



LOOKING AHEAD

February

- 1st Council/Trustee/Board Meetings
- 9th NARFE
- 11th Scout Sunday
- 14th Ash Wednesday/AARP
- 16th Eagle Ceremony
- 19th President's Day
- 23rd Pack Night
- 28th Tall Cedars

March

- 1st Council/Trustee/Board Meetings
- 3rd Blue & Gold Dinner
- 9th NARFE
- 14th AARP
- 16th Scout Crossover
- 28th Tall Cedars
- 29th Maundy Thursday
- 30th Good Friday
- 31st Easter Egg Hunt



Immanuel Union Church

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

February Birthdays



- | | | | |
|------|----------------|------|---------------------|
| 2/1 | Zachary Iken | 2/12 | Brian Henningsen |
| 2/3 | Danny Orlando | | Jennifer Iken Walsh |
| | Ned Rogers | 2/16 | Janet Maule |
| 2/9 | Laney Dahl | 2/22 | Angie Sorrentino |
| 2/10 | Gregg Jacobson | 2/26 | Betty Winsch |
| 2/11 | Mary Coffey | | |

Coffee Hour



IN THIS ISSUE

- From the Pastor's Desk
- Calendar of Events
- Congregational Meeting

February

- 4th Trustees
- 11th Scout Sunday
- 18th Church Board
- 25th Adult Fellowship

March

- 4th Trustees
- 11th Church Board
- 18th Tuesday Evening Bible Study
- 25th Adult Fellowship

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings In The Name of Jesus Christ,

Late one Valentine's Day, a young man staggered into a bakery just before it was about to close. The man came in from the pouring rain and was soaked from head to toe. "Am I glad you're still open," the man exclaimed. "I've been looking all over town for the chocolate doughnuts she wants. I've been walking in the rain searching for these for the past three hours. And finally, I find them just as I was about to give up." The cashier wrapped the young man's order and then asked, "Are these for your mother?" "Are you crazy," he laughed. "Do you think my mother would send me out on a night like tonight? . . . And do you think I would go?"

February has been called the month for lovers. Even though February possess the bleakest days of winter, it is a great time to celebrate the light of Christian love. Valentine's Day infuses this time of the year with a spark in what would otherwise be a dreary month. The stores adorned with the bright colors of pink and red act as reminders of the importance of the matters of the heart. It is a great time to give and receive Valentines because they act as a reminder about how great it is to love and to be loved.

I am sure that we all remember in grade school what a special day Valentine's Day was. I can remember how important it was to buy enough paper valentines for the whole class so that each student received one. I also remember the awkwardness of being smitten with a girl in my class named "Maria." I remember being so intimidated by her looks and popularity that I anxiously awaited the arrival of Valentine's Day. The reason is that I wanted to send her a special Valentine with a special message that revealed something that I was too intimidated to say to her face. I felt that this card would be able to communicate my feelings in a safe way, why, because I didn't sign it. I just left it on her desk and watched her face as she read it.

Cupid is not a character you will find in your Bible, but Valentine was a Christian saint in the 3rd century after Christ, when the church was young and before Rome became a Christian empire. In refusing to worship the emperor, Valentine was put into prison and sentenced to die. The daughter of the jailer, however, befriended him and cheered him amid his prison gloom. Just before his death, he wrote the young woman a note, thanking her for her friendship, assuring her that he would love her even after death. And he signed it "Your Valentine" (legend has it that he even cut "curious devices" into the note--the first paper lace?). And so began the association of "love" with the day of Valentine's martyrdom.

I really believe that romantic love, which is erotic at its core, is radically different from Christian love. Romantic love is ordinarily based upon feelings. These feeling change and a love that is based upon feelings will change as well. What I mean to say is that if your love for a person is based solely upon how you feel about some aspect of that person, when that aspect changes your feelings will change as well.

For instance as I consider "Maria," by today's standard, I wonder what it was that caused me to be so attracted and so intimated by her. What I mean to say is that she wasn't a very nice person; in fact she was spoiled and conceited. These are things that I really dislike in a person, today. And to be perfectly honest with you, she wasn't all that pretty by my more mature standard of prettiness such as the beauty I behold in my wife.

From the Pastor's Desk (con't)

I use this to illustrate that when our feelings for someone is based upon intense desires or passions, and those desires or passions change all that remains is the absence of love. The love which Paul calls us to embody in 1 Corinthians 13 is the love of covenant commitment, one which we choose and will into being, rather than merely "fall into."

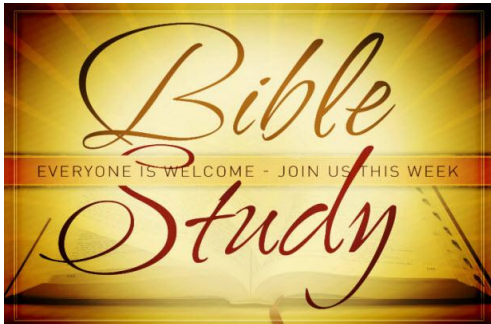
Therefore, as the redeemed people of God, we should make it a matter of the will to love one another deeply from the heart. Not because any of us deserve it but because love is the glue that holds the Church of Jesus Christ together.

In reflecting back upon the analogy of the Fellowship of the Ring, I believe that the Dark Lord, Satan, wants to show his power in our church. He does so overtime that there is discord among us. We all understand how unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered, we all can be. I choose to love them anyway.

Remember, We Love Because He First Loved Us. And in His eyes we all epitomize all that is unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered and through Jesus Christ, He chose to love us anyway.

Your Servant For His Sake,
Pastor Charlie

Bible Studies



The Sunday School series going through the Old Testament will be held on Sundays, at 9:00 AM in the workroom.

The Tuesday evening Bible Study is held in the workroom at 6:30 PM.

Congregational Meeting



There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 25th following the 10:00 a.m. Service. Please attend as we need to reach a quorum. Thank you.

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Council/Board & Trustee Meetings	2	3
4 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	5	6 Bible Study 6:30 PM Westerleigh Improvement Society	7	8	9 NARFE	10
11 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00 Scout Sunday	12	13 Bible Study 6:30 PM	14 Ash Wednesday AARP ♥	15	16 Eagle Ceremony	17
18 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	19 Presidents' Day	20 Bible Study 6:30 PM	21	22	23 Pack Night	24
25 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00 Congregational Meeting	26	27	28 Tall Cedars			

Church News



Reserve Altar Flowers now through the end of 2018. 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 March Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, February 16th. 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
Lydia Lorenzo
Karen McCarthy
Vicky Morris
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.

