



LOOKING AHEAD

December

- 1st First Sunday of Advent
- 5th Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 6th/7th Boy Scout Christmas Tree Sale
- 7th Craft Fair
- 11th AARP
- 18th Tall Cedars
- 20th Pack Night
- 22nd Christmas Celebration & Cookies
- 24th Christmas Eve Service 11 PM
- 25th Christmas Day (office closed)
- 29th Congregational Budget Meeting
- 31st New Year's Eve

January

- 1st New Year's Day (office closed)
- 2nd Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 6th Epiphany
- 8th AARP
- 20th MLK, Jr. Day (office closed)
- 22nd Tall Cedars
- 25th Pinewood Derby
- 26th Annual Congregational Meeting



Immanuel Union Church

693 Jewett Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10314
718-448-1584

December 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 | | |

Coffee Hour



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- Boy Scout Tree Sale
- Christmas Celebration
- Christmas Eve Service

December

- 1st Trustees
- 8th Church Board
- 15th Tuesday Evening Bible Study
- 22nd Christmas Celebration & Cookies
- 29th Adult Fellowship

January

- 5th Trustees
- 12th Church Board
- 19th Tuesday Evening Bible Study
- 26th Congregational Meeting & Potluck

From the Pastor's Desk

To All Who Long For His Appearance,

There is a story of a Scottish fishing vessel returning home after many days at sea. As they neared the shore, the sailors gazed eagerly toward the dock where a group of their loved ones had gathered. The skipper looked through his binoculars and identified some of them: *"I see Bill's Mary, and there is Tom's Margaret and David's Anne."* One man became concerned because his wife was not there. Later, he left the boat with a heavy heart and hurried up the hill to his cottage. As he opened the door, she ran to meet him, saying, *"I have been waiting for you!"* He replied with a gently rebuke, *"Yes, but the other men's wives were WATCHING for them."*

The first Sunday of December begins the Season of Advent which marks the beginning of the Church calendar. Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. In all of God's people exists a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world. This is reflected through the cries of the Israelite slaves in Egypt as they out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard the cries of oppressed slaves and brought deliverance!

It is that hope which brings the people of God the anticipation of a King who will rule over them with truth and justice and righteousness. It is that hope that once anticipated, and now anticipates anew, the reign of the Anointed One, the Messiah, who will bring peace and justice and righteousness to this fallen world.

Part of the expectation also anticipates a judgment on sin and a calling of the world to accountability before God. We long for God to come and set the world right! Yet, as the prophet Amos warned, the expectation of a coming judgment at the *"Day of the Lord"* may not be the day of light that we might want, because the penetrating light of God's judgment on sin will shine just as brightly on God's people.

The season of Advent has come to be celebrated more in terms of expectation or anticipation. Yet, the anticipation of the coming of the Messiah throughout the history of Judaism was not in connection with remembrance of sins. Rather, it was in the context of oppression and injustice, the longing for redemption, not from personal guilt and sin but from the systemic evil of the world expressed in evil empires and tyrants. It is in that sense that all creation groans for its redemption as we witness the evil that so dominates our world (Rom 8:18-25).

From the Pastor's Desk (con't)

Of course, there is the problem of longing for vindication from an evil world when we are contributors to that evil. This is the power of the images of Amos when he warns about longing for the "*Day of the Lord*" that will really be a day of darkness (Amos 5:18-20). Still, even with Amos' warning the time of Advent is one of expectation and anticipation, a longing for God's actions to restore all things and vindicate the righteous. This is why during Advent Christians also anticipate the Second Coming as a twin theme of the season. So for the Christian who longs for the return of Jesus it is a time filled with a joyous sense of expectancy as we await the coming of our King.

I find it of great interest that the church year begins on the first Sunday of Advent. The year begins with great jubilation as it focuses on the Messiah's arrival in Advent which then slowly fades into somber reflection which focuses on what we have done to the very one whose arrival we have so eagerly anticipated, on Good Friday. And through that reflection we can finally be ready to hear the Good News of the Gospel on Resurrection Sunday! So there is great profit in following the church year from that perspective!

So, we celebrate with gladness the great promise in the Advent, yet knowing that there is also a serious tone as the theme of threat is added to the theme of promise. This is reflected in some of the Scripture readings for Advent, in which there is a strong prophetic tone of accountability and judgment on sin. But this is also faithful to the role of the Coming King who comes to redeem and rule over His people, and finally implement judgment upon this sinful world.

Because of the dual themes of threat and promise, Advent is a time of preparation that is marked by prayer. Advent's prayers are prayers of humble devotion and commitment, prayers of submission, prayers for deliverance, prayers from those walking in darkness that are awaiting and anticipating a great light (Isa 9)!

