

May Worship Schedule

10:00 Worship for All Ages – on Zoom & in-house

Virtual Coffee Hour before and after our Worship

Sunday, May 2: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, I John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

The fifth Sunday of the Easter Season has the Holy Spirit leading Philip to enter a conversation with an Ethiopian eunuch, which leads to the eunuch's baptism in the book of Acts. The psalmist shares with us confident words of praise at the end of a psalm which began with words about suffering and hostility. The epistle of I John says God is love, and in the gospel of John, Jesus says he is the True Vine, and the father as the vine grower.

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on this Sunday.

Sunday, May 9: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, I John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

Our scripture lessons this week begin with the story in Acts of the Apostles where Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit and Peter ordered that they be baptized. The Psalm is a song of praise for the judge of the world. In the epistle (letter) of First John, found near the very end of the New Testament, the writer says faith makes obedience to God's commands easy to follow. And in the gospel lesson, among other things, and following the passage about Jesus being the True Vine, Jesus commands his followers to love one another as he has loved them.

Sunday, May 16: Seventh Sunday of Easter (Ascension)

Scripture: Acts 1:15-17 and 21-26, Psalm 1, I John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19

As we move through the Easter season, we continue readings from the Acts of the Apostles. This week we are in the first chapter of the book and dealing with the very practical concern of replacing Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus. As the book begins, we learn Mathias is chosen to replace Judas. In the gospel of John, Jesus prays for his disciples, and in the letter of First John, we hear testimony concerning the Son of God. Using beatitudes (a common literary device of Jesus's day), the psalmist describes the ways of the happy/blessed and wicked.

Sunday, May 23: Pentecost

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34 and 35b, Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27 and 16:4b-15

On Pentecost Sunday the emphasis is on the Holy Spirit. In the gospel of John, Jesus teaches the disciples about the coming of the Spirit. In the books of Acts, as usual, we read the story of the first Pentecost where, as they are gathered, the Spirit descends on the apostles as flames of fire, and witnesses hear the remarkable story of the disciples speak in a variety of languages. In the letter to the Romans, Paul writes about the difficulty of life today, and the future glory promised by God. The psalm is one of praise to the God who created the earth.

Sunday, May 30: Trinity Sunday

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

The Sunday after Pentecost is the Sunday we focus on the Trinity. In the Old Testament book of Isaiah, the prophet shares a vision of God in the Temple, which is also a model or outline we use for our worship. The Psalm is sometimes titled, "The Voice of God in a Great Storm." In the epistle to the Romans, Paul writes about what life in the Spirit is like. And finally, in the gospel of John, we hear the story of Nicodemus' first visit with Jesus, where Jesus teaches him about being born anew in the Spirit.

The Central Atlantic Conference Mass Choir

Join in the gift and ministry of music with the CAC Mass Choir. We are preparing new music for the Trinity/Pentecost season and in preparation for the CAC service of **May 30, 2021**. We have been overjoyed by the response to the choir both in membership and in the use of the music in local services. We want to continue to expand and grow the choir to include more of our youth and adults from across the conference. We encourage instrumental musicians to join as well. If you are a singer, or musician and interested in joining in the fun and gift of Music please join us. Those interested will be provided with lyrics, music tracks, and recorded parts for the songs that will be available for CAC churches to use. **Soloists are welcome.**

Virtual choir rehearsal schedule (you can attend as many rehearsals as you like, we request that you attend at least one rehearsal; rehearsal schedule subject to change)

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 730pm-830pm

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 730pm-830pm

Saturday, May 9, 2021 330pm-430pm

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 730pm-830pm

Saturday, May 16, 2021 330pm-430pm

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 730pm-430pm

Recording due May 19, 2021

We are building a diverse musical experience to lift our voices in the sanctuary and tell the story through music.

Several of Immanuel's members have participated in the Mass Choir. For more information, contact Sherry Hoefler, Lynne Brown, or Pastor Dale.

Pastor's Message

As I sit here pondering what to write about, my thoughts are about Phil McKelvey. Phil was the sheriff in Dorchester County for many years, and a member of the Cambridge Lions Club, where I met him. I just received word, not unexpected, that he passed away from COVID. I enjoyed my conversations with him and will miss him. His passing influences what I write now and my feelings about our worship and church life.

Despite the feeling that we are on the verge of beating this (fill in the blank with whatever bad word you want) disease, the number of new cases in April looks like it will be around 280 or more, which will make April the fourth worse month since COVID came to Dorchester County, behind January 2021 (823), December 2020 (355), February 2021 (303), and ahead of October 2020 (244). Those numbers do not indicate the number of new cases by age groups but I suspect the number of new cases are going down in older age groups due the number of folks getting vaccinated, and because I am hearing of more cases being reported in schools, (Maces Lane was closed for at least a week) but I have not been keeping track of those specific numbers, so I cannot provide valid detailed statistics to back up my interpretation. However, I truly hope in May 2021 the number of new cases will diminish to a point where we might be able to say it is the fourth "best" month.

