

IMMANUEL IMAGES September 2018

Worship Schedule

Sunday mornings – the heart of our life together

9:00am 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

In September, the lectionary lessons are found primarily in James and Mark. The letter of James, a general letter written to a number of churches, due to its style, content, and dating was likely written by James the brother of Jesus and not the disciple, James, son of Zebedee. The gospel of Mark, is the earliest and shortest of the gospels to be written and is filled with many stories of Jesus' healing and miracles. The epistle of James only mentions Jesus twice and focuses primarily on ethical teachings.

Sunday, September 2

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9, Psalm 15, James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The lectionary lessons for the first Sunday of the month talk about God's commandments and laws and begin with Moses, in the book of Deuteronomy, as he charges the Israelites to obey the God given statutes and ordinances. The Psalmist, answers the question, "Who shall abide in God's sanctuary." By one account, the passage from James suggests obedience to God's word should flow from the word of truth bestowed in baptism. The verses include two imperatives against anger and failure to practice what one hears and concludes with the contrast between self-deception and pure piety. Finally, in the gospel of Mark, using a variety of verses in the seventh chapter, Jesus teaches the crowds about the difference between what is in one's heart and the doctrinal standards or rules of religion.

The scripture lessons may change this week, since Pastor Dale will continue the tradition (at least one more time) of reading a humorous, but pointed, story about faith and church life from the book, "Home to Harmony," by Philip Gulley.

Sunday, September 9

Scripture: Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalm 146, James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17, Mark 7:24-37

This Sunday's gospel lesson begins with the story of the outcast Syrophenician woman and the faith she demonstrates by asking Jesus to heal her daughter saying, "Sir, even dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Following the healing of her daughter, Jesus cures a deaf man. In James, the author acknowledging that some people are treated better than others, in no uncertain terms offers a warning against partiality, offering harsh words about the wealthy who are often welcomed more readily into a congregation. The second portion of the periscope addresses the powerful idea that faith without works is dead. The Hebrew prophet Isaiah, preceded by the charge, "Be strong, do not fear," delivers a message of redemption for the exiled of Israel, saying, "The eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unstopped, the lame shall leap like deer, and the tongue of the speechless shall sing for joy. The Psalm is a song of praise.

On this Sunday, our Organist will be away, but Lynne Breil and one of her gifted guest musician friends will lead the musical portions of our worship time.

Sunday, September 16

Scripture: Isaiah 50:1-9, Psalm 116:1-9, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38

The first half the Old Testament passage, from Isaiah, describes God and Israel as an estranged husband and wife, and the second half of the passage is the third of the three Suffering Servant Songs found in Isaiah. Jesus is also struggling in the gospel of Mark, as our reading begins with Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah, when Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" and ends with Peter's grand misunderstanding and Jesus telling Peter, "Get behind me Satan!" Using images of a bridle in a horse's mouth and a ship's rudder, James addresses the power of the tongue and the need to tame it and keep it under control. The Psalm is a thanksgiving for God's help in a time of mortal danger and an affirmation of God's mercy.

Sunday, September 23

Scripture: Jeremiah 11:18-20, Psalm 54, James 3:13-4:3, Mark 9:30-37

The reality of the world we live in and all of its pitfalls and challenges fill our scripture lessons this Sunday. The prophet Jeremiah appeals to God after he speaks a word of truth and his life is threatened and the Psalm is a plea for God's help in a time of trouble. In fairly simple terms, James points out the difference between earthly and divine wisdom and the consequences of trusting earthly values. And in the gospel of Mark, Jesus, addressing the disciples, foretells his death and resurrection and then addresses the disciples and their questions and arguments about who will be the greatest.

The scripture lessons, as always, are subject to change, but this week especially so, since it is Parent's weekend at Dickinson College and Pastor Dale and his family will likely be in Carlisle, Pennsylvania reacquainting themselves with their college freshman daughter, Leah!

