



## LOOKING AHEAD

### May (Tentative Dates)

- 10<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> Ascension Thursday
- 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day
- 31<sup>st</sup> Pentecost Sunday

### June (Tentative Dates)

- 4<sup>th</sup> Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings
- 10<sup>th</sup> AARP
- 14<sup>th</sup> Boy Scouts BBQ



Immanuel Union Church

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

# May Birthdays



- |      |                   |      |                        |
|------|-------------------|------|------------------------|
| 5/1  | Jeffrey Brannigan | 5/17 | Diane Pillarella       |
|      | Timothy Neis      | 5/21 | Jerilyn Franzreb-Smith |
| 5/4  | Dolores Shotwell  | 5/24 | Muriel Van Cleaf       |
| 5/11 | Michael Fichtl    | 5/24 | Carina DeGiulio        |
| 5/12 | Keith Herron      | 5/27 | Erik Henningsen        |
|      | Ruth Michie       |      | George Michie          |
| 5/16 | Meghan Jerlin     | 5/28 | Nancy Wagner-Wetzel    |
|      |                   | 5/31 | Katherine Blitz        |

# Coffee Hour



**Suspended**

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## From the Pastor's Desk

To All Who are Struggling to Get through "The Rut of Yet Another Day",

**In Psalm 90:12 Moses prays to God on behalf of his flock, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."**

The request "teach us to number our days" means that we need God to reveal to us the brevity of and importance of life. That revelation will help us grow wise, and wisdom is important because the choices we make today have eternal consequences. Therefore, our earthly lives will not last forever so we need to use today to prepare for eternity.

In an article written for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Gracie Bonds Staples wrote concerning her experience with the COVID-19 lifestyle, *"I thought I would get up, workout, get dressed and go work in my home office. I haven't put on a suit in a few weeks now. I miss my suits lol. I refuse to take more than 3 naps today lol, maybe if I sit at my desk I'll stay awake lol."* I'm sure we can all relate to one thing lately, we're all in a bit of a rut.

One of my favorite comedies is "Groundhog Day", which features a weather man, Phil Connors who has a bad attitude, even worse manners, and a razor tongue. He was reporting on Groundhog Day from a small town he cared little about. The fuss the folks were paying to a groundhog he cared even less about, but he did care for the new and attractive producer, Rita. After the shoot, they couldn't get out of town because of the bad weather.

To his horror, when he woke up the next day, he discovered that he had woken up to the day before. He met the same people, did the same things, and said the same things and ended up at the end of a promising day on a sour note, and the next day he had to start all over again!

He tried many ways to beat the system, take advantage of what he knew the previous day, but over and over, he woke up to a new day after a terrible mistake. Since he was going nowhere, he tried to woo the producer, and she was smitten with him because he knew her likes and dislikes day by day, and just as she was about to kiss him at the end of the day, she discovered he was just a hypocrite mouthing words in order to win her affection.

I don't know about you, but lately I've been fighting the effects of monotony. When someone falls into a monotonous routine, they may become tired, lethargic, and express a lack of creativity and enthusiasm. They are in a rut, while being unaware of it because the rut has become their comfort zone.

I have no doubt that God is the Sovereign ruler of the world which includes the plague we now find ourselves struggling with. The big question we need to ask ourselves, is this time merely meant to leave us despondent, depressed and downtrodden, or does God want us to use this time of isolation as a means of bringing a change in us that our normal routines would not allow?

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

I would like to leave you with a several applications that I've learned from the movie Groundhog Day that may help in using this time of isolation order to bring lifestyle change when we are finally allowed out of solitary confinement:

### **First, Happiness can be found in the very ordinary activities of life.**

In one scene Phil asks Rita what kind of man is she looking for? She replies by saying she's not looking for a star but instead, a person who's kind, sensitive, not afraid to cry, loves his mother and doesn't mind changing diapers.

When I think of that last line, changing diapers, I remember how much I hated changing my children's diapers and now I miss those times so much. The seemingly ordinary is very often an extraordinary moment of great meaning.

### **Second, Misery is often found in doing the same thing over and over again while expecting the results to be different.**

The recurring theme of the movie, of course, is repetition and sameness. Rather than accept it, Phil works to change the outcome.

