day	20 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	21	22	23	24 Pinewood Derby
25 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	26	27 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	28	29	30	31

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 1st. This is an extremely important meeting, so please plan on attending. Anyone who needs to submit reports please do so by February 1st.

Christmas Poinsettia Donation List

Donor

Sonja & William Coyne

Dorothy Crimmins

Anne Holland

Nancy & John Myers

*Eugene & Roseann
Sorensen*

In Memory Of:

Our Parents

Raymond, Husband

Jack Holland, Husband

Our Parents

Mary & Eugene Sorensen, Parents

Donald Sorensen, Cousin

Robert Little, Friend

Eddie Otten MacDonald, Friend

Barbara Matthius, Friend

Betty Reiman, Friend

Prayer List

New

- † Ed- in a spiritual battle. Pray for him.

Continuing

- † Ann's mom- protection while the nursing home is on lockdown for illness.
- † Roland's friend Virgie- she's very sick- pray for healing.
- † Dorothy- continue to pray for her and her family
- † Theresa & Tiffany- situation
- † Our families - continue to pray for our children
- † Eds friend Gene who had heart surgery has an infection in his leg where they took veins from. Pray for his salvation.
- † Ed's brother- John- has an auto-immune disease. Open sores on face & arms.
- † Alex- needs a job. Was laid off with no notice.
- † Eds niece (Joelle) will be talking with Ed. Her mom (Lisa) has alienated herself from her.
- † Catherine- has cancer
- † That we will share the Gospel boldly in every opportunity we have.
- † Ann's Aunt Martha- for her anxiety.
- † Ann's cousin Doris- fainted and fell. Waiting on tests and to have surgery.
- † Ginny- Sonja's friend healing from broken hip.
- † Soon- visited Immanuel- pray that God opens his heart to the Gospel
- † Margarita and Tony- still waiting on a transfer to Texas. Pray it happens soon.
- † Lillian- has shingles, pray for relief
- † Stephen- Naomi's son pray for stability of his mental health.
- † Roland's friend- Mauro is suffering from depression.
- † Gerd- after the accident is doing great! Pray for complete healing.
- † Baby Hazel- has neuroblastoma. Pray for her family- and doctors as far as treatment. At MSK and had major surgery- pray for her recovery.
- † Jennifer & Omar- pray that God reveals to them the "what's next".
- † Marilyn Pederson- cancer in her ankle.
- † Jimmy- Dorothy's grandson. Living with her (and Michael) but needs an apartment.
- † Sonja's cousins - Michael Johnson and Ron Mazzaeo both have cancer. Pray for them, their families and the doctors for wisdom in treatments.
- † Fred- Sonja & Bills friend in his recovery.
- † RJ (lives in Taiwan). In a scooter accident, is recovering
- † Liz Iken- at Eger. Pray for her health

