

January Worship Schedule
Sunday mornings – the heart of our life together
10:00 Worship for All Ages – Sanctuary

January 3: Second Sunday after Christmas

Scriptures for the Second Sunday of Christmas: Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1: (1-9) 10-18

The most familiar of these passages is the Prologue of John. In the beginning of the gospel of John we learn of the Word's eternal presence, its role in Creation, and its incarnation as Jesus Christ. We also are told about John who witnesses to the Word as he baptizes Jesus.

However, with Epiphany being January 6, we will celebrate that Holy Day on this Sunday and use the Epiphany Day lessons.

Scriptures for Epiphany: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7 and 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

The first verses of Isaiah 60, "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you," sets the tone and theme for our Epiphany celebration. And while it may seem a long time since we celebrated Christmas, the story of the kings as they follow the star, shared in the gospel of Matthew, is the traditional and defining scripture of Epiphany. The psalm is a royal psalm, possibly for the coronation of a King, and is certainly appropriate for the day we anoint Jesus our King, and possibly may even be appropriate prayer in our time as we prepare for a new leader in our own nation. In the epistle of Ephesians, Paul comments on his qualifications and his call to serve God as an evangelist to the Gentiles.

Sunday, January 10: First Sunday after Epiphany, The Baptism of Christ

Baptism of Christ Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

On this Sunday when we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, one will quickly recognize, even without opening their Bible the lesson from the Old Testament. Genesis 1:1-5 is the first account of the Creation of the world and is about the day God created light and separated it between day and night. In Mark, the gospel writer, without any account of Jesus being born, jumps right to the Baptism of Jesus. In the passage in Acts, Paul travels to Ephesus, teaches about baptism and the Holy Spirit and baptizes followers in the name of Jesus Christ. Finally, in the Psalm we are offered an account of the voice of God in a great storm.

Sunday, January 17: Second Sunday after Epiphany

Scriptures: I Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20), Psalm 139:1-6 and 13-18, I Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

The Old Testament lesson from I Samuel recalls the somewhat humorous story of Samuel, the child under the care of the old priest Eli, waking up the old man three times before they realize it is God speaking and calling the child to be a prophet. The psalmist portrays God as one who knows us intimately, even saying, "For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb." Paul teaches us all things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial as we are all called to glorify God in body and spirit. In the gospel of John, Jesus calls Philip and Nathaniel to be his disciples.

Sunday, January 24: Third Sunday after Epiphany

Scriptures: Jonah 3:1-5 and 10, Psalm 62:5-12, I Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

The lessons today begin with Jonah, after his long journey away from God and through the belly of the whale, he reaches his destination, Ninevah, and speaks God's word, calling for repentance. Happily the people of the city respond appropriately. In the psalm we hear a song of trust in God alone, and the words, "God alone is my rock and salvation, my fortress. The letter to the Corinthians, written by Paul is not exactly an easy word for family counselors or long term financial advisors, because right after proclaiming marriage is stressful, Paul teaches that the present form of this world is passing away. In Mark, Jesus begins his Galilean Ministry and calls his first disciples.

Sunday, January 31: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 18:15-20. Psalm 111, I Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

Our last Sunday in January has us witnessing Jesus' first miracle in the exorcism of a demon. The psalmist offers God praise for his wonderful works. Paul writes about knowledge, food, sacrifices, idols, and weakness, and encourages the church in Corinth to behave in ways that shows love for God and care for others. Our first reading of the day from the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy says God promises to raise, from among the Hebrews, a new prophet like Moses.

Looking ahead – Ash Wednesday is February 17, and the first Sunday in Lent is February 21. Easter is April 4!

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"The Lord works in mysterious ways." -- John Belushi as Jake Blues in the Blues Brothers.

While unsuccessfully preparing my thoughts for this newsletter, I looked back and realized almost exactly three years ago today, as the president of the Chesapeake Association, I worshipped with the congregation of St. Mark's United Church of Christ in southwest Baltimore. It was their last worship service. They were closing. Their pastor was retiring.

St. Mark's United Church of Christ was not a stranger to me. In 1977 I went to Guatemala with a member of St. Mark's and upon returning, I rode with their pastor, Rev. Alice Zimmerman, (later Anderman) to Cambridge, Maryland, and Immanuel United Church of Christ to share a presentation about our Work Study trip at the Fall meeting of the Chesapeake Association. Richard Clay also participated in that trip. In later years I would meet Rev. Lucy Brady and others from St. Mark's, so it was kind of a sad day to see a church I had known for some time to close its doors. There were many strong and innovative ministries and outreaches performed by St. Mark's, their pastors, and their congregation.

But December 31, 2017 was not the end of the congregational presence in that community. A new group of people who had been building a community of faith in other parts of Baltimore began worshipping and ministering from that building. What once was the physical home, St. Mark's United Church of Christ within weeks would become the new home of New Covenant Community United Church of Christ. What may have seemed like a death, with a wider view, became a place of a new beginning. God was still at work in that place.

