



# THE Lamplighter



PIXELPERFECTBLOG.COM

## LOOKING AHEAD

### (Tentative Dates)

#### May

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 8<sup>th</sup> AARP
- 9<sup>th</sup> Ascension Thursday
- 12<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day
- 19<sup>th</sup> Pentecost Sunday
- 27<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day

#### June

- 6<sup>th</sup> Council/Board/Trustee Meetings
- 11<sup>th</sup> Scout Flag Burning Ceremony
- 12<sup>th</sup> AARP
- 16<sup>th</sup> Father's Day
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Garage Sale



## Immanuel Union Church

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

*The friendly church with a vision and a future.*

## Pastor's Letter

Greetings to all Who Desire to be Comforted,

One morning the boss of a certain company, before leaving for the office, had an argument with his wife. As a result, he was vicious to one of his employees. After what had been a difficult day the employee pulls into the driveway of his home where his young son was waiting anxiously to greet his dad with open arms. His dad walks by him with a grunt, causing the young lad to become so hurt and embittered that he takes it out on his dog by kicking the poor dog who had been faithfully resting at his side. The dog runs away and takes out his anger by biting a man arriving home from work, a man who just so happened to be the same person who began the furor in the first place, the boss.

For many of us, the chain of events that occurred from the events of October 7<sup>th</sup>, '23 to this Spring have been daunting to say the least. Doubts are dreary realities in seasons of sorrow. Like bees they sting at the soul!

**If we wallow in the mire of despair we declare within our soul, "Christ is not mine!"** The result is a bitter spirit which impacts all we encounter. Therefore, I write this article for those who long to be comforted.

In Matthew Chapter 5 verse 4 Jesus makes a clear declaration: He cries out to those who are hurting, **"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."** He does not make this promise with uncertain terms like, for those who mourn, **they may be**, or **they can be comforted** but that they **"will be comforted."** What is this promise of assured comfort that He offers to those of us who are experiencing a time of mourning?

Job, was described in **Job 1:1 as being a person who was blameless and upright fearing God and shunning evil.** Yet this man became a man who was in need of the very comfort that Jesus offers. In a matter of a very short time Job lost almost everything: a very lucrative business, his servants, and his whole family except for his wife. And if that wasn't enough, his health failed as he dealt with the agony of painful boils all over his body, **ouch!**

Any type of heartache can set us up for a crisis in faith. It often makes us bitter to the point where we question God's love and concern for us. When these conditions don't change: the world appears to be spinning out of control. We begin to focus on the appearance of dire circumstances it is easy to begin to lash out and curse God within.

So, how can we expect to find comfort from God when dealing with these feelings towards Him? In Job 19:25-27 we read what comforted Job; what gave him the ability to persevere in his season of despair, **"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"**

## Pastor's Letter (con't)

Job never cursed God, instead he found comfort in knowing that despite all these things his redeemer still lived. In another words, although it may seem it, God was not dead!

The essence of Job's comfort lies in the little word "my"--"MY Redeemer"--and in the fact that his Redeemer lives. In Matt 5:4 Jesus is presenting Himself as that great solution to the soul that grieves. Hold on to the living Christ. Out of affliction we must earnestly seek to share in His comfort and then we can really enjoy Him.

What benefit is money while it remains clenched in our fist? What benefit is good health if you've emotionally given up on life? What benefit is family and friends if you keep them at a distance? So is a Redeemer who does not redeem me, an avenger who will never stand up for my blood, what benefit is there in that? It is only when we cry out to Him in the midst of our despair that He brings comfort. Do not rest content until by faith you can say, **"Yes, I cast myself upon my living Lord; and He is mine."** You may be going through a difficult situation, as devastating as it may be, and you may be holding onto Him with a feeble hand and even half heartily say, **"He lives as my Redeemer."** Even if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, that little faith entitles you to say it.