Sunday, September 30

Scripture: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29, Psalm 19:7-14, James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50

Problems fill our scripture lessons this week. In the Old Testament book of Numbers, while wandering in the desert, the people complain, Moses complains, and God, also a little angry responds to the needs of the people. While the first few verses of gospel on this Sunday address a rival exorcist to the disciples, the latter portion of the lesson speaks about cutting off hands and feet and plucking out eyes if any of them are temptations to sin. The tide changes a bit as the psalm is a song of God's glory in the law and the letter to James ends with comments about the power of prayer and a call to offer prayer for each other.

LOGO AND T-SHIRTS



As many of you know, Immanuel UCC was chosen by WBOC to receive the school supplies collected in their most recent Rising Tides collection event. The request for our participation came on a Sunday morning less than a half hour prior to our time of worship. A decision had to be made quickly. We said yes, and were asked to provide our church's logo within the next day.

Since we did not have a logo at that moment, we created one and had a few T-Shirts with our new logo made so that our members participating in the collection could be identified. The logo is a combination of the current blue comma shaped United Church of Christ logo and the name of our congregation. The shirt is Ash Grey with our logo embroidered on the left breast. Eight Shirts, sizes L, XL, and XXL, are available at a cost of \$18. See Pastor Dale if you would like to purchase one.

Association News and Dates

The Chesapeake Association has announced the dates for several upcoming events.

The Fall Meeting of the Association has been scheduled for Saturday, October 6 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. The meeting will be held at Zion United Church of Christ in Perry Hall.

The "Opening Doors Dinner and Auction" to benefit Earl's Place is Thursday, October 4 at 6:00pm. The Dinner will be held at the Boumi Temple in Rosedale. Tickets are \$70 per person or \$520 per table if ordered prior to September 10. Clarence Mitchell IV of WBAL Radio will be the guest speaker.

There will be a Service of Installation for Rev. Philip Curran at Columbia Uniting Church is planned for Sunday, September 23 during their 10:30 am worship service

A New Expression of Church

The following article about a new expression of church was included in one of the recent weekly updates from the Central Atlantic Conference

A New Spiritual Community
Church of the Wild, Metro DC, MD, VA

On a chilly Sunday afternoon in April, in woods bursting with spring life, next to overhanging rocks with expansive views of the Potomac River, Church of the Wild launched. Dreamed up and made a reality by my seminary friend, Beth Norcross and me, we expected perhaps a dozen attendees. Simply put, we were astounded when over sixty people pilgrimaged their way on the forest path to join us.

What had attracted so many curious seekers?

For years, Beth and I had discussed our yearning for a new kind of church. Our longing grew while I served churches in Maryland and she founded and directed the Center for Spirituality in Nature in Virginia. We kept running into others who were hungry for a new way to gather. How might we explore the possibilities?

Our first task was to discern what was percolating, so we held two listening sessions. We asked people to share their thoughts on several questions, including 1) Have you ever had an experience in nature that you would call “spiritual? 2) If so, what did it tell you that you didn’t already know or recognize? 3) For what kind of spiritual community do you yearn? Listening around the circle, I was struck by the fascinating stories that were told. It was inescapable that an abundant yearning was held in common amongst people of diverse spiritual communities and age.

We then sent a survey to those who attended (over fifty), to gather more information. We found that one-third of the respondents were not members of a faith community. Two-thirds were committed members of a regular church, but they wanted “something more.” That “something more” was spiritual practices in nature, with community. They wanted to meet monthly, and they suggested Sunday afternoons at 3. So we began.

Each month we’ve chosen a theme for the gathering. Our themes have included “Renewal” (for our launch), “The Spirituality of Water,” (with burbles of the Potomac as a soundtrack) and “Sun and Light” (set in a dappled clearing just off of GW Parkway). Beth offers a Note from Nature, highlighting the way biology informs and connects us spiritually. Our scripture is often poetry. A guided meditation leads us into the sermon, which is a 20 minute silent wandering. When we return to our circle, we share in both large and small groups.