And that said, I would like to look at our time and place with that same spirit. Despite all that is going on I would like to approach 2021 with hope and optimism, and faith anchored in the call of GOD to worship and serve. As I write this message, Dorchester County's COVID numbers are the worst they have ever been. October, with 244 new COVID cases reported by the Health Department, was our worst month, but December will likely end up having over 100 more cases reported. And to top it off, the faith community was shaken by the loss of Father Bruce Byrolly, on Christmas night. However, the bad numbers peaked in the middle of the month, and hopefully after a post-Christmas spike, and the increasing access to the new vaccines, the numbers will decline, and life will return to something more normal. It seems dark now, but just as the days are filled with more light each day, I hope the darkness of this pandemic will diminish as well.

I hope the new day will not come without at least reflection. Much like the new beginning which happened in southwest Baltimore, we in many ways are being offered a new beginning in this time too and I would like to ask some questions.

In the days after our COVID battle, with all of the changes that have occurred, with all of the different ways we have been "church," with all that we have experienced and learned, I hope we ask each other a few questions. For instance:

- When all this over, will we automatically return to "old ways, or will we envision it as an opportunity for a new beginning

If we see the days ahead as a new beginning, given to us by God, will we ask each other

- What makes us church?
 - Music and singing
 - Coffee hours, dinners, and fellowship
 - Angel trees,
 - Sunday school and bible studies

- What has sustained us?
- What have we missed the most?
- Is there anything we need to let go?
- What ministries and new ways of being church do we need to develop and strengthen?
 - Zoom worship
 - Zoom meetings
- Who have we missed?
 - Why?
 - What can we do about this?

My head is swirling with the possibilities. I am looking with hope and faith to the future. Just as a new year offers an opportunity for introspection, goal setting, and new beginnings, and just as the closing of a historical church can offer a new beginning for another congregation, the days, and ministries of the COVID time also offer an opportunity for a new beginning and an opportunity for a faith filled renewal.

Peace and Happy New Year,
Pastor Dale

CALL TO THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021

All members of Immanuel are encouraged to attend to cast your vote for our 2021 Church Council members and review the 2021 budget. This year we will be electing three people to the council for a 3-year term, replacing Kate Deckenback, John Dodson and Keith Malkus.

During the Congregational Meeting held on October 25th , Dr. William Bair accepted and was elected to serve as President of the Congregation for 2021. The 2021 Budget was presented and approved as submitted.

While all members and friends of the Congregation are invited to attend and participate at the Annual Meeting, only members are eligible to vote.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Please have your committee reports into the office by **January 17, 2021**. The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February and this will allow the office time to get it assembled and have it available for you to pick up a copy on Sunday, January .

SPECIAL BENEVOLENCE

Thanks to everyone who continues to support our food pantry. Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of each month, we have asked that you bring some item(s) to add to our pantry and you have certainly responded, not only with items for the pantry but also helpers to serve in the pantry during assistance nights.

Thanks to you and Robin Burton, through our Special Benevolence efforts, we were able to offer support to many in our community who are struggling with today's economy. Keep up the good work!

OFFERINGS

Effective January 1, 2021 all mail-in donations should be sent to Immanuel United Church of Christ, 5401 White Hall Rd., Cambridge, MD 21613, attention Claudia McDonald.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – EMERGENCY COLD WEATHER SHELTER

Our local shelter serves some of the most vulnerable people in Dorchester County: those without homes who struggle with joblessness and, in many cases, addiction and mental illness. The Shelter opened in December at the Salvation Army on Washington Street in Cambridge, where the guests are provided a warm bed, hot dinner, and breakfast in the morning. In addition, guests receive counseling regarding local transition resources for their various needs. All of this is made possible by the generosity of local congregations such as ours, donations from businesses, foundations and community groups and the hard work of many volunteers.

Immanuel Church is responsible for preparing dinner and breakfast items on the second and fourth Thursdays from December through March. We will need people to step up and help. Due to the COVID-19 virus, we will only be delivering the meals (we will not be serving them.) The meals must be delivered to the Salvation Army building by 6:00pm

See Robin Burton for more information to select a date when you would be willing to prepare a meal.

BIBLE STUDY

The next bible study will begin on January 5, 2021 11-12 am in the Narthex. **Ten Women of the Bible One By One They Changed The World** by Max Lucado. This will be a 10 week study and you will need to purchase a book at the cost of \$15.15 prior to the start of the study. Contact Donna Campbell 443-521-0112 or Claudia McDonald 410-463-4055 if you are interested.

