

Worship Schedule

Sunday mornings – the heart of our life together

9:00 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, October 1

Scripture: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

The first Sunday in October finds us celebrating Communion, the Lord's Supper, with churches around the world on World Communion Sunday.

The Lectionary readings begin in Ezekiel, where, through the prophet Ezekiel, God tells the Hebrews, all lives matter and no one is judged by the deeds of those who have gone before, but everyone is given a chance for life and judged only by their own deeds and actions. The psalmist offers us a prayer for guidance and Paul shares with the Philippians a hymn about the humility of Christ. Our gospel lesson on this day has two parts. The first has Jesus' authority questioned and the second finds Jesus sharing a parable of two sons -- one says he will work but doesn't and another son who says he won't work, but actually does.

Sunday, October 8

Scripture: Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15, Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46

Ten years and one day ago on this day, this congregation gathered to dedicate this building --their new home. There were lots of guests and celebrations. On this Sunday, while not as grand as that celebration ten years ago, we will acknowledge the tenth anniversary of the Dedication.

The Lectionary readings which will likely change, but if you would like what other churches will be reading, they begin with the prophet Isaiah. Using the metaphor of a vineyard for God's people, Isaiah shares a love song of the owner for his vineyard that ends with a word of judgement. In the psalm, again, using a metaphor of a vine, Israel acknowledges the role God has had in its deliverance from Egypt, planting in their own promised land, their punishment for unfaithfulness, and ends with a plea for protection. We visit a vineyard in the gospel of Matthew too. In this story, the parable of the wicked tenants, the workers at the vineyard refuse to pay the owner what he is due when the crop is harvested and kill all of his servants and even his son.

Sunday, October 15

Scripture: Isaiah 25:1-9, Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

There is a lot of praise and celebration in our lessons on this Sunday.

We will likely read the familiar words of the 23rd Psalm as well as the words of praise and joy for the people's deliverance from oppression, found in Isaiah. Paul, in his epistle, offers encouraging words, saying to the church in Philippi, "Rejoice in the Lord always, again, I say rejoice." The celebrations continue with a wedding feast in Matthew. Unfortunately, not all of the guests appreciated their invite as many of the guests refuse to attend and the host invites guests off the street.

Sunday, October 22

Scripture: Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 96:1-9 (10-13), I Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22

Our gospel lesson today begins with Pharisees challenging Jesus, asking him about taxes and allegiance to the state. The prophet Isaiah shares the story of how God uses Cyrus, a non-Israelite, to send a message to the world that God alone is the creator and controller of the world. The psalm is a psalm of praise, with the lyrics, "Sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the earth." In I Thessalonians, Paul writes complimentary words of introduction at the beginning of the letter.

On this weekend Pastor Dale will be visiting Zion Evangelical Lutheran United Church of Christ (Zion Golden Ring), his home church. They are celebrating their 150th Anniversary and he has been invited to be a guest speaker at their banquet on Saturday. In his place, the Spiritual Council has invited Suzanne Schwarz-Green, a Member in Discernment (someone who is on the path to being a pastor) of the Chesapeake Association. Here is what Suzanne has shared about her journey.

Suzanne was born and raised in Berlin, Germany, and came to the US in 1994. She was able to witness the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Suzanne lived in Colorado, Maryland, and currently Delaware and she is the mother of Julien (23) and grandmother of Jade (19 months). Suzanne married Peg, her partner of nearly 15 years, in August 2016. Peg and Suzanne were founding members of Safe Harbor UCC in Milton, DE, and currently attend People's Church of Dover. Suzanne graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary in May, 2017 and is currently in the process of looking for a church to serve as a pastor. In her free time, she loves to read, sew, play with her granddaughter, and meditate while walking the labyrinth at a nearby church.

Suzanne may even join us for the German Dinner on Saturday evening. Please extend a warm welcome to her as she is honing her pastoral and worship leadership skills.

