



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)

January

- 1st New Year's Day
- 5th Council/Trustee/Board Meetings
- 11th AARP
- 16th MLK, Jr. Day
- 28th Pinewood Derby
- 29th Congregational Meeting

February

- 2nd Council/Trustee/Board Meetings
- 4th Boy Scout Radio Bingo
- 5th Scout Sunday
- 8th AARP
- 22nd Ash Wednesday
- 25th Blue & Gold Dinner



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

2023 Greetings in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

By now I pray you're adjusting to the new year. One thing we could all be assured of is that life is like a roller coaster ride. In that, our days end either on a high or a low.

My prayer is that all of us will use this letter in the hope that we will use '23 as a time of deep reflection concerning the fragility of life. Please consider joining our Tuesday Evening Bible Study as we look to a man with a very interesting life, Job. The book of Job presents before us a paradigm on what it means to suffer well as a follower of Jesus Christ.

In Job 14:1 says, "Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble." That was spoken by a man who knew what he was talking about. Job was amid the worst kind of suffering a person can endure. God had encouraged Satan to torment Job for a brief time to test Job and show the devil that His people will persevere even in the midst of adversity.

Job said that man is "**full of trouble,**" and Jesus confirmed it: "**In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world**" (John 16:33). Becoming a Christian does not protect us from trouble. In fact, taking up our cross to follow Jesus may mean that life gets harder, not easier (Luke 9:23). For centuries, Christians living in countries with oppressive governments have invited more trouble simply by trusting Christ for salvation. Even those in relatively free parts of the world face external difficulties and, internally, their own sinful desires as they strive to follow Christ (John 15:18; Romans 7:18–20).

One of the great reasons God allows affliction in the life of His people is so they will learn to refocus their remaining time on earth with a focus on eternity. That is what Moses meant when in Psalm 90:12 he prayed, "**Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**"

This world is not all there is. In fact, our earthly existence is only a tiny fragment of the life God has planned for His people. Jesus urged us **to store our real treasure in heaven where nothing can harm or destroy it** (Matthew 6:19–20). To know Christ is to be thankful that our days are few because **to "be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord"** (2 Corinthians 5:8). That knowledge strengthens us to take heart and not let earthly troubles overwhelm us. The trouble we are full of won't last long. Paul gives us a healthy perspective on the fact that man is few of days and full of trouble: "**Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all**" (2 Corinthians 4:16–17).

In the book of Job, we find many truths about God, while we see a man consumed with the Glory of God as he went through the storm of affliction even though he was without fault. Job's life testified to his words: **his days were few, and they were surely full of trouble.**

Pastor's Letter (con't)

Job's words that ***"man is few of days"*** remind us that our lives are short compared with eternity. Even the longest human life span is but a speck of dust when placed on the scale of infinity. Yet, when we are suffering, our days seem endless. Because of that, we may make decisions to say and do things we would not otherwise say and do. Satan wants to deceive us into believing that the day of reckoning is never really going to happen. Even so, through all Job went through His hope was in the living God. In Job 19 he affirmed, ***For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth.***

The surety of a day of judgment is nearer than we think. Paul affirmed this in Acts 17:30-31 where he announced, ***The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.*** James reminds us in his epistle, ***"What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes"*** (James 4:14). And Jesus warned that ***"you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him"*** (Luke 12:40).

Much of my ministry to you is to help you to prepare for that very day. Are you ready to behold your God?

I also would like to end this Lamplighter letter with a couple of invites:

- ❖ Please remember that Sunday January 29th is the Lord's Supper on Zoom, so please have the elements ready at home.
- ❖ After our Worship there will be a remote congregational meeting. We need you to attend particularly if you are a member of Immanuel Union Church. You can log in or call in with the information in this Lamplighter, we need you to attend.
- ❖ February 5th is Scout Sunday. This will be service that you are invited to attend in person if you'd like, or you can stay home and join our Worship via Zoom.
- ❖ Otherwise, the next in person Worship Service will be on Palm Sunday which falls on April 2nd this year. Please join us as we follow the events that led to Jesus' crucifixion and glorious Resurrection.