But there is also another word here, which expresses Job's strong confidence: **"I know."** To say, *"I hope so, I trust so"* is comfortable, and there are thousands in the church of Jesus who hardly ever get much further. But to reach the essence of consolation where you say, "I know." Ifs, buts, and maybes are sure destroyers of peace and comfort.

But when I know that Jesus lives for me, then the darkness that I am experiencing becomes as light: **Even the night is light about me.** Surely if Job in the midst of his great crisis, and before the coming of Jesus Christ, could still find comfort in saying, **"I know that my redeemer lives,"** we should find comfort here as well.

Believe that whatever God may be bringing you through, He still is the living Redeemer, who truly wants to be your God and give to you an unspeakable joy.

May the God of all comfort provide boundless comfort to you, as you persevere in seasons of sorrow and despair,

Your Servant for Jesus' Sake,  
Pastor Charlie

# Sunday Worship & Bible Studies



Sunday Church Service is will be via zoom at 10:00 AM. Check IUC's Facebook page for current topics. Like us on Facebook.

Sunday School begins at 9:00 AM.

The Tuesday evening Bible Study will be held via zoom at 6:30 PM.

How to connect to Bible Study or the Sunday Service:

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

# Milestones



## Birthdays

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

# Announcements

- To order Altar Flowers to honor or memorialize your loved ones please call the Church Office.
  - Offering envelopes for 2024 are available.
  - Bonnie Rogers will be mailing the Upper Room daily devotional booklets to those who are interested. If you would like to receive a copy, please call the church office.
  - Electronic tithing is now available. Please visit the church's website at [immanuelunion.org](http://immanuelunion.org) and click on the donate now button. You can send your donation through PayPal or use your debit/credit card. You can also donate using Venmo our user name is ImmanuelUnion-Church.
  - Information for the June Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at [iuc1@verizon.net](mailto:iuc1@verizon.net).
- 
- The Boy Scouts will be holding a flag burning ceremony on June 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have any worn out flags please bring them to the church to be disposed of properly.

# Council Update

We are pleased to report that we have a freshly painted tower (see before and after pictures). The Council would like to thank Juan from JC Roofing and his team for the great job they did. He has been so prompt to our roofing issues and is an honest businessman who doesn't rip you off. If you are ever in need of a roofer- please call him, he's great!



**JC ROOFING**  
646-377-0336 / 718-885-5694

- Fully licensed
- commercial and residential
- instagram @jcroofingny
- 24/7 emergency service
- facebook jcroofingny
- tiktok jcroofing

The logo for JC Roofing features a cartoon character holding a tool, a house with a sun and clouds, and the company name and contact information. The background is blue and white.

# Order Your Geraniums



The color of Pentecost is red. This year, we would like to have a profusion of red geraniums on the Altar to make Pentecost Sunday even more special. If you normally plant red geraniums in your garden, could you wait? The Worship & Music Committee would like to pick yours up at the nursery and put them on the altar for May 19<sup>th</sup>. You would then take your plants home after the Service. It is your responsibility to take your plants home! The cost would be \$5 per plant. Please let the Church Office know if you might be willing to participate in the red geranium altar flow display this year. Mention how many you would like to order then submit payment for the cost. Order must be received by May 12<sup>th</sup>.

# May 2024

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



# Mark Your Calendars

**Immanuel Union Church**

**Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup>  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**



One table is free to members/Church attendees, \$20 for a 2nd table. Neighbors and the community \$30 a table. To reserve a table call the church office at 718 448-1584.

## Zoom & Social Media Instructions

Please check out our Website as well as our Facebook Page and YouTube Channel. We ask that you share the information, especially to your Facebook friends, by Liking and Reposting on Facebook. This is a great way to publicize our worship services, Bible Study and any special events coming up. We can all make a difference!

(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

## Sunday Prayer List

### New

- ✠ Naomi- during a walk with her son fell on the sidewalk and cut her forehead and needed stitches. Pray for healing.

