



THE Lamplighter



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

PIXELPERFECTBLOG.COM

LOOKING AHEAD

(Tentative Dates)

December

- 2nd Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 4th Holiday Craft Fair
- 10th – 11th Boy Scout Tree Sale
- 19th Christmas Service
- 24th Christmas Eve Service 11:00 PM
- 25th Christmas Day
- 31st New Year's Eve

January

- 1st New Year's Day
- 2nd Lord's Supper
- 6th Epiphany
- Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- ? Annual Congregational Meeting



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 to all whose hope in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Once again, we are coming to that special time of the year when we commemorate the wonder of the incarnation. Briefly stated, the incarnation was when the Lord Jesus Christ, the creator of everything, stepped out of Heaven and forever took on human flesh, making Him fully God and fully man. Since the history of mankind it is one of the most relevant events, since it makes Him the perfect mediator between a Holy God and sinful man.

The writer of Hebrews in chapter 4 reminds us of this gracious blessing, *"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

As I sit writing this letter, in Covid quarantine, I fight the urge in asking "why me God?" So, it finally caught up with us. After evading Covid for almost 3 years it finally caught up us.. Our daughter Sarah recently gave birth to our fifth grandbaby. She reached out for help in preparing for our family Thanksgiving celebration. Leslie and I immediately went to her house so we could take care of the kids while Sarah baked.

By Wednesday, Sarah was informed that many members of their church tested positive so she and Jon tested and both were positive. In fact Jon's entire family tested positive as well as the majority of their church eventually tested positive. Sarah and her father in law were both been admitted to the hospital. Sarah's FIL (the Pastor of the Church) is now discharged, and when Sarah went to the hospital, Leslie left for Sarah's to take care of the baby and help Jon with the kids. Sarah was just put on a ventilator 2 days ago, and now I REALLY have to fight the "why us, Lord".

I'd like to share a verse that we do not associate with Christmas, but I believe it is relevant, especially in light of life's uncertainties.

John 10:10 -The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Pastor's Letter (2)

This Pandemic has really impacted us on so many levels. I remember the solidarity that we experienced in the wake of the dreadful day we call 9/11. People of all walks of life, even politicians were actually civil towards one another.

This Pandemic has caused so much division about the various opinions of how things should or should not be. It's hard to imagine things could be more divided at the same time, but it seems the enemy is doing all he can to "*divide and conquer*."

In John 10:10 Jesus declares the powerful truth that *He came not just for the future hope of eternal life, but for the present enjoyment of an abundant life.*

The joy of a filled life here, will be a sampling of that sweet day when we take our final breath on earth, we take our first breath in eternal glory.

The message of Christmas is breath and life to all who believe! It is our privilege to reflect before a world gone mad, that Jesus reigns over our life.

Living that abundant life implies and gives us the ability to not get caught up in the trappings of this world, and gives to all who are hurting while presenting Jesus as the only antidote for our sick souls.

Solomon wrote in Proverbs 18:21 that, *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.*

Jesus came to bring life to a lost and dying world, yet it's our privilege to herald the message of the Angels! In Luke 2:11, *Today in the City of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!* He never will leave you or disappoint you.

This year our Christmas Eve service will be on Zoom at 11 p.m. December 24, have a candle or a light of some kind. Please join us online to celebrate the birth of our Immanuel.

If you have Facebook and are interested in praying and getting updates concerning our daughter Sarah- search for the page "Praying for Sarah". Please put her on your Church prayer list or prayer chain if you aren't local and pray with us for her complete healing.

Your Servant for Jesus Sake,

Pastor Charlie

Sunday Worship & Bible Studies



Sunday Church Service is in person & via zoom at 10:00 AM. Check IUC's Facebook page for current topics. Like us on Facebook.

The Sunday School series is suspended for the time being. The Tuesday evening Bible Study will be held via zoom at 6:30.

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)

+1 929 436 2866,,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

This month we were able to fix the boiler with the donated monies that had come in so far (thanks to all of you for your generous donations). Thanks also to Paul Blissenbach who suggested his friend who owns Quinlan . The quote they gave was almost \$10,000 less than the other 2 companies that put in a bid. God was gracious to give us enough money to cover the boiler (thank you to all those who donated), so those of you who will be in person on Sunday, the Sanctuary will be warm and have heat! Praise the Lord.

The other exciting news is that there is a Church plant out of Brooklyn, Zion Church, that is interested in holding services at IUC. At first they were interested in the Sanctuary, but currently they seem more focused on holding service on Sunday morning in the gym. Once approved by the council they would be putting in lighting, sound and even Air Conditioning which will really benefit our Church because the gym would become rentable space during the heat of the summer. They would also be fully upgrading the nursery.

