



THE Lamplighter



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



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LOOKING AHEAD (Tentative Dates)

March

- 2nd Council/Trustee/Board Meetings
- 8th AARP
- 18th Blue & Gold Dinner
- 25th Craft Fair & Flea Market

April

- 2nd Palm Sunday
- 6th Maundy Thursday
- 7th Good Friday
- 9th Easter Sunday
- 12th AARP
- 29th Book Fair



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

Spring greetings in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Spring is in the Air and with it comes the aroma of corned beef and cabbage mixed with the site and smell of green beer.

Even though I was raised in an Italian Roman Catholic home, come March 17th my mom would serve the traditional American/Irish dinner of corned beef and cabbage (I say this because you'd be hard-pressed to find such an offering in a traditional Irish home. The closest you thing you may find is bacon and corned beef.) I, like many of you, assumed that Patrick was a Roman Catholic monk who was canonized as "Saint Patrick" after such exploits as introducing the people of Ireland to the Trinity with the use of a shamrock. As well as being the man who miraculously drove all the snakes out of Ireland.

Does that summarize the Patrick that you know? Well, NONE of what you've been told about Patrick is true.

Patrick's given name was actually Maewyn Succat (or Sucat). He took the name Patrick most likely because of the area he was from in Scotland. That's right, Patrick was Scottish, not Irish! Here's what Patrick said himself of his background: "My name is Patrick. I am a sinner, a simple country person, and the least of all believers. I am looked down upon by many. My father was Calpornius. He was a deacon; his father was Potitus, a priest, who lived at Bannavem Taburniae. His home was near there, and that is where I was taken prisoner. I was about sixteen at the time." (William Cathcart, D. D., *The Ancient British and Irish Churches*, p. 127).

Patrick's life is much greater than the myth. Patrick tells us in his own words about his fascinating story: With no Roman legions to protect them (since they abandoned the British Isles to protect Rome from the invasions of the barbarian tribes) Patrick's home village was vulnerable for attack. A fleet of 50 longboats made way toward the shore. The Celtic warriors, wearing helmets and armed with spears, descended on the pebbled beach. The braying war horns struck terror into Patrick's heart, so he started to run toward town.

The warriors quickly demolished the village, and as Patrick darted among burning houses and screaming women, he was caught. The barbarians dragged him aboard a boat bound for the east coast of Ireland.

Patrick was sold to a cruel warrior chief, whose opponents' heads sat atop sharp poles around his palisade in Northern Ireland. While Patrick minded his master's pigs in the nearby hills, he lived like an animal himself, enduring long bouts of hunger and thirst. Worst of all, he was isolated from other human beings for months at a time. Early missionaries to Britain had left a legacy of Christianity that young Patrick was exposed to and took with him into captivity. He had been no more than a Christian in name only at this point; he now turned to the God of his fathers for comfort.

Six years passed and Patrick had either a vivid dream or a vision in which he was shown an escape route. Emboldened, Patrick made his break from his captors, traveling back over the 200 miles to the shoreline. As he approached the docks, a British ship stood waiting. The sails unfurled and Patrick was home. But he didn't stay long.

Now that he was back in his homeland he committed to his faith in earnest. He began to feel an intense desire for revenge against his kidnappers and for Patrick the best course of revenge would be a life dedicated to the conversion of these pagan druids to the one true God. So, Patrick resolved to return to Ireland with the intent of converting Island to Jesus Christ.

Pastor's Letter (con't)

Against much adversity by the Druids, he set his sights on the conversion of the Druid king who was intent on murdering Patrick but whose heart was softened by the message of Gospel and subsequently baptized by Patrick causing many of these pagan tribes to follow.

Patrick would later be known as the "apostle of Ireland." He planted churches, the first one in Northern Ireland, not far from Belfast. Patrick planted more churches as he crisscrossed Ireland.

