



# THE LAMPLIGHTER

MARCH 2020

## LOOKING AHEAD

### March

- 5<sup>th</sup> Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 7<sup>th</sup> Blue & Gold Dinner
- 11<sup>th</sup> AARP/Westerleigh Improvement Soc.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Boy Scout Crossover
- 21<sup>st</sup> Women's Communion Luncheon
- 25<sup>th</sup> Tall Cedars
- 28<sup>th</sup> Craft Fair & Flea Market
- 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting

### April

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 5<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday
- 8<sup>th</sup> AARP/Westerleigh Improvement Soc.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday
- 10<sup>th</sup> Good Friday
- 11<sup>th</sup> Holy Saturday
- 12<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Tall Cedars
- 24<sup>th</sup> Pack Night



Immanuel Union Church

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

# March Birthdays



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

# Coffee Hour



## IN THIS ISSUE

- From the Pastor's Desk
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- Flea Market
- Annual Congregational Meeting
- Order Your Easter Lilies

## March

- 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

## April

- 5<sup>th</sup> Trustees
- 12<sup>th</sup> Church Board
- 19<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Evening Bible Study
- 26<sup>th</sup> Adult Fellowship

## From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings in the Name of the Reigning Savior, Jesus Christ,

John Smith, a Baptist, moved to the South Shore of Staten Island. On the first Friday of Lent, John was outside grilling a big juicy steak on his grill. Meanwhile, all of his Roman Catholic neighbors were eating fish for supper. This went on every Lenten Friday. On the last Friday of Lent, his neighbors feeling the effects of the temptation so great that they met together in order to figure out what to do about John and those tempting Lenten Friday steak dinners.

They decided they had better convert him. They went over and invited him to the local parish church. He finally agreed to be christened into the R.C church. On that day the priest sprinkled water over him, and said, *"You were born a Baptist, you were raised a Baptist, and now you are a Catholic."* Meanwhile the men were relieved because their biggest Lenten temptation was over.

The following year when the first Friday of Lent rolled around just about supper time the neighborhood became was filled with the tempting aroma of charbroiled steak. The men couldn't believe their noses! What was going on, they thought? The phones began to ring and they decided they'd better go see John and remind him that it was the season of Lent.

As they approached they saw John standing over his grill with a small pitcher of water. He was sprinkling some water over his steak, saying, *"You were born a cow, you were raised a cow, and now you are a fish."*

For many High Church members, Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. It begins with the receiving of ashes on the forehead followed by a 40 day denial of some favorite food or pastime.

The big question is "why?" An adjunct professor of church history Jennifer Woodruff Tait provides some historical background into the history of Ash Wednesday: "The origins of our modern Lenten practices go back to the earliest days of the Roman church, when potential converts first underwent a fast of 40 hours before their baptisms at the Easter Vigil soon extended to a period of prayer, fasting, and contemplation lasting 40 days which is to symbolize Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.

Sometime around the ninth or tenth century, this 40-day Lenten discipline merged with another service the church had developed several hundred years before to help sinners embody their repentance.

Those who had fallen into what the early church considered "serious sin: which included everything from adultery to military service to their involvement in occult practices, after confessing their sin, were enrolled in an "order of penitents" until they made restitution.

For all intents and purposes they were treated as new converts preparing for their christening, seated apart from the rest of the congregation, sometimes dressed in special clothing, and were excluded from the Eucharist. They also wore ashes on their foreheads, drawing from the biblical precedent and imagery of verses such as Numbers 19:9,17; Hebrews 9:13; Jeremiah 6: 26; Daniel 9:3; Jonah 3:6; Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13.

But by the 11th century the practice became a common marker of the beginning of Lent in the Western church not simply for self-avowed penitents, but for all members of the church. This practice was built upon asceticism, the false belief that the grace of God in Christ is the giving of an example of how we, too, may obtain salvation. As Christ was saved through suffering, so we can be saved through suffering. If we follow the example of Christ and resist the temptation of the devil, if we deny the appetites of the flesh as Christ did, then we, too, will be worthy of making the passover from this life to life eternal.

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

First of all to see Jesus' life and death as merely an example to be followed is out of accord of Scripture. Jesus did not come to give us an example to be followed for the purpose of making the passover from mortal life to eternal life. Jesus came as the atoning substitute for all who would place their complete trust in Him alone to get them there. **See Romans 3:25, God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood--to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished; and 1 John 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.**

These means salvation is based upon self- Atonement or the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ, ALONE.

