



## LOOKING AHEAD

### July (Tentative Dates)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings  
Via Zoom
- 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day
- 27<sup>th</sup> Fair Donations Collection

### August

- 6<sup>th</sup> Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings  
Via Zoom



Immanuel Union Church

693 Jewett Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10314  
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# July/August Birthdays



## July

6 <sup>th</sup>	Katherine Buchanan
9 <sup>th</sup>	Jessica Brower
10 <sup>th</sup>	Amanda Iken
11 <sup>th</sup>	Gary Brower, Jr.
13 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Reiman Conca
14 <sup>th</sup>	Tara Michie-Palermo
15 <sup>th</sup>	Bernhard Iken
20 <sup>th</sup>	Timothy Jon McAuliffe
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Edward Jerlin
25 <sup>th</sup>	Craig Roby
26 <sup>th</sup>	Jeffrey Rogers
30 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth Iken
31 <sup>st</sup>	Betty Reiman

## August

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Judith Morris
4 <sup>th</sup>	Scott Reiman
6 <sup>th</sup>	Patricia Brower
8 <sup>th</sup>	Gregory Neis
12 <sup>th</sup>	Bernard Brannigan
19 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Coyne
21 <sup>st</sup>	Michael Coffey
	Peter Matthius
27 <sup>th</sup>	William Bowe
28 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Matthius

# Coffee Hour



**Suspended**

## IN THIS ISSUE

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- Flea Market
- Annual Congregational Meeting

## From the Pastor's Desk

To All Whose Only Hope of Heaven is Jesus,

Lately I've been observing all the unrest going on within the borders of our great nation and for the first time in my life our light appears dark and dreary.

In 1989, President Ronald Reagan gave his Farewell Address to the Nation. In doing so, he defined his vision of "the shining city upon a hill." Reagan built on the phrase preached by Puritan pilgrim John Winthrop in perhaps the earliest example of what makes America so special. In 1630, while still aboard a ship bound for Massachusetts Bay, Winthrop delivered his sermon entitled, "A Model of Christian Charity," while the Pilgrims were still on board the Arabella.

Expounding upon the words of Jesus from Matthew 5:14-16, "**You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven**";

Winthrop exhorted these arriving immigrants with the following message, "For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause Him to withdraw His present help from us, we shall be made a story and a byword through the world."

Well it seems as though this is happening before our very eyes. The division and anarchy that we are currently experiencing is truly making America a byword throughout the world. So although the things of this world may appear bleak, it should cause us to lift up our eyes to the mountains and focus upon the fact our only source of true help comes from the Lord, the Creator of what is seen- as well as what is unseen. Bart Millard of the Christian group Mercy Me wrote the song "I Can Only Imagine".

In it he wrote,            *I can only imagine what it will be like When I walk by Your side*  
   *I can only imagine what my eyes will see When Your face is before me*  
   *I can only imagine, yeah*  
   *Surrounded by Your glory What will my heart feel?*  
   *Will I dance for You, Jesus Or in awe of You be still?*  
   *Will I stand in Your presence Or to my knees will I fall?*  
   *Will I sing hallelujah? Will I be able to speak at all?*  
   *I can only imagine, I can only imagine*

Have you ever tried to imagine what Heaven must be like? Even though I understand that the only frame of reference we have comes from the world in which we exist, I often try to anyway. The Bible does not answer all our questions about Heaven. Biblically, I believe, He wants His people to live by faith and not by sight. Personally, I think God keeps the secrets of Heaven in a vault .

I remember watching an episode of Seinfeld where Elaine tells Jerry, "You can tell me. I'll put it in the vault." Jerry then replies, "No good. Too many people know the combination."

The secrets of Heaven are kept in a vault as well, and only God knows that combination. 1 Peter 1:3-4 says that very thing, **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, KEPT IN HEAVEN FOR YOU,**

The word "**Kept**" is a word which literally means, "vaulted or guarded by a sentinel". Therefore, Heaven is really in the vault.

