



THE Lamplighter



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

PIXELPERFECTBLOG.COM

LOOKING AHEAD

December

- 5th Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 6th Zion Christmas Outreach Concert
- 6th/7th Troop Christmas Tree Sale
- 7th Craft & Vendor Show
- 14th Christmas Organ Concert 6:00 pm
- 24th Christmas Eve Service 11:00 AM
- 25th Christmas Day
- 31st New Year's Eve

January

- 1st New Year's Day
- 2nd Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 6th Epiphany
- 8th AARP
- 19th Congregational Meeting
- 20th MLK, Jr. Day



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

Greeting in The Name of Jesus Christ,

I simply wanted to take this opportunity to speak a blessing over you during this most beautiful and meaningful time of year. Are you prepared for a month of what is generally a time of “hustle and bustle” and what is oftentimes easy to get caught up in the many activities of the season?

Crowded malls, out-of-control parties, tipsy Christmas trees, stretched-to-the-limit credit cards — there are some signs of the season we would gladly do without. As we ease ourselves into what has become the seasons norm, it is also easy to fail to truly enjoy the significance of what Christmas is all about.

Sometimes I wonder whether the puritans had it right when they outlawed what they referred to as “the pagan practice of Christmas” in America. Imagine what it would be like to skip Christmas completely. It's kind of tempting, don't you think? By leaping over this stressful season, you may have a shot at experiencing peace on earth, good will to all, and maybe even a Silent Night.

In 2002, the John Grisham book entitled *Skipping Christmas* was released. Two years later, Hollywood released its adaptation of the Grisham novel entitled “Christmas with the Kranks”. The story is about a man who is furious over the fact that his family spent over \$6,000 on gifts the previous Christmas, and now they have nothing to show for it. With his daughter in the Peace Corps, he convinces his wife to join him in skipping Christmas for the current year and use the money for a Caribbean cruise. They decide to not participate in any of the “pomp and circumstance” of the Christmas season, the parties, the Christmas tree, the lights, the Christmas Eve bash and any participation in the neighborhood decorating contest — one in which all the neighbors adorn their roofs with identical Frosty the Snowman's. The plot line is about how all of the neighbors of the Kranks react. The Kranks later discover the enormous consequence of their decision as their plan begins to unravel.

Their story concludes with a lesson for all of us: we can still participate in all of the “pomp and circumstance” of the Christmas season by participating in the parties, the lights on the leaning tree, the Christmas Eve gatherings, as well as fulfilling your obligation in making all of the purchases on the shopping lists and skip the Christmas hype.

This Christmas season, let the words of the hymn ‘Joy to the World’ ring true as we ‘*Let our heart prepare Him room*’. This year it is my prayer that you allow the Lord to fill you with all of the peace and joy that He offers; that you choose in the midst of the hustle and bustle to create a place in your heart that is reserved for His dwelling. Like the wise men that journeyed afar, it is our desire that this holiday season you experience a time of worship to Christ, and that the greatest gift you receive this season is the gift of a right relationship with the Crucified and Resurrected Lord of Life. And that the best gift that you give this year is one which you share with others: the only hope of God that began through the wonder of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World.

Your Servant for Jesus' Sake and have a very Merry Christmas,

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

12/2	Bill Walsh	12/24	Keith Latella
	Lianne Elizabeth Walsh	12/26	Robert Thomas
12/8	Randall Koerner	12/29	Mark Iken
12/15	Ronald Coyne	12/31	Elizabeth Blissenbach
12/18	Barbara Brower Orlando		
12/19	Kevin Henningsen		
12/21	James Coffey		
	Lee Kramer		

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 January Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, December 20th. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net.

Council Update

The Council has welcomed Donnamarie Fulco to the Church Board. Donnamarie started attending IUC in the summer of 2014. At that time we had an exercise class in the lounge weekly. Jennifer Madbouly was walking in the neighborhood regularly as was Donnamarie, so she stopped her one day and invited her to the exercise class. Then after attending the class, Ann Haakonsen (who delivered her SI Advance every day) and Jennifer invited her to attend our Bible Study. Donnamarie religiously had attended the Roman Catholic Church but attended Bible study at IUC and found Jesus. From that day forward, she has faithfully attended Sunday School, Worship and Bible Study weekly and she always serves our Church with joy and a smile. We are thankful that Donnamarie has a strong relationship with Jesus and that she has decided to serve in leadership. Welcome Donnamarie!

December 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	2	3	4	5 Council Trustee/Board Meetings	6	7 Vendor Craft & Flea Market
8 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	9	10 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	11	12	13	14 Christmas Organ Concert
15 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	16	17 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	18	19	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 11:00 AM	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	30	31 New Year's Eve				



Below you will find a form to use when ordering your Christmas Poinsettias for the Altar. Please include your check made payable to Immanuel Union Church with your order, and send it along to 693 Jewett Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314, Attn: Poinsettias.

The list of names will be published in the January Lamplighter.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - \$15.00 PER PLANT

ENCLOSED IS \$_____ FOR _____ PLANTS.

DONOR _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

OR IN HONOR OF _____

PLEASE INDICATE:

() My flowers may be given to shut-ins.

() I will pick up my flowers after the service.

The deadline for ordering Poinsettia Plants is December 6, 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.

Annual Congregational

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19th. This is an extremely important meeting, so please plan on attending. Anyone who needs to submit reports please do so by January 8th.

Christmas Events

Please join us to celebrate the following events:

- ✧ **December 6/7 The Boy Scout Christmas Tree Sale.**
- ✧ **December 14th Christmas Organ Concert 6:00 PM**
- ✧ **December 24th Christmas Eve Service 11:00 APM**



We look forward to celebrating with everyone!

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

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ORGAN CONCERT



CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

Immanuel Union Church

Saturday, Dec 14th at 6:00 pm

Concert Performed by
Trent Whisenant

Director of Music & Organist
at Trinity Lutheran Church
Stapleton, Staten Island



Featuring Immanuel's Magnificent Pipe Organ

Immanuel Union Church | 693 Jewett Avenue | (718) 448-1584

Sunday Prayer List

New

- ✝ Mauro- Roland's friend in ICU with heart problems.
- ✝ 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%

Continued-

- ✝ Anne Holland- having severe side pain. Doctor thinks it's muscular but she's needing to rest for it. Pray she recovers quickly.
- ✝ Danielle- Ann Haakonsen's niece had gallbladder surgery, and is on the mend. Pray for full healing.
- ✝ Tara- Lyn's daughter has a pinched nerve in her back - pray that physical therapy helps her pain.
- ✝ Jennifer & Omar- pray that God reveals to them the "what's next"?
- ✝ Ed- continue to draw close to Jesus and not be a coward.
- ✝ 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. Pray for peace
- ✝ Marilyn Pederson- cancer in her ankle.
- ✝ James- Dorothy's son back in ICU with heart problems, pray for his healing and wisdom as the doctors treat him.
- ✝ Michael- Dorothy's son for his health.
- ✝ Jimmy- Dorothy's grandson. Living with her (and Michael) but needs an apartment.
- ✝ Czarina- we prayed for Czarinas 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 & Adrienne Lianna- at Eger. Pray for their health & spirit.
- ✝ Sam Colucci & Barbara Matthius- health and strength, pray for Nancy & Bunny, and the aides that care for them.
- ✝ Stephen- Naomi's son, pray he will continue his meds and will be emotionally stable.
- ✝ Rosemary- Genes sister, pray for complete recovery.
- ✝ Anne Haakonsen's mom- for health and strength.
- ✝ 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-

