



# THE Lamplighter



“THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE  
DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS  
HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.”  
JOHN 1:5



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## LOOKING AHEAD (Tentative Dates)

### February

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Council/Trustee/Board Meetings
- 4<sup>th</sup> Boy Scout Radio Bingo
- 5<sup>th</sup> Scout Sunday
- 8<sup>th</sup> AARP
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Ash Wednesday
- 25<sup>th</sup> Dollar Day Sale
- 26<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting

### March

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Council/Trustee/Board Meetings
- 8<sup>th</sup> AARP
- 18<sup>th</sup> Blue & Gold Dinner
- 25<sup>th</sup> Craft Fair & Flea Market



## 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

Greeting in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

For the past several years, February causes me to reflect how quickly the days pass. The days from Thanksgiving through Christmas seem to swish on by. While January offers a spirit of anticipation with hope that the New Year brings.

Then comes February, well what can really be said about February? It seems a less hopeful time of the year. By now we feel trapped indoors by the intensity of winter. February reveals itself as a dull and bleak month of the year.

The only thing that brightens February is the intensity of the pinks and reds that adorn the stores as Valentines Day approaches.

For centuries February has been designated the month for lovers, with the climax of this time being on February 14, Valentines Day. Many of us send cards, flowers, and candy; and I am sure we all remember exchanging Valentines in school. Valentines Day acts as a means of communication to special people of how much we care about them. But have you ever stopped to think about the history of the holiday? Do you know why February 14 is called St. Valentines 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, the Pastor of Interamna, disagreed with the emperor and invited young lovers to come to him in secret to be married. When Claudius found that he 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.

Why do you think Valentine suffered this way? Why do you think Christians suffer so much for doing good? Paul, in 2 Cor 1:5 writes, "**For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.**" This passage, and many others, remind us that God has called Christians to be a suffering people. Even though Eph 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.**"

## Pastor's Letter (con't)

Perhaps you are suffering right now. Perhaps you can sympathize with the mother who lost her child to some terrorist bomb? Or to the Christian who has lost his or her family members to the Muslim persecution of Christians in the Sudan? Or even the ghetto mother who really cares, and does her best to protect her children from gangs, guns and drugs, only to lose a child in the cross fire? 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 of love, let us be reminded of Valentine who did not grow weary in doing good in the midst of his sufferings. Let us pray to God that while He continues to use us as an extension of Christ's sufferings, that He will use us as an extension of Christ's love as well.

Happy Valentines Day!

Your servant for Jesus' Sake,  
*Pastor Charlie*

# Sunday Worship & Bible Studies



Sunday Church Service is will be via zoom at 10:00 AM. Check IUC's Facebook page for current topics. Like us on Facebook.

Sunday School begins at 9:00 AM.

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

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

# Hall Coordinator Position

Denise Miller, our Hall Coordinator for the past three years has relocated to Florida. IUC is in search of someone who is willing to work part time booking and working the various parties and events held here at the church, If you or someone you know is interested in a part time opportunity please call the church office at 718 448-1584.

# From the Church Council

The Council is looking forward to the Dollar Days Sale on February 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 2:00. If you are able to help with setup or bake or buy any dessert or cakes - we would appreciate any help you can give.

If you are willing to help, please call Bunny or Nancy or Gina at the Church 718 448-1584 and she will pass on the information Thank you so much for your willingness to help.

# 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](mailto:iuc1@verizon.net).

# Milestones



## 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 |      |                     |
| 2/11 | Mary Coffey    |      |                     |

# 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](mailto: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 in the church and available for pickup. In the meantime, we ask that you continue to send in your donations and note your normal envelope number so we can keep track. Sorry for the inconvenience.
- 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](http://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 March Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at [iuc1@verizon.net](mailto:iuc1@verizon.net).

# Mark Your Calendars

## Congregational Meeting

Will be held on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> via Zoom after the church service. All interested are welcome to attend and members will be able to vote on the Annual Reports and the Budget. We need 20 members for a quorum and we are hoping to get more people out on Zoom than could be possible on a wintery Sunday morning in the Church Hall.



## Annual Reports

Copies of the Annual Report and Budget have been emailed . If you are not on the email list and would like to get a copy please call the church office and give us your email address.



# 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.**



# February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Council/Board & Trustee Meetings	3	4 Boy Scout Radio Bingo
5 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service in person & via zoom 10:00 Scout Sunday	6	7 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	8 AARP	9	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	13	14 Bible Study via zoom 6:30 ♥	15	16	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	20 Presidents' Day	21 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24	25 Dollar Day Sale
26 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00 Congregational Meeting	27	28 Bible Study via zoom 6:30				

## 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)

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# Prayer List



## New-

- † Lauren- Pastors cousins' granddaughter- 6 years old just diagnosed with leukemia
- † Roland's Aunt has passed away, pray for comfort for the family.
- † Diane Pillarella- got bit by a deer tick and is on antibiotics for Lyme Disease. Pray it fully treats the Lyme.
- † Sonja Coyne in New Hampshire hospital with pneumonia, Bill Coyne has bronchitis.

## Continued-

- † Dorothy & family - comfort & peace in the loss of Ray
- † Anne Holland & family - comfort & peace in the loss of Jack
- † Liz' friend Helene- had to have colostomy.
- † Howard's moms friend - Anna Choi struggling with leukemia.
- † Jesse & Peter- a young couple with a 1 year old found out she has lymphoma. Was about to have a radiation port and was on the operating table for it and bloodwork came back she's pregnant with a baby and due August 1. They are going to wait till the 2nd trimester to start chemo (Jan 16) , they found an oncologist who specializes in pregnancy.
- † Karen Kuhls grandson Joey- had a motorcycle accident back in early December. Had 2 surgeries and has nerve damage and a dropped foot. Pray for full healing for him, and peace for his parents.
- † James- Dorothy's son who broke a couple of bones in his back. Pray for full recovery and the pain to lessen.
- † Lyn Spaulding's mom Barbara- recovering well and getting around after hip surgery, doing well for 90. Pray for Lyn as she tries to manage caregivers to help her mom.
- † Howard- has returned to Guyana after New Years, pray for his safety
- † Gina (the Church secretary) has a dog named Noodles who has cancer. Tumor is not growing and he doesn't seem to be in pain. Pray for the family
- † Roti- Anne Holland's friend who had spinal surgery, for full recovery.
- † Ed Zeltman's cousin Kevin having chemo
- † Susan - Dan & Sheri's neighbor- has health problems
- † Neil and Annie Podkowsky- Bonnie Rogers nephew & wife are expecting twins and have a difficult pregnancy.
- † Andy, DonnaMaries 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 again
- † 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 Matthus- health
- † 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.
- † 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-