With this as a backdrop, there have been many relevant questions being asked at Immanuel.

- Can we have live music?
- When can the choir come back?
- Can we have a couple of soloists singing live in worship?
- Can the congregation sing?
- How long should we offer the full hybrid service?
- If we stop the Power Point centered worship, and just have a camera at the back of the sanctuary, will more people come to worship?
- Do we still need to "screen" folks as they enter the building?
- What about all the social distancing requirements, do we really need them?
- Can we open the nursery?

These are just a few, and I, personally, do not know how to respond.

At the March 15 Council Meeting I shared resources from the State of Maryland and the CDC

Council Meeting Resources:

- MD Governor's Executive Order, March 9: Lifted Capacity Limits, but maintained Social Distancing Protocols

- CDC, March 7, 2021 Guidelines: suggested organizations consider number of COVID cases in community, exposure during travel to the event, setting of the event, length of the event (anything more than 15 minutes increases risk), number of people attending, and behavior of the crowd (high risk behaviors identified included lack of masking and social distancing, **singing and shouting**, and more).

More recently, the Central Atlantic Conference shared a few resources that might help us answer these questions.

- Rev Amber Neuroth of Hope UCC in Alexandria and the church leaders have created this extensive and thoughtful guide around reopening in person. You will find the document via this link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/14gl8QB2GvBkxQCdxxtCnH2Qah5V9YkPXArUI9OzUIOo/edit?pli=1>
 - ***The Hope UCC plan is incredibly detailed and considers SO MUCH MORE than we at Immanuel have ever, ever thought about.*** It is worth reviewing.
- Rev. Ellen Jennings, Pastor of Cleveland Park Congregational UCC, kindly shared two resources from the Unitarian Universalist Association. One is an overview of considerations concerning re-gathering in person. The other is a sketch of several scenarios that might be helping in planning and direction. Check these out and share them with your Boards and staff, as they might help you make well-informed decisions as we move into the next few months.
 - This set of resource has several links including: [UUA Guidance on Gathering In-Person When COVID-19 Subsides | UUA.org](#) which looks at ethical considerations such as care and concern for the most vulnerable inside and outside of the congregation, care for staff, and respect for science and the church's mission.
- Rev. Clara Young, Interim Pastor at Christ Reformed Church UCC in Middletown, MD shared two resources as well. Both are written by church member Ed Link, an engineer who has practiced risk assessment at high levels with the government and is a professor at the University of Maryland. The first paper addresses statistical questions around the risks of regathering in person, mainly if an asymptomatic person attends and participates in an indoor worship service. The second paper addresses specific steps the church may take around disinfecting the sanctuary.
 - The first report, written by an engineer, with all its math, formulas, charts, and sheer length, likely require an engineer to read and interpret them, but do provide some insight to decision making considerations.
 - The second report, reportedly about proper cleaning and sanitizing seems to be another link to the first report. I suspect if we interested, we could request that report.

Obviously, newsletters are the best place to share links to online resources, but I will be happy to share these links if anyone would like to participate in the decision making here at Immanuel.

I offer this information because, despite our desire to get back to normal, one might say I am still “spooked.” I have shared meals with two people, Father Byrolly and Mr. McKelvey, who two weeks after our meal, passed away due to COVID. There have also been outbreaks in other congregations, even in Cambridge, due to unsafe practices, and I do not want to be responsible for Immanuel being talked about as a place where people have been infected by this virus.

Immanuel is already far, far ahead of so many other congregation in our denomination and region who are not, or only recently, back to in-person worship, but as we move closer to complete freedom from COVID related restrictions, may we do so cautiously and with care for all, with the strong and numerous resources we have in hand, and with the wisdom of God guiding us.

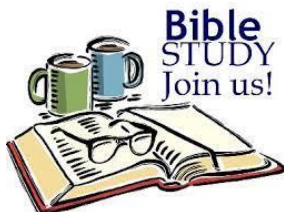
I want badly not to have to consider COVID as we make our plans and perform our work as a congregation, but we cannot do that at this time. There are and have been many new ways of doing our work, with children, with mission, with the choir, in worship, and more, which I have learned about. I have already shared some of these ideas and others can be shared if desired. I have attended so many webinars on so many subjects, that I think I have forgotten more than many know.

COVID still influences our world, and it directs and limits much of what we do, but God is still with us calling us to serve and there are ways to do this.

Peace, Pastor Dale

COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting is scheduled for 6:30 P.M. Monday, May 17.



