



LOOKING AHEAD

February

- 2nd Book Sale
- 5th Westerleigh Improvement Society
- 7th Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 13th AARP
- 18th Presidents' Day (office closed)
- 24th Scout Sunday
- 27th Tall Cedars

March

- 2nd Boy Scout Blue & Gold Dinner
- 6th Ash Wednesday
- 7th Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 10th Congregational Meeting
- 13th AARP
- 27th Tall Cedars
- 30th Arts & Crafts Flea Market



Immanuel Union Church

693 Jewett Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10314
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February Birthdays



2/1 Zachary Iken
2/3 Danny Orlando
Ned Rogers
2/9 Laney Dahl
2/10 Gregg Jacobson
2/11 Mary Coffey

2/12 Brian Henningsen
Jennifer Iken Walsh
2/16 Janet Maule
2/22 Angie Sorrentino
2/26 Betty Winsch

Coffee Hour



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February

3rd Trustees
10th Church Board
17th Adult Fellowship
24th Scout Sunday

March

3rd Trustees
10th Church Board
17th Tuesday Evening Bible Study
24th Adult Fellowship

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings To All Who Live To Love,

February is the month of romantic love. It is the month where many people are fully convinced that he or she is "the one". They finally take the next step in their relationship by entering into the engagement process.

Romantic love reminds me of a conversation between two friends. Paul asked his friend John how his relationship with his girlfriend was going. John explained that it was over. Paul said "You told me it was love at first sight when you first started going out with Pat." With that John replied, "I took another look."

Relationships that have a foundation based upon romantic love is like building a house upon a foundation where Jell-O is used in place of the concrete, it lacks any real substance. What I mean is that many of us have had relationships where we have used the words or heard the words, "I will love you till the end of time" only to find, after "taking another look", that time came to an end a whole lot sooner than expected.

Jesus has built His Church on the most concrete expression of love. In **John 15:9-14** we read about this expression of concrete love: ***"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. MY COMMAND IS THIS: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command."***

Jesus, in this passage, reveals to us the highest expression of love ***"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."*** The highest expression of love we could have for another would be laying down our life for someone else, just as Jesus did for those he loved. Those of us who have tasted His sacrificial love, should desire to love others sacrificially as well. Jesus loved us, and He loved us enough to die for us. We may never have to die for someone, but we can practice sacrificial love in many other ways: listening, helping, encouraging, giving. This type of love goes way beyond showing mere feelings of love. Some people will be difficult to love, but still we are commanded to act lovingly toward our fellow believers. Jesus goes on to say that when we become living expressions of His love, we are His friends, the very ones He gave His life for.

From the Pastor's Desk (con't)

Look we don't always feel like spiritual successes. Sometimes we feel very much the opposite. Charles Swindoll has written: Do you ever feel like a frog? Frogs feel slow and low, ugly and putty, drooped and pooped. I know. One told me. The frog feeling comes when you want to be bright but you are dumb. When you want to share, but you are selfish. When you want to be thankful, but you are filled with resentment. When you want to be great, but you are small. When you want to care, but you are indifferent. Yes, at one time or another each of us has found himself on a lily pad, floating down the great river of life, frightened and disgusted, but too frightened to budge.

We all know how the fairy tale goes: Once upon a time there was a frog, except he was not really a frog. He was a prince. He only looked and felt like a frog. The wicked witch had cast a spell on him, and only the kiss of a beautiful maiden could save him. (As if a cute girl would ever kiss a frog!) So there he sat, an un-kissed prince in frog form. But miracles do happen, and one day a beautiful maiden gave him a great big smack! Crash! Boom! Zap! Suddenly he was a handsome prince. And of course they lived happily ever after.

What is the task of the church? Kissing frogs, of course, and allowing ourselves to be kissed! We are to make one another princes and princesses for Christ!

I believe that many of us in the Church have never reached our full potential because no one ever encouraged us. Many of us would reach unimaginable heights if only someone would say, "You know, you could really become something." No one has prayed for them, befriended them, or affirmed them. We are called to do just that. We are called to promote the wellbeing of one another.

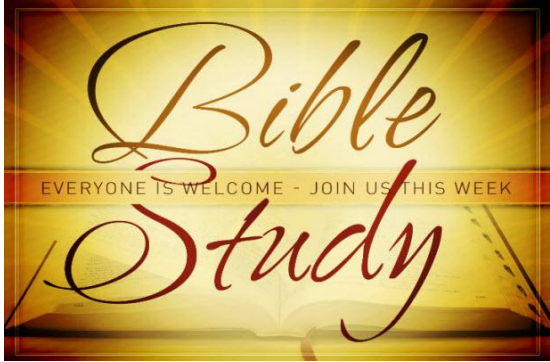
This month, the month of love let us all begin something new. Let us envision one another as precious valentines from God.

Till Next Month,

God's Blessings upon You All!

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.

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

Note From the Church Council

There is a significant need for more volunteers to serve on the Church Board and the Board of Trustees. The limited number of persons currently serving is a detriment to the proper and efficient running of our beloved church.

Mark Your Calendars

Book Sale

Book Sale



IUC will be hosting a book sale on Saturday, February 2nd from 9 am to 2 pm. Come by to browse through books and have a snack. Book donations can be brought to the church prior to the sale.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 10th following the 10:00 a.m. Service. Please try to attend as we need a quorum.



Flea Market

We will be hosting an Arts & Crafts Flea Market on Saturday, March 30th from 9 AM to 3 PM. Come out to shop or have lunch. See Sam Colucci if you would like to rent a table.



February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Book Sale
3 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	4	5 Bible Study 6:30 Westerleigh Improvement Society	6	7 Council/Board & Trustee Meetings	8	9
10 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	11	12 Bible Study 6:30	13 AARP	14	15	16
17 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	18 Presidents' Day (office closed)	19 Bible Study 6:30	20	21	22	23
24 Church Service 10:00 Scout Sunday	25	26 Bible Study 6:30	27 Tall Cedars	28		

Church News



Reserve Altar Flowers now through the end of 2019. 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 15th. 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
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.



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