



LOOKING AHEAD

January (Tentative Dates)

- 1st New Year's Day
- 6th Epiphany
- 7th Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings
Via Zoom
- 18th MLK, Jr. Day

February (Tentative Dates)

- 4th Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings
Via Zoom
- 15th Presidents' Day
- 17th Ash Wednesday
- 21st Annual Congregational Meeting
Via Zoom



Immanuel Union Church

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

January Birthdays



1/1	Jack Ritchie	1/16	Rebekah Bossert
	Ruth Thompson		Jo-Ellen Brannigan
1/3	Robbi Rosado	1/18	Caroline Michie
1/6	Bunny Matthius	1/20	Jamie Joyce Blissenbach
1/12	Jeffrey Forbes Smith	1/23	Fred Buser
		1/25	Melissa Iken
			Helen Jerlin

Coffee Hour



Suspended

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From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings Covid Cohabitants,

In Psalm 90:1-2 we should be greatly encouraged by the words, ***Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.***

In this rich Psalm, Moses bursts into song heralding about the faithfulness of God to His people. I know sometimes it's hard to believe that even in 2020 God has been faithfully directing the affairs of history throughout time. This should provide much comfort for those who are His.

We are in the midst of the first month of a welcomed and anticipated New Year. January is known as the two-faced Month because it gets its name after the mythological Roman god Janus, who had two faces, one to look into the past and one to look into the future.

As we look back at 2020, it may appear to be year riddled with more tragedy than triumph. As your pastor I believe that for those of us who were able to look beyond the many inconveniences of 2020, it was a year that was more about the faithfulness of God than any previous "great" year!

The year began normal enough. You may remember by February, rumors of some sort of China virus swirled around- but the panic alarm didn't alert until March. After all, how could a virus that began in some Chinese marketplace through bat ingestion impact Staten Island, let alone the world? In a matter of weeks, things rapidly declined. So by the end of February, we had a different kind of Church service. We were in the midst of a sermon series on the parables of Jesus with one parable remaining I believed it important enough to suspend the series, and discuss the virus that was no longer a faint rumor but quickly becoming a roaring reality.

We all remember how we took the guidelines recommended by the CDC and for the safety of our members- we abruptly closed our doors. For a while, it seemed as though we were suffering the sentence of solitary confinement in the prison cells of our own homes and then Zoom entered into our vernacular. The idea of Zoom was first presented to us by Eugene. Not only did he explain it to me, but he was the one who navigated us through what seemed to me to be the new and uncharted territories of Social Media. He explained how to Zoom our services through the various social media platforms.

When we had our first virtual Worship service it was odd, I felt like a duck out of water. At first we sang acapella and suddenly our great God brought back our beloved pianist, Diane back to us. For those of you who may not know Diane, she had been our pianist since the death of our previous pianist, Otto. She faithfully served our church joyfully over many years until moving to Delaware. After our first virtual service, Diane contacted Leslie and said she'd like to play the piano for our future virtual worship services. God is so good!!!

From the Pastor's Desk (con't)

Virtually speaking, things began to take on a form of it's own. With the hard work and guidance of Eugene, Diane and Leslie our virtual worship services became the norm. After navigating through the Easter season, we were able to add to our service a virtual communion. What is even more gratifying, is in the way God restored several former members while bringing in some new people as well. Our Sunday services now reach far beyond the walls of Westerleigh to Connecticut to New Jersey to Washington to Georgia, Alabama and down to Florida.

Most of us were able to participate in our Advent and Christmas Eve services. Eugene truly went over and above any of my expectations in the way he added a multimedia presentation to our Christmas Eve service. It was wonderful and I can't wait to see what he has planned for the upcoming Easter services.

In closing, I want to let you all know that we have not been or are not planning to be lying dormant. The Council meets regularly, and we pray for the needs our church as well as our future. Last Thursday we sustained the motion to have a virtual Congregational meeting on February 21 after the morning worship hour. We urge you all to participate so that we can continue to keep the affairs of the Church of Jesus in the forefront of our lives.

