

February Worship Schedule

Sunday mornings – the heart of our life together

9:00 Sunday School

9:00am Nursery (infants to 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, February 4: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11 and 20c, I Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39

Our lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures this week begins with a description of God's majesty and ends with the familiar words, "but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." The Psalm too, is a psalm of praise, as the psalmist offers words of praise for God's care for Jerusalem. In the letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes that he proclaims the gospel, not for his sake or his own personal glory, but for Christ's sake and the glory of God. Our lessons conclude with another episode of Jesus healing many people in the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in the gospel of Mark.

Sunday, February 11: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany (Transfiguration)

Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

As the season of Epiphany, and its themes of light and identity come to an end, we will read the story of Jesus taking Peter, James and John up the mountain and being transfigured before their eyes. Paul will write about Christ as the light that shines out of the darkness and the difficulty some have in seeing the light. The story shared in Second Kings is about Elisha witnessing Elijah ascend to heaven and the psalmist sings of God calling the heavens and earth to witness the judgement of the people.

Wednesday, February 14: Ash Wednesday

Scripture: Joel 2:1-2 and 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6 and 16-21

Valentine's Day will find us celebrating the joys of love and the pain of our sin and mortality as February is both Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. The traditional Old Testament lesson for the day is from Joel and is a prophecy of imminent danger, and includes the sentence, "Blow the trumpet in Zion: sound the alarm on my holy mountain!" Another choice of Old Testament lessons is from Isaiah and is about the difference between false worship and true worship. The gospel lesson from Matthew is

similar. Matthew's lesson is from the middle of the Sermon on the Mount and teaches faithful followers about proper almsgiving, prayer, fasting and treasures. The Psalm is a prayer for Cleansing and Pardon and Paul writes about Christ's sinless life and reconciling work, Paul exhorts those who hear his words to a conversion of heart.

Sunday, February 18: First Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, I Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15

As we enter the season of Lent, God makes a covenant with Noah and his family, the sign of which was the rainbow and in the gospel of Mark, in seven short verses, Jesus is baptized, tempted in the wilderness, and begins his public ministry. The author of I Peter exhorts us to live a righteous life in order to honor the undeserved pain and suffering of Jesus and his resurrection and the psalm is a prayer for guidance and for deliverance.

Sunday, February 25: Second Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Genesis 17:1-7 and 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31, Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38

Today we review the story from Genesis where God makes a covenant with Abram and promises him and his wife an heir. The psalmist offers words of thanksgiving following a plea for deliverance from suffering and hostility and in the epistle lesson, using Abraham as a model, Paul explains that we are saved by faith and not by the law. And as the focus of the gospel shifts from the teaching of the crowds to the teaching of the disciples, Jesus tells the disciples of his impending death and resurrection.

Looking Ahead:

Palm Sunday and Holy Week: Sunday, March 25

Easter: Sunday, April 1

Blessing of the Seeds: Sunday, April 8

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

I am a pastor. For me this means a number of things. Since Diana and I have been married, we have moved from Baltimore, to Lancaster (seminary), to Havre de Grace, to Spring City, PA, to Taneytown, to Cambridge. Five moves, means different jobs, if she can get them, for Diana, different schools, once even in the middle of the school year, for the girls, little to no day to day support from grandparents, and close friends that live hours away.

I probably should not start a newsletter article this way. It makes me seem far angrier than I really am. I am disappointed in the "cost" of following what I believe I am called to do, but it is not an overwhelming, or controlling emotion. It would be easier if my family did not have to share in the sacrifices of my calling, however, as so many folks say, "It is what it is."

With that said, the most difficult part of pastoring is the constant assault on the way of life I choose to live. I believe as Christians we are called to respond to God's love for us by loving and caring for others – even people who we don't always like. This week, however, it seems I have been challenged even more than usual on this front. At several different times and in several different ways I have been told it is wrong to care for people we don't know or don't like. Those episodes felt like a gut punch. It makes me wonder about the effectiveness of the Church and our teaching and preaching. It makes me wonder.

Yet, some time ago I developed an understanding of what preaching, worship, and Christian teaching is all about. When I prepare and deliver a sermon and worship service I do not expect to provide a mountain top conversion experience each week. I do hope to provide some degree of weekly insight and inspiration.

