

IMMANUEL IMAGES September 2019

Worship Schedule

Sunday mornings – the heart of our life together

9:00am Sunday School

9:00 Nursery Care begins (infants – age 5)

9:15 Choir Practice in the Sanctuary

10:00 Worship for All Ages – Sanctuary

11:00 Refreshments and Fellowship Time – in the Narthex

Sunday, September 1

Scripture: Proverbs 25:6-7, Psalm 112, Hebrews 13:1-8 and 15-16, Luke 14:1 and 7-14

Table manner, hospitality and humility are the themes of both the Old Testament and Gospel lesson, which sound very much alike, on this Sunday. The psalm is a song about the blessings of the righteous. In the Letter to the Hebrews, which really doesn't look much like a letter (it's more like a sermon), the author offers a call to compassionate service in Christ's name.

Since this is the first Sunday of the month, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper and since it is Labor Day weekend, Pastor Dale will continue his tradition of reading a chapter of Home to Harmony, a humorous book about church life written by Philip Gulley.

Sunday, September 8

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1, Philemon 1:1-21, Luke 14:25-33

On this, the second Sunday in September, our scriptures focus on consequences. In the Old Testament book from the Torah (the books of law), we are offered an explanation of the consequences of following and not following God's laws and an exhortation to choose life. In the gospel of Luke, Jesus discusses the cost of discipleship, which in some cases, may be the loss of family and friends. The psalmist, too, offers a comparison of the ways of the righteous and the wicked. And in what may be the hardest lesson, Paul intervenes in a dispute and grudge between two brothers and offers all a letter of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Sunday, September 15

Scripture: Exodus 32:7-14, Psalm 51:1-10, I Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

Forgiveness and mercy are front and center in our scripture lessons today. In Exodus, after God is angered by the Hebrews casting and worship of a golden calf, Moses encourages God to let go of his anger and forgive the Hebrews. The Psalm is a prayer for cleansing and pardon which we often read in the Lenten season. In Paul's letter to Timothy we hear a word of gratitude for Christ's mercy. And finally, in Luke, we are taught once again about God's compassionate nature as Jesus shares the parables of the lost sheep, and Lost Coin.

Sunday, September 22

Scripture: Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 113, I Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

Ethical business practices and care for the poor are front and center this week. In the socially conscious book of Amos, the prophet condemns the abusive and unjust practices of businessmen. In Luke, addressing the disciples, Jesus teaches about the dangers of wealth with the parable of the dishonest manager who manipulates others for his sake. The psalm is a praise for the God who helps the needy. In I Timothy, we are offered an appeal and theological support for prayer.

Sunday, September 29

Scripture: Amos 6:1a and 4-7, Psalm 146, I Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31

Building on last weeks lessons, Amos, the prophet, condemns the wealthy. Paul writes to Timothy about true riches and challenges the young follower to fight the good fight of faith. Jesus, in the gospel of Luke, tells the story of the rich man and Lazarus, where the rich man suffers the consequences of ignoring the poor Lazarus, while Lazarus enjoys the comfort of life eternal in the presence of God. Psalm 146 is a song of praise for God's help.

News from the Association

The Chesapeake Association cordially invites us to attend the Service of Installation for Rev. Johnny Ramsey as pastor of Locust Point Community Church, on Sunday, September 15, 2019 at 3:00 pm. A reception will follow the service.

The Chesapeake Association announces the Official Call to the Fall Meeting of the Chesapeake Association and Ecclesiastical Council for Paula Whitacre. It is Saturday, September 21, 2019 and is to be held at Webster Congregational Christian Church in Havre de Grace, Maryland. It will begin at 10:00 am.

The Central Atlantic Conference invites us to attend the 55th Annual Meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference. It is planned for October 4th and 5th and is to be held at the Marriot Bethesda North Hotel and Conference Center. The theme is, "Forward in Christ," and the scriptural theme is Hebrews 12:1-2. The guest speaker will be Rev. Traci D. Blackmon, Associate General Minister for Justice and Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

All ordained clergy are encouraged to attend these events. Three or more representatives from each congregation are also encouraged to attend.

Security

Just a reminder, to increase security, all the church doors will be locked about ten minutes after worship begins. Anyone arriving after that time is encouraged to come to the narthex doors where an usher will welcome you.

