

April 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, April 1: Easter Sunday

Scripture: Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2 and 14-24, I Corinthians 15:1-11, Mark 16:1-8

The Easter Sunday scriptures, as we would all expect in our tradition, are the familiar stories of Jesus' resurrection. This year the Marcan account of the Christ's rising has Mary and several other women go to Jesus' tomb and are met by an empty tomb and a young man dressed in a white robe saying, "Do not be alarmed." In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter tells Gentiles about Jesus. The psalm is a song of life, mercy, and strength, with the phrase, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone." And in Paul's letter to the Corinthians, Paul recounts Jesus' death, resurrection and post resurrection appearances.

Sunday, April 8: Second Sunday of Easter – **Blessing of the Seeds**

Pentecost follows fifty days after Easter, so there are seven weeks in the season of Easter. The first Sundays of this season often focus on the post resurrection appearances of Jesus. This is the Sunday when would normally read the story of Jesus appearing to the disciples in the locked room, first without Thomas and then with Thomas who had questioned his friends testimony. On this Sunday though, we will be celebrating our, "**Blessing of the Seeds,**" service. The scriptures this week will focus on seeds, soil, and new beginnings which God provides.

Sunday, April 15: Third Sunday of Easter, Baptism

Scripture: Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, I John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48

On the third week of the Easter season we are greeted with Jesus saying, "Peace be with you," as he visits with his disciples, inviting them to touch and feel him. He even eats a piece of fish to prove to them he was truly alive. In the book of Acts, Peter speaks to the crowd at Solomon's Portico about the way in which Jesus suffered and was glorified. The psalmist offers a confident plea for deliverance from enemies, and in an Epistle from John, we are told, despite our sinful ways we are still children of God. We will also be celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism on this Sunday.

Sunday, April 22: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, I John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

About this time every Easter Season we read scripture lessons that describe Jesus as the Good Shepherd. This year is no different. The Psalm begins with the familiar words, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." The gospel lesson from John has Jesus referring to himself as a Good Shepherd who cares for his sheep far more than any hired hand. In the Acts of the Apostles, following their arrest, Peter and John are questioned, and filled with the Holy Spirit, testify to the work of Christ. In the epistle of I John, one of the very small letters/books near the end of the New Testament, the author writes about abiding in the love of God as "Little children," and writes, "Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

Sunday, April 29: 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 into 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.

Pastor's Message

On Easter morning we will greet the new day with, "Alleluia's," and, "He is Risen's." But does the world believe this? Do our children believe this? Do we believe this? I wonder if it is not becoming increasingly difficult to believe in a God of love and power. We have leaders (of all parties) who demonstrate very little moral behavior. The news is filled with children being killed in schools at an increasingly alarming rate. Money and power rule the day. I could go on. We have created idols out of countless "things," and transformed them from tools which help us into idols that destroy us.

Just as, as our nation's founding documents suggest, our government gets its power from us, and, as I would suggest that our economy, entertainment and even news industries responds to that which we crave and demand. We have created much of what the world we live in is. Through many of our decisions, actions and choices, evil has taken root. And by much of our inaction evil has grown. We must take responsibility for the world God has allowed us to help create. Remember God gave us dominion over this world in which we were placed. I believe we must take responsibility for a lot of what it has become.

The problem arises though when the "bad," becomes so overwhelming that the good seems weak and powerless. As I stated above, I wonder if we have not reached the point where, like a student behind in their studies, we can simply not catch up with that which we need to do before the term ends. I had a teacher who often said, "Playing catch up is hell." And it feels like we are playing a losing game of catch up now.

But yet, the faithful still say, “He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!” We still sing, “Alleluia!” We still celebrate a Christ who lives even beyond death. It has been said, when we live the new life of the resurrection we become the best version of ourselves. We become an “Easter People”, a people transformed into disciples and stewards who commit to give their time, talent and treasure in witness.

We see this in the people who stand up for what is right, for what is peaceful, for what is just, for what is loving. We see this when people care for their neighbors. We see this when death and evil do not have the last word. We see this when hope and life rise from destruction and death.

My prayer for you, and me, this Easter is that we live as people deeply touched by the resurrection and proclaim in word and deed, with our lives: Christ is risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!



We are going to be celebrating a
“Blessing of the Seeds”
on the Second Sunday in April!

Our Spiritual Council is excited that this very special worship service is coming again to Immanuel. Like a child who has planted their first seeds in a cup, we are overjoyed to see this event push up through the surface and see the light of day. Inspired, at least in part, by the Blessing of the Combines in Snow Hill, Maryland, where thanks is given for the harvest, this service of worship is designed to recognize God’s gift of new life and new beginnings. Seeds and springtime, are symbols of hope and hope is product of the victorious risen Christ which we will celebrate in just a few weeks on Easter morning.

A great deal of time and effort has been spent making this special worship service an event not be missed. So, join us . . .

- Bring the seeds you and your family are planning to plant in your garden
- View the tractors and planters farmers are bringing to the service
- Watch a field of corn be planted on the church field during worship

Help us, through prayer and preaching, scripture and song, to ask for God’s blessing on the seeds our families and farmers bring. Be with us to celebrate the hope God offers us, the beginning of a new growing season, and the approaching celebration of Christ’s Easter Resurrection.