For me though the real benefit of church and our worship, teaching, and preaching comes through repetition. We live in a world filled with lots of advertising and if I am correct, the effectiveness of advertising comes primarily from our constant exposure to its message. Over and over again we are reminded of the great attributes of a Ford or a Chevy or a Toyota. So when we are ready to purchase a vehicle we remember to consider one of the cars we have heard about so many times.

I think the same goes with the gospel. As I hinted above, I believe the world constantly bombards us with "evil's" advertising. Over and over again we are told, "Take care of number one," and the value of the works of the flesh. (Galatians 5:19ff -- ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, ⁺drunkenness, carousing, and things like these.) I believe the one of the functions of worship, and our teaching and preaching, is to counter, with repetitive Christian advertising so to speak, the powerful messages of the world around us.

Yes, I hope that the songs, prayers, scripture and maybe even a sermon will make a profound difference in your faith and life. I would really like to think that on occasion God uses me to really touch and change someone in need. But I think, most sermons are a part of the daily, weekly, repetitive battle to keep our faith active and strong. To remind us, like the car buying example above, to think about the right thing to do when we must make a choice about a right and wrong behavior.

As I began these thoughts, I might have suggested that only pastors must deal with the world's "rejection" of the gospel and our faith. I know this is not true. All people of faith must deal with the discouraging messages people around us give us. The call to obey the Great Commandment, to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and to love our neighbors as ourselves, is not an easy one because it is not the way of the world, or in biblical terms, it is not the way of the flesh. So, we must be vigilant. We must strengthen our faith every day, every week. In order to love God and our neighbors. I believe it helps to expose ourselves to repetitive Christian "advertising." So come to church often. Read your Bible often. Pray. Sing songs of faith. Seek out God and the gospel as often as you hear ads for cars or politicians during an election season!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting of Immanuel United Church of Christ was held following worship service on Sunday, January 21, 2018. The annual report was presented, which included committee reports and financial information for the 2017 calendar year. All information was reviewed and accepted.

John Dodson was elected to serve as President of the Congregation for the 2018 term. Nominees were presented for the Church Council vacancies. They were: Donna Campbell, Kate Deckenback and Scott Dodson. All were elected unanimously. These are 3 year terms of office.

The congregation expressed their thanks to the retiring members of the Church Council. Installation was held on Sunday, January 28, 2018 during the 10:00am worship service.

SPAGHETT DINNE R

On Friday, February 9, 2018 Immanuel UCC will serve a spaghetti dinner from 4:30 – 7pm. Menu: Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and drink. Desserts will be available for purchase Cost: Adults: \$10.00; children 5-12: \$5.00 and children under 4 free. There will be a family package available: 2 adults and 2 children for \$25.00.

Carry-outs will be available.



PANCAKE LUNCH



The Ash Wednesday Pancake Lunch will take place in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, February 11** following worship. Plan to stay after worship and enjoy not only the good food but some good fellowship too.

Ash Wednesday service will be held at 6:30pm on February 14th.



Dear Lord, As we enter this Solemn and Holy Season, we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us that we might prepare ourselves for these coming 40 days of Lent. Even though we may no longer wear sackcloth and ashes, we do seek to humble ourselves so that we can understand the magnificence of Your Love for us as You humbled Yourself and gave Your Life on the Cross that we might receive the gift of Eternal Glory with You. AMEN.

FAMILY WATERFOWL HUNT



The waterfowl hunt was held on Saturday, January 23, 2018. Thank you to those who rose before dawn to help with registration, continental breakfast, then the wonderful wild-game lunch and of course, clean-up! Faithfully, Frank Spillman, Diane Murphy, Cassie Burton, Patti Bradshaw, Donna Campbell, Lee Lyons, Julia Newman, Parker Spies, Tom Wilkison and Pastor Dale Krotee, were a tremendous help to keep things running smoothly from beginning to end. A Beretta A300 Shotgun was donated by Whitten Group LLC Insurance Company and was raffled off, as well as a 50/50 raffle that day. There were several door prizes donated by church members as well as by Gootee's Marina and Hooper International. ☺

Thanks to Paradise Field Farms, Fairfield Farms, Jackson Field I-IV, Greg Burton, Russell Insley, J. B. Tieder, Ed Walls, Dick Drescher, Malkus-Egypt Road, Malkus – Greenbrier, Randy White, Robbins Farms and Bill Hughes for donation of blinds and hunt sites.

