



## LOOKING AHEAD

### March

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Boy Scout Blue & Gold Dinner
- 6<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday
- 7<sup>th</sup> Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 10<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting
- 13<sup>th</sup> AARP
- 24<sup>th</sup> Scout Sunday
- 27<sup>th</sup> Tall Cedars
- 30<sup>th</sup> Arts & Crafts Flea Market

### April

- 4<sup>th</sup> Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 10<sup>th</sup> AARP
- 13<sup>th</sup> Women's Communion Luncheon
- 14<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday Breakfast
- 18<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday Soup Supper & Service
- 19<sup>th</sup> Good Friday
- 20<sup>th</sup> Easter Egg Hunt
- 21<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday
- 24<sup>th</sup> Tall Cedars



## Immanuel Union Church

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

# March Birthdays



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

# Coffee Hour



## IN THIS ISSUE

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## March

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Trustees
- 10<sup>th</sup> Church Board
- 17<sup>th</sup> Adult Fellowship
- 24<sup>th</sup> Scout Sunday

## April

- 7<sup>th</sup> Trustees
- 14<sup>th</sup> Church Board
- 21<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Evening Bible Study
- 28<sup>th</sup> Adult Fellowship

## From the Pastor's Desk

To All Who Long For The Nearness of God,

M. Night Shyamalan's movie *Wide Awake* is about a Catholic school boy's search for God. The boy, Joshua, specifically wants to find out whether or not his deceased grandfather is okay. Joshua and his friend Dave are sitting in a car in a garage having a discussion. Both are about 10 years old. Joshua says: "You know what, Dave? I'm going on a mission. A real mission."

"What kind of mission?" Dave asks.

"The kind where you're looking for something important," says Joshua.

"What are you gonna look for?"

"God."

"God?" Dave is incredulous. "What for?"

"I just want to talk to him."

"Why?"

"To make sure my grandpa is okay."

Dave thinks for a moment, then says: "Remember when you told me I was stupid for staring at that bug lamp on my porch for six hours hoping the purple light would have gamma rays and turn me into the Incredible Hulk so I could fight crime? Your mission is more stupid than that."

"Why?" Joshua asks.

"Cause you can't look for God."

"Why not?"

"Where in the world are you gonna look?"

James 4:8 exhorts us to "*Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you*". If you think of it, this must be one of the most amazing verses in the Bible. *We can draw near to God? And God will draw near to us?* Us, as we drink our coffee in the morning? Us, as we are in the midst of a difficult conversation? Us, as we feel ourselves losing patience with our children or our spouses? Us, when we become tired and grumpy by days end? Us, as we crawl into our beds at night? *We can draw near to God? And God will draw near to us?*

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

Almighty God in heaven wants us to draw near to Him, with the promise that He will draw near to us? If that's true, it must be one of the most wonderful truths in all of life.

What does it mean? *"Draw near to God"* means that God is inviting us to move close to Him. He is inviting us to commune with Him and enjoy Him and honor Him and draw strength from Him in our thoughts, in our hearts. He welcomes us into His special nearness: *"Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth"* (Psalm 145:18). Calling upon the Lord in truth, not in perfection, but in Christ, we have the assurance that we will never find God's door closed. He does not stand off at the other end of the universe. He loves to draw near to us.

He is ready right now for you, for me. When He sees even His prodigal children moving in His direction, He runs to meet them (Luke 15:20). You can draw near to God in praise, in need, in agony, in joy, in gratitude, in sin, in sadness, in doubt, in all the conditions of life.

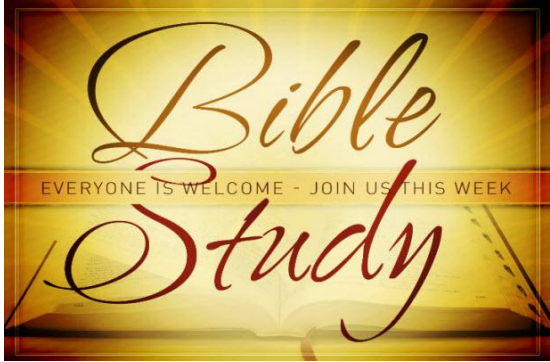
Draw near to God with faith and repentance. Draw near to God through the finished work of Christ on the cross. Draw near to God with boldness, with reverence, and delight yourself in the overflowing pleasures of His presence.