BIBLE STUDY

We will be studying “The Life of Paul” starting on May 11, 2021. It will be 11:00-12:00 on Tuesdays for 6 weeks. Please call Donna Campbell 443-521-0112 or Claudia McDonald 410-463-4055 if you are interested in joining us.

2021 Spring Sale (Yard Sale and Food Items) May 15th

The Annual Spring Sale date is closing in and if you are planning to bring items for the “yard sale”, please take them out to Church prior to May 10th so they can be priced and readied for the sale. If you have already brought item(s)—**THANK YOU!** We are hoping that we have a lot of items to sell, since everyone has had lots of time to clean or organize your closets, sheds, etc., however, no clothes on the church table.

We are still looking for volunteers to work that day or prior to the sale, either in the kitchen or at the Church’s yard sale table(s). If you have the time and would like to help, please contact Diane Murphy at 410-228-5167 or put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Don’t forget to sign-up or bring a bake goods item for sale. There are “**baked goods labels**” in the basket in the Narthex and remember, each item or package requires a label per the Health Department. The labels are “user friendly”—all you have to do is (1) write in the name of the item and (2) check the boxes for the ingredients in your recipe.

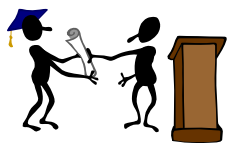
The sign-up sheet for the “**Chicken Salad Carry-out**” is on a table in the Narthex so don’t forget to place your order indicating the number you wish and the day you will pick them up—Saturday, May 15th or Sunday, May 16th. If you have not returned to Church yet, you can place your order by calling Diane Murphy at 410-228-5167.

We are asking that you “**pre-order**” your soups and chicken salad prior to the Sale. This will greatly help us plan the amount of soups to make and the amount of chicken to purchase. You may call Diane Murphy at 410-228-5167 or email me at murphy2a@comcast.net We still hope to have additional items available should you come in that day to purchase our soups and chicken salad.

We would like to thank everyone, in advance, for your help and orders!

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT EVERYONE MUST WEAR MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE REQUIRED. EVEN THOUGH MANY HAVE BEEN VACINATED, WE WANT EVERYONE TO REMAIN SAFE!

GRADUATES



While honoring our graduates for 2021 with our graduate reception during coffee hour is probably in jeopardy, we would still like to honor them in our June newsletter. In order to do this, we will need to know who they are and their future plans. An information sheet is included in this newsletter which we would like you to complete and return to the church by **May 16th**. Please send your information sheet by e-mail: info@immanuelucc.com Of course, you may drop it in our locked mailbox located on White Hall Rd. ***If you have a photo that we can include, send that to us as well by e-mail.***

VAVCATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The CE Board has decided to do VBS a little differently this year. We are going to do an hour a night each Friday for three Fridays; The dates are July 9, July 16 and July 23. More on this later.



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH – INVEST IN THE VISION

Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church offering, these visions and dreams can become a reality.

Strengthen The Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the "church" in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking," message.

This year, our offering to "Strengthen the Church" will be received on Pentecost Sunday, May 23.

Information on Graduates for Newsletter

Name _____
 First Middle Last

Address _____

Date of Graduation _____

School/University from which Graduating _____

Parents Name _____

Activities/Hobbies - church, school, community, etc.

Possible plans following graduation? _____

Any Brothers/Sister? _____

Any pets and their name? _____

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May Birthdays

Lindsay McDonald	5/2
Jake Creighton	5/2
Phyllis Murphy	5/2
Lucas Tolley	5/3
Ella Dodson	5/3
Nicholas Bradley	5/5
Linda Slacum	5/7
Kim Leonard	5/7
Leah Krotee	5/11
Sara Slacum	5/15
Amanda Bair	5/15
Kyle Jackson	5/15
Brenda Pender	5/16
Jocelyn Spies	5/20
Ronnie McCollister	5/24
Brian Malik	5/24
Jim Murphy	5/26

May Anniversaries

Susie & Jim Creighton	5/2
Connie & George Barnett	5/7
Jill & Jason Segar	5/17
Tracy & Andrew Frase	5/20
Kim & Bill Bair	5/22

BIRTHDAYS (Continued)

Kathy Kelly	5/27
Jillian Burton	5/27
Wendy Appollos	5/27
Giselle Burton	5/29
Bill Cox, III	5/29
Don Rae	5/30
Ruth Bradley	5/30
Steve McDonald	5/31

Your Staff

The Rev. Dale Krotee
Janice Haller
J. Curtis White
Lynne Breil & Tine Lyte-Davis
Stephanie Carmine