### Continued-

- ✠ Ann's brother Warren- has a pressure wound
- ✠ and had to have it cleaned it out. Pray for healing.
- ✠ Phil- Dorothy's BIL prayers for his health
- ✠ Dorothy- in the middle of trying to take care of her sons and just needs our prayers for strength.
- ✠ Haley- Lyn's daughter is job searching and very discouraged. She found 2 part time jobs, to fill in temporarily.
- ✠ Cindy- Naomi's daughter had hernia surgery, now has continued pain. Can't work. Pray for healing
- ✠ Bobby - has diabetes and has lots of physical problems
- ✠ Baby Gus- born with a heart defect which declined rapidly making a need for a new heart. Had a transplant and the new heart didn't beat for many days, now he's having multiple complications from all the heart issues, was transferred from a Children's hospital to Vanderbilt. Pray for his parents Mark & Amanda, this is their first baby.
- ✠ Paton- was a normal functioning boy, now is bedridden with pain. Childrens in Philadelphia has agreed to take his case, but their team can't see him until October. Parents also have to decide to put in a feeding tube or not.
- ✠ Lita- Roland's friend and her husband went to the Philippines where she had a stroke and is now bedridden and they can't get back to the US.
- ✠ Jake Hyland- fire victim we prayed for that lost his son & unborn baby is having terrible nerve burning- his pain hasn't been this bad since the fire.
- ✠ Czarina- we prayed for Czarinas sister in law Caroline who carried a baby for Czarina & her husband Andrew. The baby Madison is now over a year old and Czarina had a stroke- her right arm is severely affected and she is unable to carry or care for Madison with that arm. Please pray for her healing!
- ✠ Felicity- a 10 year old in Texas had brain surgery and is now almost blind. She's returned to school with accommodations 3 hrs a day.
- ✠ Charlie Buchanan- Katie Myers FIL- had surgery, is positive for cancer.
- ✠ Sonja's cousins - Michael Johnson and Ron Mazzaeo both have cancer. Pray for them, their families and the doctors for wisdom in treatments.
- ✠ Don- Eugene's Cousin has stage 4 pancreatic cancer that has spread to his liver. Pray for the treatment, doctors and he and his family as they go through this.
- ✠ James- Dorothy's son for his health.
- ✠ Fred- Sonja & Bills friend in his recovery.
- ✠ RJ (lives in Taiwan). In a scooter accident, is recovering
- ✠ Susan - Dan & Sheri's neighbor had a bunch of mini strokes, for recovery and her husband who is her caregiver.
- ✠ Anne Holland - dealing with sciatica. Pray for wisdom for her doctor so her pain will go away.
- ✠ Liz Iken & Adrienne Lianna- at Eger. Pray for their health & spirit
- ✠ Mary (DonnaMarie's mom) at Sunrise. Pray for her health.
- ✠ Don Landau- moved to Maryland to be near his brother Carl in assisted living. Pray for his adjustment and health
- ✠ Sam Colucci & Barbara Matthus- health and strength, pray for Nancy & Bunny, and the aides that care for them.
- ✠ Joey- recovering from a motorcycle accident last year.
- ✠ Robert and Cathy- Diane's neighbors lost their son, pray for comfort
- ✠ Stephen- Naomi's son, pray he will continue his meds and will be emotionally stable.
- ✠ Nancy Myers niece Heather who has breast cancer. Pray for treatment
- ✠ Rosemary- Genes sister, pray for complete recovery.
- ✠ Anne Haakonsen's mom- for health and strength. And her Aunt Marty having anxiety issues. Donna, Anne's friend has ovarian cancer
- ✠ Howard- Pray for the last 3 months of this assignment- for his safety & endurance.
- ✠ Those battling Covid & Long haulers with Covid symptoms
- ✠ Vaccine injured
- ✠ For our country (President, Vice President, Senators, Congressmen/women, judges).
- ✠ For our police, firefighters and military
- ✠ Leaders of our State- Gov Hochul, Mayor Adams-