Sunday, October 29

Scripture: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18, Psalm 1, I Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-46

Our final Sunday in October, the Sunday nearest to Reformation Day, we will acknowledge the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. The scheduled readings for the day include a reading from the Torah, or one of the five books of the law, Leviticus. In this book, God tells his people what he expects of them,

ending with the words, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The Psalm also speaks of God’s laws as it offers a comparison of the righteous, who are like trees

growing by the streams of water, and the wicked, who are like chaff that the wind blows away. In the gospel and in response to a lawyer asking Jesus, what is the greatest law, Jesus says, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,” and challenges them to recognize him as the Messiah. In I Thessalonians we find caring words offered to the church.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Four hundred ninety-nine years and eleven months ago, on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a German monk and theologian took a knee.

Perhaps that is not the literally accurate way to begin a conversation about our current events and the upcoming five hundredth anniversary of the seminal event of the Protestant Reformation, but if I remember my church history lessons correctly, Luther had no intentions of destroying or leaving the church. He was not politically or ecclesiastically ambitious. His actions were motivated primarily, by a concern and love for the church and its faithfulness to the gospel – in particular the tradition of purchasing indulgences. Martin Luther, at least as he saw it, was trying to be faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

According to Wikipedia: The theses delivered to the Archbishop of Mainz and possibly nailed to the door of the All Saints’ Church in Wittenberg, were meant to advance Luther’s positions against what he saw as abusive practices by preachers selling plenary indulgences, which were certificates believed to reduce the temporal punishment for sins committed by the purchasers themselves or their loved ones in purgatory. In the Theses, Luther claimed that the repentance required by Christ in order for sins to be forgiven involves inner spiritual repentance rather than merely external sacramental confession. He argued that indulgences led Christians to avoid true repentance and sorrow for sin, believing that they can forgo it by purchasing an indulgence. They also, according to Luther, discourage Christians from giving to the poor and performing other acts of mercy, believing that indulgence certificates were more spiritually valuable. Though Luther claimed that his positions on indulgences accorded with those of the pope, the Theses challenge a fourteenth-century papal bull stating that the pope could use the treasury of merit and the good deeds of past saints to forgive temporal punishment for sins.

Martin Luther was not the first to challenge, or invite discussion, about matters of faith and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. Many went before him and were not as successful. Some of the earlier “reformers” who asked for changes in the Church were burned at the stake.

I suspect many of us know at least of portion of what followed from Luther's actions. The **very short** story is that Luther, inspired followers and empowered others to speak out against abuses of the church. The church became divided and in the next hundred or two years, the different variations of the Protestant Church were formed. In Germany, these variations included the Lutheran, Reformed, and Presbyterian churches. In England, the Church of England separated from the Roman Catholic Church and the English Reformation was the beginning of the Methodist church. In time, the Anabaptist churches formed as well. In fact, within a hundred or so years of Luther's act, the Roman Catholic Church experienced their own reformation – many of the changes that Luther desired in his church actually happened, they just took a century or two.

In his day, Luther was viewed in different ways. Some loved and respected his views. Others worked, with all their power, to silence him. Even though Martin Luther's name is known by everyone and we could say that he won the war, the leadership of his day won the battle, and excommunicated him.

I wonder how much the knees taken in the last year, and in recent weeks, are like the theses delivered to the Archbishop (or nailed to the door). There are a lot of views swarming around the actions and the players who perform them. Some say they disrespect our nation. Others say they are done out of love for the country and our people. Still others say they are selfish, uninformed gestures and are done in an inappropriate method and venue. Others say hurrah for the players.

