



LOOKING AHEAD

June

(Tentative Dates)

4th Council/Trustee/ Board
Meetings
Via Zoom

July

4th Independence Day



Immanuel Union Church

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

June Birthdays



- 5 Adrienne Liana
- 9 Valerie Jacobson
- 10 Abigail Blissenbach
- 11 Mary Brower
John David Conca
- 15 Casey Lynne Reiman
- 26 Thomas Coffey
- 27 Christine Matthius
Roseann Sorensen

Coffee Hour



Suspended

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From the Pastor's Desk

To All Feeling Distressed as they are Tossed by the Storms of Life,

In our remote worship service last Sunday, I discussed a racist prophet named Jonah. God challenged faith by commanding him to not just to preach against the wickedness of the nation of Assyria, but to leave the confines of Israel's borders and preach in person in Assyria. Needless to say Jonah wanted nothing to do with it. Jonah in an attempt to run from God who told him to travel northeast- traveled southwest instead. Jonah 1:3 tells us *"Jonah paid his own fare to board a boat that was traveling to what was the furthest anyone could sail back then Tarshish to get away from the presence of the LORD."*

Jonah soon found out the futility of this pursuit because verse 4 tells us *"the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up."* What was even more amazing about this reluctant prophet, was as the mariners did all they could to keep the ship afloat while crying out to their pagan gods, Jonah just slept. The storms of life have a way of causing feelings of discouragement, as well as depression.

Two weeks ago, I was beginning to feel as though the storm which came upon us just as suddenly as Jonah's tempest, had begun to lull. As I drove down Westcott, the sun was shining, the birds were singing and people casually waking and talking. It seemed as though Spring had sprung and I breathed a sigh of relief. What I didn't realize, was that it was the calm before another storm. This storm was not one that came in the form of a viral pandemic, but the racist murder by four law enforcement officers, which has been succeeded by both peaceful protest as well as anarchy, violence, and robbery.

In Luke 18:7-8 we read the words of Jesus concerning His second coming in glory, *"Will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry out to Him day and night? Will He continue to defer their help? I tell you, He will promptly carry out justice on their behalf. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?"* Will He find faith on earth exemplified through His Church?

If I have learned one thing over the past several months, it's how unpredictable and fragile life is. We, the Church, as the visible representatives of the one true God have been entrusted with the privilege of persisting in praying for and showing love to a world that needs Jesus. Therefore, in the same way Jonah was entrusted with the privilege of proclaiming the God he knew was *"a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster"*, we are entrusted with that same trust.

That is what Paul means when in 2 Corinthians 5:7 he says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"*.

From the Pastor's Desk (con't)

Paul in Ephesians 5:14 exhorts us *"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."* So wake up from your slumber of indifference and complacency. Trials, pain, difficult circumstances, and hard times are all part of our calling. Things happen that are beyond our understanding and out of our control. If you're anything like me, I find myself turning to God with the same questions that Habakkuk asked, *"Why are such things happening; Do you really love us and are you really listening?"* Then I take off my Pollyanna lenses and come to grips with the fact that in fallen world things are constantly falling apart, things which one day Jesus will finally set aright.

We know that the reward in Heaven received by the faithful far outweighs the suffering they must endure to go there. Can we make the same promise to those who are losing family members whether by plague, the seemingly racist attack by a Police officer upon a compliant man who was deprived of his pleas for just one more breath; to those loved ones who lost police officers in the line of protecting the innocent; to those who've lost businesses and homes through no fault of their own; or to those who's marriages under such stress have not been able to weather their storms? We need to proclaim that He still is that same

God who Jonah knew to be *"a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster"*.

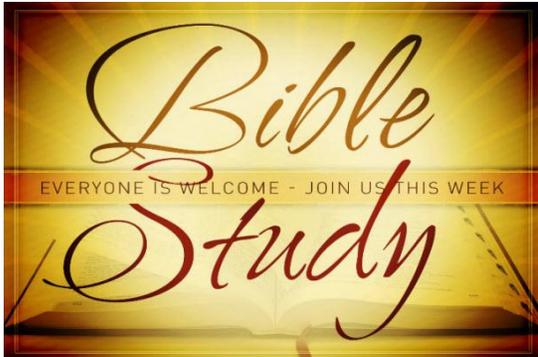
We first need to believe in our own hearts that God someday will make compensation for the present suffering of His people with a far better and eternal future. Jesus assured those who are persecuted for His sake that *"a great reward awaits you in heaven."* (Matthew 5:12) The accounts of the Biblical figures Joseph and Daniel, as well as many others, encourage us to trust today's pain to God in expectation of His favor tomorrow.

That does not mean that if we suffer in this life, we will be rewarded in this life. But what God does not repay in this life, he repays and more in the next: *"And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing."* (2 Timothy 4:8)

In closing, I would like to again offer you the invitation to join us online every Sunday for worship at 10:00 a.m. (9:50 a.m. if you want to just relax and focus and de-stress) as well as for Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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.

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 church met on June 4th to discuss the Covid 19 Virus Pandemic and its effect on the operation and mission of our church. After research and careful consideration; it was decided that we will continue virtual worship services until the State and City of New York allow us to meet in person with the number of people who usually attend our services. Once that milestone is established, the council has unanimously decided to follow the recommendations established by the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ for procedures to reopen. These recommendations consist of 3 steps which are spaced out over a period of time. (At least one month apart)

The recommendation includes but is not limited to:

- Limiting the number of participants to ensure social distancing (six feet apart)
- Wearing face masks
- No singing during the initial steps; however, music will be provided by our pianist once we begin in-person worship.
- No hymnals or Bulletins (all will be projected on screen)
- No coffee hour
- Sunday School and Bible Study meetings would continue via Zoom
- No in- person committee meetings until step 2
- Church office would gradually reopen on-site in step 2
- An alternative method of Communion and collection of offering
- Hand sanitizing, maintenance and cleaning of facilities

During these procedures and steps; on line worship will continue for those who feel that the need to remain home. Congregants may always reach the pastor by phone or virtual conference for individual concerns, spiritual and emotional care.

******Please note that all of the above are processes and opening procedures will be determined by the real time progress and the current status of the congregation, City and State with regard to the Virus and are subject to change at any time to protect the health and well- being of all.**

The Council will meet virtually again in July and August to determine when reopening steps may begin. We do not foresee opening the church for Worship or for community gatherings before September. The church will continue to be closed to all individuals and groups unless prior approval has been given through the Church Secretary to the Chairperson of the Board. Our sexton and secretary continue to provide their services to the church and ensure for the safety of our facilities. Maintenance continues to be done as needed to keep the church in good repair.

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 12th 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.



Church Fair

Hello,

I find myself cleaning out items that I no longer need or want while I am home. This is something I have wanted to do for a while but did not have the time or desire before now. If anyone else is also cleaning out; please save any items that you think would be appropriate to sell at the Church Fair.

We are way behind in our fund raising and incoming funds due to the Covid 19 Virus. If we are able to have the Fair we need to earn as much as we possibly can. Also, please let your family and friends know that we are accepting donations. Thank you for your continued support.

The Fair Committee

June 2020

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

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 July/August Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, June 26th. 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.



Then followed that beautiful
season...Summer...Filled was the
air with a dreamy and magical light;
and the landscape lay as if new
created in all the freshness of
childhood.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

