



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

- 7th Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 9th Scouts Blue & Gold Dinner
- 10th Daylight Savings Time begins
- 13th AARP
- 23rd Craft & Flea Market
- 24th Palm Sunday
- 28th Maundy Thursday Soup Supper & Service
- 29th Good Friday
- 31st Easter Sunday

April

- 4th Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 10th AARP
- 20th 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

To All Who Long For The Nearness of God,

The 1998 movie *Wide Awake* is about a Catholic school boy's search for God. The boy, Joshua, specifically wants to find out whether his deceased grandfather is okay. Joshua and his friend Dave are sitting in a car in a garage having a discussion. Both are about 10 years old. Joshua says: *"You know what, Dave. I'm going on a mission. A real mission."*

"What kind of mission?" Dave asks.

"The kind where you're looking for something important," says Joshua.

"What are you gonna look for?"

"God."

"God?" Dave is incredulous. *"What for?"*

"I just want to talk to him."

"Why?"

"To make sure my grandpa is okay."

Dave thinks for a moment, then says: *"Remember when you told me I was stupid for staring at that bug lamp on my porch for six hours hoping the purple light would have gamma rays and turn me into the Incredible Hulk so I could fight crime? Your mission is more stupid than that."*

"Why?" Joshua asks.

"Cause you can't look for God."

"Why not?"

"Where in the world are you gonna look?"

James 4:8 exhorts us to **"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you"**. If you think of it, this must be one of the most amazing verses in the Bible. **We can draw near to God. And God will draw near to us?** Us, as we drink our coffee in the morning. Us, when we're involved in a difficult conversation. Us, when we begin to lose patience with our children or spouse. Us, when we become tired and grumpy by days end. Us, as we crawl into bed at night. **We can draw near to God. And God will draw near to us?**

Almighty God in heaven wants us to draw near to Him, with the promise that He will draw near to us? If that's true, it must be one of the most wonderful truths in all of life.

What does it mean? **"Draw near to God"** means that God is inviting us to move close to Him. He is inviting us to commune with Him and enjoy Him and honor Him and draw strength from Him in our thoughts, in our hearts. He welcomes us into His special nearness: **"The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth"** (Psalm 145:18).

Pastor's Letter (con't)

Calling upon the Lord in truth, not in perfection, but in Christ, we have the assurance that we will never find God's door closed. He does not stand off at the other end of the universe. He loves to draw near to us.

He is ready right now for you, for me. When He sees even His prodigal children moving in His direction, He runs to meet them (Luke 15:20). You can draw near to God in praise, in need, in agony, in joy, in gratitude, in sin, in sadness, in doubt, in all the conditions of life.

Draw near to God with faith and repentance. Draw near to God through the finished work of Christ on the cross. Draw near to God with boldness, with reverence, and delight yourself in the overflowing pleasures of His presence.

Let this profound truth act as our daily resource. God says, **"I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, to revive the heart of the contrite"** (Isaiah 57:15). **"And you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, 'I am'"** (Isaiah 58:9).

A. W. Tozer wrote in his book 'The Knowledge of the Holy', "Progress in the Christian life is exactly equaled to the growing knowledge we gain of the Triune God in personal experience." Here is how we can do that. **One**, remember that God has already opened the way into His presence through the cross of Christ. Our sin cannot keep us out. The way is clear, right now. **Two**, remember that the Bible is God's primary mechanism for displaying Himself to us, attracting us, inviting us nearer, encouraging us to come close. Read the Bible that way. Let His Word guide you there. **Three**, remember that our weekly worship time is, above all else, meant to be an encounter with the living God through Christ. Come to church with all your needs. He is enough for you. He will prove it, over and over, as we all draw near together. **"Let us keep ourselves in the love of God"** (Jude 21).

Your Servant for Jesus' Sake,

Pastor Charlie

Sunday Worship & Bible



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

Milestones



Birthdays

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

From the Church Council

As we enter March, the Council is preparing for a busy month. Our Vendor Fair is Saturday, March 23rd and there are still tables available if you or someone you know are interested.

The following day March 24th is Palm Sunday and we have a Silver Tea after worship planned, we welcome you to join us as we gather together. Our Maundy Thursday Communion service March 28th at 7 pm will follow our Soup & Bread Supper at 6 pm. We welcome you to come and join us as we commemorate the Last Supper; reading Scripture and then taking Communion together during the service. Easter Sunday we will celebrate Jesus' Resurrection at 10 am.

We would love to have you join us for any or all of the above events and we hope that you and your family have a blessed Easter season.

Announcements

- To order Altar Flowers to honor or memorialize your loved ones please call the Church Office.
- Offering envelopes for 2024 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 April Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, March 15th. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net.