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

What we do know about it, is that it's glorious, far more glorious than anything we can even ask for or imagine on earth. That means the most spectacular sunset you've ever witnessed, the most beautiful flower you ever examined, the most awesome mountain range you ever saw, all these fail tremendously in comparison with the glory of Heaven. In Revelation 22:8 the Apostle John was given a glimpse of Heaven and his only response was to fall down and worship at the feet of Jesus.

The promises of Heaven are glorious, especially since it will lack all those things that seek to rob us of true, abiding joy. Heaven will lack heartache, tears, sickness and death. Heaven will lack sin, in fact, the very potential to sin will cease to exist since the tempter (Satan) will be banned from Heaven's presence forever.

John's vision of Heaven did include things that we are familiar with: there are streets, and trees, and walls, and gates, and a river of the purest of water. It will be like the Garden of Eden.

So a big question that I have heard over the years is, will Heaven be boring?

The answer to this question has to do with your relationship with Jesus in the here and now.

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, how do you not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing. I know my Master is there and that is enough."

What will Heaven really be like? Jesus, my Master will be there, and that is all I really need to know. Jesus is the hope of Heaven.

What about those things that seem to bring you so much pleasure, now?

Hebrews 11:23 tells the story of Moses who was raised in the palace of Egypt to be a prince, ***"By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward."***

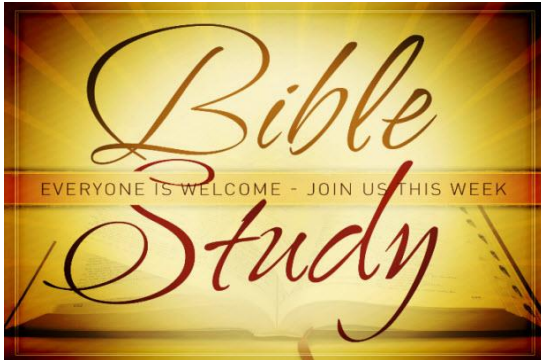
The fact is, you have never really known what real pleasure is, and you will not, until you come to Jesus. For true and abiding pleasure can only be found in Jesus alone. A few moments with Jesus are to be preferred to an eternity with the cursed pleasures of this world. For the Christian, heaven is where Jesus is. We do not need to speculate on what heaven will be like. It is enough to know that we will be forever with Him.

One final truth about Heaven, is that you can have the hope of going there as well. The reason is because God has provided the way, and that way is Jesus Christ, who gave His life for our salvation. Is your faith and trust in Him alone for your hope of salvation?

Looking Forward to One Day Seeing You on the Other Side,

***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.

# 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

# Covid 19 Update

## **Greetings to the congregation and friends of Immanuel Union Church,**

The Church Council of Immanuel Union will meet on August 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Covid 19 Virus Pandemic and to discuss when we can possibly worship in person again.

**Congregants may always reach the pastor by phone or virtual conference for individual concerns, spiritual and emotional care.**

**We miss everyone and are looking forward to when we may worship safely together.**

Sincerely,

Nancy Myers

Chairperson of the Board

# Mark Your Calendars

## **Flea Market**

Our Arts & Crafts Flea Market has been tentatively moved to Saturday, September 12<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**

The date will be determined. We will also be approving the 2020 Budget at this time.



# Fair Donation Collections

If anyone has cleaned out items that are good to sell at the Church Fair, we will be at the church on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm to gratefully accept donations. Item collection will be contactless. If this date does not work, there will be more donation dates available.

Please let your family and friends know that we are accepting donations. Thank you for your continued support.

The Fair Committee



**Now Accepting  
Donations**

# July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings Via Zoom	3	4
5 Church Service via zoom 10:00	6	7 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	8	9	10	11
12 Church Service via zoom 10:00	13	14 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	15	16	17	18
19 Church Service via zoom 10:00	20	21 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	22	23	24	25
26 Church Service via zoom 10:00	27 <b>Fair Donation Collections</b>	28 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	29	30	31	



# August 2020

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

# 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.

If you are not currently receiving offering envelopes and wish to be included, please contact the church office at 718-448-1584.

Information for the September Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net. Thank you.

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.