Music is part of our gathering. We're often accompanied by acoustic guitar and hand drums as we chant, sing or listen to a solo. Our August gathering included a drum circle. For "The Spirituality of Water," we included a lesser known song "River" by Ibeyi (worth a listen or three) with the more familiar "Wade in the Water. " In July, the woods were filled with Irish tunes from a father and son fiddle/guitar duo.

Our launch in April and subsequent gatherings have succeeded beyond our wildest dreams, but we don't know where it all will lead. Maybe that's part of the fun. We do know that we're part of something bigger than just right here, right now. The Church needs "something more," and like nature, we must adapt.

Check out Church of the Wild at spiritualityinnature.org/church-of-the-wild. Church of the Wild is a program of the Center for Spirituality in Nature. Wild churches around the country and in Canada can be found at wildchurchnetwork.com

Sarah Anders
Spiritual Leader, Church of the Wild
revsarahanders@spiritualityinnature.org

Pastor's Message

A number of years ago, a Roman Catholic friend, who directed one of her parish's children's educational programs, told us she asked her priest to remove one of the volunteers with whom she simply could not work. I was AMAZED! As a Protestant pastor, I could not believe a priest could have that much power, or their church had so many volunteers they could afford to kick people out!

I grew up and entered the pastoral ministry with the understanding that any removal or loss of membership, other than death, was absolutely terrible and a failure. It wasn't until I heard a Conference Minister, addressing a conflict in a church, say, "Perhaps it is time for that person (a troublemaker) to find a church that better suits their needs." Those words opened up new possibilities for understanding congregational life and pastoral work.

Having said that, I must also say, one of my strongest beliefs is that the Church, all of the people who profess a faith in Jesus Christ, are bound together in covenant. Covenant is that power that keeps us talking to one another when we have differences. Covenant is that bond that encourages us to keep trying, to keep coming back and caring, to respect and love each other despite differences that can be overwhelmingly powerful.

Covenant, our spiritual connection, is the powerful force that keeps the United Church of Christ united. We operate not by obedience or loyalty to a denominational leader, historical tradition, or doctrine. Our denomination functions not because of a hierarchical obedience to an order, but out of a commitment to one another. A local congregation, like Immanuel, is not forced to obey a resolution or pronouncement from the General Synod or the President and General Minister. A covenantal relationship means we are called to take seriously those actions and respect them and the part of the denomination that made them, but not necessarily “obey” and “agree” with them. And the opposite holds true as well. The Association, Conference, Synod and National Officers, are called to respect the local congregations as part of our Covenantal relationship.

Having said this, I acknowledge it is hard for me to shut others out. Only once, maybe twice, have I “unfriended” someone on Facebook. It takes an awful lot for me to hit the necessary buttons to perform such an act. It may sound silly, but ending even such a shallow relationship, as a Facebook friend bothers me.

I offer all of this because I recently had a conversation with some folks with whom I have a far deeper connection and I am struggling with unfriending them. The conversation started with what I thought was something with which we could all agree. It ended with the others raising their voices, no give or take or attempt to understand each other, and me withdrawing in order to preserve the relationship. For days I was powerfully shaken and weary. For days, even still, I am keeping my physical and emotional distance, and pondering whether, or how much, I need to “unfriend.” I am saddened in ways that shake my faith.

I know that not everyone gets along with everyone. I know that life is not always happy and pleasant and loving. I know that even the strongest connections and bonds can be broken. I wonder where God is in the midst of division. What role does have faith in reconciliation? How in the world was Jesus able to carry his cross, through the abandonment of his family and friends, all the way to his death? All I can say is that my power and faith is a whole lot less than Christ’s. I would add, the sin, in which I live and participate, is far more powerful and prevalent than I would like to admit. And finally my need, our need, for God goes well beyond our imagination. Gee, I think I have heard words like that in worship before.

Peace be with you.