Order Your Easter Lillies



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 April Lamplighter.

Easter Lilies - \$10.50 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 March 24, 2024. 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.

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	4	5 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	6	7 Council Trustee/Board Meetings	8	9 Boy Scout Blue & Gold Dinner
10 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service in person and via zoom 10:00	11	12 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	13 AARP	14	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service in person and via zoom 10:00	18	19 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	20	21	22	23 Craft Fair & Flea Market
24 Palm Sunday Church Service in person and via zoom 10:00	25	226 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	27	28 Maundy Thursday Soup Supper & Service	29 Good Friday	30
31 Easter Sunday Church Service in person and via zoom 10:00						

Mark Your Calendars

Flea Market

We will be hosting an Arts & Crafts Flea Market on Saturday, March 23rd from 9 AM to 3 PM. Come out to shop and support our church. Call the church office at 718 448-1584 if you would like to rent a table.

Book Fair

We will be hosting a Book Fair on Saturday, April 20th from 9 AM to 3 PM. Come out to pick up some books and have a snack in our café.



Easter Happenings

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| March 24 th | Palm Sunday Service 10 AM in person & via Zoom |
| March 28 th | Maundy Thursday Soup Supper at 6 PM and Service 7 PM in person & via Zoom |
| March 31 st | Easter Sunday Service 10 AM in person & via Zoom |

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)

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Dial by your location from landline

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Prayer List



New

- ✝ Paul Neis - Nancy Myers brother in law (her sister Jane's husband) died on Sunday due to a prolonged lack of oxygen to his brain after suffering multiple seizures.
- ✝ Ken McIntosh- Nancy's friend who had the massive stroke died of a brain bleed. Pray for the family.
- ✝ Families of Jan Wiggins, Emily Morrison and Jack Ritchie for comfort after their death.

Continued-

- ✝ Lita- Roland's friend and her husband went to the Philippines where she had a stroke and is now bedridden and they can't get back to the US.
- ✝ Jake Hyland- fire victim we prayed for that lost his son & unborn baby is having terrible nerve burning- his pain hasn't been this bad since the fire.
- ✝ Czarina- we prayed for Czarina's sister in law Caroline who carried a baby for Czarina & her husband Andrew. The baby Madison is now over a year old and Czarina had a stroke- her right arm is severely affected and she is unable to carry or care for Madison with that arm. Please pray for her healing!
- ✝ Felicity- a 10 year old in Texas had brain surgery and is now blind. She's returned to school with accommodations 3 hrs a day.
- ✝ Charlie Buchanan- Katie Myers FIL- had surgery, is positive for cancer.
- ✝ Rory DeCristoforo the 7 year old died in the fire on SI. Pray for the family.
- ✝ Sonja's cousins - Michael Johnson and Ron Mazzaeo both have cancer. Pray for them, their families and the doctors for wisdom in treatments.
- ✝ Don- Eugene's Cousin has stage 4 pancreatic cancer that has spread to his liver. Pray for the treatment, doctors and he and his family as they go through this.
- ✝ Michael & James- Dorothy's sons for their health.
- ✝ Sandra- James' girlfriend- in rehab after being hospitalized
- ✝ Fred- Sonja & Bills friend in his recovery.
- ✝ RJ (lives in Taiwan). In a scooter accident, is recovering
- ✝ Susan - Dan & Sheri's neighbor had a bunch of mini strokes, for recovery and her husband and her caregiver.
- ✝ Anne Holland - dealing with sciatica. Pray for wisdom for her doctor so her pain will go away.
- ✝ Liz Iken & Adrienne Lianna- at Eger. Pray for their health & spirit
- ✝ Mary (DonnaMarie's mom) at Sunrise. Pray for her health.
- ✝ Don Landau- moved to Maryland to be near his brother Carl in assisted living. Pray for his adjustment and health
- ✝ Sam Colucci & Barbara Matthius- health and strength, pray for Nancy & Bunny, and aides that care for them.
- ✝ Joey- recovering from a motorcycle accident last year.
- ✝ Robert and Cathy- Diane's neighbors lost their son, pray for comfort
- ✝ Stephen- Naomi's son, pray he will continue his meds and will be emotionally stable. Pray for him as he didn't get the Post Office job.
- ✝ Nancy Myers niece Heather who has breast cancer - has 3 children. Pray for treatment
- ✝ Rosemary- Genes sister, pray for complete recovery.
- ✝ Anne Haakonsen's mom- for health and strength. And her Aunt Marty having anxiety issues. Donna, Anne's friend has ovarian cancer
- ✝ Howard- Pray for the last 3 months of this assignment- for his safety & endurance.
- ✝ 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. Mavor Adams-