



## LOOKING AHEAD

### February

- 6<sup>th</sup> Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 8<sup>th</sup> Book Sale
- 9<sup>th</sup> Scout Sunday
- 12<sup>th</sup> AARP/Westerleigh Improvement Soc.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Presidents' Day (office closed)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday/Tall Cedars
- 28<sup>th</sup> Pack Night

### March

- 5<sup>th</sup> Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 7<sup>th</sup> Blue & Gold Dinner
- 11<sup>th</sup> AARP/Westerleigh Improvement Soc.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Boy Scout Crossover
- 21<sup>st</sup> Women's Communion Luncheon
- 25<sup>th</sup> Tall Cedars
- 28<sup>th</sup> Craft Fair & Flea Market
- 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting



## 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



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- Women's Communion Luncheon
- Flea Market
- Annual Congregational Meeting

## February

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustees
- 9<sup>th</sup> Scout Sunday
- 16<sup>th</sup> Church Board
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Adult Fellowship

## March

- 1<sup>st</sup> Trustees
- 8<sup>th</sup> Church Board
- 15<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Evening Bible Study
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Adult Fellowship
- 29<sup>th</sup> Volunteers

## From the Pastor's Desk

To All Who Thirst For Everlasting Love,

Roger, who was 19 years old, was buying an expensive bracelet, to surprise his girlfriend on Valentine's Day, at a very elegant jeweler's shop in NYC. The jeweler inquired, 'Would you like your girlfriend's name engraved on it?' Roger thought for a moment, grinned, and then answered, 'No, instead engrave "To my one and only love".' The jeweler smiled and said, 'Yes, sir; how very romantic of you. Roger retorted with a glint in his eye, 'Not exactly romantic, but very practical. This way, if we break up, I can use it again.'

For centuries February has been designated the month for lovers, with the climax of this time being on February 14, Valentine's Day. When I think of Valentine's Day I am reminded of young love. Perhaps you too may remember those times in your youth hearing the phrase, "Please, Be My Valentine?" These words for many of us were by whispered by people who are no longer a part of your life. Bouquets of Red roses, and heart shaped boxes containing delectable morsels of sweetness and let's not forget the envelopes enclosing Hallmark Cards with pithy sayings of sentiment which in the long range scheme of things now amount to no more than bitter sweet memories, if at all.

But have you ever stopped to think about the history of the holiday? Do you know why February 14 is called St. Valentine's day and how the tradition of sending cards to each other developed? How did that day ever become associated with love?

In 270 A.D. Emperor Claudius had issued an edict forbidding marriage because he believed that married men made poor soldiers, not wanting to leave their families to go to battle. Valentine, pastor of Interamna, disagreed with the emperor and invited young lovers to come to him in secret to be married. When Claudius found that Valentine was performing secret marriage ceremonies, he was incensed. He had Valentine seized and brought before him. When Valentine refused to change his views and renounce Christianity, he was put in prison to await execution.

While Valentine was in prison he corresponded with those under his care by sending little letters and love notes to the members of his church. It is also believed that while he was in prison he fell in love with the daughter of the jailer. Tradition tells us that his farewell message to her contained a closing that transcended time: "From Your Valentine". In February of 270, Valentine was clubbed, stoned, and then beheaded.

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

Why do you think Valentine suffered this way? Why do you think Christians suffer so much for doing good? Paul, in 2 Corinthians 1:5 writes, ***“For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.”*** The many passages like this remind us that God has called Christians to be a suffering people. Even though Ephesians 1:3 tells us that we have already ***received from God every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus.*** It is as if God causes the visible body of Christ, His Church, to be an extension of Christ's sufferings until He returns. Peter in 1 Peter 4:13, tells us to ***“rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.”***

Perhaps you are suffering right now. Perhaps you can sympathize with the mother who lost her child through substance abuse? Or to the Christian who has lost a family member prematurely? Or even the single mom who really cares, and does her best to protect her children from gangs and guns only to lose a child in the end? Perhaps you are among those who are anxiously awaiting the return of our Savior? Perhaps you also long to be with Him in a place where there is no more pain or weeping or death? Perhaps you are crying out in your despair, HOW LONG O' LORD? You still feel the pain and echo the cry, HOW LONG?

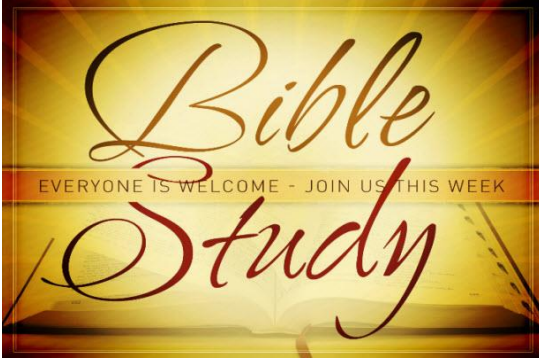
Take heart, the Lord does not slumber and does not sleep. He knows the need. My only response to the suffering Christian is that you should do as Peter suggest in 1 Pet 4:19, ***“So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.”***

During this season which glorifies temporal love, let us be reminded of Valentine who did not grow weary in doing good in the midst of his sufferings because he was looking too an eternal kingdom built upon the steadfast love of God through the perfect sacrifice of His own Son Jesus.

***“Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.”*** Jude 1:21

Your Servant For His Sake,  
***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.

# Women's Communion Luncheon



Our 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Communion Luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. The service is at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary; luncheon follows at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. We are excited to have as our guest speaker Rev. Terry Troia. Please come and bring your friends. For additional information see Nancy Myers or Nancy Wagner-Wetzel.



# Mark Your Calendars

## Book Sale

*Book Sale*



IUC will be hosting a book sale on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Flea Market

We will be hosting an Arts & Crafts Flea Market on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 3 PM. Come out to shop or have lunch. See Sam Colucci if you would like to rent a table.



## Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> following the 10:00 a.m. Service. We will also be approving the 2020 Budget at this time.



# February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	3	4 Bible Study 6:30	5	6 Council/Board/ Trustee Meetings	7	8 <b>Book Sale</b> 
9 Church Service 10:00 <b>Scout Sunday</b>	10	11 Bible Study 6:30	12 AARP WIS	13	14 	15
16 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	17 Presidents' Day (office closed)	18 Bible Study 6:30	19	20	21	22
23 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	24	25 Bible Study 6:30	26 <b>Ash Wednesday</b>  Tall Cedars	27	28	29

# Books, Bagels and Baked Goods



# Book Sale



Large Used Book Sale and Café  
Browse for Books and Enjoy  
Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate and a Snack

Immanuel Union Church  
693 Jewett Avenue  
Saturday February 8, 2020  
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM



# 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 March Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, February 21<sup>st</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.

## 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.



Love is the  
bridge between  
You and Everything.

RUMI