How often do we gripe and grumble but not change anything? If we want things to change, we have to be willing to change. As someone wisely said, "Change the way you look at things, and the things you look at will change."

### **Third, Being attentive to people can save lives.**

At first, Phil ignores the homeless man he sees on the street and soon discovers that he died of exposure. He then realizes showing interest and offering assistance can make the difference between life and death. It's easy to think a small acknowledgment to someone in need won't make a big difference – but it absolutely can. Whenever possible, be generous.

### **Fourth, Winter is just a season, summer will eventually come**

In dramatic fashion, Phil waxes eloquent about the changing seasons of both weather and man's existence, suggesting it's "just another step in the cycle of life."

Presently we are all going through what Shakespeare wrote in King Richard III, '*Now is the winter of our discontent*'. I've lived through 63 winters and if I've learned anything is that winter always gives way to summer. In this season of discontentment remember that life is a series of seasons. Hang on- because God will bring us through it.

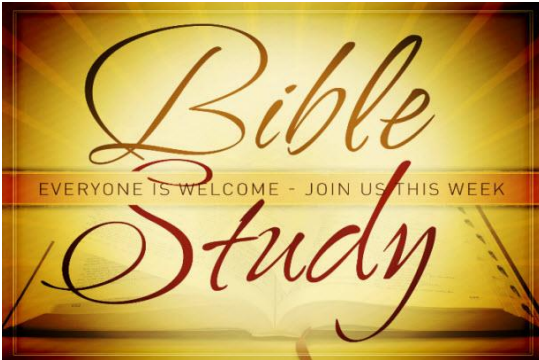
### **Finally, Carpe diem (Seize this Day)**

Since he's been living the same day over and over, Phil asks, "*Well, what if there is no tomorrow? There wasn't one today.*"

It's true that we have no guarantee of tomorrow. Therefore, making it through today may be the greatest challenge of the rest of your life so give it all you've got.

God Bless,  
*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. (THIS IS THE JOIN LINK via computer)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8280501006>

Or you can CALL IN FROM YOUR PHONE (If you are in New York) to this number:

1-929-436- 2866 from New York and put in our meeting ID is 828 050 1006

# From the Trustees

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of Immanuel. As mentioned during our services, you can continue sending in checks to the church office or drop them in the mail slot on Jewett. We also have ability to donate through the Venmo App which does not charge a fee to you or the church. The donation goes right into our checking account. "ImmanuelUnion-Church"

Gina has been sorting out the mail and I have been depositing your checks into the bank.

Unfortunately, we continue to remove large sums of money from our investments on a regular basis due to the high cost of maintaining our building. For example, we have just received an invoice for our annual insurance payment. The total fee is over \$36,000, which we pay on a monthly basis. Plus, we have our monthly utilities bills which are also high.

We have not been able to hold either a budget meeting or a congregational meeting due to lack of participation of members. If you are not a member of Immanuel at this time, I urge you to consider becoming one, so that we can have ongoing, open communication regarding the status of our beloved church. Being a member gives you the opportunity to discuss and vote on various issues of concern, regarding the budget, church leaders and how we proceed on the future of Immanuel. We recently distributed a Pastoral Survey in which only members could participate. The results will be collated and reported once we can safely gather together again.

We have many people who regularly attend services and donate, but they are not members. If you are one of these friends of the church, please speak with Pastor Charlie and consider taking the next step to become a member.

We love Immanuel and want our church to remain viable and fruitful in God's Way.

Thank you.

Nancy Wagner-Wetzel

Treasurer/Financial Secretary



# 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.



# From the Church Board

It is with great sadness and sorrow that we announce the deaths of Jack Brown and Les Driscoll, two long time members of our Church family. Our prayers are with their families.

# May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Church Service via zoom 10:00	4	5 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	6	7	8	9
10 Church Service via zoom 10:00  <b>Mother's Day</b>	11	12 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	13	14	15	16
17 Church Service via zoom 10:00	18	19 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	20	21 <b>Ascension Thursday</b>	22	23
24 Church Service via zoom 10:00	25 <b>Memorial Day</b>	26 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	27	28	29	30
31 Church Service via zoom 10:00 <b>Pentecost</b>						

# 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 June Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, May 22<sup>nd</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.**



Just living is not enough  
one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower.

-Hans Christian Anderson