SHARING THANK YOU NOTES

"We are always overwhelmed by the generosity of your congregation and wanted you to know we are truly grateful for everything you all do for us. Please share with them that we aren't always able to thank everyone individually but do so appreciate their generous support! They are really amazing and need to be told so! Thank you!" Sarah Keating - Bells of the Bay.

"Thank you for your gift to the Bells of the Bay Fund, a component fund of the Mid-Shore Community Foundation. It is this kind of generosity and understanding of the impact of local giving that enables us to support and facilitate philanthropy in our community. Immanuel United Church of Christ's support of the Mid-Shore Community Foundation and its various causes is greatly appreciated." W.W. "Buck" Duncan – Mid Shore Community Foundation.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Thank You!!

The Christian Education Committee would like to send its sincere thank you to all who helped make Vacation Bible School a huge success. We had 60 children and many adults helping. The children had a great time. This year our program was "Hero Central"...do good, seek peace and go after it was the code for the week. Themes for the week were: we will have heart, courage, wisdom, hope and power.

A special thank you to Garrett Luthy and Danny Luthy and all the other kitchen crew who fed us every night.

MISSION COMMITTEE



Thanks to everyone who has supported our pantry throughout the year. Communion is the first Sunday of each month and that is also the time we ask you to bring in something for our pantry. September is also "Hunger Action Month" If you have extra non-perishable food items, could you please bring them to church? Keep in mind that food isn't the only thing that can be stocked in our pantry (paper towels, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, toothpaste, etc). Anything you can donate will be appreciated. To help you in making selections for our food pantry, there is a shopping list on the table in the Narthex.



This year we joined with WBOC's "Riding Tides" project for school supplies. We thank WBOC for inviting us to join in this worthwhile project. (Collection from "Rising Tides" is pictured on the left).

Our local, neighborly outreach program has been ongoing for the summer. We thank Christian Education for including school supplies and collecting for this project during their VBS program this year.

The needs in the community continue, and the recipients who come continue to be grateful for you. We hear it time and again on the nights that we offer assistance, and sometimes receive thank you notes. Stop at the bulletin board in the hallway and read them.

Thank you so very much for your Mission projects support.

Prayerfully,
The Missions Committee

PRE-PAID FUEL 2018-2019

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. Our goal this year is \$10,000. Can you help?



Diana Jackson, Treasurer

CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES



Everyone will agree that our choir adds much to our Sunday services. Choir rehearsal will resume on Thursday, September 6 at 6:30p.m.

If you would like to join our choir, please speak with Curtis White, choir director. Come...sing to God's glory!

CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER



We will again enjoy our “**Christmas in September Pre-Sale**” on September 9th. Diane Murphy will bring a few of her new items that will be sold at the Holiday Bazaar on November 17th. As has been the practice over the past few years, she will take orders for the items on display, which will be delivered prior to the Bazaar. All sales from the “pre-sale” and “Bazaar” will be donated to the Church needs.

In addition to the “Pre-Sale”, we will have our “**Holiday Year Long 50/50 Tickets**” available for purchase. This year we will have a “50/50 Drawing” which was started in January, 2018 and tickets have been sold at our dinners and the Spring Sale. Tickets are \$5.00 each/3 for \$10.00/7 for \$20.00. The drawing will take place at 11:30 a.m. on November 17th at the Holiday Bazaar. **Last year’s winning ticket was worth \$1,102.50, which was won by our own George Barnett.** We are also hoping that you would be interested in taking some tickets to sell at work and to all of your friends. As you can see from last year’s drawing, every dollar counts and it certainly would go a long way toward your Christmas shopping. See Diane Murphy for additional tickets.

FALL 2018 FUNDRAISERS

Hopefully we will begin to see signs of fall shortly, which should bring cooler temperatures, a change of color in the leaves and plans beginning to be made for Thanksgiving and Christmas family dinners. The Hospitality Committee is also working on several events for the fall leading right up to Thanksgiving:

Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, September 21st
Octoberfest Dinner on Saturday, October 20th
Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 17th

This will be a busy time for the kitchen and all of the volunteers helping with the dinners and the Bazaar. Of course, I must recognize all of our BAKERS!!!! We will be needing help for all of the events, plus a lot of desserts for the dinners and even more items for the Bazaar.