EASTER SCHEDULE

Immanuel UCC will host an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 1. This will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:30am followed by the Easter egg hunt. Come out and enjoy the fun of watching our young people look for the eggs. No Sunday School.

Worship service at 10:00am.

EMERGENCY COLD WEATHER SHELTER:



Providing for three full-time monitors, who stay at the Shelter with the guests overnight from 6 pm through 8 am for 7 days a week, and paying for utilities, laundry, supplies, and building fees comes to about \$28,000 per year. The program is sustained by monetary donations from local congregations, individuals, grants, foundations and other non-profit groups.

But the real “angels” in this program are the volunteers! Immanuel Church has donated countless hours through the generosity of a growing group of members and friends who are committed to providing help to some of Dorchester County’s most vulnerable.

So, many thanks to our Immanuel volunteers for their help this season:

To Frank Spillman, Robin Burton, Kim Leonard, Robin Stanley & family, Pastor Dale & Diana Krotee who stepped up to plan and prepare the dinners.

To Diane and Jim Murphy, who help with the shopping .

To Tammy & Danny Luthy, Robn Burton, Pasto Dale, Terry Melius, Robin Stanley & Tom O’Connor & Chad Malkus who piled all the food into their vehicle to take down to the Shelter and served the guests, Thursday after Thursday.

To all our dessert bakers and providers, including Robin Burton, Joyce Spillman-Wise, Marlene Waldis, Robin Stanley & family, Carol Ann Brohawn, Diane Brohawn, and Cassie Burton.

While we have tried to cover everyone, I am sure someone may have been inadvertently omitted, however, be assured that your assistance and thoughtfulness has been appreciated!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the formation of a Search Committee for the Conference Minister position. The committee consists of 2 members from each of our 5 associations. The 11th member is from Potomac. We collected names from the leaders in each association. Additionally, we had recommendations from our Area Ministers, our Board members, and past Presidents of the Board. The result was a solid cross section of folks from Virginia to New Jersey that will represent the diversity of our Conference.

Jill White, from the Evangelical and Reformed Church in Frederick has agreed to serve as Chairperson for the committee. We have included a short bio of everyone on the group with this communication. A fuller bio on the whole committee is available on the Conference website. [CM Search Committee Website Page](#)

Look forward to regular communications from the committee as they begin their work. What you should see first is a 'listening tour' in your Association, where members of the committee will gather with you all to hear the changing needs that our churches face.

We will introduce the Search Committee members at the annual meeting this year in Bethesda, Maryland on June 8th and 9th. Until then, join me in thanking them in advance for their service. It is important work.

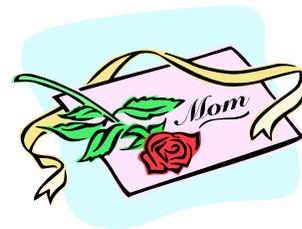
Chuck

Rev. Chuck Rush PhD
President CAC BoD

IN THE COMING MONTHS...

MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's day breakfast will be served on May 13 prior to the worship service. More information will be available in the May newsletter.



SPRING SALE – MAY 19



As you start your spring cleaning, remember our Spring Sale will be held on Saturday, **May 19** starting at 8:00 a.m. Needed for our table are white elephant items, good rummage (no clothes, please), bakers (for the bake table), and lots of helpers . More information to follow in our May newsletter.

GRADUATES

We will honor our graduates on June 3. If you have someone graduating from high school or college, please let the office know.

BELLS OF THE BAY

Bells of the Bay will return for a worship service concert on Sunday, July 15th.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We will host vacation bible school during the week of July 23rd. More information will be available in future newsletters.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

April Birthdays

Audrey Giese	4/4
Connor Jones	4/10
Rick Kelly	4/11
Dennis James Elzey, Jr.	4/11
Elizabeth Barnett	4/12
Donald Jones	4/14
Susan Collins	4/16
Dennis Jones, Jr.	4/19
Barbara Albert	4/19
Becky Dodson	4/20
Jimmy Windsor	4/20
Mark Luthy	4/22
Justin Leonard	4/24

April Anniversaries

Lou & Dennis Jones	4/2
Sandy & Wallace Dodson	4/3
Deana & Mark Kozak	4/6
Lisa & Kyle Marshall	4/21
Katie & Brendan Anderson	4/23
Debbie & Kirk Collins	4/26

Birthdays (Continued)

Sterling Bradley	4/26
Debi Book	4/26
Aiden Barnett	4/27
Lynne Breil	4/28
Spencer Dodson	4/29

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

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



Members of Immanuel:

Norma Lee BURTON, health issues
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
Claudia McDONALD, health issues
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:

Sonid BLANCHARD-THOMAS, friend of Phil Albert, cancer, her daughter has a brain tumor and her husband recently had open heart surgery for a torn aorta
Jonathan & Jeri Bounds, friend of the Rae's & Leonard's
Richard & Mary Clay, as Mary faces health issues
Paul LUTHY, health issues, Uncle of Jock, Donna, Danny, and Claudia Luthy. Cousin of Beverly Shelly and Diana Jackson and Max Schnoor
Robin Moore, friend of Diana Krotee, lung cancer

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 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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EASTER, APRIL 1
8:30AM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
EASTER EGG HUNT
10:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE



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(see inside for details)