The Council also decided to move the Christmas Eve service to Zoom instead of in person. Since cases are rising so much and Churches are getting hit so hard with superspreading Delta, we just thought it best to move to Zoom. We are still watching cases and we do keep the option on the table to go fully to zoom if necessary. We will of course keep you all informed.

A Very Special Thank You

To all who contributed to a very successful annual Church Fair in November, heartfelt thanks. This year's Fair was the first since 2019, and due to continued pandemic concerns, our kitchen and lunchroom were put on pause.

Immanuel's Fair is not only a part of its long history, it is also a mainstay in the community, an event that is looked forward with anticipation and which, not only the surrounding community, but the island, supports. It is as much a part of Immanuel as its "way of life" and other traditions—i.e., its regular worship services, as well as special services on secular holidays, its altar arrangements of poinsettias and lilies, Advent and holiday services, coffee hour (in non-pandemic times!), long-standing affiliation and support of groups such as the Boy Scouts, and a beacon of hope and continuity with its daily chimes. It is also its largest, and most important, fund-raiser of the year.

An event such as the Fair would not be possible without the planning, guidance, participation and support of many. We are grateful to the Planning Committee, Council and many members and non-members who made significant contributions to the Fair's success. To John, Mel, Roland and John Myers who set-up, sorted and sold books, Nancy W-W for serving as our much-needed treasurer, Bonnie and members of the Staten Island Garden Club for their expertise at the plant table, Karen McCarthy and Roseanne Sorensen who provided and managed the baked goods table, Donnamarie for her outstanding raffle baskets, Lillian Crowl for providing much needed assistance as a mainstay at the raffle table, Dan who repaired, hung decorations and managed a table, the Jacobsen Family—Laurie McAuliffe and Jill Jacobsen Guerra for all their help in setting up during "Fair Week" and managing the Christmas booth, and for once again donating the lottery tree raffle and Jimmy Max gift certificates, Sonja for set-up and managing greeting cards, Annie for once-again managing the "boutique", Gene for set-up, hanging decorations, sound system, creating and producing our many flyers, and organizing behind the scenes, Donna and her family for managing "Toyland", to Sam for running the dishwasher numerous times to make sure that our attic treasures were sparkling, and for being "supervisor emeritus"!, to Pastor Charlie and Leslie for their support with baked goods, soups and chili and for feeding the "crew", and finally to all those who offered baked or home-made items or who came out to support the Fair. All in all, it couldn't have been done without any of you and we are eternally grateful. We wish you, and yours, a joyous and happy holiday season.

Yours in Christ,

Bunny Matthius and Nancy Myers, Co-Chairs

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

- | | | | |
|-------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 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 | | |

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

- Coffee Hour is held virtually after the Sunday Service.
- To order Altar Flowers to honor or memorialize your loved ones please call the Church Office.
- Offering envelopes are available, please contact the Church Office if you are interested.
- 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 17th. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net. Any feedback on the new format is appreciated. Thank you.

Mark Your Calendar

➤ December 4th Craft and Vendor Show

Pending Covid Regulations

We will continue to monitor and adhere to all pandemic regulations, guidelines, and safety measures, and make any adjustments necessary or required.



- ❖ Anyone who would like volunteer for the December 4th Craft or Vendor show, please contact Bunny Matthius (973) 214-6048 via call or text.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The date for the Annual Congregational Meeting will be announced, the 2022 Budget will be approved at this time as well. This is an extremely important meeting, so please plan on attending.

Christmas Events

Please join us to celebrate the following events:

- * December 10/11 The Boy Scout Christmas Tree Sale.
- * December 19th during the 10:00 a.m. service our Annual Christmas program in person and via Zoom.
- * December 24th Christmas Eve Service at 11:00 PM via Zoom. Everyone is urged to attend



We look forward to celebrating with everyone!

Boiler Fund

\$50,000 Goal

\$19,537 raised!!

We hope that this note finds Immanuel Union's church family, friends and loved ones healthy, safe and well.

Whether you worship with us in-person or via Zoom, or simply enjoy Immanuel's daily bell chimes and events, you are no doubt aware of the toll that the COVID pandemic has taken on many businesses, organizations and institutions. Sadly, Immanuel Union has also been negatively impacted.

While we have all experienced many shops, restaurants, and businesses closing, Immanuel is committed to staying the course as we find our way back from the pandemic into a more promising future.