So, as far as the shamrock story, there is no evidence that this ever occurred although the shamrock would make a practical object lesson regarding the Trinity, that God is one in essence and three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

As for his driving the snakes out of Ireland this would be quite easy to do since there has been no evidence that snakes have ever inhabited Ireland.

Finally, as for Patrick being canonized as a Saint by the Church of Rome. First off, Patrick's own words would refute this since he in his own writings referred to himself as a sinner not a "Saint". Second, the Church of Rome did not acknowledge Patrick's like and ministry until 500 years after his death and to this day he has never been canonized. It was the Roman Catholic priest Jocelyn, writing around AD 1130 who wrote most extensively about Patrick. He ignored much of what was known about Patrick and for the sake of propaganda inserted this Roman Catholic background into the Patrick story. Patrick never wrote about a connection to Rome or popes or that his authority came from such.

So we remember Patrick best not in the legends and fables and not in the ways his holiday tends to be celebrated. Perhaps we remember him best by reflecting on the "St. Patrick's Breastplate," which has traditionally been attributed to him. The word breastplate is a translation as a prayer of protection. These prayers would be written out and at times placed on shields of soldiers and knights as they went out to battle. Patrick's prayer points beyond himself and his adventurous life. It points to Christ, the one he proclaimed to the people who had taken him captive:

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,

Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

"I would pray constantly during the daylight hours," he later recalled. "The love of God and the fear of him surrounded me more and more. And faith grew. And the spirit roused so that in one day I would say as many as a hundred prayers, and at night only slightly less."

Your servant for Jesus' Sake,
Pastor Charlie

Sunday Worship & Bible Studies



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.

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

Hall Coordinator Position

Denise Miller, our Hall Coordinator for the past three years has relocated to Florida. IUC is in search of someone who is willing to work part time booking and working the various parties and events held here at the church. If you or someone you know is interested in a part time opportunity please call the church office at 718 448-1584.

From the Church Council

Correction: The Council sincerely apologizes that you received the wrong copy of our appeal fundraising letter. After multiple revisions, an older copy from last year was mistakenly mailed to your home. We are sorry for this major oversight. Please forgive us for this oversight and see the most recent draft that should have been mailed to your home inside this Lamplighter edition. As always, we appreciate your continued support so that Immanuel Union Church can continue its ministry in our Westerleigh community.

Sincerely, The Church Council and Pastor Baldini

March 1, 2023

Dear Immanuel Union Church Family and Friends,

As we look to the onset of spring and the renewal of life, we are hopeful that you are and your loved ones continue to be safe and well.

Our charitable giving appeal resulted in raising over \$25,000—approximately half of our original \$50,000 goal!

We are extremely grateful to Immanuel’s congregation, friends and neighbors who so generously contributed to help maintain our historic church.

As a result of the generosity of you and others, we were able to replace our boiler—a much needed repair and upgrade. Our church sanctuary and facility is now back to being warm and inviting.

Whether you are an active member, live at a distance and are now part of our extended church family, or are a neighborhood friend of the Church, we’re sure that you have fond memories of time spent at Immanuel, and, a continued appreciation for all it has to offer.

It is our goal to continue to provide the meaningful spiritual guidance and activities to our church members, extended members, and the broader Westerleigh community by engaging in an annual charitable giving appeal to help support the continued maintenance needs of our church so that it may thrive for future generations to come, and to allow donors better planning opportunities.

As part of its annual planning process, the Church Council and Planning Committee have identified three top priorities for 2023—

- Repair of the holes in the roof
- Repair/replacement of the fascia on the roof
- Sand and stain the front doors of the Church

It is with your support, as well as the fund-raising events offered, that will bring these goals to fruition.

Yours in Christ.

Immanuel Union Church Board
Immanuel Union Church Board of Trustees
Reverend Charles Baldini

Your contribution is gratefully appreciated and is tax deductible. *Please return with your contribution.*

Won't you please consider a selection below?