Council Schedule

The Council has been discussing scheduling, nominations, elections, terms, and matters related to Council and Congregational meetings. In light of these conversations they are changing the Council meeting schedule and have begun meeting every other month. Currently meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of September and November. Decisions demanding immediate attention will be handled, as it has several times already, via email, and smaller groups will meet to address more complicated issues.

Website Update

An effort is being made to keep our new website up to date. This is easily seen as the website's BLOG page now includes our weekly Happenings article. Past "Happenings" articles will also be found there. Current newsletters are also available on the website.

Pastor's Message

Faith can be like a roller coaster. For some it may be like the new incredibly fast ones with steep drops and fast rises and loops that make you scream. For others it may be more like a gentle children's coaster or country road with gentle turns and unhurried rises and relaxed drops. Long ago, one of my mentors expressed this feeling to me as he said we all, even pastors, go through "dry spells" where we feel confused or distant in our relationship with God. It is a part of life. It is a part of faith.

What I would like to write about is not the glass half empty side of this challenge, but the glass getting fuller side. Personally, I too sometimes feel apart from God and feel less than hopeful. This occurs especially when I get too busy and spend less time in prayer and my reading of the Bible becomes quick and superficial. This summer was one of those times. The good news is that God spoke to me and it happened the week I was preparing for the Sunday morning Bible study about Hebrews.

The Bible studies of this past summer demanded a lot of preparation time. They required a degree of concentration on scripture that I had put aside for a little bit. So, the need to study scripture in order to lead a discussion came at a good time for me. Hebrews, especially, was a very fruitful scripture to study.

In Hebrews there is a lot of talk about faith, specifically the faith of the Old Testament patriarchs and their families. In Hebrews, faith is something that is active. Abraham demonstrated his faith by *obeying* (Genesis 15:8), *staying* (Genesis 15:9), *offering* (Genesis 15:7), *receiving* the power to procreate (Genesis 15:11), and more. There are lots of verbs used when describing Abraham and Sarah's faith. Faith is also described as something that is both cognitive and affective, that is something that is both in the head and heart. Faith is also described as something we believe to be true as well as an act of trust. Faith is very forward looking too. Those who have faith now, live with their eyes on the future kingdom, not by ignoring or diminishing present realities, but by seeing through today's realities to deeper and more lasting realities. The future gives us perspective on how to live today.

But perhaps the most powerful lesson I learned as I read Hebrews was the lesson taught by the Old Testament figures. In Hebrews there are many examples of people who died before God's promises were fulfilled. Despite my gift of patience, I find it easy to get discouraged by the meanness in our world today. The needless, and what seems to be increasing amount of, pain and suffering of our world takes its toll on my faith. Intolerance, incivility, greed, and more all seem to tax my faith and It came to a head this summer. But then I read Hebrews. I was reminded of the promises God made to many people in Old Testament days – promises that as I said above, they did not live to see come to fruition. My faith was bolstered. I came to see again God at work in our world and hope was renewed.

Maybe I am a product of the television era (now an even faster and instantaneous age of the internet), where I want things to happen "now." Perhaps I am not as patient as I think I am! But once again, I am reminded of the power of the scripture. I cannot tell you how many times this cycle has repeated itself. When I am feeling down, or less than loving, or apart from God, I always seem to find the words of scripture in front of me. The Spirit works and guides me back into a better relationship with God.

So many times, when I feel a little lost, I find beauty and power in the words of scripture. God is good!

Pastor Dale

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Christian Education Committee would like to send its sincere thank you to all who helped make Vacation Bible School a huge success. We had approximately 60 children who attended over the four days and many adults helping. The children had a great time. This year our program was "To Mars and Beyond".

BIBLE STUDY

We will be discussing the book "Faith Is The Answer, But What Are The Questions?" by James Moore. Come join us for soup and study starting Tuesday, September 10, 2019 from 12noon to 1pm. Books are available from the office at Immanuel. Please RSVP Donna Campbell 443-521-0112 or luth4502@gmail.com or Claudia McDonald 410-463-4055 or mcgingermud@aol.com.