Pastor
Church Secretary
Choir Director/Organist
Pianist
Nursery Care Provider

Your Church Council

Bill Bair – President

Lynne Browne
Kristina Luthy
Terry Melius
Robin Burton

Cassie Burton
Jock Luthy
George Barnett
Jack Breil
Sherry Hoefer

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:

Carole & Garry BROHAWN, health issues
Norma Lee BURTON, health issues, at home
Wells David DODSON, son of Scott & Amy Dodson
Bill FOXWEL L, facing health challenges
Jean FOXWELL, health issues
Helen KROM & family on the death of her son Eric in Wyoming on 4/21
John McWILLIAMS, friend of Wallace & Sandy Dodson, Lung Cancer
Nancy SIMS, health issues, assisted living in Silver Spring, MD
John VALENSTEIN, friend of Wallace & Sandy Dodson, ALS

Friends of Immanuel Church:

Aubree BURTON, daughter of Dennis & Kathy Katulis, health issues
Shirley BURTON, mother of Robin Burton, health issues
Mary CHASE, friend of Beverly Shelly, health issues
Family & friends of Diane FOOR, who died April 15, 2021
Richard & Janice GRACE, nephew of Bette Adams, brain cancer
John IPPOLITO, friend of Beverly Shelly, health issues
Edwina KIMBALL, friend of Janice Haller, health issues
Greg LEONARD, nephew of Dave & Kim Leonard, ALS
John LOWENSEN, father of Diana Krotee, health issues
Lillian LOWENSEN, mother of Diana Krotee, health issues
Robert MEDURA, friend of Beverly Shelly, health issues
Emma Jean SELLERS, grandmother of Kristina & Garrett Luthy,
at Health South
Blake TURNER, nephew of Robin Burton, health issues
Ann WEBSTER, friend of Sandy Dodson, health issues

Other Prayer Requests:

Guidance in Immanuel's leaders for 2021 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

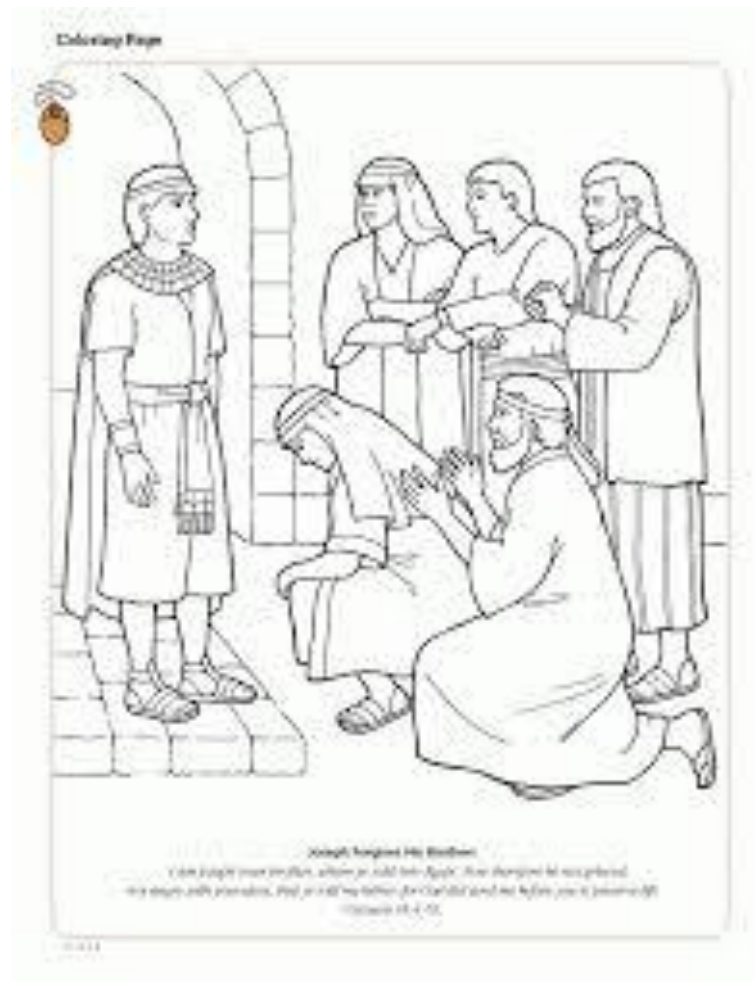
Buddy HAYDEN, friend of Robin Burton, U.S. Air Force

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





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

Return Service Requested

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IT'S A "SPRING SALE
(RAIN OR SHINE)
Immanuel United Church of Christ
Saturday, May 15, 2021
Sale starts at 7:00am
Tables available: \$10.00
Call to reserve your sale table!
Or to place an order for food
410-228-5167 or murphy2a@comcast.net
Enjoy soup, chicken salad
Bake table (contributions needed)