



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)

April

- 2nd Palm Sunday
- 6th Maundy Thursday
Council/Trustee/Board Mtgs.
- 7th Good Friday
- 9th Easter Sunday
- 12th AARP
- 29th Book Fair

May

- 4th Maundy Thursday
Council/Trustee/Board Mtgs.
- 10th AARP
- 14th Mother's Day
- 18th Ascension Thursday
- 28th Pentecost Sunday
- 29th Memorial 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

Spring Greetings to All of You,

In 1998 Burger King published a full-page advertisement in *USA Today* announcing the introduction of a new item to their menu: a "Left-Handed Whopper" specially designed for the 32 million left-handed Americans. According to the advertisement, the new whopper included the same ingredients as the original Whopper (lettuce, tomato, hamburger patty, etc.), but all the condiments were rotated 180 degrees for the benefit of their left-handed customers.

The following day Burger King issued a follow-up release revealing that although the Left-Handed Whopper was a hoax, thousands of customers had gone into restaurants to request the new sandwich. Simultaneously, according to the press release, "many others requested their own 'right-handed' version."

This story was of course the result of an elaborate April Fool's Day prank. All of us at one time or another in moments of gullible weakness have fallen victim to an April Fool's Day prank. Often it comes because of forgetting what date it is. We are told a story which we believe, only to hear the words "April Fools" yelled in a loud enthusiastic voice.

It is difficult to trace how April Fool's Day originated, but it seems to relate to the date of the New Year under the Julian calendar.

Before the introduction of the Gregorian calendar by Pope Gregory I in 1582 AD, New Years Day was on March 25th with celebrations which lasted for about eight days! These ended on April 1st, possibly at 12 noon. This may be why trick playing is supposed to cease at 12 noon on April 1st.

The custom appears to have originated in France, where people traditionally exchanged New Year gifts on April 1st. After the adoption of the new calendar, many people held on to the old traditions despite ridicule by the more progressive members of society. They became the butts of jokes, which gradually extended to the whole community playing tricks on each other such as sending apprentices on useless errands.

Ordinarily when we apply the word, fool to someone we are saying that this person is somehow mentally deficient. When the word, fool is used in the Scriptures, most of the time it speaks of someone who has a moral problem.

For instance, in Ps 14:1 we read: ***The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.***

This means that when someone devotes their life to doing that which is corrupt and vile, they are making a declaration that as far as they are concerned, "God does not exist" and therefore they are not living in a wise way, but rather in a life fit for a fool.

Pastor's Letter (con't)

In 1 Corinthians 1:18 Paul is declaring the same thing when he speaks of the cross of Jesus Christ. Most people, when they hear of the preaching of the cross, look at it as being dull, drab and moronic. They think that a man who was executed over 2000 years ago for the crime of insurrection, in a city and culture that is completely foreign to them, should have any impact in the way they live their life as a 21st Century person is at the least ridiculous.

Paul goes onto to say that one's reaction to the preaching of the cross of Jesus Christ, diagnosis a person's spiritual condition. In another words, a person's reaction to the proclamation of the cross of Jesus Christ reveals whether he or she is living according to the power of God for their salvation or living as a fool fit for destruction.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

In the wake of this Easter season, let us use this time to contemplate and reflect as to whether you truly believe that what happened at Calvary was really the greatest event in the history of the world and the greatest event in the history of your life, or just some April Fool's Day joke.

Remember the rest of the story. That is Jesus was crucified by man for insurrection, but three days later vindicated by God through resurrection.

Happy Spring Reflections!

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

From the Church Council

The Council is pleased that we have returned to in person worship last Sunday and extends a special thanks to Bunny Matthius, Nancy Myers and Bonnie Rogers for the planning and efforts for the Spring Awakening Silver Tea we had after the Palm Sunday service as well as thanks to all those who contributed goodies for it. It was a great time of fellowship and delicious food, thanks to all of you!

Thanks to Diane Pillarella for her continued music ministry to us every Sunday, but especially her willingness to come and play in person for us for Easter Sunday! Thank you Diane.

Thanks to Paul & Paulie Blissenbach (for doing all the labor gratis) and the Scouts of Troop 2 (for paying for the fixtures & bulbs) for the new lighting in the Church hall, as well as in the Sanctuary. Our building is bright and welcoming and we are grateful for their blessing to us! Thank you.

Volunteers are needed to work the April 29th Book Fair. Anyone wishing to volunteer please call the church office at 718 448-1584.

We have gotten estimates to repair the roof so that our racoon problems will soon be behind us. We hope the repairs will be done by next month.

