



## LOOKING AHEAD

### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> Council/Trustee/Board Meetings
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Blue & Gold Dinner
- 9<sup>th</sup> NARFE
- 14<sup>th</sup> AARP
- 16<sup>th</sup> Scout Crossover
- 18<sup>th</sup> One Great Hour of Sharing
- 24<sup>th</sup> Women's Communion Luncheon
- 25<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast  
Congregational Meeting
- 28<sup>th</sup> Tall Cedars
- 29<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday Soup Supper & Service
- 30<sup>th</sup> Good Friday
- 31<sup>st</sup> Easter Egg Hunt

### April

- 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday
- 5<sup>th</sup> Council/Trustee/Board Meetings
- 11<sup>th</sup> AARP
- 13<sup>th</sup> NARFE
- 14<sup>th</sup> Craft Show & Flea Market
- 25<sup>th</sup> Tall Cedars
- 27<sup>th</sup> Pack Night



## Immanuel Union Church

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

# March Birthdays



1st	Gary Brower Peter Brower Ray Crimmins	14th	Victoria Morris
5th	Carl Landau	16th	James Irons
6th	Kris Reiman	17th	Judith Brower Henningsen
8th	Sean Thomas McAuliffe	18th	Paul Blissenbach II
10th	Scott Michie	20th	Jill Jacobson Guerra
12 <sup>th</sup>	Stephen Coyne Gregg Matthius Katharine Matthius	21st	Jane Bullen Sonja F. Coyne Ashley Michie
		22nd	Paul Blissenbach
		23rd	Annemarie Miano
		24th	Jennifer Orlando
		29th	Heather Starlin

# Coffee Hour



## March

- 4<sup>th</sup> Trustees
- 11<sup>th</sup> Church Board
- 18<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Evening Bible Study
- 25<sup>th</sup> Adult Fellowship

## April

- 1<sup>st</sup> Trustees
- 8<sup>th</sup> Church Board
- 15<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Evening Bible Study
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Adult Fellowship
- 29<sup>th</sup> Volunteers

## IN THIS ISSUE

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# From the Pastor's Desk

To All Who Seek For Greater Intimacy With Their Creator,

A preacher inquired of a little boy, "Do you say your prayers at night, little boy?" The boy responded, "Yes, sir." "And do you always say them in the morning too?" "No, sir," responded the boy, "I ain't scared in the daytime."

A funny story that has an all too truthful point, most of us only pray when we are plagued by fears.

In Colossians 4:2 Paul entreats us to, **Devote ourselves to prayer.** The word "**be devoted to**" occurs six times in the New Testament in relation to prayer. **Acts 1:14, "These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer." Acts 2:42, "[The early church] were continually devoting themselves to . . . prayer." Acts 6:4, the apostles said they would devote themselves "to prayer and to the ministry of the word." Romans 12:12, "Rejoice in hope, persevere in tribulation, be devoted to prayer." Ephesians 6:18, "Pray at all times in the Spirit . . . with all perseverance."**

So what does "**Devote yourselves to prayer**" mean? It simply means that we should pray often and pray regularly. Being "**devoted to**" prayer means that we are not haphazard or forgetful concerning prayer. It means we take steps to see that it is part of our regular life, the same way that eating and sleeping are.

This type a devotion involves taking steps. We see this by the next phrase in Colossians 4:2, "**Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it.**" Keeping alert means that we take steps against being distracted. We take all of the necessary steps to stay awake and to stay at the task.

Let us consider two questions in regards to what it means be devoted to prayer.

**1. When should we pray?** In 1 Th 5:17 Paul exhorts us to, "**pray continually.**" This may lead many of us to believe that we should have an integrated life with prayer saturating all we do. If that is your feeling then I say, amen to that. But it's still important to set apart a portion of your day to pray in solitude in order to focus upon quiet, UN-distracted communion with God.

**Why?** Because it's difficult to get deep with God on the run, merely fitting Him into the cracks of your day. But you can enjoy continual fellowship with God on the run if you have gone deep with God in the stillness of the season of prayer. Devotion prayer should act as a launching pad for having your whole day a walking conversation with God, so that you could offer up your desires to him hour by hour. Make that your aim. And the way to "**be devoted**" to prayer like that is to be devoted to regular daily times of solitude in prayer. You will go deep with him in the moments of quiet focus, and this depth will make God real and weighty in the rest of the day. So decide on a place and a time for this meeting of getting alone with God in prayer.

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

**2. How Long should we pray?** The historical records show that Martin Luther prayed 4 hours each day. One pastor remarked concerning Luther's extraordinary prayer life, "Luther prayed this much, not despite his busy life, but because only so could he accomplish his gigantic labors."

Most of us may not have as many gigantic labors as a Martin Luther to accomplish. Therefore it doesn't have to be one long duration of prayer. Instead it can be several planned shorter durations.

For example, there is the great example of Daniel. He was a high ranking political official in Babylon. He had enemies and they passed a law that no one could pray except to the king. Daniel 6:10 says, ***"Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously."***

So not only do we see the courage and utter commitment of Daniel to pray in an open window when his life was threatened for it, but we see that he was ***"devoted"*** to it three times a day. I have found it very helpful at times in my life to set aside a time in the morning, at lunch and before or after supper. You go away by yourself and you read a small portion of Scripture and you pray and ask for God's help in that next third of the day.