WITH GRATITUDE AND THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED IN 2020

To the Chancel Choir, our Music Director, Curtis White, pianist Lynne Breil and Tina Lyte and to Bill Bair for his contribution during many of our worship services on the violin. Thank you!

To the Spiritual Council and the Pastoral Relations Committee who handled many duties this past year. Thank you to the Chancel Committee for the flowers that grace our sanctuary each Sunday.

To those who prepare the meals and to those who transported the meals at the Emergency Cold Weather Shelter – Thank you! Thanks to everyone who provided desserts and breakfast for the shelter.

To our Hospitality Committee who worked long and hard to put on the Holiday Bazaar. To C. R. Newman who works tirelessly in the kitchen and in resolving all the little maintenance problems that arise from time to time. Thank you!

To the rest of our staff: Janice Haller, our church secretary, to Stephanie Carmine for caring so lovingly for our little ones; and to all you “behind the scenes” people who keep this place thriving! Thank you!

To Michal Dixon for her help in recycling the ink cartridges with Staples.

We know that it is impossible to cover all the people that need to be thanked for your contributions throughout 2019 but know that you are appreciated and we welcome your continued help and support in the years ahead.

Church Council 2020

2021 Plans

We have seen a very different 2020 come to an end and look forward to the New Year with many hopes. As we begin the year, we wanted to thank everyone for their help and gifts for the many “fund raisers” held during the past year, which assisted in the funding of the Church operation.

We will continue to have our other fundraisers throughout the year and will need your help supplying desserts and items for both the Spring Sale and Holiday Bazaar, plus your continued help with the various events. We have been very blessed this past year with your help and hope that you will continue your support in the coming year.

The Hospitality Committee

JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S AND ANNIVERSARIES

Member Birthdays

Kari Tolley	1/2
Carter Warfield	1/3
John Philip Giese	1/6
Courtney Travers	1/8
Harrison Spies	1/8
Wallace Dodson	1/11
Brian Burton	1/12
Ashton Elzey	1/13
William Spicer	1/13
Elsa Schnoor	1/14
Garrett Luthy	1/15
Elizabeth Krotee	1/16
William Foxwell, Jr.	1/17
Mitch Simmons	1/18
Alison Cherry	1/19
Vinson Spies	1/19
Donna Campbell	1/19

Member Anniversary

Patti & David Cannon	1/13
Barbara & Phil Albert	1/15
Diane & Jim Murphy	1/23
Debi & Jay Book	1/29
Ann & Mahmood Shariff	1/30

Birthdays (Continued)

Thomas Paul Jones	1/20
Debbie Collins	1/22
Sarah Todd	1/23
Ariana Spillman-Wise Mossberg	1/26
Tammy Luthy	1/28
William Brady Lyons	1/30
Dave Leonard	1/31

Your Staff

The Rev. Dale Krotee
Janice Haller
J. Curtis White
Lynne Breil and Tina Lyte
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

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

Members of Immanuel:

Norma Lee BURTON, health issues, at home
Wells David DODSON, son of Scott & Amy Dodson
Bill FOXWELL, facing health challenges
Jean FOXWELL, health issues
C. R. NEWMAN, health issues
Nancy SIMS, health issues, assisted living in Silver Spring, MD
Irene TAYLOR, health issues, at The Pines, Room 303, Easton

Friends of Immanuel Church:

Sarah BORK, friend of Brent Malkus, COVID
Aubree BURTON, daughter of Dennis & Kathy Katulis, health issues
Diane FOOR, friend of Sandy & Wallace Dodson, health issues
Lila HAMILTON, friend of Brent Malkus, COVID
Edwina KIMBALL, friend of Janice Haller, health issues
Lewis LONG, George's cousin, health issues
John LOWENSEN, father of Diana Krotee, health issues
Lillian LOWENSEN, mother of Diana Krotee, health issues
Ernie LUTHY, brother of Donna Campbell, knee replacement 12/11
Larie PLEGUE, friend of George Barnett, hospitalized with COVID
Emma Jean SELLERS, grandmother of Kristina & Garrett Luthy,
at Health South
Hollie SMITH, friend of Robin & Shirley Burton health issues at home
Clowee SWEENEY, friend of Terry Malkus, COVID-19
Ann WEBSTER, friend of Sandy Dodson, health issues
Mike WHEATLEY, friend of Robin Burton, health issues

Other Prayer Requests:

Guidance in Immanuel's leaders for 2020 and beyond
The leadership of Immanuel church, the need for people willing to
serve to do the business of the church.
Our adopted child, Royer Gaeel Arroyo Sulca, from Peru
Dorchester County Public Schools
Children at the border; Those shot in our country
Those suffering from natural disasters
Those dealing with COVID-19 including some area churches
For the healing of our nation, both physical & emotional

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 South Korea
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 Carolina



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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021
FOLLOWING WORSHIP 11:15 A.M.**