Let this profound truth act as our daily resource. God says, *"I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, to revive the heart of the contrite"* (Isaiah 57:15). *"And you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, 'I am'"* (Isaiah 58:9).

A. W. Tozer wrote in his book 'The Knowledge of the Holy', *"Progress in the Christian life is exactly equaled to the growing knowledge we gain of the Triune God in personal experience."* Here is how we can do that. **One**, remember that God has already opened the way into His presence through the cross of Christ. Our sin cannot keep us out. The way is clear, right now. **Two**, remember that the Bible is God's primary mechanism for displaying Himself to us, attracting us, inviting us nearer, encouraging us to come close. Read the Bible that way. Let His Word guide you there. **Three**, remember that our weekly worship time is, above all else, meant to be an encounter with the living God through Christ. Come to church in all of your need. He is enough for you. He will prove it, over and over, as we all draw near together. *"Let us keep ourselves in the love of God"* (Jude 21).

*Pastor Charlie*

# Bible Studies



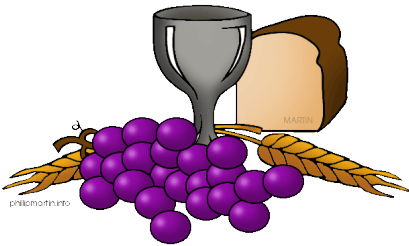
The Sunday School series discussing the concerns of those who attend will be held on Sundays, at 9:00 AM in the workroom.

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

## Note From the Church Council

There is a significant need for more volunteers to serve on the Church Board and the Board of Trustees. The limited number of persons currently serving is a detriment to the proper and efficient running of our beloved church.

# Women's Communion Luncheon



Our 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Communion Luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2019. 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. Nancy Hazzard. Rev. Hazzard has a broad and varied background. A former Peace Corps Volunteer, professional musician, and public school teacher, she has served as assistant pastor, and youth minister in several churches in the New York area. Ordained in 2003, she recently earned her Doctor of Divinity degree from the Emerson Theological Institute. She is a published author in New Thought Quarterly and Creative Thought magazines. She currently serves as a volunteer Chaplain at Eger Health Care facility on Staten Island. Rev. Hazzard's message is entitled "Feed me, nurturing your own spirituality". Please come and bring your friends. For additional information see Nancy Myers or Nancy Wagner-Wetzel.



# Mark Your Calendars

## Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> following the 10:00 a.m.

Service. Please try to attend as we need a quorum.



## Flea Market

We will be hosting an Arts & Crafts Flea Market on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 3 PM. Come out to shop and have lunch. See Sam Colucci if you would like to rent a table.





Please join us for these upcoming events:

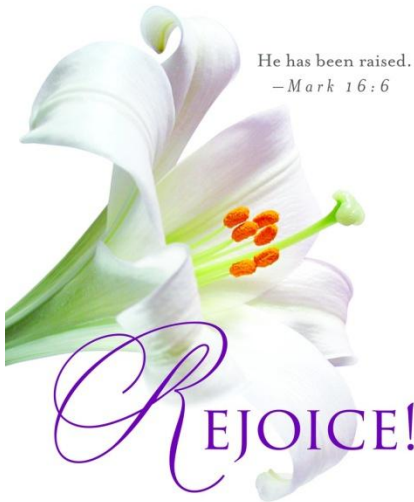
- ✝ Women's Communion Luncheon April 13<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM
- ✝ Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast April 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 AM  
(\$6 for adults; \$3 for children under 10.) – Fellowship Hall.
- ✝ Maundy Thursday Soup Supper April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM –  
Fellowship Hall
- ✝ Maundy Thursday Service April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM -  
Sanctuary
- ✝ Good Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> Sanctuary will be open for prayer  
and reflection from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM– Sanctuary
- ✝ Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 1:00 PM, rain or shine,  
ages 1 – 8. Come out to enjoy prizes, games and Snacks!
- ✝ Easter Sunday Service April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM– Sanctuary



# March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Boy Scout Blue & Gold Dinner
3 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	4	5 Bible Study 6:30 Westerleigh Improvement Society	6 Ash Wednesday	7 Council/Board & Trustee Meetings	8	9
10 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00 Congregational Meeting	11	12 Bible Study 6:30	13 AARP	14	15	16
17 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	18	19 Bible Study 6:30	20	21	22	23
24 Church Service 10:00 Scout Sunday	25	26 Bible Study 6:30	27 Tall Cedars	28		

# 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 April 14, 2019. 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 2019. 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 15<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  
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.

