



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

- 1st Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 2nd Boy Scouts Radio Bingo
- 9th Boy Scouts Movie Night
- 14th Ash Wednesday
AARP
- 19th Presidents' Day

March

- 7th Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 9th Scouts Blue & Gold Dinner
- 10th Daylight Savings Time begins
- 13th AARP
- 23rd Craft & Flea Market
- 24th Palm Sunday
- 28th Maundy Thursday Soup Supper & Service
- 29th Good Friday
- 31st Easter Sunday



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

Greetings To All Who Live to Love,

It's February and that means Spring is slowly but surely inching its way upon us. It also means Valentine's Day is near. Though Valentine's only lasts a single day the feeling of love permeates the entire month. Whether due to the anticipation leading up to the holiday, the giddiness thereafter, or both, it isn't shocking that a lot of couples get engaged this day.

The kind of love Valentine's Day breeds 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 solely upon romantic love may be compared to building a house upon a foundation where Jell-O is used in place of 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.

Look, we don't always feel like a spiritual success story. Sometimes we feel like the complete opposite.

Pastor's Letter (con't)

Chuck Swindoll once wrote: 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 well-being of one another.

Let's endeavor to begin something new this February, let's envision one another as precious valentines from God.

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

Year-end Statements

To all Members and Friends of Immanuel:

The statements/receipts of your financial donations to Immanuel have been sent out through the Post Office mail. If you have any questions about your statement or did not receive one and wish to do so, please call or email the church office. These statements are written for people who have church envelopes as well as for friends of the church who request statements of their regular donations and do not have Giving Envelopes.

If you would like to receive a box of Giving Envelopes, please contact the church office. You do not have to be a member to use them. We are happy to provide them. Receipts are also available for donations through Venmo and Paypal.

Please note that the amounts of your donations are maintained in a confidential manner.

Thank you all for your financial support of our beloved church and the community.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wagner-Wetzel

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		

From the Church Council

The Council would like to remind you that we are **ONLINE ONLY** for the month of February and March 3rd. We will resume in person and online on Sunday March 10th.

The Church Board
The Board of Trustees
Pastor Charles Baldini

Announcements

- To order Altar Flowers to honor or memorialize your loved ones please call the Church Office.
- Offering envelopes for 2024 are available.
- 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 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 16th. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net.

Order Your Easter Lillies



Below you will find a form to use when ordering your Easter Lilies for the Altar on Easter Sunday. Please include your check made payable to Immanuel Union Church with your order; and send it along to 693 Jewett Avenue, Staten Island, N.Y. 10314. The list of names will be published in the April Lamplighter.

Easter Lilies - \$10.50 Per Plant

Enclosed Is \$_____ For _____ Plants.

Donor _____

In Memory Of _____

Or

In Honor Of _____

If more space is needed, please use a separate piece of paper.

Please Indicate:

- () My flowers may be given to shut-ins.
- () I will pick up my flowers after the service.

The deadline for ordering Easter Lilies is March 24, 2024. Please send this form along with a check in the total amount of the order; or call the church office at 448-1584 to place your order.

February 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Council Trustee/Board Meetings	2 Boy Scouts Radio Bingo	3
4 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	5	6 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	7	8	9 Boy Scout Movie Night	10
11 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	12	13 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	14 AARP Ash Wednesday 	15	16	17
18 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	19 Presidents' Day	20 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	21	22	23	24
25 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	26	27 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	28	29		

Mark Your Calendars

Flea Market

We will be hosting an Arts & Crafts Flea Market on Saturday, March 23rd from 9 AM to 3 PM. Come out to shop and support our church. Call the church office at 718 448-1584 if you would like to rent a table.

Book Fair

We will be hosting a Book Fair on Saturday, April 13th from 9 AM to 3 PM. Come out to pick up some books and have a snack in our café.



