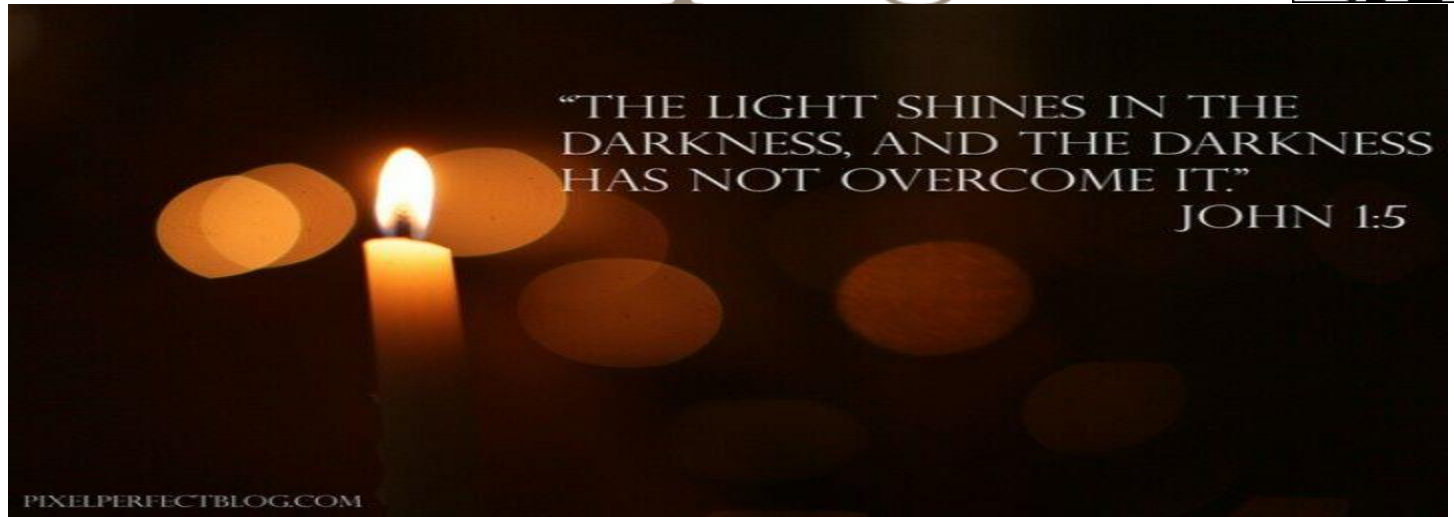




THE Lamplighter



LOOKING AHEAD (Tentative Dates)

December

- 1st Council/Trustee/Board Meetings
- 2/3rd Boy Scout Tree Sale
- 3rd Craft & Flea Market
- 14th AARP
- 24th Christmas Eve
- 25th Christmas Day
- 31st New Year's Eve

January

- 1st New Year's Day
- 5th Council/Trustee/Board Meetings
- 6th Epiphany
- 16th MLK, Jr. Day
- 22nd 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

To All Who Long For His Appearance,

We are quickly approaching the end of '22. If you are anything like me, the things we hoped would happen didn't, and the things we never thought would happen did. In all of this, I'm comforted by remembering that God is still on His throne and in full control. In other words, His purposes are being fulfilled on a moment-by-moment basis, for His glory and for my good. How sad it is that there are so many people who do not have this comforting assurance. Though we may be tempted to doubt this from time to time as we look at our circumstances, yet God sits firmly enthroned in the heavens. We know this because God became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus reveals the Father to us, and in Jesus we have meaning, true peace and joy in our lives.

Have you experienced true living? Joy and peace in life can't depend on other people or in our circumstances. Do other people see your "hope" amid the trials and troubles of your life? This is what the Christian life is about, and this is the hope that we have: to share with others. Jesus offers us life in abundance and this abundant life is not dependent upon circumstances or people, but upon the steadfast promise of God. Therefore, it should be seen as a joyful privilege to share the wonderful news of life in Jesus with other people.