Due to the loss of income from our annual Church Fair, craft and vendor shows, and donations from the many groups, organizations, and gatherings, our coffers are in dire need of support to replace the boiler in our aged heating system, and to make much-needed repairs to our historic stained glass, and roof easements.

Whether you are an active member, live at a distance and are now part of our extended church family, or are a neighborhood friend of the Church, we're sure that you have fond memories of time spent at Immanuel. As an update, we are pleased to announce that late last year, Immanuel Union Church was recognized as an historic sacred site in the United States, and is now listed on the National Historic Registry. It is our goal to continue to provide the meaningful spiritual guidance and activities to our church members, extended members, and the broader Westerleigh community into perpetuity.

We have initiated an appeal to raise \$50,000 to replace our heating system, and any extra raised for stained glass repair and roof easements. We hope you will consider contributing to this worthy undertaking.

Your contribution is gratefully appreciated and is tax deductible.

We can't thank everyone who donated enough for their generosity.

December 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Council/Board/ Trustee Meetings	3	4 Holiday Craft Fair
5 Church Service in person & via zoom 10:00 The Lord's Supper	6	7 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	8	9	10	11
					Boy Scout Tree Sale	
12 Church Service in person & via zoom 10:00	13	14 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	15	16	17	18
19 Church Service in person & via zoom 10:00 Christmas Service	20	21 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 11 PM via Zoom	25 Christmas Day
26 Church Service in person & via zoom 10:00	27	28 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	

God is Everywhere and so is IUC

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



Boy Scout Troop #2
Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale
Friday, December 10th 5:00 PM
Saturday, December 11th 9:00 AM
In the Church Parking Lot
Please Support Our Troop!

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

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - \$12.00 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 19, 2021. 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.

Prayer List



Praise-

- ✝ Those displaced due to fires have housing.
- ✝ Anne Holland's daughter Larna doing better.
- ✝ Karen Kuhl's daughter Allyson in remission.
- ✝ Jon Comis' dad is home after battling Covid.

New-

- ✝ Saviel- 1.5 year old who is having stomach surgery on 1/3/22
- ✝ Sarah (Baldini) Comis- in hospital on a ventilator with Covid pneumonia. Healing prayers for entire Comis family. Pray for baby Jonathan who is 7 weeks old.
- ✝ Faith Community Church & Zion Church Pastor, leadership and members with Covid.
- ✝ Anne Holland's friend Dr Kim who has myasthenia Gravis and difficult days
- ✝ Dorothy- who was back to Church, continued healing and for her family.
- ✝ Adrienne- fell and is at Eger. She's not sure she will go home this time.
- ✝ DonnaMaries mom who is in rehab. Healing of her leg and contentment in the nursing home.
- ✝ Sonja & Bills friend Bill- was just diagnosed with cancer. Pray for healing.
- ✝ Nehemiah- 3 year old is home and in last stage lung disease on hospice. Has only days to live.
- ✝ Jon- who had botulism is still at respiratory hospital. Pray for wife Nessa & daughter.
- ✝ MaryAnn- Anne & Sonja's friend fell and broke her hip and had a stroke.
- ✝ Tony and orphans in Noah's Ark boys have malaria, typhoid fever, and a bacterial infections.
- ✝ Perla- lockdown in the Philippines.
- ✝ Ted Beck- home the day after Thanksgiving. Still having digestive issues
- ✝ Rosemary- Genes sister continuing to improve. Finished PT. Walking on her own and a lot better, but still not out of the woods yet.
- ✝ Lyn- pray for a new job and peace during the process of searching
- ✝ John's friend Phil-still on the transplant list, low priority. On meds to keep his heart going.
- ✝ Naomi's son Stephen- emotionally- pray for the new counselor he has.
- ✝ Naomi's daughters family to get into their house very soon.
- ✝ Don- pray for the his health and eye treatment. He's having trouble reading.
- ✝ Little Charlie- Widespread disease progression. Tumors in all his bones, lymph nodes, organs, and the mass in his belly grew since Friday. There is nothing more to do for him medically.
- ✝ Anne's mom- battling kidney & leg cancer
- ✝ Those battling Covid-
- ✝ Long haulers with Covid symptoms
- ✝ Vaccine injured
- ✝ Families who have lost loved ones from Covid or other reasons- comfort & peace for them all
- ✝ People currently still at home - who misses family, friends and Church family.
- ✝ For our country (President, Vice President, Senators, Congressmen/women, judges)
- ✝ For our police, firefighters & military
- ✝ For Cities around the country - for peace to rule
- ✝ Leaders of our country, states, town-