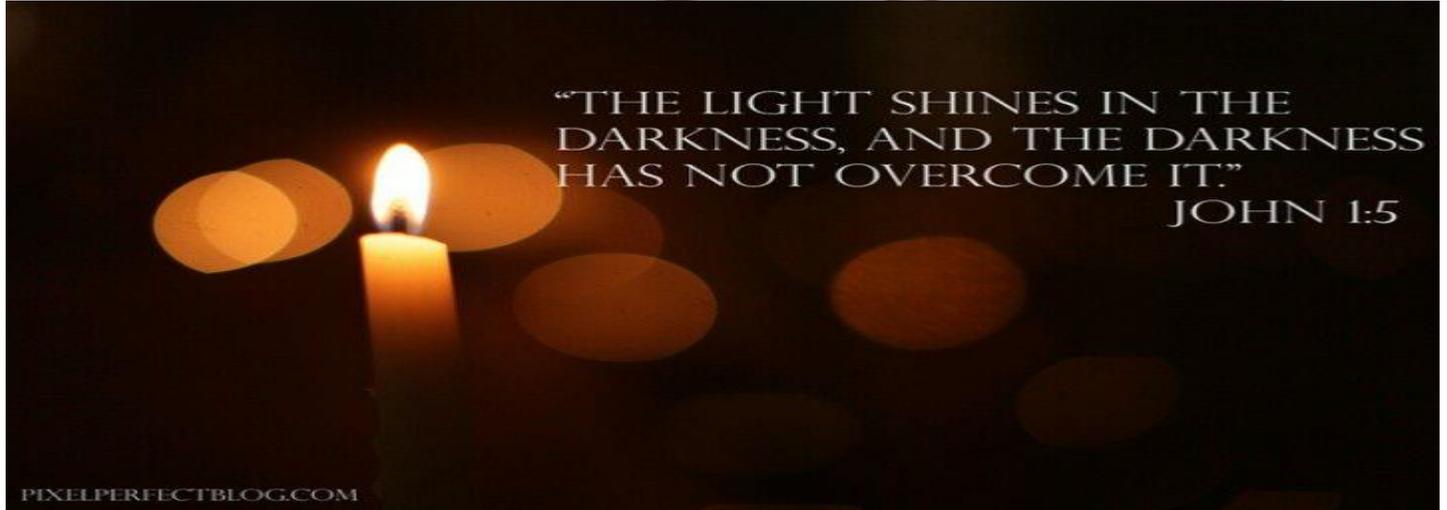




# THE Lamplighter



## LOOKING AHEAD

### December

- 4<sup>th</sup> Board/Trustee/ Council Meetings
- 6<sup>th</sup> Holiday Vendor Fair/Boy Scout Wreath Sale
- 13<sup>th</sup> Christmas Concert 7 PM
- 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Service 11 AM
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day
- 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve

### January

- 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day
- 6<sup>th</sup> Epiphany
- 8<sup>th</sup> Board/Trustee/ Council Meetings
- 14<sup>th</sup> AARP
- 19<sup>th</sup> MLK, Jr. Day
- 24<sup>th</sup> Pinewood Derby



## 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

Greeting in The Name of Jesus Christ,

As your pastor, I simply wanted to take this opportunity to speak a blessing over you during this beautiful and meaningful time of year.

Are you prepared for a month of what is generally a time of “hustle and bustle” and what is oftentimes easy to get caught up in the many activities of the season? Crowded malls, out-of-control parties, tipsy Christmas trees, credit cards stretched-to-the-limit— there are some signs of the season that we would gladly do without. As we ease ourselves into what's become the season's norm, it is also easy to lose the true significance of what Christmas represents.

Sometimes I wonder whether the puritans had it right when after arriving in America they outlawed what they referred to as, “*the pagan practice of Christmas*”. Imagine what it would be like to skip Christmas this year. Be honest with yourself, is it somewhat tempting? By skipping over this stressful season, you actually may be able to experience, “peace on earth and good will to all” and perhaps even a “Silent Night” or two.

In 2002, the John Grisham book entitled *Skipping Christmas* was released. Two years later, Hollywood released its adaptation of the Grisham novel entitled “Christmas with the Kranks”.

The story is about a man who is furious over the fact that his family spent over \$6,000 on gifts the previous Christmas, and now they have nothing to show for it. With his daughter in the Peace Corps, he convinces his wife to join him in skipping Christmas for the current year and use the money for a Caribbean cruise. They decide to not participate in any of the “pomp and circumstance” of the Christmas season, the parties, the Christmas tree, the lights, the Christmas Eve bash and any participation in the neighborhood decorating contest — one in which all the neighbors adorn their roofs with identical Frosty the Snowman's. The plot line is about how all of the neighbors of the Kranks react. The Kranks later discover the enormous consequence of their decision as their plan begins to unravel.

## Pastor's Letter (con't)

They story concludes with a lesson for all of us: we can still participate in all of the “pomp and circumstance” of the Christmas season by participating in the parties, the lights on the leaning tree, the Christmas Eve gatherings, as well as fulfilling your obligation in making all of the purchases on the shopping lists and skip the Christmas hype.

This Christmas season, let the words of the hymn ‘Joy to the World’ ring true as we ‘*Let our heart prepare Him room*’. This year it is my prayer that you allow the Lord to fill you with all of the peace and joy that He offers; that you choose in the midst of the hustle and bustle to create a place in your heart that is reserved for His dwelling. Like the wise men that journeyed afar, it is our desire that this holiday season you experience a time of worship to Christ, and that the greatest gift you receive this season is the gift of a right relationship with the Crucified and Resurrected Lord of Life. And that the best gift that you give this year is one which you share with others: the only hope of God that began through the wonder of the birth of Jesus Christ, God’s only offer of salvation. Please join us Sundays at 10 a.m. if you don’t attend Church, we would love to see you!