Eugene posts our Sunday services on the various social media platforms which include our website, YouTube and Facebook. I sense that when many of our members feel confident enough to return to in person gatherings, we will come "roaring back," I realize there is convenience in being able to participate in worship, in the confines of our homes while still in pajamas and enjoying a hot beverage, but there is nothing like being together in person in joyful fellowship. Yet, our God has used Covid 19 to take a sober assessment of the importance of utilizing social media as a secondary means of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the 21st century. Therefore, even after we begin to meet in person our plan is to continue to live stream our worship services so that those people who have been providentially hindered for one reason or another, can still remain a part of our worship services.

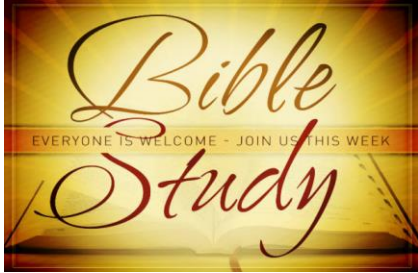
In review, the church has learned lessons from the hardships of 2020 that will make us stronger and more effective in the years ahead. We are highly resilient and capable of finding creative solutions to problems, our beautiful building is a valuable resource but it's not the real Church; social engagement and corporate worship are irreplaceable, and media offers great potential for expanding our reach into the community and the world. Someone has correctly said, adapt, adopt and survive; so whether we like it or not virtual worship is here to stay. As a body of believers, we have remained steadfast in our commitments and loyalty to our Savior's great commission. This pandemic has provided us of our need to be totally dependent upon our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We have God's own promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God which is found only through Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus!

Your Servant for Jesus' Sake,

Pastor Charlie

Bible Studies



The Sunday School series is suspended for the time being.

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

See below to see how to connect to Bible Study or the Sunday Service.

From the Church Council

Due to new cases of COVID in the 10314 area, in person church services are not set to resume yet. We will continue to meet on Zoom. We will continue to monitor the situation as we are anxious to resume in person worship as soon as it is safe.

We are seeking a member of the Congregation at Large to join the House Committee. Sam Colucci and Dan Kish are members, a third member from the CAL is needed. The House Committee is involved in decision making regarding the Church's property and supervision of maintenance of the Church, this includes the building and grounds.

Mark Your Calendars

Congregational Meeting

Will be held on Sunday, February 21st 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.



Church Offering Envelopes/Annual Reports

Giving envelopes and copies of the Annual Report and Budget will be available the week of February 1st, 2021. We will have them available for pickup at the church, dates and times to be announced. If you are unable to pick up, someone will drop them off to you. If you are able to pick up for a friend or neighbor or family member, we would appreciate you doing so.



Church Fair

The Church Fair has been postponed until the Spring. If anyone has cleaned out items that are good to sell at the Church Fair, we will be announcing dates to gratefully accept donations. Item collection will be contactless. Please call the church office for dates or to set up a drop off time.



**For Everyone's
Safety**



**Let's look forward to
Spring 2021**



Follow us on Facebook for details on all IUC events!

Upper Room

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.

Thank you to Bonnie for serving our church community in this way.

Offering Envelopes

If you would like to receive a box of envelopes for your donations and do not do so already, please call the church office at 718 448-1584 and we will put one aside for you. All donations are confidential, but by using envelopes your donation is logged and you will receive an annual statement for your records.



New Sexton

We have a new Sexton, John Hannafin. He has been doing a great job. Wait until you see the gym and fellowship hall floors. They were stripped, waxed and polished and look amazing!

John and his family live behind the church on Ohio Place and we are blessed to have him use his many talents to help maintain our beloved church. We hope you will meet him soon.

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day	2
3 Church Service via zoom 10:00	4	5 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	6 Epiphany	7 Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings Via Zoom	8	9
10 Church Service via zoom 10:00	11	12 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	13	14	15	16
17 Church Service via zoom 10:00	18 MLK, Jr. Day	19 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	20	21	22	23
24 Church Service via zoom 10:00	25	26 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	27	28	29	30
31 Church Service via zoom 10:00						

Church News



Altar flower donations are suspended until the Church Service begins meeting in person.

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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 February Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, January 22nd. 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.

# Social Media

Please check out our Website as well as our Facebook Page. 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!

# Zoom Connection Instructions

(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

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.



### *Welcome January*

January is a time of quiet and new beginnings - is the perfect time to reflect on how you want to live your life.

January is the perfect time to refocus on your priorities and set goals.

Think Positive Words