Please stay safe this winter and seek out the strength that God provides.

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 is relocating 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

Happy New Year! The Council met this month and we looked ahead at the year. Our calendar is full, and we will need everyone's to help to accomplish the goals we have set.

Even though we have events on our calendar and goals to reach, our ultimate goal is that in everything we do, it is all for the glory of God. Our church goal is not to survive, but to thrive spiritually, as well as grow in our relationship with Him. We encourage you to set a personal goal this year to grow in your own relationship with Jesus. You can accomplish this goal from the comfort of your own home, by reading your Bible and praying, as well as joining us for Sunday School, Worship and Bible Study. Joining remotely is not difficult, although I know it's different. Since the Pandemic we haven't seen many of you in person, so we encourage you to make it a goal to return and join us remotely. We look forward to seeing all of you on Zoom in the near future, and please pray for our congregation that we reach our goal this year to grow more in our relationship Jesus and that everything we do be for His glory! Also, we encourage you to invite your family and friends to join us remotely- or in person after April 2nd, so we can watch as God grows our congregation spiritually as well as numerically, and to Him will be all the glory!

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.

Milestones



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 Matthias | 1/20 Jamie Joyce Blissenbach |
| 1/12 Jeffrey Forbes Smith | 1/23 Fred Buser |
| | 1/25 Melissa Iken |
| | Helen Jerlin |

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.

Announcements

- To order Altar Flowers to honor or memorialize your loved ones please call the Church Office.
- Offering envelopes for 2023 are delayed due to a paper shortage at the company that prints them. They should be delivered by the end of January and will be distributed as soon as possible. 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 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 February Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, January 20th. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net.

Mark Your Calendars

Congregational Meeting

Will be held on Sunday, January 29th 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 will be emailed out the week of January 23rd. 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.



Christmas Poinsettia Donation List

Donor

Senja & William Coyne

Dorothy Crimmins

Margaret Gerlin Grosz

Anne Holland

Nancy & John Myers

Jack Ritchie

Eugene & Roseann

Sorensen

In Memory Of:

Our Parents

Thomas, Son

Loved Ones

Nathan & Constance Gerlin

Loved Ones

Constance Colucci

Elizabeth & Stuart Myers

Ruth & Frances Ritchie

Mary & Eugene Sorensen, Parents

Bob Little, Friend

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.

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Council/Board & Trustee Meetings	6 Epiphany	7
8 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	9	10 Bible Study via zoom 6:30 Election Day	11 AARP	12	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	16 MLK, Jr. Day	17 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	18	19	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	23	24 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	25	26	27	28 Pinewood Derby
29 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00 Congregational Meeting	30	31 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)

Dial by your location from landline

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

Prayer List



New-

- † Our friends the Dolby's lost their mom/grandma this week- pray for comfort & peace!
- † Lauren- a young friend who has flesh eating bacteria and is on a vent and her kidneys are failing. Doesn't look hopeful-

Continued-

- † Dorothy's family Ray has returned to the hospital after a short discharge, needs PT, pray for strengthening.
- † James- fell out of bed when he was sleeping and broke 2 bones in his back was operated on and is back in the nursing home, pain is a challenge.
- † Phil- had pneumonia and is on antibiotics and doing better.
- † Roland's Aunt has stage 4 cancer.
- † Lyn Spaulding's mom Barbara- fell and broke her hip, had surgery, but couldn't get into rehab they wanted.
- † Anne Haakonsen - has been sick, pray for complete recovery
- † John Valjalo- has been sick. Pray for complete recovery.
- † Howard- has returned to Guyana after New Years, pray for his safety
- † Gina (the Church secretary) has a dog named Noodles who they just found out 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.
- † Stacey- She had a stroke after from the marrow marrow transplant. She can't speak and her right side is paralyzed
- † Joshua- depression is improving
- † Ed Zeltman's cousin Kevin having chemo
- † Susan & Dave - Dan & Sheri's neighbor- Susan has health problems
- † Neil and Annie Podkowsky- Bonnie Rogers nephew & wife are expecting twins and have a difficult pregnancy.
- † Andy, DonnaMarie's 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 Matthius- 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-