Your Servant for Jesus’ Sake and have a very Merry Christmas,

*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

12/2	Bill Walsh	12/24	Keith Latella
	Lianne Elizabeth Walsh	12/26	Robert Thomas
12/8	Randall Koerner	12/29	Mark Iken
12/15	Ronald Coyne	12/31	Elizabeth Blissenbach
12/18	Barbara Brower Orlando		
12/19	Kevin Henningsen		
12/21	James Coffey		
	Lee Kramer		

# 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](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 January Lamplighter should be submitted no later than Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. Information can be e-mailed to the church office at [iuc1@verizon.net](mailto:iuc1@verizon.net).

# Mark Your Calendars

- December 6<sup>th</sup> Craft and Vendor Show
- December 13<sup>th</sup> Christmas Organ Concert 7 PM
- December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Service 11 AM

## ORGAN CONCERT



# CHRISTMAS

## CAROL SING

**Immanuel Union Church**

**Saturday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

Concert Performed by  
**Trent Whisenant**

Director of Music & Organist  
at Trinity Lutheran Church  
Stapleton, Staten Island



**Featuring Immanuel's Magnificent Pipe Organ**

Immanuel Union Church | 693 Jewett Avenue | (718) 448-1584

December 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 <b>Council Trustee/Board Meetings</b>	5	6 <b>Vendor Holiday Fair</b>
7 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	8	9 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	10	11	12	13 <b>Christmas Organ Concert 7 PM</b>
14 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	15	16 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	17	18	19	20
21 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	22	23 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	24 <b>Christmas Eve Service 11 AM</b>	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:00 Church Service via zoom 10:00	29	30 Bible Study via zoom 6:30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>			



Below you will find a form to use when ordering your Christmas Poinsettias for the Altar. Please include your check made payable to Immanuel Union Church with your order, and send it along to

693 Jewett Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314, Attn: Poinsettias.

The list of names will be published in the January Lamplighter.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - \$15.00 PER PLANT**

ENCLOSED IS \$ \_\_\_\_\_ FOR \_\_\_\_\_ PLANTS.

DONOR \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

OR IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE:

- ( ) My flowers may be given to shut-ins.
- ( ) I will pick up my flowers after the service.

The deadline for ordering Poinsettia Plants is December 14, 2025. Please send this form along with a check in the total amount of the order; or call the church office at 448-1584 to place your order.

## Prayer List

### Praise

✠ Roy- doing well now after surgery for prostate cancer.

### New & Continuing

- ✠ Roland's family was hit by the tsunami in the Philippines. The family is safe but the damage is extensive. Pray that God sends people to help them.
- ✠ Gene- Ed's friend who had open heart surgery
- ✠ Eds niece (Joelle) are going to be talking. Her mom (Lisa) has alienated herself from her.
- ✠ Alex- her cat passed away.
- ✠ Ann's mom - healing after fall. The state is investigating the fall.
- ✠ Charlie's friend Joe- had heart procedure yesterday.
- ✠ Catherine- has cancer
- ✠ That we will share the Gospel boldly in every opportunity we have.
- ✠ Lyn's friend Dee- recently diagnosed with heart issue.
- ✠ Salvatore- was fired, and just pray that Ed can forgive him and he gets his life together.
- ✠ Roland's friend - Jose - died from pancreatic cancer. Pray for the family.
- ✠ Fred- his daughter wants nothing to do with him and his best friend the same.
- ✠ Ann's Aunt Martha- for her anxiety.
- ✠ Ann's cousin Doris- fainted and fell. Waiting on tests and to have surgery.
- ✠ Dorothy- & Michael for the situation at home.
- ✠ Corey- going to see his dad who is older and he doesn't think he's a believer and he's dying.
- ✠ Alexandra- has a temp job through October- needs a full time steady job, getting interviews. In a new relationship that's going well.
- ✠ Roy- has prostate cancer. Pray for wisdom for the doctor.
- ✠ Lyn's friend- come into \$ and spending time with Jehovah's Witness.
- ✠ All of our children who don't know Jesus.
- ✠ Arthur- James the substitute organist's FIL- at Carmel in rehab. Pray he gets home soon.
- ✠ Joe- a teenager is attending Church- pray for his spiritual condition.
- ✠ Dorothy- God is holding on to her, pray for Michael her son.
- ✠ Billy - Anne's SIL having surgery in early September.
- ✠ Ginny- Sonja's friend healing from broken hip.
- ✠ Warren- Ann's brother has bleeding behind his eyes.
- ✠ Sylvia - Lyn's friend- has infection in her heart- had open heart surgery. Now in rehab.
- ✠ Eds friend Corey- looking for a Church to feel connected.
- ✠ Soon- visited Immanuel- pray that God opens his heart to the Gospel
- ✠ Margarita and Tony- waiting on a transfer to Texas. Pray it happens soon.
- ✠ 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.
- ✠ Jennifer- asked to do a Bible Study for 8th & 9th graders. Pray she speaks with clarity and that the Holy Spirit moves hearts.
- ✠ Gerd- after the accident is doing great! Pray for complete healing.
- ✠ Susan - Leslie's friend battling cancer.
- ✠ Baby Hazel- has neuroblastoma. Pray for her family- and doctors as far as treatment. At MSK and had major surgery- pray for her recovery.
- ✠ 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".
- ✠ 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.