As you consider what gifts to give your friends and loved ones, please consider sharing with them the greatest gift, the gift of eternal life found only in the person and work of Jesus Christ. All too often, we get caught up in all kinds of activities during the holidays. The activities are not bad in and of themselves, but many of them can take our eyes from our relationship with Jesus in prayer, since Jesus is truly the reason for the season it is good and right to make Jesus our priority since it's all about HIM!

I pray that all of us will keep our eyes on Him, the risen Lord Jesus, the returning triumphant Lord Jesus without getting caught up in the many snares of the holiday that seem to exhaust and ensnare. Use your time to bring Him glory this month. What is most important in our lives is always evidenced by the priority which we give to it. Evaluate your priorities. Do your friends and family members see your relationship with Jesus as the most important of all your relationships? They may never tell you this, but I assure you they are analyzing your life to see whether He really is. Do you have a desire for your character to reflect the character of Christ, the One whose image we are called to bear? Is it obvious that our primary passion in life is to love God, His people, and those who may not yet know Him? Therefore, let's keep this in mind as the days of '22 evaporate before us like a mist. Pray that God will soften our hearts to the needs of others, rather than only those who are in our circle. Let's finish this year well, individually as well as a church.

Meditate on this passage from **2 Timothy 4:7-8** ***I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.*** Oh, I pray that together we as a congregation can love and long for the day of His appearing!

I look forward to seeing each of you at all of our upcoming services and events leading up to Christmas Day Worship on the 25th at 10 AM.

May God richly bless you and you families with His presence this 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.

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)

+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

Immanuel Union Church

HOLIDAY

Vendor & Craft Fair

Saturday, Dec 3rd 9 am - 3 pm

693 Jewett Ave, SI, NY | www.immanuelunionchurch.org

From the Church Council

A huge thanks to everyone who made our Church Fair a great success! Especially to Bunny Matthius and Nancy Myers, who gave countless hours in set-up. To the volunteers who gave their time through the week setting up tables and pricing items- thank you! To all our chowder, soup and baked good makers- thank you- this year the baked goods table was amazing, thank you all. To John, our Sexton, thank you for the table set-up and break-down. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and we raised \$7000. Thank you to all who attended and contributed one way or another!

We also would like to let you know about some changes on the Council. Katie Buchanan has resigned from the Trustees effective in October. We thank her for her service to our Church. Thank you Katie!

Sonja Coyne will resign (effective 12/31/22) after 10 years of service on the Board and then the Trustees. She will remain a faithful member of Immanuel and we are so thankful for the many years of her service. Thank you so much Sonja!

Dan Kish has moved from the Church Board to the Trustees and Sheri Kish has joined the Church Board. Just as a reminder- the Church board members are Sheri Kish, Nancy Myers and John Valjalo. Trustee members are Leslie Baldini, Dan Kish and Eugene Sorensen. If you would like to serve on the Church Board or Trustees, please see Pastor Baldini.

The Council wishes all of you a blessed Christmas season with your families! We would love to see you all in person during this Advent time.

From the Planning Committee

A very special thank you...

To everyone who contributed to the success of our annual **Church Fair**—with your help, support and contributions we raised over \$7,000!

To the Council Members, Planning Committee Members, Congregation, family members, Boy Scout Troop 2, Gina Di Paolo, Joseph DiPaolo, and our sexton John Hannafin, heartfelt thanks for all you did—your participation resulted in raising much needed funds to keep our church active. Whether you helped set-up, “manned” a booth, prepared and sold raffles, made clam chowder and baked goods, created posters, hung decorations, managed our kitchen---we could not have done it without you! The Fair’s success belongs to each and every one of you, and we are eternally grateful for your support. Very special thanks also to those who returned to assist—Laney Dahl, Lillian Crowl and Candace Wambold.

