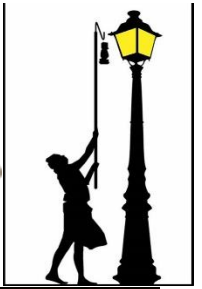




THE Lamplighter



"THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE
DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS
HAS NOT OVERCOME IT."
JOHN 1:5

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LOOKING AHEAD

June

- 5th Trustee/Board/Council Meetings
- 11th AARP
- 18th WIS
- 24th Tall Cedars
- 28th Garage Sale

July

- 4th Independence Day

September

- 1st Labor Day
- 4th Trustee/Board/Council Meetings
- 10th AARP
- 27th Craft & Flea Market



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

Happy Creedal Anniversary!

May 20th, 2025 marked the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Back in 325 AD, the early Church faced a crisis. A teacher named Arius was claiming that Jesus Christ was a created being and not truly God. The heresy of Arius still lives today in cults such as the Jehovah Witnesses, as well as Islam.

For the purpose of creating a common creed which all of Christendom could in one spirit confess, the Emperor Constantine convened over 200 pastors from across the Roman Empire to assemble in the city of Nicaea, a city 40 miles from Constantinople which is modern day Istanbul. The Ecumenical Church Council of Nicaea gathered to defend the truth of Jesus Christ, producing the Nicene Creed. This creed boldly declares that Jesus is “begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father”, truly God, of One Being with the Father and the Holy Spirit in an Eternal Tri-Unity.

The creed is a forthright and unwavering statement of who God is and what he has done to save us through his only begotten Son, Jesus. The creed follows basically the same structure as the Apostles' Creed. It mentions all three members of the Trinity in a similar order and retains the snapshot of the gospel story when it describes Jesus. It also expands the description of the life and work of Christ, explicitly stating that his mission was “for us and for our salvation.”

The creed tells us that Jesus' mission for our salvation included coming down out of heaven and taking on flesh from the virgin Mary in the incarnation, carrying that flesh in suffering through life and into death on the cross. The creed declares that he was crucified by Pontius Pilate, “for us.” Jesus died for us to take our place of suffering and set us free to receive salvation.

The creed deliberately draws on tradition to show that the ideas put forward here are not an innovation to the “faith delivered once for all.”

So, as Christians, we join the visible Church of Jesus Christ in celebrating the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed as an enduring confession of faith in the Triune God and in the saving work of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Pastor's Letter (con't)

We ordinarily use the Nicene creed as a public declaration of our faith before receiving the Lord's Supper. The Nicene Creed acts as a theological anchor and vibrant testimony to God's grace, and its 1700th year anniversary invites us to remain grounded in the unchanging truth of God's Word and the theological fundamentals reflected in the Nicene Creed.

When we confess the Nicene Creed, we're not just reciting ancient history; we're proclaiming the Living God who saves us through His Son, "*who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven*".

In an age of theological ambiguity, the Nicene Creed grounds us in the truth of the Gospel, pointing us to Jesus as the sole mediator of God's New Covenant. In a world that often dilutes God's grace and truth, the Nicene creed keeps us anchored to the truth of Jesus as the only means of Salvation.

True Christian unity is not uniformity. Therefore, we're not meant to gloss over theological differences by pretending they don't exist. We are not meant to compromise our confession of faith for superficial unity. The creed was not formulated for the purpose of watering down the faith we confess. In fact, it was formulated as the means of articulating what Scripture reveals as sound to what is revealed as doctrinally sound. Which is exactly what the writer of Hebrews exhorts us to do in 10:23 when he wrote, ***Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.***

As we celebrate 1700 years of the Nicene Creed, we join Christians throughout the world to proclaim the Triune God with boldness and joy. For in the Everlasting Covenant of Jesus Christ that the Nicene Creed uplifts, the great New Covenant sealed by the blood of Christ, God freely offers salvation. Through "*one baptism for the forgiveness of sins*" God pours out his grace, uniting us to Christ and giving us the gift of faith to trust in him alone for our salvation. So, as we confess the Nicene Creed before receiving the Lord's Supper we are not only connected to the ancient Church, but it acts also an invitation to rediscover the Trinitarian faith as we profess the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forevermore. Amen.

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

- 9 Valerie Jacobson
- 10 Abigail Blissenbach
- 11 Mary Brower
John David Conca
- 15 Casey Lynne Reiman
- 26 Thomas Coffey
- 27 Christine Matthius
Roseann Sorensen

Announcements

- To order Altar Flowers to honor or memorialize your loved ones please call the Church Office.
- Offering envelopes for 2025 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 July/August Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, June 27th. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at iuc1@verizon.net.

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)

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Geraniums



Thank you to everyone who participated in our profusion of red geraniums for the Pentecost Sunday Altar. The Altar looked beautiful!

Council Update

We are looking forward to our Community Garage sale and BBQ on June 28th. If you are able to help on Friday June 27th-setup will start at 11am. We need people to help on the 28th-running the Church tables. Pastor Charlie will be making pulled pork and ribs, as well as burgers and hot dogs. We also need desserts. If you can help, please call the Church office. Come by and grab breakfast or lunch and see what “treasures” there are.

See you then!

Mark Your Calendars



Immanuel Union Church

Saturday June 28th
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM



June 28th We will be hosting a Garage Sale indoor and outdoor. Contact the church office if you are interested in getting a table. First table is free for church members.



September 27th We will be hosting a Vendor Craft and Flea Market. Contact the church office if you are interested in getting a table.

June 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	2	3	4	5 Council Trustee/Board Meetings	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00 Pentecost	9	10 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	11 AARP	12	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00 Father's Day	16	17 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	18 WIS	19	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	23	24 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	25 Tall Cedars	26	27	28 Garage Sale
29 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	30					

Sunday Prayer List

New

- † Susan - Leslie's friend battling cancer.
- † Tom - had minor heart attack, being sent to the City to have stents put in.
- † Eds friend Brian had a major stroke. Pray for healing.
- † Torie - Ed's friend- battling a drug issue.
- † Naomi having cataract surgery on May 5th. Things went well.
- † Yazmine- losing her job in June, pray she finds a new job.



Continued-

- † Naomi- having headaches again and other medical problems- pray for 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.
- † Warren- Ann Haakonsen's brother- was at Clove Lakes now he's home.
- † Gerd- Lyn's friend- doing well and is home. Pray for his continued healing.
- † Michael- Dorothy's son having medical problems.
- † Roland- his health.
- † Mauro- Roland's friend in ICU with heart problems. Pray that he has opportunities to talk about Jesus.
- † Eric- Roland's best friend- has only 1 kidney and now it's not working. It's only working at 25%.
- † Jennifer & Omar- pray that God reveals to them the "what's next".
- † Donnamaries mom (Mary) put is now in hospice. Pray God opens her heart and doesn't allow her to suffer.
- † 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.
- † 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
- † Anne Haakonsen's mom- for health and strength.