Our thanks also go to those who offered their services as guides for the hunt; Doug Bramble, Rob Myre, Steve Barnes, Denny Hall, Mitch Simmons, Bryan Nabb, Paul Jackson, Matt Insley, Ed Walls, Dick Drescher, Greg Foxwell, J. B. Tieder, Bill Hughes, Randy White, Paul Rineholt and Dave Floyd.

We appreciate the help of everyone who comes to help every time! From beginning to end – the farmers for allowing us to use their hunt sites, the guides for donating their time, the hunters for coming out, and the assistance that we get from our family here to help pull it off.

Thank you, we cannot do it without you all!

Jock & Debbie Luthy, Robin Burton, Bill Malkus, Phil Jackson, Diane Murphy, C. R. Newman.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Immanuel UCC announces you can now manage your giving online. Online is easy and allows you to set up recurring contributions. Go to our website www.immanuelucc.com and click on the Donations heading and follow the easy instructions.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2019

Are you planning to exclusively use the electronic giving that is now available on our website. We will be ordering offering envelopes for 2019 early in February but if you won't need them, please let the office know now so that we won't be paying for envelopes we don't need.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FAMILY BINGO

Save the Date—SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH

We will be in need of \$25.00 gift cards, tricky tray items and door prizes. Our door prizes will be baked goods (need to fill out ingredients card and attach) and \$5.00 gift cards. Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex. This is our big fundraiser. Please help support the youth of the church.

SAVE THIS DATE TOO SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD

Our ever popular "Chicken & Dumpling Dinner" will be held on Saturday, March 3 from 4:30-7pm.



MEMBERS & STAFF FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Member Birthdays

Aaron Collins	2/1
Cheryl Tomey	2/3
George Barnett	2/7
Taylor Middleton	2/7
Chad Malkus	2/11
Mitchell McDonald	2/11
Alexia Bair	2/15
Jim Creighton	2/15
Jean Foxwell	2/16
Dale Krotee	2/17
Scarlet Luthy	2/21
Meg Windsor	2/23
Maggie Meilhammer	2/26
Dennis Jones	2/28
Blake Parker Todd	2/29

Member Anniversary

Diana & Dale Krotee	2/14
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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

John Dodson- President

Charlotte Hanson
Mary Mistrangelo
Tom Wilkison
Kim Bair

Dennis Jones
Lynn Malkus-Lyons
Donna Campbell
Kate Deckenback
Scott Dodson

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:

The family of Dorothy BURTON on her death Sunday, January 28
Wylie & Shirley BURTON, Robin Burton's parents, health issues
Bill FOXWELL, facing health challenges
Jean FOXWELL, health issues
Evan KOZAK, undergoing treatment for Perthes disease
Helen MALKUS, health issues, at home
Doris RAE, health issues at home
Elsa SCHNOOR, health issues, at home
Irene TAYLOR, health issues, at The Dixon House, Easton

Friends of Immanuel Church:

Gilbert DODSON, health issues at home
Diane FOOR & great-granddaughter, Hunter, friend of
Sandy Dodson, both going through Chemo

Other Prayer Requests:

Guidance in Immanuel's leaders for 2018 and beyond

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
Buddy HAYDEN, friend of Robin Burton, enlisted in U.S. Air Force
Harley E. JONES, friend of Robin Burton, U. S. Marines
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 Iraq
Seth M. RUBLE, U. S. Air Force, nephew of Michal Dixon, stationed
in Seattle, WA
Jimmy WINDSOR, U. S. Army, stationed in Arizona

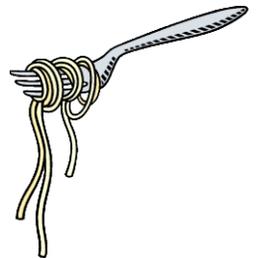


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Return Service Requested

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SPAGHETTI DINNER
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2018
4:30 – 7:00PM



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
FEBRUARY 14, 2018
6:30PM