



LOOKING AHEAD

November (Tentative Dates)

- 5th Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings
Via Zoom
- 11th Veteran's Day
- 22nd Thanksgiving Sunday
- 26th Thanksgiving
- 29th First Sunday of Advent

December (Tentative Dates)

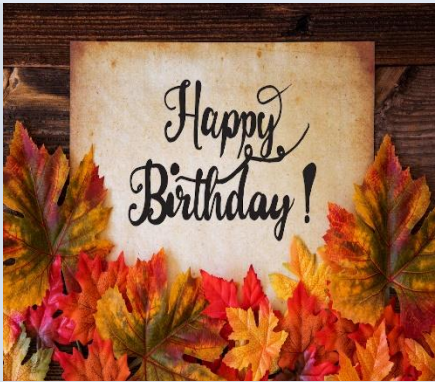
- 3rd Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings
Via Zoom
- 11th Boy Scout Christmas Tree Sale
& 12th
- 24th Christmas Eve
- 25th Christmas Day
- 31st New Year's Eve



Immanuel Union Church

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

November Birthdays



11/4	Bridget Elizabeth Bowe	11/20	Eugene W. Sorensen
11/5	Emily Morrison	11/22	William N. Coyne
11/7	Ellen Rabin		Meghan Jane Bowe
11/8	Benjamin Baldini	11/23	Emily Elizabeth Brannigan
11/9	Neil Andrew Michie		Lisa Wetzel
11/10	Sarah Baldini Comis		
	Caroline Crawford		
11/13	John Reiman		
11/20	David Crawford		

Coffee Hour



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Suspended

From the Pastor's Desk

To All Who Struggle in being Thankful for a Covid 19 Thanksgiving,

Asked to write a composition entitled, *"What was I thankful for on Thanksgiving,"* Little Johnny wrote, *"I was thankful that I wasn't a turkey."*

Thanksgiving is coming and for the first time in our lives we are experiencing a plague that has shown itself as no respecter of person, or political party, social status, race or creed. Can you be thankful no matter what?

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 **we read, *In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*** When the Bible says that it is God's will that we give thanks to God in everything, it means we should be thankful to Him in the good times as well as the bad times. We should be thankful to Him, because the one in whom we place our trust, knows the end from the beginning, nothing takes Him by surprise!

Believe me, I understand the challenges in thanking God as we go through a worldwide plague. Everyone is experiencing in one degree or another tragedy, discomfort and uncertainty. This plague was something that came on suddenly, without warning and we all feel vulnerable. Not only has the virus itself infected us physically and economically but it has taken an emotional toll on us all. No wonder so many of us are finding it difficult to show thankfulness to God. In Hebrews 13:15 the writer exhorts us in this way, ***"By Him (Jesus) therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name."***

A "thank you God" that does not come from a humble heart, has no greater significance than one choked out through the clenched lips of some pouting child after being ordered by his mom, *"say thank you!!!"* A "sacrifice of thanksgiving" is one which flows out from a humble spirit that chooses to honor God, in spite of the pain that life is causing.

Traditionally, my November Lamplighter letter focuses on Thanksgiving, but this season I see the need for us to show thankfulness for God's mercy now more than ever. As long as there is breath in your lungs, it is time to thank your Creator that you are still well enough to be reading this article. Spend time today in gratitude and praise. It will impact your attitude as you acknowledge the fact that God still has a purpose for you. In the Old Testament, God required a thank offering from the people. This was a communal offering intended to give praise to God for His provisions and Covenantal faithfulness to His people. That pretty much defines the very reason we celebrate Thanksgiving.

Psalm 89 is a Psalm of Ethan the Ezrahite sage who was a contemporary of King Solomon. In it he writes, ***"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself."***

This Thanksgiving, focus upon the faithfulness of the God who has been our dwelling place throughout all generations. "All generations" gives us hope for our own generation. Therefore, in reliance upon His faithfulness believe that there are better days ahead. As you look to the past you can live in the future hope that He has more in store for us. Even when life seems unbearable, remember it's temporary.

If you don't believe me, I challenge you to sit down and contemplate your life. Consider all those difficulties that seemed so insurmountable at the time, and yet you are still here.

From the Pastor's Desk (con't)

The way I've come to look at it is this may be the best you have as He prepares you for something even more seemingly tragic. Therefore, whatever you may be going through today is the means of strengthening for what's ahead tomorrow. Life is like a roller coaster ride filled with both ups and downs. Read the Bible and focus on the many times God always made a way through the wilderness for His people.

I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds. (Psalm 77:11-12)

We really have little say over the circumstances of life. But we have much to say in the way we respond to those circumstances. The question is now, how will you choose to respond in this crisis? That is why I recommend socially distancing yourself from negative people and media during this crisis. Since we have been spending more time at home than we are used to, we are more vulnerable to the many messages that come across our televisions or various media outlets. Sometimes after watching or listening to these outlets, I feel brutalized, which in turn causes me to spend needless energy warding off a bitter spirit within me. If you are hurting or lonely, consult positive people who will give the sweet words of hope rather than despair. Instead of turning on the TV or turning to Facebook, read a good book with a positive message.

