

May Worship Schedule

Sunday mornings – the heart of our life together

9:00 Sunday School

9:15 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*

Senior Sunday

The Spiritual Council is preparing for a special Sunday on June 17 where we will be recognizing all of our 80 and 90 year old members and their service to the church. If you are going to be 80 or older this year, please let our office know. Our membership list does include birthdays for a few members but not all, so even if you think we know how old you are and how old you are going to be, please make sure you are on our radar. We want to celebrate everyone!

Mulch Available

As previously announced, we have mulch available to our members. We are asking \$2 for a cubic yard (about the size of a kitchen trash bag) and \$15 for a pick-up truck size load. If you are interested, Dennis Jones has offered to supply a loader to fill your truck on Saturday, May 5. ***You must RSVP to either Dennis or the church office in advance.***

Pastor's Message

The lectionary lessons for Sunday, April 29 are from Acts, the First Epistle of John and the Gospel of John and at this time I am planning to preach on the passage from the book of the acts of the Apostles, but the passage from the gospel intrigued me and so I would like to preach and teach a little bit here and now.

First though I would like to offer two definitions.

Agnostic: a person who believes that nothing is known or can be known of the existence or nature of God or of anything beyond material phenomena; a person who claims neither faith nor disbelief in God. Synonyms include: skeptic, doubter, cynic

Atheist: a person who disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of God or gods. Synonyms include: nonbeliever, disbeliever, unbeliever, skeptic, doubter, nihilist (a person who believes that life is meaningless and rejects all religious and moral principles).

I offer these definitions because I would like to focus on the meaning of “Christian.” Words have meaning and power and in John 15:1-8 I find a particularly powerful word. The word is “abide.” Here is the passage from John I have mentioned:

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

As you read this passage, please note the use of the word in question. Please also note that Jesus does not use the word, “believe.” He says, “If you abide in me . . .,” not, “If you believe in me . . .” Do you see the difference? Can a vine “believe in soil and get nourishment from it? In my opinion, believe and abide are different. “Abide,” suggests a more intimate relationship than the concept of belief. I am thinking that a vine can “believe,” in the existence of soil, but not absorb the nourishment that is offered to the living things rooted in the soil. Whereas, it is much clearer to me that a vine which, “abides,” in the soil is much more likely to grow and produce an abundance of fruit.

We often say we believe in God. But when we say this, are we, in some way, keeping our distance from God? If we abide in God, I believe we are involved in a much deeper and far more intimate relationship with our Lord. The focus of my thoughts then is commitment. I believe Jesus’ intimate relationship with the Father, is the model for our intimate relationship with him as well. This is the nature of our God. This is why Christ is our Immanuel – God with Us. This is why our God is not just a God who watches “from a distance.”

I began with the definition of Atheist and Agnostic because I think there is a spectrum of faith in God. At one end of the spectrum are the atheists, with agnostics nearby. Near the other side of the spectrum are Christians who “believe.” But at the far side of the spectrum are the Christians who fully give and surrender their lives to God. These are the people who “abide” in Christ.

Do you **believe** in God? Or, do you seek to **abide** in God? I think God wants more than for us to simply acknowledge the existence of a Supreme Being. God wants us – always has – to live in, abide in, communion with our God. God is pretty demanding! Merciful and gracious beyond understanding, but demanding!

MISSION BANKS

The Christian Education Committee would like to thank those that participated in the Lenten bank collection. We had 7 banks returned with \$135.00 going to purchase food for our pantry at Immanuel.

THANK YOU !!!!!

The attendance was good for our Family Bingo and included folks of all ages. We could not have done this well without all of the donations that included: gift cards, door prizes, food items, and tricky tray items. It was a fun event for all who came.

We raised \$2900.00 on our Bingo. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it a great success.

Diana Krotee



MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

The men of Immanuel will prepare breakfast to honor the mothers of Immanuel UCC on Sunday, May 13, 8:30-9:30am. All IUCC families are invited to attend!

SPRING SALE – May 19th

Everyone is happy to see warmer days and the long awaited spring. It also means more work getting their yards ready for cutting and the planting of flowers. This time of year also means our annual SPRING SALE and YARD SALE on Saturday May 19th starting at 7 am. We will have our traditional SOUPS—vegetable crab, vegetable beef, chili, green lima bean with dumplings and chicken noodle. We will also have lots of CHICKEN SALAD. There will be lots of work going on in the kitchen getting everything ready for an early start that Saturday morning.

There will be several ways that you can help for this FUND RAISER—(1) you can bring items for the “yard sale” and since the good weather usually makes everyone want to start house cleaning or cleaning the garage/shop/shed, you could bring the items you want to donate to the Church—NO CLOTHING on the Church table, and (2) bake and bring items to our Bake Sale. We have been having two Bake Sale tables set-up—one in Fellowship Hall and another outside near the front entrance.

Since this is always a busy week for those working in the kitchen and the Yard Sale, we are asking that items NOT be brought after Wednesday, May 16th. You may begin bringing your items on May 9th. Don't forget to "Rent a Table" yourself if you would like to participate in our Yard Sale—tables are \$10.00 each.

We will also need **HELP** on Saturday, both in the kitchen and Bake Sale, plus outside with the Yard Sale and grill. Won't you **please** check your calendars and sign up to both help and prepare items for the Bake Sale. This sale is "Rain or Shine – Inside or Outside".