The Octoberfest Dinner and Bazaar are among our largest Church fundraisers, so it is really important we all work together to keep up our tradition. Please mark your calendars for the above dates so you can volunteer to help, bring a dessert or attend the event. For more information, see the items below.

SPAGHETTI DINNER



Immanuel UCC will host a spaghetti dinner on Friday, September 21, 2018, 4:30 – 7:00pm. Menu will consist of spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and drink. Desserts will be available for purchase. Adults: \$10.00; children: 5-12: \$5.00; children 4 and under: free. Family package (2 adults and 2 children under 12): \$25.00.

Oh, and bakers....we will need desserts.



OKTOBERFEST

Looking ahead, and it's not that far ahead, Oktoberfest will be held on Saturday, October 20, 4:30-7pm. 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.

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.

We will need lots of helpers and bakers.

SUPPORTING EVENTS IN OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Salem United Methodist Church will be having an Oyster Sandwich Sale on Saturday, September 8th at the church located on Middletown Branch Road in Salem. In addition to the oyster sandwiches, there will be a bake sale, a yard sale and a silent auction. The proceeds will benefit the church's sanctuary beautification project (alter & pews need refurbishing, as well a new bathroom floor). The event will occur rain or shine!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

September Birthdays

Diana Jackson	9/3
Amanda Leonard	9/7
Andrew Albert	9/8
Lyndsey Lyons	9/11
Amy Dodson	9/12
Claudia McDonald	9/13
Taylor Middleton	9/14
Jock Luthy	9/21
Josie Travers	9/23
Jason Segar	9/26
Christy Ashton	9/28
Sherry Hoefer	9/30
Terry Malkus	9/30

September Anniversaries

Susan & Kenny Collins	9/2
Donna & Max Schnoor	9/15
Charlotte & Chuck Hanson	9/17
Nicholas & Stephanie Barnett	9/29

Are you celebrating a birthday but it does not appear on our monthly birthday/anniversary listing? If so, contact the office: 410-228-4640 or email: info@immanuelucc.com to provide us with your information. You may also provide an e-mail address.

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	Dennis Jones
Mary Mistrangelo	Lynn Malkus-Lyons
Tom Wilkison	Donna Campbell
Kim Bair	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
Wells David DODSON, infant son of Scott & Army Dodson
Bill FOXWEL L, facing health challenges
Jean FOXWELL, health issues
Evan KOZAK, treatment for Perthes disease
Helen MALKUS, health issues, at home
Elsa SCHNOOR, health issues, at home
Marie SCHOTT, health issues, at home
Irene TAYLOR, health issues, at The Dixon House, Easton

Friends of Immanuel Church:

Renny JOHNSON, friend of Frank Spillman, health issues
Robin MOORE, friend of Diana Krotee, starting radiation & chemo
Wylie GRAY, friend of Terry Malkus, health issues
Jeanne WEBSTER, friend of Jim & Diane Murphy, CR & Julia Newman,
health issues

Other Prayer Requests:

Guidance in Immanuel's leaders for 2018 and beyond
Dorchester County Public Schools
Children at the border
Those shot in Annapolis and in our country and in Cambridge

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, attending officer candidate school
Buddy HAYDEN, friend of Robin Burton, U.S. Air Force
Harley E. JONES, friend of Robin Burton, U. S. Marines
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
5401 White Hall Road
Cambridge, Maryland 21613
410-228-4640 email: info@immanuelucc.com
Return Service Requested

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PAID
PERMIT NO. 150
CAMBRIDGE, MD
21613



Spaghetti
Friday, September 21, 2018
4:30 pm – 7:00pm
(See inside for details)



Coming – OCTOBER 20, 2018
OKTOBERFEST – GERMAN DINNER
4:30 – 7:00PM