No matter your point of view, no matter how history (or God) will view these events and us in a hundred, or five hundred years, there is division and unexpected consequences. There are big divisions. And Colin Kaepernick and others may wind up being excommunicated. Perhaps Donald Trump may be one who finds himself on the outside looking in. But there is pain and division. I know where I stand, but wherever you stand or kneel, I leave us all with this quote:

*Live today such that you can answer affirmatively, "Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and the life to come."
Henri Nouwen*

Thank You Dudley Parr, of the Overflow Café, for the FB post with the Nouwen quote.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Dale

"True joy will not be shut up within the heart that no signs of it will appear outside. A quiet heart which truly believes that God has been reconciled to us on account of Christ will produce a cheerful countenance and happy eyes. God is not offended by gaiety" *Martin Luther*

CHURCH COUNCIL 2018

It's time to look for three new members for the church council. It is a 3-year term, only one evening per month. If you would like to serve this church as a member of the Church Council, please contact any of the council members to have your name placed on the ballot or, if asked, would you consider putting your name on the ballot. This is a great way to see and learn the inter-workings of your church...how decisions are reached, future plans. You can be in on the ground floor!



PLANNING FOR 2018

All committees – mark your calendar for Sunday, November 12 following the worship service at 11:30am. There will be a meeting in the Fellowship Hall to plan events for 2018. This is the time that the various committees and individuals come together to make plans for the next year. We are asking for your input. If you would like to "schedule/plan an organized" fundraiser for the Church, please come to the meeting. If you have a fundraiser idea, come to the meeting. This will help in avoiding conflicts with scheduling during the year.



Long Term Plans

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Congregational Meeting



Sunday, **November 19**, immediately following worship, a congregational meeting will be held during which we will be electing the President of the Congregation for 2018 and presenting and approving the 2018 budget.

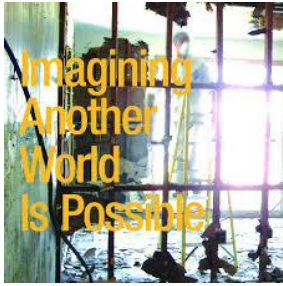
PRE-PAID FUEL 2017-2018

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 and there is no telling when the price will climb again. Our goal this year is \$10,000.



Diana Jackson, Treasurer

MISSION UPDATES



NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING, which supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, will be received on Sunday, October 1. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible.



MISSION BRUNCH will be held on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 11:30am. Our Missions Committee has been working on plans for our annual event to raise funds for our Special Benevolence Fund. No Sunday School.

The following thank you was received on Sept. 25:

On 9/17 my brother-in-law and I were traveling back from O.C. bike week when we broke down. Well, someone was watching out for us because we broke down in front of your church. A wonderful lady, who's name I did not get, came to our aid. When I asked for the address of the church, she offered us water and restroom usage.

This was a God send as we ended up being there for 1-1/2 hours.

In a day when so much is wrong with the world, it is very refreshing to find someone so wonderful. Thanks again.

(This came from Westminster, MD, along with a donation to be used as needed)

FELLOWSHIP AND FUND-RAISING

GERMAN DINNER

OKTOBERFEST - GERMAN DINNER, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017, 4:30 – 7:00p.m. Join in the fun and enjoy some truly German cuisine at Immanuel United Church of Christ. 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. Desserts will be available for purchase.

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. You are encouraged to purchase your ticket(s) in advance. Advance ticket sales and corporate package information are due no later than Sunday, October 8th (see Diane Murphy). This will aid our Hospitality Committee in the purchase of food for this event. The success of this church and community event depends on the support, donations and hard work of many people. Please sign-up on the sheets located in the Narthex for areas where you are able to make our Oktoberfest dinner another success. See you there!

TRUNK OR TREAT
Sunday, October 29th
4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Ages 12 and under

Christian Education Committee is sponsoring our 4th annual Trunk or Treat. We will have games, decorating of pumpkins, temporary tattoos, along with a hotdog and drink.

If you wish to decorate your car and hand our goodies to all the ghouls and goblins, please arrive at 3:30 p.m. to set-up and be prepared for 200 children. Please call the church office at 410-228-4640, Diana Krotee at 443-487-2504 or Robin Burton at 443-521-7869 to sign up your vehicle. Your vehicle must be signed up by October 22rd.