The Fair is not only a significant fund raiser for our church, but a reminder of the foundation that has made Immanuel a beacon in the community. It continues to offer familiar faces, a bit of nostalgia and return to good old-fashioned values reminiscent of a simpler, happy time, and provides a place to congregate in both worship and community, something that has been lost in our high tech, fast-paced, social media environment.

As the calendar flips to December, we are sponsoring the **Holiday Vendor Fair December 3rd**. This year, for the very first time, we will be offering a marketplace of over 60 vendors featuring new and hand-crafted items. Our kitchen will resume with take-out items only for a pre and post shopping “grab-and go”, as well as dessert. Come out and enjoy some holiday shopping!

As the New Year approaches, the Planning Committee will be meeting to review the 2023 calendar and determine how best to continue to support the Council.

Bunny Matthius

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

- To order Altar Flowers to honor or memorialize your loved ones please call the Church Office.
- Offering envelopes for 2023 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 16th. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 22nd. The 2023 Budget will be approved at this time as well. Please submit any reports for the Annual Report as soon as possible. This is an extremely important meeting, so please plan on attending.

Christmas Events

Please join us to celebrate the following events:

- ✧ **December 2/3 The Boy Scout Christmas Tree Sale.**
- ✧ **December 18th during the 10:00 a.m. service our Annual Christmas program in person and via Zoom.**
- ✧ **December 25th Christmas Service at 10:00 AM via Zoom. Everyone is urged to attend**



We look forward to celebrating with everyone!



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 - \$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 4, 2022. 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.

Boiler Fund

\$50,000 Goal

\$25,005 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 2022

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

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-

✠ Roti- Anne Holland's friend having spinal surgery on the 26th

Continued-

- ✠ James- Dorothy's son doing better.
- ✠ Stacey- has cancer and had a bone marrow transplant last week. She had a stroke after from the marrow transplant and couldn't attend her daughters wedding this weekend. She can't speak and her right side is paralyzed
- ✠ Joshua- has been dealing with severe depression since Covid and now his girlfriend broke up with him
- ✠ Eds cousin Kevin on chemo
- ✠ Susan & Dave - Dan & Sheri's neighbor- Susan has health problems
- ✠ Neil and Annie Podkowsky- Bonnie Rogers nephew & wife are expecting twins with this difficult pregnancy.
- ✠ Andy, DonnaMarie's friend has poly myalgia rheumatica. Wisdom for the doctors for treatment.
- ✠ Terry- John's friend needs a new job
- ✠ Robert and Cathy Matlosz- Diane's neighbors lost their son, pray for comfort
- ✠ Stephen- Naomi's son. Not doing well.
- ✠ missionaries in Nepal, under watch by government
- ✠ Mike- 51 year old just diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. His parents in their 80's are devastated.
- ✠ Jaime & Jake Hylan- fire victims who had lost 2 children- their 2 year old & 1 in utero. Lost another baby with carrier- will have another surrogate try now
- ✠ Sam Colucci & Barbara Matthius- health
- ✠ Anne Holland's husband Jack. Continued prayers for clean scans.
- ✠ Jan Wiggins & Mary (DonnaMarie's mom) are at Sunrise. Jan is having more confusion.
- ✠ Adrienne at Eger- pray for encouragement.
- ✠ John's friend Brian- having heart issues.
- ✠ Don Landau - losing eyesight
- ✠ Christine Myers (Nancy's SIL) has cancer.
- ✠ Nancy's niece Heather has just been diagnosed with breast cancer- has twins 5 year old and a 3.5 year old.
- ✠ Anne Holland's friend Dr Kim who has myasthenia Gravis. His energy levels have been mostly good, pray they continue.
- ✠ Rosemary- Genes sister, pray for complete recovery.
- ✠ Ted Beck - Genes former coworker in Florida still recovering from cancer treatments
- ✠ Mark- Eugene's former coworker had a stroke & paralyzed on the right side. Getting ready to be moved to rehab, can move a bit of right fingers. Will be a long road ahead.
- ✠ 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-