Of course, fasting is good as an expression of personal self-denial, but for the Church to mandate such seasons for fasting as Lent, whereby binding the consciences of believers, is contrary to the instructions of the New Testament. In addition, it can be asked why one would voluntarily place himself under such rigorous regulations concerning food when Christ has set His people free from such regulations. Lent became a season of penance; forty days of sorrowful penance while waiting for Easter and the celebration of the resurrection. Nowhere in scripture is there any prescription for such an observance.

The Lord's Day (Sunday) is to be the only special day," holy day", regulated by Scripture. It is to be celebrated by assembling ourselves together for the purpose of Worship and the participation in the Means of Grace i.e., the submission to the Word of God and the celebration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper).

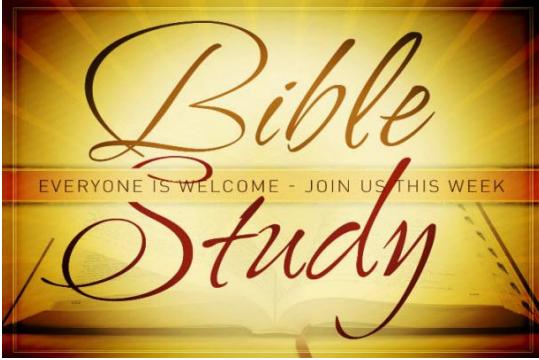
It was because of this that the Reformers decidedly discontinued the practice of "holy days" that were established by the church throughout the Middle- Ages. They considered, as they went about the "reformation" of the church, whether to continue the practice of "saint's days," etc. Discontinuing the penitential seasons of preparation for Christmas and Easter was one of the first reforms of Reformed Protestantism. This may seem radical to some, but it is at the heart of the Reformed approach to worship. The whole history of these seasons of fasting had been marked by a legalistic asceticism which is far removed from Christian piety as taught in the New Testament. While specifically Reformed churches have been characterized by their avoidance of Lent and Advent, few Protestants find the kind of asceticism implied by these observances consistent with the teaching of Jesus. Most Protestants have found the old observances of Lent and Advent terribly reminiscent of the piety of the Pharisees which Jesus so explicitly condemned. The objection to Lent and Advent is that they overemphasize the penitential dimension of Christian devotion.

I end this article by letting you know that Jesus is the Lord of the conscious so if you decided to receive ashes this year that's between you and God. I just want you to know why I don't and why I've never allowed myself to participate in this practice while at IUC.

**Joel 2:12-14 "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning, and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?**

In The Grace of the Lamb,  
*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.

# Women's Communion Luncheon



Our 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Communion Luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. 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. Terry Troia. Please come and bring your friends. Tickets are \$7 each. For additional information see Nancy Myers or Nancy Wagner-Wetzel.

# Mark Your Calendars

## Flea Market

We will be hosting an Arts & Crafts Flea Market on Saturday, March 28<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

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> following the 10:00 a.m. Service. We will also be approving the 2020 Budget at this time.





Please join us for these upcoming events:

- ✝ Women's Communion Luncheon March 21<sup>st</sup> at 11 AM
- ✝ Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast April 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM  
(\$6 for adults; \$3 for children under 10.) – Fellowship Hall.
- ✝ Maundy Thursday Soup Supper April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM –  
Fellowship Hall
- ✝ Maundy Thursday Service April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM - Sanctuary
- ✝ Good Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> Sanctuary will be open for prayer  
and reflection from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM– Sanctuary
- ✝ Easter Sunday Service April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM– Sanctuary

# Order Your Easter Lilies



## 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 5, 2020. 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.*



# March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Council/Board/ Trustee Meetings	6	7 <b>Blue &amp; Gold Dinner</b>
8 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	9	10 Bible Study 6:30	11 AARP WIS	12	13	14
15 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	16	17 Bible Study 6:30	18	19	20 Boy Scout Crossover	21 <b>Women's Communion Luncheon</b>
22 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00	23	24 Bible Study 6:30	25 Tall Cedars	26	27	28 <b>Craft Fair &amp; Flea Market</b>
29 Adult Sunday School 9 AM Church Service 10:00 <b>Congregational Meeting</b>	30	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 April Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, March 20<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.