We will gladly accept monetary donations or candy. We can always use extra hands that day. Also, please bring a non-perishable food item for our assistance pantry.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR – NOVEMBER 18, 2017



The holidays are not that far away and plans are being made for our Holiday Bazaar. If you are thinking about “Fall House Cleaning”, that would be a great time to set aside holiday related items for our sale – all items must be in good condition (no clothes). Homemade crafts and canned goods will be welcomed additions to our sale, however, no clothes. As always, we will have our chicken salad, soups and baked goods, in addition to our “Country Store”.

Helpers are needed, as well as bakers. Sign-up sheets will be placed in the Narthex. Please mark this date on your calendars and come out to either help or support our bazaar. If you have any questions, please call Diane Murphy 410-228-5167.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

October Birthdays

Vivian Barnett	10/2
Christy Foxwell	10/3
Paul Jackson	10/6
Sonny Malkus	10/7
C. R. Newman	10/9
Leslie Tolley	10/12
Jarrett Ashton	10/12
Barbara Bailey	10/13
Max Schnoor, Jr.	10/13
Amy Malkus	10/13

October Birthdays (Continued)

Jack Dodson	10/15
Robin Burton	10/18
Hannah McDonald	10/19
Leah Warfield	10/20
Carole Segar	10/22
Natalee Lyons	10/23
Bette Adams	10/27
John Dodson	10/30
Danny Luthy	10/30
Susie Creighton	10/31

Your Staff

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

Pastor
Church Secretary
Choir Director/Organist
Pianist
Custodian
Nursery Care Provider

Your Church Council

Dr. Donald Rae - President

Danny Luthy
John Dodson
Kim Leonard
Kim Bair
Tom Wilkison

Lynn Malkus-Lyons
Charlotte Hanson
Mary Mistrangelo
Dennis Jones

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:

Ray BRYANT, in rehab in Potomac, broken hip & arm
Dorothy BURTON, health issues, at Mallard Bay
The family of Edward BURTON on his death Sept. 25
Norma Lee BURTON, broken hip, recovering at home
Wylie & Shirley BURTON, Robin Burton's parents, health issues
Donald CREIGHTON, health issues
Bill FOXWELL, facing health challenges
The family of Jean HADDAWAY on her death Sept. 21, 2017.
Sydney KEYES, health issues
Evan KOZAK, undergoing treatment for Perthes disease
Helen MALKUS, health issues, at home
Milton MALKUS, health issues, at Dorchester General
Elsa SCHNOOR, health issues, at Mallard Bay
William SPICER, health issues, at home

Friends of Immanuel Church:

Helen BATTON, friend of Doris & Don Rae, rehab at GBMC
Kenny ELZEY, Julia Newman's father, at Chesapeake Woods
Summer HILL, friend of Robin Burton, infant daughter of Kevin Hill recovering from surgery in NICU

Other Prayer Requests:

Guidance in Immanuel's leaders for 2017 and beyond

Members and Friends Serving in Our Armed Forces:

Christopher ANTENEN, U. S. Air Force, now stationed in the USA, grand-nephew of Jean Haddaway
Buddy HAYDEN, friend of Robin Burton, enlisted in U.S. Air Force
Timothy Scott MOXEY, JR., U. S. Navy, stationed in San Diego, grandson of Debi & Jay Book. Great-grandson of the late Ted Malkus
Thomas PARENT, U. S. Army, friend of George & Connie Barnett, serving in Colorado
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 in New Orleans, LA
Seth M. RUBLE, U. S. Air Force, nephew of Michal Dixon, stationed in Seattle, WA
Jimmy WINDSOR, U. S. Army, stationed in Arizona



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PREPARE FOR WINTER, NOW!
It is time to start thinking about
PRE-PAID FUEL FOR THE 2017 – 2018
HEATING SEASON GOAL: \$10,000

Please make your check payable to Immanuel UCC
Memo – “Pre-Paid Fuel”
Could you help us warm the church? Thank you.



Join us for “Oktoberfest”
Saturday, October 21, 2017
Authentic German Dinner
starting at 4:30 p.m.
(See inside for more information).