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

13 th	Helen Latella
17 th	Sam Colucci
20 th	Bonnie Rogers
25 th	Cynthia Wambold
26 th	Samantha Myers
27 th	Christopher Maule

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 May Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, April 21st. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net.

Mark Your Calendars



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.

From the Planning Committee...

The Planning Committee continues to meet the second Thursday of the month to provide ongoing support and direction for the Council.

As the first quarter of the year comes to a close, the Committee is pleased to sponsor Immanuel's "Spring Awakening" as we welcome each other back to worship, fellowship, and, church activities. A Silver Tea Reception offering lite fare will be provided immediately following our church service. Come back to church, stay for a snack, and enjoy some fellowship as we re-engage.

A recap of the Committee's first quarter progress includes:

- **Successful dollar sale**—the February dollar sale allowed us to reduce our clutter and bring in additional revenue. Between sold items, raffles, and kitchen offerings, the event realized approximately \$1,000. And, the lounge looks a lot neater!
- **March Vendor Fair**—the March vendor fair was a sold out event with over 40 vendors. Despite the inclement weather, the gym was bustling with shoppers. This year table prices were increased by \$5 to \$40, the first increase since inception. The event realized \$2,500 with table donations, church table, and the incredible efforts of the kitchen comprised of Donna Tecarr and her granddaughters Marissa and Elsie.
- **Ladies Room Refresh**—the ladies room is undergoing a much needed overhaul! Windows have been washed and new curtains donated. New flooring is on the horizon.

Heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all who volunteered to make these events a success

On the horizon:

- Planning is underway for the **April Book Sale (April 29)** and **June Garage Sale (June 17)**.
- To provide a head start to fall, contracts for the **autumn and holiday vendor fairs** have been distributed to existing vendors to be followed by a broader mailing.
- **Church facility clean-up day**—while events and rentals are very welcomed, foot traffic and usage take a toll on the building and facility. Additionally, with so many "in and out", it impacts organization and tidiness. A dedicated day for "spring cleaning" is being considered. While the scouts will be assisting with outdoor clean-up, volunteers are needed to help organize and eliminate some of the "dust bunnies."
- Discussion is underway for holiday concert events to be held in our sanctuary—so "stay tuned" as these plans unfold.

The Planning Committee is dedicated to the perpetuity of our Church to provide spiritual guidance and support to its members and community. New Committee Members are welcomed!

Respectfully submitted,
Bunny Matthius

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Palm Sunday Sunday School 9:00 Church Service in person & via zoom 10:00	3	4 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	5	6 Maundy Thursday Council/Board & Trustee Meetings	7 Good Friday	8 Holy Saturday
9 Easter Sunday Sunday School 9:00 Church Service in person & via zoom 10:00	10	11 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	12 AARP	13	14	15
16 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service in person & via zoom 10:00	17	18 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	19	20	21	22
23 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service in person & via zoom 10:00	24	25 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	26	27	28	29 Book Fair
30 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service in person & via zoom 10:00						

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



New

- † Victor- DonnaMarie's grandson was supposed to have surgery last Tuesday to remove the tumor that grew back but was sick, surgery is now scheduled for April 25th. Pray he & the family stay healthy.
- † Liz Iken- out of the hospital, now at Eger for rehab. Pray for her full recovery and ability to return home.
- † Dorothy's son James' girlfriend Sandra is having surgery for eye cancer in May.

Continued-

- † Sam Colucci - home, having good & bad days.
- † Nancy Myers- pray for strength for her as she's living with Sam to care for her.
- † Barbara Matthius- pray for her health.
- † Bunny Matthius- pray for strength as she takes care of Barbara.
- † Jan Wiggins & Mary (DonnaMarie's mom) are at Sunrise. Jan is having more confusion.
- † Adrienne at Eger- pray for her health and spirit.
- † Dorothy & Anne and their families in the loss of Ray & Jack.
- † Howard's mom's friend- Anna's family as they grieve her death.
- † Myers family after the death of Christine.
- † Elizabeth & her husband after the death of their 18 month old due to choking. They also have a newborn.
- † Sonja- home recovering from pneumonia
- † Lauren- Pastor's cousin's granddaughter- 6 years old just diagnosed with leukemia, and is home after a month of hospital treatment.
- † Liz' friend Helene- adjustment to the colostomy.
- † Karen Kuhls grandson Joey- had a motorcycle accident back in early December. Getting around with a walker and his brain function is fully returned. Pray for his complete physical healing, especially after the next surgery he has to have.
- † 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. On new meds- pray for no side effects
- † Mike- 51 year old just diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. His parents in their 80's are devastated.
- † Nancy's niece Heather who is diagnosed with breast cancer was in the hospital with pneumonia - has twins 5 year old and a 3.5 year old. Pray as she continues treatment.
- † 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-