\$25 _____ **\$50** _____ **\$100** _____ **250** _____ **\$500** _____ **other** _____

Near & Far

“You never really leave the place you love. You take part of it with you and leave part of you there.”
Unknown

This space is for all members, whether local, retired or relocated, to share updates on themselves, their families, important happenings in their lives. It’s what keeps us all connected. This is your page. If you would like to give us an update email it to the church at iuc1@verizon.net.

Milestones



Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 st Gary Brower | 16 th James Irons |
| Peter Brower | 17 th Judith Brower Henningsen |
| Ray Crimmins | 18 th Paul Blissenbach II |
| 5 th Carl Landau | 20 th Jill Jacobson Guerra |
| 6 th Kris Reiman | 21 st Sonja F. Coyne |
| 8 th Sean McAuliffe | Ashley Michie |
| 10 th Scott Michie | 22 nd Paul Blissenbach |
| 12 th Stephen Coyne | 23 rd Annemarie Miano |
| Gregg Matthius | 24 th Jennifer Orlando |
| Katharine Matthius | 29 th Heather Starlin |

Focus On Our Family

A monthly highlight of an IUC member will appear in this section. If you are interested in sharing your family with us please send your info to the church at iuc1@verizon.net.

Announcements

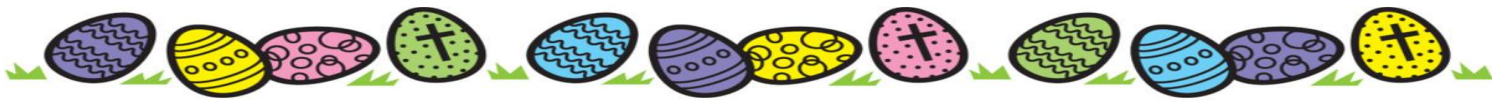
- To order Altar Flowers to honor or memorialize your loved ones please call the Church Office.
- Offering envelopes for 2023 are in the church and available for pickup. In the meantime, we ask that you continue to send in your donations and note your normal envelope number so we can keep track. Sorry for the inconvenience.
- 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 April Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, March 17th. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net.

Mark Your Calendars

Flea Market

We will be hosting an Arts & Crafts Flea Market on Saturday, March 25th from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Come out to shop and support our church. See Bunny Matthius if you would like to rent a table.



Easter Happenings

April 2nd

Palm Sunday Service 10 AM in person & via Zoom

April 6th

Maundy Thursday Service 7 PM in person & via Zoom

April 9th

Easter Sunday Service 10 AM in person & via Zoom

Order Your Easter Lilies



Below you will find a form to use when ordering your **Easter Lilies** for the **Altar** on **Easter Sunday**. Please include your check made payable to **Immanuel Union Church** with your order; and send it along to **693 Jewett Avenue, Staten Island, N.Y. 10314**. The list of names will be published in the

May Lamplighter.

Easter Lilies - \$10.00 Per Plant

Enclosed Is \$_____ For _____ Plants.

Donor _____

In Memory Of _____

Or

In Honor Of _____

If more space is needed, please use a separate piece of paper.

Please Indicate:

My flowers may be given to shut-ins.

I will pick up my flowers after the service.

The deadline for ordering Easter Lilies is April 2, 2023. Please send this form along with a check in the total amount of the order; or call the church office at 448-1584 to place your order.

Boiler Fund

\$50,000 Goal

\$25,005 raised!!

We hope that this note finds Immanuel Union's church family, friends and loved ones healthy, safe and well.

Whether you worship with us in-person or via Zoom, or simply enjoy Immanuel's daily bell chimes and events, you are no doubt aware of the toll that the COVID pandemic has taken on many businesses, organizations and institutions. Sadly, Immanuel Union has also been negatively impacted.

While we have all experienced many shops, restaurants, and businesses closing, Immanuel is committed to staying the course as we find our way back from the pandemic into a more promising future.

Due to the loss of income from our annual Church Fair, craft and vendor shows, and donations from the many groups, organizations, and gatherings, our coffers are in dire need of support to replace the boiler in our aged heating system, and to make much-needed repairs to our historic stained glass, and roof easements.

