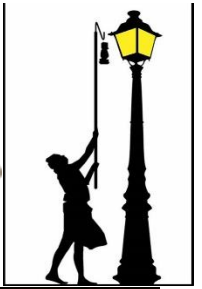




THE Lamplighter



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

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LOOKING AHEAD

March

- 5th Ash Wednesday
- 6th Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 12th AARP
- 13th Trustee/Board/Council Meetings
- 17th St. Patrick's Day
- 22nd Spring Vendor Fair
Boy Scout Radio Bingo

April

- 3rd Trustee/Board/Council Meetings
- 9th AARP
- 13th Palm Sunday
- 17th Maundy Thursday
- 18th Good Friday
- 20th Easter Sunday



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,

M. Night Shyamalan's 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, during a difficult conversation. Us, as we feel ourselves losing patience with our children, grandchildren 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.**

The almighty God of 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 this 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). 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, as well as 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.

Pastor's Letter (con't)

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).

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. Draw near to God, baggage and all, in worship. He is all you need. He will prove it, over and over, as we all draw near together. ***“Let us keep ourselves in the love of God”*** (Jude 21).

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

Milestones



1st Gary Brower
Peter Brower
5th Carl Landau
6th Kris Reiman
8th Sean McAuliffe
10th Scott Michie
12th Stephen Coyne
Gregg Matthius
Katharine Matthius

Birthdays

16th James Irons
17th Judith Brower Henningsen
18th Paul Blissenbach II
20th Jill Jacobson Guerra
21st Sonja F. Coyne
Ashley Michie
22nd Paul Blissenbach
23rd Annemarie Miano
24th Jennifer Orlando
29th Heather Starlin

Announcements

- To order Altar Flowers to honor or memorialize your loved ones please call the Church Office.
- Offering envelopes for 2025 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 21st. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net.

Council Update

Next Saturday (March 22nd) is the vendor & craft fair and volunteers are needed. We need baked goods and sandwiches for the kitchen, as well as about 5 helpers for the day. If you are able to help in those areas, please let Nancy Myers of Leslie Baldini know. It's greatly appreciated!

Holy Week will be here before you know it and we will be having our Maundy Thursday Communion service next month on Thursday, April 17th at 7 pm. Join us Easter Sunday on April 20th at 10 am. We look forward to seeing you!

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

Mark Your Calendars

Flea Market

We will be hosting an Arts & Crafts Flea Market on Saturday, March 22nd from 9 AM to 3 PM. Come out to shop and support our church.



Easter Happenings

April 13 th	Palm Sunday Service 10 AM in person & via Zoom
April 17 th	Maundy Thursday Service 7 PM in person & via Zoom
April 20 th	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 - \$12.00 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 6, 2025. 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 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	3	4 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	5 Ash Wednesday	6	7	8
9 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	10	11 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	12 AARP	13 Council Trustee/Board Meetings	14	15
16 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	19	20	21	22 Spring Vendor Fair Boy Scout Radio Bingo
23 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	24	25 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	26	27	28	29
30 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	31					

Sunday Prayer List

New

- ✝ Sonja- had an ablation on her heart and had a complication. She's home but pray for her recovery
- ✝ Sandra (James, Dorothy's son's girlfriend) died in early March. Pray for her family and for Dorothy as she was like a daughter in law to her.

Continued-

- ✝ Baby Hazel- has neuroblastoma. Pray for her family- and doctors as far as treatment.
- ✝ Warren- Ann Haakonsen's brother- was at Clove Lakes now he's home.
- ✝ Gerd- Lyn's friend- was in car accident- had 4th surgery. Dealing with depression issues now that he's not as sedated.
- ✝ Ed's cousin Ronnie's wife Marie fell over her dog and needs pins put in her wrist.
- ✝ Naomi's son Stephen. For mental stability and healing.
- ✝ DonnaMarie's daughter Christina- having surgery at RUMC. Pray for her recovery.
- ✝ Michael- Dorothy's son having medical problems.
- ✝ Friends of Adrienne Liana after her death
- ✝ Matthius family in the loss of Barbara
- ✝ Colucci family in the loss of Sam.
- ✝ Dorothy & the Coffey family in the loss of James.
- ✝ Ronnie Nestle- someone at the organ concert who requested prayer.
- ✝ Roland- his health.
- ✝ Mauro- Roland's friend in ICU with heart problems. Pray that he has opportunities to talk about Jesus.
- ✝ Tom- cancer is growing again. Pray for the treatment change and that his body can tolerate it.
- ✝ Eric- Roland's best friend- has only 1 kidney and now it's not working. It's only working at 25%.
- ✝ Jennifer & Omar- pray that God reveals to them the "what's next".
- ✝ Rosalie- in cancer treatment and has been so sick, and she fell and fractured her finger so she's in a cast and bruised.
- ✝ Donnamaries mom (Mary) put in palliative care. Cardiologist says it won't be long in her medical condition. Pray God opens her heart and doesn't allow her to suffer.
- ✝ Marilyn Pederson- cancer in her ankle.
- ✝ Jimmy- Dorothy's grandson. Living with her (and Michael) but needs an apartment.
- ✝ 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!
- ✝ Caroline's (from above) Dad was just diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer
- ✝ Charlie Buchanan- Katie Myers FIL- had surgery, is positive for cancer.
- ✝ 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.
- ✝ 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
- ✝ Rosemary- Genes sister, pray for complete recovery.
- ✝ Anne Haakonsen's mom- for health and strength.