Easter Happenings

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| March 24 th | Palm Sunday Service 10 AM in person & via Zoom |
| March 28 th | Maundy Thursday Soup Supper at 6 PM and Service 7 PM in person & via Zoom |
| March 31 st | Easter Sunday Service 10 AM in person & via Zoom |

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)

Dial by your location from landline

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York) Then enter the Meeting ID: 828 050 1006

Prayer List



Praise

- ✠ Dan Kish- doing well after a stroke, has returned to work 2 days a week.
- ✠ Dorothy- recovering well after a fall and has returned home.

New

- ✠ Lita- Roland's friend and her husband went to the Philippines where she had a stroke and is now bedridden and they can't get back to the US.
- ✠ Jake Hyland- fire victim we prayed for that lost his son & unborn baby is having terrible nerve burning- his pain hasn't been this bad since the fire.
- ✠ Czarina- we prayed for Czarinas sister in law Caroline who carried a baby for Czarina & her husband Andrew. The baby Madison is now over a year old and Czarina had a stroke- her right arm is severely affected and she is unable to carry or care for Madison with that arm. Please pray for her healing!
- ✠ Paul Neis- came back from a cruise with pneumonia and on the x-ray they found a large mass in his kidney which they think is cancer and he may need that kidney removed.

Continued-

- ✠ Jan Wiggin- Pray for her family after her passing
- ✠ Naomi's friend Barbara who had a terrible fall.
- ✠ Naomis daughter Cindy recovering from hernia surgery.
- ✠ Felicity- a 10 year old in Texas had brain surgery and us now blind. She's now got a blood clot in her brain and is in pediatric ICU
- ✠ Charlie Buchanan- Katie Myers FIL- had surgery, is positive for cancer
- ✠ Lexi- a 19 year old in Florida. Off the vent- pray for her full recovery.
- ✠ Rory DeCristoforo the 7 year old died in the fire on Sl. Pray for the family.
- ✠ Sonja's cousins - Michael Johnson and Ron Mazzaeo both have cancer. Pray for them, their families and the doctors for wisdom in treatments.
- ✠ Stephanie who works at Hilton Gardens asked Charlie to have us pray for her-
- ✠ Don- Eugene's Cousin has stage 4 pancreatic cancer that has spread to his liver. Pray for the treatment, doctors and he and his family as they go through this.
- ✠ Michael & James- Dorothy's sons health.
- ✠ Sandra- James' girlfriend- in rehab after being hospitalized
- ✠ Fred- Sonja & Bills friend in his recovery.
- ✠ RJ (lives in Taiwan). In a scooter accident, is recovering
- ✠ Susan - Dan & Sheri's neighbor had a bunch of mini strokes, for recovery and her husband who is her caregiver.
- ✠ Anne Holland - dealing with sciatica. Pray for wisdom for her doctor so her pain will go away.
- ✠ Anna (a 35 year old friend of Dorothy's daughter Mary), has breast cancer and is under treatment and a new mom.
- ✠ Liz Iken- now permanently at Eger. Pray for her health & spirit
- ✠ Adrienne at Eger- pray for her health and spirit.
- ✠ Mary (DonnaMarie's mom) at Sunrise.
- ✠ Don Landau- moved to Maryland to be near his brother Carl in assisted living. Pray for his adjustment and health
- ✠ Sam Colucci & Barbara Matthius- health and strength, pray for Nancy & Bunny, and the aides that care for them.
- ✠ Joey- recovering from a motorcycle accident last year.
- ✠ Robert and Cathy- Diane's neighbors lost their son, pray for comfort
- ✠ Stephen- Naomi's son, pray he will continue his meds and will be emotionally stable. Pray for him as he didn't get the Post Office job.
- ✠ Nancy Myers niece Heather who has breast cancer - has 3 children. Pray for treatment
- ✠ Rosemary- Genes sister, pray for complete recovery.
- ✠ Anne Haakonsen's mom- for health and strength. And her Aunt Marty having anxiety issues. Donna, Anne's friend has ovarian cancer
- ✠ Howard- Pray for his safety (he was robbed while at a store) for the rest of his time in Ghana. Praise that he got the next assignment that he wanted which will be a remote position starting in July 2024.
- ✠ 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-