Whether you are an active member, live at a distance and are now part of our extended church family, or are a neighborhood friend of the Church, we're sure that you have fond memories of time spent at Immanuel. As an update, we are pleased to announce that late last year, Immanuel Union Church was recognized as an historic sacred site in the United States, and is now listed on the National Historic Registry. It is our goal to continue to provide the meaningful spiritual guidance and activities to our church members, extended members, and the broader Westerleigh community into perpetuity.

We have initiated an appeal to raise \$50,000 to replace our heating system, and any extra raised for stained glass repair and roof easements. We hope you will consider contributing to this worthy undertaking.

Your contribution is gratefully appreciated and is tax deductible.

We can't thank everyone who donated enough for their generosity.

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Council/Board & Trustee Meetings	3	4
5 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	6	7 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	8 AARP	9	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	13	14 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Boy Scout Blue & Gold Dinner
19 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	20	21 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	22	23	24	25 Flea Market
26 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	27	28 Bible Study via zoom 6:30				

Zoom & Social Media Instructions

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!

(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



Praise-

- † Roland has returned to America safely
- † Terry- John's friend got a new job.
- † Brian- his heart is doing very well on the meds.
- † Sam Colucci - home from the hospital, Pray that the reflux he's having will stop.

New

- † Howard's moms friend - Anna Choi passed away. Prayers for her family

Continued-

- † Myers family after the death of Christine.
- † Elizabeth & her husband lost their 18 month old due to choking. They also have a newborn.
- † Sonja- home recovering from pneumonia
- † Lauren- Pastors cousins granddaughter- 6 years old just diagnosed with leukemia, and is home after a month of hospital treatment.
- † Diane Pillarella- got bit by a deer tick and is on antibiotics for Lyme Disease. Pray it fully treats the Lyme.
- † Dorothy & Anne and their families in the loss of Ray & Jack.
- † Liz' friend Helene- had to have colostomy.
- † Karen Kuhls grandson Joey- had a motorcycle accident back in early December. Had 2 surgeries and has nerve damage and a dropped foot. Pray for full healing for him, and peace for his parents
- † Lyn Spaulding's mom Barbara- recovering well and getting around after hip surgery, doing well for 90. Pray for Lyn as she tries to manage caregivers to help her mom.
- † Howard- has returned to Guyana after New Years, pray for his safety
- † Ed Zeltman's cousin Kevin having chemo
- † Don Landau- continued prayers for his eyesight and health
- † Susan - Dan & Sheri's neighbor- has health problems
- † Andy, DonnaMarie's friend has poly myalgia rheumatica. Wisdom for the doctors for treatment.
- † Robert and Cathy- Diane's neighbors lost their son, pray for comfort
- † Stephen- Naomi's son. Not doing well again
- † Mike- 51 year old just diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. His parents in their 80's are devastated.
- † Sam Colucci & Barbara Matthus- health
- † Jan Wiggins & Mary (DonnaMarie's mom) are at Sunrise. Jan is having more confusion.
- † Adrienne at Eger- pray for her health and spirit.
- † Nancy's niece Heather who is diagnosed with breast cancer is in the hospital with pneumonia - has twins 5 year old and a 3.5 year old.
- † Anne Holland's friend Dr Kim who has myasthenia Gravis. His energy levels have been mostly good, pray they continue.
- † Roti- Anne Holland's friend who had spinal surgery, for full recovery.
- † Rosemary- Genes sister, pray for complete recovery.
- † Ted & Mark - Genes former coworkers- prayer for recovery & health
- † Anne Haakonsen's mom- battling kidney cancer. And her Aunt Marty having anxiety issues.
- † Those battling Covid-
- † Long haulers with Covid symptoms
- † Vaccine injured
- † For our country (President, Vice President, Senators, Congressmen/women, judges).
- † For our police, firefighters and military
- † Leaders of our State- Gov Hochul, Mayor Adams-