PRE-PAID FUEL 2019-2020

This is just a reminder that cold weather is just around the corner and the need to keep our church building warm this winter is always a challenge. Getting help with this expense via our pre-paid fuel account is a big help in meeting our financial obligations. Our goal this year is \$10,000. Can you help?

Diana Jackson, Treasurer



CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES



Everyone will agree that our choir adds much to our Sunday services. Choir rehearsal will resume on Thursday, September 5 at 6:30p.m.

If you would like to join our choir, please speak with Curtis White, choir director. Come...sing to God's glory!

CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER

We will again enjoy our **“Christmas in September Snowman Pre-Sale”** on September 15th (third Sunday of the month). Diane Murphy will bring a few of her new “snowmen” for your viewing and advance ordering. These items, will also be available for sale at the Holiday Bazaar on November 23rd (4th Saturday of the month and the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving). As has been the practice for the past several years, she will take orders for the items on display and they will be delivered prior to the Bazaar. Since she only makes a limited number of each “snowman” for the Bazaar, this allows you to order as many as you want of any given item. All sales from the “pre-sale” and “Bazaar” will be donated to the Church needs.

WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON

Summer, vacations with family and friends are all coming to a close. Take a break from the rush of getting the kids settled back into the school year and enjoy a **“welcome back”** covered dish luncheon following worship on Sunday, September 15th in Fellowship Hall. The Hospitality Committee will provide the meat/main course for the lunch—just bring either a side dish or dessert to share with others. You can enjoy both good fellowship and learn about the trips and fun enjoyed by others during lunch. You'll have plenty of time to enjoy lunch and still get to see the “kick-off” of your favorite football team.

PLANNING FOR 2020

A planning session for 2020 is scheduled for Sunday, November 10th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. All committees should be represented and anyone who would like to attend is welcome. Do you have a fundraiser in mind that you think would be a welcomed addition to our events, come and tell us about it! ☺



Long Term Plans

FALL 2019 FUNDRAISERS

Even though the temperatures don't show it—the days are getting shorter, football in the main attraction and we should start seeing the change of color in the leaves very soon. Some of us have already begun to make plans for Thanksgiving and Christmas—shopping has probably already begun.

The Hospitality Committee has already begun working on several events for the fall leading right up to Thanksgiving:

Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, September 20th
Octoberfest Dinner on Saturday, October 19th
Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 23rd

This will be a very busy time for the kitchen and all of the volunteers who always help with the dinners and the Bazaar. We will also need additional volunteers in either the kitchen or Fellowship Hall for these events. Of course, we must recognize all of our **“BAKERS”** as we will need desserts for the two dinners and even more items for the Bazaar. We are fortunate to have so many bakers who bring items for our dinners and those enjoying our dinners always look forward to our desserts—as a matter of fact, they usually pick-up their desserts **BEFORE** getting their dinners!

The Octoberfest Dinner and Holiday Bazaar are among our largest Church fundraisers and are always well attended as we usually have attendees standing at the door waiting for them to open. These are “traditions” in our Church! Please mark your calendars for the above dates so you can either volunteer to help, bring a dessert or attend the event.

SPAGHETTI DINNER



Immanuel UCC will host a spaghetti dinner on Friday, September 20, 2019, 4:30 – 7:00pm. Menu will consist of spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and drink. Desserts will be available for purchase. Adults: \$10.00; children: 5-12: \$5.00; children 4 and under: free. Family package (2 adults and 2 children under 12): \$25.00.

Oh, and bakers....we will need desserts.

OKTOBERFEST



Looking ahead, and it's not that far ahead, Oktoberfest will be held on Saturday, October 19, 4:30-7pm. The menu will be Potato Leak Soup, Sauerbraten, Bratwurst, German Potato Salad, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Sauerkraut, Red Cabbage with Apples, Green Beans, Assorted Breads and Beverage.

You may purchase either individual dinner tickets: adults \$18.00. Children 8-12 \$8.00. (Children's tickets will be available at the door only.) Children 4 years and under: free; or a corporate package of tickets (15 for \$200.00). Contact the church office 410-228-4640 or Diane Murphy 410-228-5167.

We will need lots of helpers and bakers.