NEW SPRING SALE ITEM FOR PURCHASE

At the Holiday Bazaar held in November, we tried something **NEW—a Lunch Carry-Out Tray**, which was well received. The tray contained: **a scoop of Chicken Salad on lettuce, 2 deviled egg halves, grape tomatoes, grapes, cubes of cheese, a slice of pickle, crackers and plastic ware/napkin—all for \$7.00**. As a result we thought we would offer them for purchase to the members of our congregation for their lunch on May 20th so they don't have to prepare a meal after Church. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and orders must be received by May 13th. These could be picked up either the day of the Spring Sale or after Church on May 20th.

NEWS FOR OUR BAKE SALE BAKERS

We have been very fortunate in the past to have our Church family prepare and bring Baked Goods for our sales—Spring Sale and Holiday Bazaar. There is usually a good variety of cakes, pies, breads, cookies, fudge, brownies and buns. Hopefully, this will continue with our Spring Sale.

As a reminder, the items prepared for the Spring Sale will require the "user friendly" **LABELS** that we have had printed and have boxes to be checked for the ingredients used. These labels are to be applied to each **PACKAGE** on either the front, side or bottom—we would like to keep the front of the item visible for our customers. There will be an instruction sheet and labels in the Narthex for pickup. We would like to request that the baked items be brought to the Church on either Friday, May 18th or very early Saturday morning as there are people out early shopping.

GRADUATES



This year we plan to honor our graduates with a reception to be held during the coffee hour following worship on June 3rd in the Narthex. We will also like to include some brief information on each graduate in the church bulletin that day. Information sheet is included in this newsletter and will also be available in the office or the Narthex for pick-up or we can

mail it to you (contact the office). Please send your information sheet to the church, call 410-228-4640 or we'll take the information by phone or e-mail: info@immanuelucc.com (be sure to put the information in the body of the e-mail - not an attachment as we sometimes can't open attachments due to programming differences.) ***If you have a photo that we can include, send that to us as well by e-mail.*** If you have a graduate in your family (high school or college), please contact the office 410-228-4640 so they can be included in our program. **DEADLINE: MAY 20, 2018.**

SUPPORTING THE WIDER COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY

Your continued support of our food pantry is very much appreciated and needed. Robin Burton meets with clients usually twice per month (sometimes more often) and each time many of the clients are asking if we have food available. It has been gratifying to say "yes" and give them a couple of bags to pick up what they need from what we have available.

While we ask that you remember the pantry on communion Sunday (the first Sunday of each month), you may bring any and all donations to the church at any time. The office is open Monday-Friday between the hours of 9am and 1pm.

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 20.



Special Bingo Saturday May 5th



Open @ 5:30 & Bingo 7:30



Bingo Pack \$34

9 To 24 Cards of

Regular Games \$200

- (2) Book of Early Birds \$75
- (4) Sheets of Letter X-1 \$250
- (1) Book of Speedball \$50
- (4) Sheets of Lucky 7's \$500

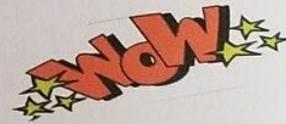


Jackpot \$1,500

Sunrise/Sunset \$500.00

Full Card \$1,000.00

Door Prizes



Yell Bingo On - Reg. Games \$200 - Letter X-1 12#'s \$250 - Lucky 7 17#'s \$500



Bingo is Sponsored
Anchor Point, Inc.

Bingo @ Old Metro
next to Walmart
2737 Dorchester Square
Cambridge, Md. 21613

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May Birthdays

Lindsay McDonald	5/2
Jake Creighton	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
Helen Malkus	5/23
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	5/26

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
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 prayer

Members of Immanuel:

Norma Lee BURTON, health issues
Wylie & Shirley BURTON, Robin Burton's parents, health issues
The family of Gilbert DODSON on his death, 3/31/18
Amy DODSON, health issues
Bill FOXWELL, facing health challenges
Jean FOXWELL, health issues
Alice KEYES and family on Sidney's death April 11, 2018
Evan KOZAK, undergoing treatment for Perthes disease
Helen MALKUS, health issues, at home
The family & friends of Beatrice McCARTER, who died 4/22/2018
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
Richard & Mary Clay, as Mary faces health issues
Lois LUTHY & family on the death of Paul Luthy
Robin MOORE, friend of Diana Krotee, starting radiation & chemo
Jim ROSENCRANCE, brother of Lou Jones, cancer & health issues
Jennifer WILLIAMS health issues, friend of Donna Campbell

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

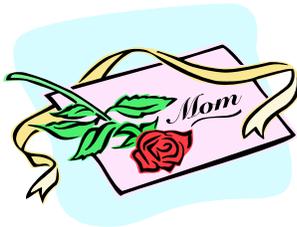
Members and Friends Serving in Our Armed Forces:

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 his 3rd tour in Afghanistan
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



IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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21613



MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST
May 13, 2018 Serving 8:30-9:30am
All Immanuel UCC family is welcome!

IT'S A "SPRING SALE (RAIN OR SHINE)
Immanuel United Church of Christ
Saturday, May 19, 2018
Sale starts at 7:00am
Tables available: \$10.00
Call to reserve your sale table!
410-228-5167 or 410-228-4640
Enjoy soup, chicken salad
Bake table (contributions needed)