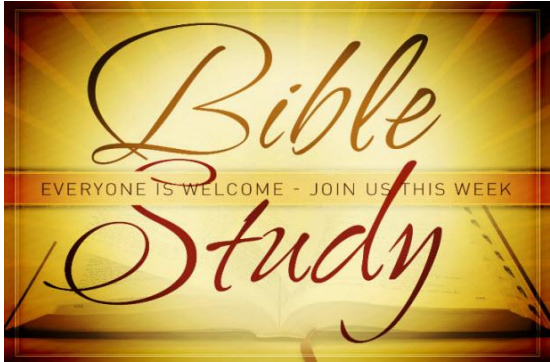
The spirit of Advent is expressed well in the parable of the bridesmaids who are anxiously awaiting the coming of the Bridegroom (Matt 25:1-13). There is profound joy at the Bridegroom's expected coming. And yet a warning of the need for preparation echoes through the parable. But even then, the prayer of Advent is still:

Come, O Come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel!

May Your Longing for God Be Fully Satisfied through His Son, our Emmanuel,

Pastor Charlie

Bible Studies



The Sunday School series discussing the concerns of those who attend will be held on Sundays, at 9:00 AM in the workroom. Sunday School is canceled December 1st and 8th and will resume on December 15th.

The Tuesday evening Bible Study is held in the workroom at 6:30 PM. Bible Study is canceled on December 3rd and resume on December 10th.

Congregational Budget Meeting

There will be a Congregational Budget Meeting on Sunday, December 29th following the 10:00 a.m. Service. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the 2020 Budget. This is an extremely important meeting, so please plan on attending.

Christmas Events

Please join us to celebrate the following events:

- ✧ December 6/7 The Boy Scout Christmas Tree Sale.
- ✧ December 22nd during the 10:00 a.m. service our Annual Christmas program. Afterward there will be Christmas cookies and beverages in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour.
- ✧ December 24th Christmas Eve Service at 11:00 PM. All are urged to attend with their families.



We look forward to celebrating with everyone!

Mark Your Calendars

Holiday Arts & Craft Flea Market

The Holiday Arts & Craft Flea Market will be held on Saturday, December 7th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you would like to reserve a table, contact Sam Colucci. Come out to support this event and enjoy some Christmas shopping and lunch.



Congregational Budget Meeting

Held December 29th immediately following the Church Service to approve the 2020 Budget. This is an extremely important meeting, so please plan on attending. We will conclude with a potluck luncheon.



Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26th following the 10:00 a.m. Service. This will be followed by a Potluck Luncheon. Reports for the Annual Report should be submitted by January 5th as the Annual Report will be distributed a week early to give to the Congregation an opportunity to study the Report for January 26th.



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Church Service 10:00	2	3	4	5 Council/Board/ Trustee Meetings	6 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Boy Scout Tree Sale</div>	7 Craft Fair & Flea Market
8 Church Service 10:00	9	10 Bible Study 6:30	11 AARP	12	13	14
15 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	16	17 Bible Study 6:30	18 Tall Cedars	19	20	21
22 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00 Christmas Celebration	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 11 PM	25 Christmas Day <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Office Closed</div>	26	27	28
29 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00 Budget Meeting	30	31 Bible Study 6:30 New Year's Eve				

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias



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, N.Y. 10314, Attn: Sam Colucci. The list of names will be published in the January

Lamplighter.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - \$11.00 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 8, 2019. 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.

Boy Scout Christmas Tree Sale



Boy Scout Troop #2
Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale
Friday, December 6th 5:00 PM
Saturday, December 7th 9:00 AM
In the Church Parking Lot
Please Support Our Troop!

Church News



Reserve Altar Flowers now through the end of 2020. A flower chart is on the bulletin board at the back of the Church Hall. Sign up on a Sunday. The price is \$25. Please indicate whether or not

you are going to take your flowers or if they should go to a shut-in.

If you are not currently receiving offering envelopes and wish to be included, please contact the church office at 718-448-1584.

Information for the January Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, December 13th. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net. Thank you.

Need to talk? Want spiritual counsel? Have an emergency? If so, you can reach Pastor Charlie through the Church office from Monday through Thursday (8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) at 718-448-1584. If you have an urgent matter off-hours, call Charlie's cell phone: 718-290-3726. If there is no answer, leave a message and he will reply. He is usually off on Friday; however, if you have a need, he is always available- any time, day or night. Please don't hesitate to call him!

How you can help the Hungry and Homeless:

Help Re-stock Food Pantries: non-perishable boxed or canned food items are needed: canned meat, tuna, vegetables, and fruits, rice and instant potatoes, tomato sauce and pasta, macaroni and cheese, canned and instant soups, peanut butter and jellies, baby foods and disposable diapers. No glass jars, please. When you come to Church on Sundays, you can place donations in our Food Basket. Thank you all for sharing.

FYI – Richmond Senior Services has relocated to 729 Delafield Avenue, between Clove Road and Taylor Street.

Prayer List

Please keep the following:

Health Issues:

Baldini Family
Laney Dahl
Carina DeGiulio
Karen McCarthy
Jason Proceszyn
Jan Wiggin
Alan Yurich

Serving our Country:

Matthew Ciccone, USMC
Grand-nephew of Ann Holland

Shut-Ins:

Ethel Thomas

in your prayers!!!

If you would like to be on the Prayer List or would like to add someone, please call Gina in the Church Office at 718 448-1584.

