

IMMANUEL IMAGES September 2023

Worship Schedule

Sunday mornings – the heart of our life together

10:00 Worship for All Ages – Sanctuary

Sunday service is available via zoom or on our website: www.immanuelucc.faith

Sunday, September 3: Proper 17

Scripture: Jeremiah 15:15-21, Psalm 26:1-8, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-29

We could say that living a faithful life even when it is difficult is the theme of today's lessons. Jeremiah struggles in his role as God's prophet. He feels alone and persecuted, yet God encourages him to turn, a verb used four times in this passage, and utter what is precious (truthful), and God will turn and comfort him. In the Psalm, with concern about readiness for worship and love for God's house at its heart, the psalmist prayerfully pleads for justice and righteousness. The apostle Paul writes about the marks of true Christians, describing Christians as ones who let love be genuine, who hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good, who bless those who persecute them, who do not repay evil with evil, and who overcome evil with good. In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus, speaking with his disciples about his coming death and resurrection, invites them and us to deny ourselves, and take up our cross and follow him.

Pastor Dale will be on vacation this Sunday and Rev. Marvin Silver will be leading worship. A detailed Bio for Rev. Silver can be found below.

Sunday, September 10: Proper 18 – ***Communion This Week***

Scripture: Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

Our lesson from the Hebrew Bible this week includes very recognizable words for those who ever worshipped regularly from the Evangelical and Reformed Hymnal (the Old Red Hymnal published in 1941). "Say to them, as I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live;" were words I, Pastor Dale, heard almost every Sunday as part of the Assurance of Pardon. We read them this week as Ezekiel warns the people of Israel to pay attention to the warnings God sends for the wicked, because God does want to punish but for his creation to live. In the psalm we find a prayer for the understanding of God's laws and statutes. In Paul's letter to the Romans there is an urgent plea from Paul to love your neighbor as yourself, put on the armor of light, and live in the day and not on the night of sinful behaviors. Having a good relationship with each other is the message in the gospel of Matthew as Jesus teaches a lesson about living with other members of the church which ends with, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, communion, this week.

Sunday, September 17: Proper 19

Scripture: Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103: (1-7) 8-13, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

The gospel lesson of this week is the parable of the king who settled accounts with servants who owed varying amounts of “talents.” Jesus uses this lesson to answer one of the disciple’s questions about forgiveness. Forgiveness is also the theme of the reading in Genesis. There, Joseph, the favorite son of Jacob who had the many-colored coat, forgives his brothers who find him in Egypt. The Psalm is a psalm of thanksgiving for God’s goodness and in Romans we find lessons about judging others.

Sunday, September 24: Proper 20

Scripture: Jonah 3:10-4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

On this week of September, we venture out of the letter to the Romans and into the letter to the Philippians but remain in the gospel of Matthew. The theme of the lessons is clearly the grace of God. In the Old Testament lesson, an angry Jonah complains because God forgave the sinful, evil people of Ninevah after he threatened to destroy them. God teaches both Jonah, and the people of Ninevah, a lesson in grace. The psalmist continues the theme and in a song of praise, proclaims, “The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” The parable in Matthew is the story of the vineyard owner and the people he hires throughout the day. It is a lesson of grace as all the workers, regardless of the time they work receive the same pay. The letter to the church in Philippi is an exhortation to live a life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Sunday, October 1: will be World Communion Sunday

Rev. Marvin M. Silver, Associate Conference Minister

Rev. Marvin M. Silver serves as Associate Conference Minister for Justice & Witness Ministries with the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC).

Serving the Eastern Region of DC, MD (stretching north to Gaithersburg and east to the Eastern Shore), and VA (south to Richmond and Chesterfield), Rev. Silver works to maintain a climate of pastoral care through guidance and support of clergy, local churches, and peer-to-peer pastoral support networks. And he organizes and mobilizes the expertise and leadership of professional networks for church development and congregational vitality in keeping with the Conference “New Visions” ministry.

In response to local churches facing uncertain futures and questions of legacy, Rev. Silver has developed the Nehemiah Pilot Project in partnership with Church Building & Loan Fund to provide a transformative experience and process of living into and fulfilling the Gospel ministry and mission in new ways that meet the growing needs and challenges that God’s people and the world are facing today.

In addition, he serves as the primary CAC Ministry Team member for Justice & Witness Ministries. More than just responding to social injustices, Rev. Silver is transforming the Conference's paradigm and approach to the work of justice by building a new justice movement based on a vision, mission and set of core principles that defines and unites local churches, clergy, and justice leaders into a powerful, effective, and faithful organizing network. As the architect and director of the Conference's new Justice & Witness Action Network, he collaboratively organizes and leads strategic campaigns to advance a justice agenda regionally and nationally.