Here is a positive message for you, God works all things for good for those that love Him. There is assurance from the word of God will work even this plague for His own good and consequently ours. Rom 8:28 says, ***"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose"***.

Give thanks in the hope that this plague has an expiration date. Give thanks that our sovereign creator is in control of all that happens. He allowed the corona virus for reasons that only He knows and give thanks that He will end to it when His purpose is complete.

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal glory that is far beyond comparison. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

In this season of Thanksgiving, let's be like little Johnny and be thankful that we're not the turkey. Let's place the focus on the Lord, for He is good, and His steadfast love endures forever instead of focusing on today's seemingly insurmountable obstacle!

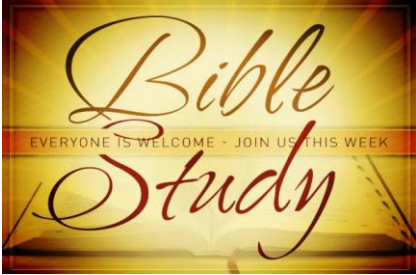
The following is a prayer for those of us who may be struggling to be thankful:

Father God, All too often life drags me down and I find it so hard to find things to be thankful for. Open my eyes to see the gifts you've given me in my life. I'm going to start by thanking You for loving me enough to send your own Son Jesus to come to earth and die for me so I can live with you forever. Thank you Father, and thank you for the gift of Jesus. Amen.

Your Servant for Jesus' Sake

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.

See below to see how to connect to Bible Study or the Sunday Service.

From the Church Council

Due to new cases of COVID in the 10314 area, in person church services are not set to resume yet. We will continue to meet on Zoom. We will continue to monitor the situation as we are anxious to resume in person worship as soon as it is safe.

We are looking for a new church sexton. It is a part time position 15-20 hours per week. If anyone knows of an individual who would be interested, please let them know about this position. They can call the church and a member of the selection committee will contact them.

We are seeking a member of the Congregation at Large to join the House Committee. Sam Colucci and Dan Kish are members, a third member from the CAL is needed. The House Committee is involved in decision making regarding the Church's property and supervision of maintenance of the Church, this includes the building and grounds.

Mark Your Calendars

Congregational Meeting

The date will be determined. We will also be approving the 2020 Budget at this time.



Church Fair

The Church Fair has been postponed until the Spring. If anyone has cleaned out items that are good to sell at the Church Fair, we will be announcing dates to gratefully accept donations. Item collection will be contactless. Please call the church office for dates or to set up a drop off time.



Immanuel Union Church

**For Everyone's
Safety**



Let's look forward to
Spring 2021



Follow us on Facebook for details on all IUC events!

Book Sale

To all who contributed to the success of the October Book Sale, a heartfelt thank you. Events of this magnitude require leadership, commitment, and planning. I am grateful to the following for their support: my mom, who at 94 years old, sat in her wheelchair, and, organized the paperbacks, Annie and Mel for continually dropping off much needed boxes, (I'm sure there were others as well—while you know who you are, I don't, so thank you to all of you too!), Dan who updated our sign early on, providing the Jewett Avenue traffic much advance notice, to Gene, for social media promotion, Tom, our sexton, for setting up tables, helping to re-organize the lounge, hauling bags and boxes of book donations in, and then hauling trash back out, to Gina for fielding calls from the community, accepting drop-offs, and creating beautiful signage, DonnaMarie for donating both her many stacks of perfectly packaged magazines, and, her time in making a dent in organizing CDs, to Pastor Charlie and Leslie for their support in organizing promotion, assisting with lounge clean-up, and, a much appreciated home-cooked meal while I was busy organizing the stacks, to Allyn Crawford and Troop 2 scoutmasters and scouts, for their set-up and break-down—(we couldn't have done it without you fellas!) who, along with John and Dan, returned the house to order, to Nancy for her dedication to Immanuel's perpetuity and producing raffle baskets on the spur of the moment, and finally to all those who came out to brave COVID, and, the cold on Saturday whether to manage a table, or, cashier—Pastor Charlie and Leslie, John, Dan, Don, Bernie, Karen, John, Nancy W-W, Donna, my right hand in managing Saturday morning's set-up, and Annie, our intrepid salesperson. If I missed anyone under their mask, my sincerest appreciation. And finally, to all those members who came out to support the event, so good to see you. An elbow hug to each of you.

With much appreciation, and fellowship--

--Bunny Mattheius

Boy Scout Tree Sale



Boy Scout Troop #2
Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale
Friday, December 11th 5:00 PM
Saturday, December 12th 9:00 AM
In the Church Parking Lot
Please Support Our Troop!

November 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Council/Trustee/ Board Meetings Via Zoom	6	7
8 Church Service via zoom 10:00	9	10 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14
15 Church Service via zoom 10:00	16	17 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	18	19	20	21
22 Church Service via zoom 10:00	23	24 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	25	26	27	28
29 Church Service via zoom 10:00 First Sunday of Advent	30	31 Bible Study via zoom 6:30				

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.

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If you are not currently receiving offering envelopes and wish to be included, please contact the church office at 718-448-1584.

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Information for the December Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, November 20th. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net. Thank you.

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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.

# Social Media

Please check out our Website as well as our Facebook Page. 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!

# Zoom Connection Instructions

(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

## 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.