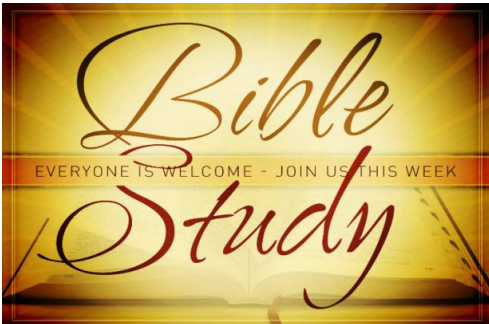
Or you might do it differently. For example, the Psalmist in Psalm 119:164 tells us, ***"Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous ordinances."*** This is all up to you.

What does matter is that we devote ourselves to prayer. We should be alert in prayer, and do whatever we have to do to see that we meet with our God in a focused way to hear from Him in his Word and to offer up our desires to Him in prayer.

God Bless,

Your Servant For His Sake,  
*Pastor Charlie*

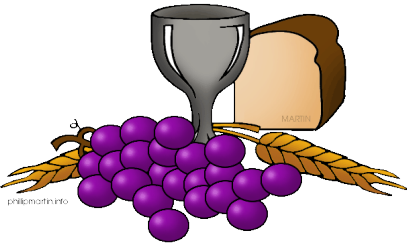
## Bible Studies



The Sunday School series going through the Old Testament will be held on Sundays, at 9:00 AM in the workroom.

The Tuesday evening Bible Study is held in the workroom at 6:30 PM.

## Women's Communion Luncheon



Our 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women's Communion Luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018. The service is at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary; luncheon follows at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. We are excited to have as our guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Kathlyn Barrett-Layne, President of the Staten Island Council of Churches. *Her home church is Reach Out and Touch Ministries.* The Rev. Dr. Barrett-Layne is an inspirational, motivational speaker and author. Her topic will be "Overcoming the Challenges of Disappointment." All are invited to this special event. Please come and bring your friends. For additional information see Nancy Myers.

# One Great Hour of Sharing



The One Great Hour of Sharing offering may initially seem to focus on monetary donations. Yet, even in Biblical times, money was the logical and practical step to providing the tangible gifts others needed. Today, in our global neighborhood the funds we gather still become very real gifts of love, joy, and restoration. For example:

- Food, shelter and the comfort of a safe haven help families displaced by natural disasters or political unrest;
- Sustenance arrival calms the worried faces of mothers with hungry children enduring drought and famine;
- An easily accessible well with clean potable water brings smiles to remote villagers;
- A new village school welcomes students to the first day of classes;
- Seeds provide farmers with food and a source of income.

When we cannot physically go to meet needs in person, our gifts add together to assist others. Our money becomes joy to others. God, our divine parent, is joyous for a world made better by love. As you make your gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, remember the many ways this will bring joy. Share cheerfully and abundantly, knowing that you are not only sharing resources, you are helping to change lives.

On March 18<sup>th</sup> we will dedicate our One Great Hour of Sharing gifts with a special litany and prayer. We look forward to seeing you. If you are unable to worship with us that day, please send your gift to the church by mail.

May our worship be amazingly joyful. May our sharing be delightfully abundant. And may God be glad by our cheerful generosity.

# Congregational Meeting



**There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> following the 10:00 a.m. Service. Please attend as we need to reach a quorum. Thank you.**

# March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Council/Board & Trustee Meetings	2	3
4 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	5	6 Bible Study 6:30 PM Westerleigh Improvement Society	7	8	9 NARFE	10
11 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	12	13 Bible Study 6:30 PM	14 AARP	15	16 Scout Crossover	17 
18 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00 <b>OGHS</b>	19	20 Bible Study 6:30 PM	21	22	23	24 Women's Communion Luncheon
25 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Pancake Breakfast</b> Church Service 10:00 <b>Congregational Meeting</b>	26	27 Bible Study 6:30 PM	28 Tall Cedars	29 Maundy Thursday Soup Supper & Service	30 Good Friday	31 Easter Egg Hunt



Please join us for these upcoming events:

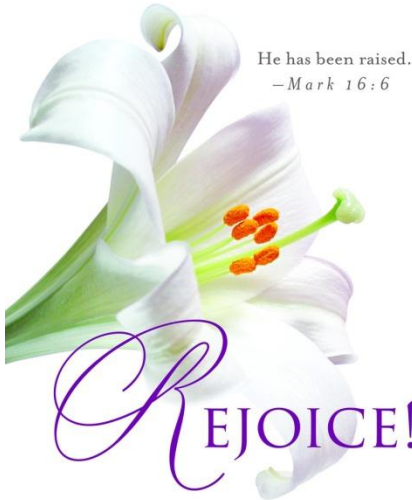
- ✝ Women's Communion Luncheon March 24<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM
- ✝ Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast March 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 AM  
(\$6 for adults; \$3 for children under 10.) – Fellowship Hall.
- ✝ Maundy Thursday Soup Supper March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM – Fellowship Hall
- ✝ Maundy Thursday Service March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM - Sanctuary
- ✝ Good Friday March 30<sup>th</sup> Sanctuary will be open for prayer and reflection from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM– Sanctuary
- ✝ Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> 1:00 PM, rain or shine, ages 1 – 8.  
Come out to enjoy prizes, games and Snacks!
- ✝ Easter Sunday Service April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM– Sanctuary



IUC is sponsoring a Craft Show & Flea Market on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 3 PM. Please come out and support our event. Our kitchen will be open for lunch. For more information, please see Sam Colucci or call the church office at 718 448-1584.



# Order Your Easter Lilies



*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, Attn: Sam Colucci. The list of names will be published in the May Lamplighter.*

*Easter Lilies - \$10.00 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 25, 2018. 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.*

# Church News



Reserve Altar Flowers now through the end of 2018. 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 April Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, March 16<sup>th</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  
Lydia Lorenzo  
Karen McCarthy  
Vicky Morris  
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.

