



## LOOKING AHEAD

### **December (Tentative Dates)**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings  
Via Zoom
- 11<sup>th</sup> Boy Scout Christmas Tree Sale  
& 12<sup>th</sup>
- 20<sup>th</sup> Christmas Sunday
- 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Service 8:00
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day
- 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve

### **January (Tentative Dates)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day
- 6<sup>th</sup> Epiphany
- 7<sup>th</sup> Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings  
Via Zoom
- 18<sup>th</sup> MLK, Jr. Day



## 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



Suspended

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## From the Pastor's Desk

To All Who Long For His Appearance,

We're quickly approaching the end of 2020 and if you're anything like me you'll be glad to see it go. For me to say this year has been marked by the unexpected would be an understatement. Yet, in all of this craziness, be comforted by the fact that God is still on His throne and He is in complete control over whatsoever comes to pass. In other words, His purposes are being fulfilled on a moment by moment basis for His own glory and for the good of those He has called to love His Son Jesus. It is because of that fact, the emotion that 2020 has evoked within me the most is sadness. I'm sad that while we are all experiencing the same challenges, the same sorrows, the same fears, there are many people who do not know who to turn to for abiding peace and comfort in the midst of hardships.

***"Fear not, for behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy! For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."***

What wondrous good news was received by the shepherds outside Bethlehem on that first Christmas Eve so very long ago. Since mankind's fall into sin, the people of God hoped they would be the ones to hear the angel's proclaim the message of ***glad tidings of great joy***. Yet, God chose the shepherds, those who were considered societies outcasts, to hear the first message of ***glad tidings of great joy*** concerning the birth of the Savior, the one who would be the only means of reconciliation between a Holy God and sinful man.

In the fullness of time, God did send His only begotten Son, born miraculously of a virgin under the law; not to establish a mere earthly kingdom, but to reveal the Kingdom of God throughout the whole world. Christ our King rules over a kingdom that encompasses the entire world, though there are still many 'regions' in rebellion. Since the birth of the Savior of the world, more than 2000 years ago, numerous kingdoms and empires have risen and fallen; while His kingdom continues to fill the hearts and minds of people from every tribe, tongue, and nation, with countless numbers added daily.

This King of kings came humbly into the world. His heavenly Father chose not to have Him born into high society or powerful circles. He chose to have Him raised in the home of an unassuming carpenter. His birth in was in a backwater town called Bethlehem, the family's journey through Egypt, and His upbringing in Nazareth were all foretold by the prophets of old. He came into a world that was absorbed with, and burdened by sin. He came to save His people from their sins. He came to make them new creations. He came to end the curse that separated all of us from our Creator. He came to enable us to have peace with God.

This Christmas will be an unusual one for us all. It will not be marked by the holiday cheer that we have become accustomed too. Christmas parties will be frowned upon, the lighting of the Rockefeller Center tree which is the symbol of holiday cheer in New York City will be inaccessible without a ticket. Even the gathering together of the people of God in worship will be "remotely" possible.

## From the Pastor's Desk (con't)

If all these temporal trappings are what instills ***glad tidings of joy*** in you then you've been betrayed, because they are hollow and will disappoint since they are now inaccessible, BUT if your hope is in the one whom Joseph named ***Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins***, then hope and joy spring eternal.

Though our circumstances may tempt us to doubt, remember that God is still sitting firmly enthroned in the heavens. He has given us Jesus who is the only means of abiding joy and peace in life.

This means that joy and peace in life does not depend upon our circumstances or people, but firmly upon the God who purchased you with the very life's blood of His only Son.

This Christmas season, please join me as I pray that we will keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. He is the risen Lord! He is the one who has promised to never leave us or forsake us! He is the one who has promised to be with us till the end of the age! He is the one who can never disappoint! He is the one who will return for His people in triumph!

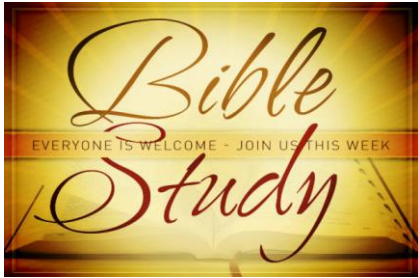
***Let the final words of Paul define your life as well, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."***(2 Timothy 4:7-8)

I pray that all of us can be longing for that as a church, and loving the idea of His imminent return!

May God protect you and your family and richly bless you with the fullness of the presence of Jesus this Christmas season.

***Pastor Charlie***

# Bible Studies



The Sunday School series is suspended for the time being.

The Tuesday evening Bible Study will be held via zoom at 6:30.

See below to see how to connect to Bible Study or the Sunday Service.

# From the Church Council

Due to new cases of COVID in the 10314 area, in person church services are not set to resume yet. We will continue to meet on Zoom. We will continue to monitor the situation as we are anxious to resume in person worship as soon as it is safe.

We are seeking a member of the Congregation at Large to join the House Committee. Sam Colucci and Dan Kish are members, a third member from the CAL is needed. The House Committee is involved in decision making regarding the Church's property and supervision of maintenance of the Church, this includes the building and grounds.

# Christmas Events

Please join us to celebrate the following events:

- ✧ December 11/12 The Boy Scout Christmas Tree Sale.
- ✧ December 20<sup>th</sup> during the 10:00 a.m. service our Annual Christmas program via Zoom.
- ✧ December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Service at 8:00 PM via Zoom. Everyone is urged to attend



We look forward to celebrating virtually with everyone!

# Mark Your Calendars

## Congregational Meeting

The date will be determined. We will also be approving the Budget at this time.



## Church Fair

The Church Fair has been postponed until the Spring. If anyone has cleaned out items that are good to sell at the Church Fair, we will be announcing dates to gratefully accept donations. Item collection will be contactless. Please call the church office for dates or to set up a drop off time.



Immanuel Union Church

**For Everyone's  
Safety**



Let's look forward to  
Spring 2021



Follow us on Facebook for details on all IUC events!

# Boy Scout Tree Sale



Boy Scout Troop #2  
Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale  
Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM  
Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM  
In the Church Parking Lot  
Please Support Our Troop!

# December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	2	3 Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings Via Zoom	4	5
6 Church Service via zoom 10:00	7	8 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	9	10	11 <div>Boy Scout Tree Sale</div>	12
13 Church Service via zoom 10:00	14	15 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	16	17	18	19
20 Church Service via zoom 10:00 <b>Christmas Sunday</b>	21	22 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve Service 8:00 PM via Zoom</b>	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>	26
27 Church Service via zoom 10:00	28	29	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>		

# 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.

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

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Information for the January Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net. Thank you.

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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.

# Social Media

Please check out our Website as well as our Facebook Page. 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!

# Zoom Connection Instructions

(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

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.