MISSION BRUNCH



Join us on Sunday, **November 3, 2019** at 11:30a.m. Our Missions Committee has been working on plans for this annual event to support our Special Benevolence Fund. We welcome your annual financial gifts to our Local Benevolence Fund at this time.

This upcoming season will be a busy one. Along with many other mission and holiday projects, we are expecting to receive names from the Salvation Army's Angel Tree soon. Please take the time to select a family you can help this Christmas season.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

September Birthdays

Diana Jackson	9/3
Amanda Leonard	9/7
Andrew Albert	9/8
Lyndsey Lyons	9/11
Amy Dodson	9/12
Claudia McDonald	9/13
Taylor Middleton	9/14
Jock Luthy	9/21
Josie Travers	9/23
Jason Segar	9/26
Christy Ashton	9/28
Sherry Hoefer	9/30
Terry Malkus	9/30

September Anniversaries

Susan & Kenny Collins	9/2
Donna & Max Schnoor	9/15
Charlotte & Chuck Hanson	9/17
Nicholas & Stephanie Barnett	9/29

Are you celebrating a birthday but it does not appear on our monthly birthday/anniversary listing? If so, contact the office: 410-228-4640 or email: info@immanuelucc.com to provide us with your information. You may also provide an e-mail address.

Your Staff

The Rev. Dale Krotee
Janice Haller
J. Curtis White
Lynne Breil
Stephanie Carmine

Pastor
Church Secretary
Choir Director/Organist
Pianist
Nursery Care Provider

Your Church Council

Donna Campbell – President

Kim Bair
Dennis Jones
Lynn-Malkus Lyons
John Dodson

Kate Deckenback
Keith Malkus
Terry Melius
Lynne Browne
Kristina Luthy

Church Contact Information

Office Hours - Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Phone: 410-228-4640 FAX: 410-221-6419

E-mail: info@immanuelucc.com;

pastor@immanuelucc.com

IMMAMUEL PRAYER LIST: You are invited to remember these people in prayer

Members of Immanuel:

Norma Lee BURTON, health issues
Shirley BURTON, mother of Robin Burton, health issues
Wells David DODSON, infant son of Scott & Amy Dodson
Bill FOXWEL L, facing health challenges
Jean FOXWELL, health issues
Evan KOZAK, treatment for Perthes disease
Helen MALKUS, health issues, at home
Elsa SCHNOOR, health issues, at home
Nancy SIMS, health issues, assisted living in Silver Spring, MD
Abby SPILLMAN-WISE, health issues
Irene TAYLOR, health issues, at The Pines, Room 303, Easton

Friends of Immanuel Church:

Barry GROVES, friend of Wallace Dodson, health issues
Pat & Robert JONES on the death of her brother, John Murphy
Charles LOWENSEN, brother of Diana Krotee, health issues
Lillian LOWENSEN, mother of Diana Krotee, health issues
Emma Jean SELLERS, grandmother of Kristina & Garrett Luthy,
at Health South

Other Prayer Requests:

Guidance in Immanuel's leaders for 2019 and beyond
Our adopted child, Royer Gaeel Arroyo Sulca, from Peru
Dorchester County Public Schools
Children at the border
Those shot in our country
Those suffering the effects from natural disasters

Members and Friends Serving in Our Armed Forces:

Christopher ANTENEN, U. S. Air Force, now stationed in the USA,
grand-nephew of the late Jean Haddaway
Jake CREIGHTON, U.S. Army, stationed in Georgia
Buddy HAYDEN, friend of Robin Burton, U.S. Air Force
Harley E. JONES, friend of Robin Burton, U. S. Marines
Keagan ROSARIO, U.S. Air Force, friend of Kim Leonard, now
stationed in the U.S.
Matthew L. RUBLE, II, U.S. Army, nephew of Michal Dixon,
stationed at Fort Polk, LA
Jason T. WARDEN, Marines, nephew of Michal Dixon,
stationed in Havelock, North Caroline



IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
5401 White Hall Road
Cambridge, Maryland 21613
410-228-4640 email: info@immanuelucc.com
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21613



Spaghetti
Friday, September 20, 2019
4:30 pm – 7:00pm
(See inside for details)



Coming – OCTOBER 19, 2019
OKTOBERFEST – GERMAN DINNER
4:30 – 7:00PM