THE Lamplighter



LOOKING AHEAD

May

7th Board/Trustee/ Council Meetings
13th AARP
14th Ascension Day
24th Pentecost
31st Trinity Sunday

June

4th Board/Trustee/ Council Meetings
10th AARP

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.

If we wallow in the mire of despair we declare within or 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 is still the living Redeemer, who truly invited you to repent and place all your trust in Him and as you do you will know what it means to have an unspeakable joy within.

May the God of all comfort provide boundless comfort to you, as you persevere in the faith,

Your Servant for His Sake,
Pastor Charlie

Join Us Online!!



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.

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!

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
Timothy Neis
5/11 Michael Fichtl
5/12 Keith Herron
Ruth Michie
5/16 Meghan Jerlin
5/17 Diane Pillarella
5/21 Jerilyn Franzreb-Smith
5/24 Muriel Van Cleaf
5/27 Erik Henningsen
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 2026 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 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 22nd. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net.

Mark Your Calendars

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May 2026

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

Prayer List

New:

- Charlie Ellis- liver cancer in final stage of his life. Pray a door of opportunity opens so Ed can speak with him.
- Ann & Sonja- conflict between them.
- Michael- Dorothy's son- pray for change
- Naomi- allergic to her hard collar
- Unbelievers - pray for broken hearts to the Gospel.
- Lyn's family- has difficult conversations this week and a peaceful resolution
- Dan- prayers for him in his transition



Old:

- Lyn's Aunt Betty passed away- and she's the executor of her estate.
- Bill Coyne- at Eger with shoulder injury.
- Rob- Leslie's Uncle just turned 95, and fell down the basement stairs 3 mos ago, then got sepsis and is recovering now. Waiting on bed in rehab- because he can't walk.
- Ed's neighbor Mark- has vertigo.
- John's neighbor Soon- has hydrocephalus.
- Naomi's friend Paulette her cancer came back and her friend Sue's husband Joe. Pray that Naomi can be bold in sharing her faith.
- Dorothy- continue to pray for her and her family.
- That the Holy Spirit continues to mold and change us.
- Catherine - Roland's friend is 90 and fell.
- Joe the Butcher- now in Clove Lakes but his knee burst and he can't walk
- Mel- had a stroke.
- Teddy- Eugene's friend has a rare aggressive form skin cancer
- Alexandra- still needs a job. Pray God provides
- Ed- in a spiritual battle. Pray for him.
- Ann's mom- protection while the nursing home is on lockdown for illness.
- Theresa & Tiffany- situation
- Our families - continue to pray for our children
- Eds friend Gene who had heart surgery has an infection in his leg where they took veins from. Pray for his salvation.
- Ed's brother- John- has an auto-immune disease. Open sores on face & arms.
- Alex- needs a job. Was laid off with no notice.
- Eds niece (Joelle) will be talking with Ed. Her mom (Lisa) has alienated herself from her.
- Catherine- has cancer
- That we will share the Gospel boldly in every opportunity we have.
- Ann's Aunt Martha- for her anxiety.
- Ann's cousin Doris- fainted and fell. Waiting on tests and to have surgery.
- Ginny- Sonja's friend healing from broken hip.
- Soon- visited Immanuel- pray that God opens his heart to the Gospel
- Lillian- has shingles, pray for relief
- Stephen- Naomi's son pray for stability of his mental health.
- Roland's friend- Mauro is suffering from depression.
- Gerd- after the accident is doing great! Pray for complete healing.
- Baby Hazel- has neuroblastoma. Pray for her family- and doctors as far as treatment. At MSK and had major surgery- pray for her recovery.
- Jennifer & Omar- pray that God reveals to them the "what's next".
- Marilyn Pederson- cancer in her ankle.
- Jimmy- Dorothy's grandson. Living with her (and Michael) but needs an apartment.
- 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.
- Fred- Sonja & Bills friend in his recovery.
- RJ (lives in Taiwan). In a scooter accident, is recovering
- Liz Iken- at Eger. Pray for her health

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