Prior to joining the Conference, Rev. Silver served as Pastor of Jubilee UCC (formerly Amistad St. Paul UCC) in Lanham MD, a faithful community of believers that proclaim, practice, and celebrate God's love through Jesus Christ. During his six-year tenure, Pastor Silver led the church through an intentional renewal process and belief that God is resurrecting a new church, with new life, vision, mission, name, and ministry that fulfills its calling and purpose. In partnership with church leaders, a strong foundation was laid for a new church based on a new identity and focus for ministry. The congregation worshipped for the first time as Jubilee on Resurrection Sunday April 8, 2012.

He has an unquestionable commitment to justice that has been demonstrated throughout his ministry in leading and organizing social justice campaigns as Policy Advocate with the UCC former Justice & Witness Ministries, as Senior Campaign Manager and Deputy Legislative & Policy Director with USAction (now called People's Action), a national grassroots progressive advocacy organization, and as Outreach Director at Americans for Financial Reform.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Bowie State University, a Master of Divinity from Howard University, and is a graduate of Harvard University Divinity School Summer Leadership Institute, a cutting-edge training program for clergy and lay leaders involved in faith-based community and economic development.

His ministry vision, "Transforming lives and communities."

Pastor's Message

In my tenure at Immanuel, I have worked with local Scouts on two versions of their religious awards -- God and Me (grades 2-3), and God and Family (grades 4-6). Recently I have been asked, because of that work and my own Scouting history, to work with those youth and other young men on the God and Faith Religious Award. I have accepted their request.

The Scouts, like other youth programs use "Programs of Religious Activities with Youth" (P.R.A.Y.) a not-for-profit organization whose national board of directors includes representatives from Protestant and Independent Christian Churches and the national youth agencies.

The God and Life program we will using this fall, is for 9th to 12th grade youth, and focuses on the life and mission of Paul and how our faith affects our lives. It is designed to help students understand their call to a life of discipleship. The program is five sessions long and we will be meeting here at Immanuel on Tuesday evenings, September 19, October 3 and 17, and November 7 and 21.

I would like to share with you a detailed description of the program below.

Curriculum Goals:

To provide opportunities for young people to:

- Strengthen their relationship with Christ
- Be open to God's calling in their lives
- Make a plan for daily Bible reading
- Experience the joy of serving others
- Write a statement of commitment

The God and Life curriculum focuses on the life of the Apostle Paul as recorded in Acts 9:1-31. This is a brief account that describes how Paul encountered Christ and was changed forever. Students will explore what it means to live one's life for Christ.

Outline Preview

Section 1: God Calls All Kinds of People

Before his conversion, Paul persecuted Christians. God does not call perfect people. God calls ordinary people and transforms them.

Section 2: God Doesn't Expect Us to Do It On Our Own

After his conversion, Paul was helped by Ananias and Barnabas. The Christian life needs the help and fellowship of Christian believers.

Section 3: Each of Us Must Make a Personal Response to the Call of God

After his encounter with Christ on the Damascus road, Paul was baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit. He responded and accepted God's call for his life. The Holy Spirit is at work in our lives – we just need to respond!

Section 4: God Gives Strength to Face Adversities

Paul led a difficult life: many people wanted him dead. God does not promise a life free from difficulty and suffering. On the contrary, the times of difficulty and suffering may strengthen our dependence on God and prepare us for greater service. God does not guarantee an easy life, but God does promise to be with us.

Section 5: God Can Accomplish Great Things Through Those Who are Willing to Do God's Will

Because of Paul, the church was strengthened, and it grew in numbers. God can use each of us for God's purposes!

Share this for a few reasons. I would like you to know what I am doing. I would like you to know I enjoy teaching and working with youth. And most important, I know my job/call is to serve Immanuel, but I feel when I am called to serve a congregation a part of that call is to also serve their community.

And by serving the community I am serving the Church of Jesus Christ

PRE-PAID FUEL 2023 - 2024

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

CHURCH COUNCIL

Next church council meeting will be on Sunday, September 17th following worship.

As 2023 draws to the close will you consider serving on the church council. We will be replacing our retiring council members Jack Breil, George Barnett and Sherry Hoefer. . We will also need to elect our Council President for 2024.



SPAGHETTI DINNER

Mark your calendar for our spaghetti dinner on Friday, September 15th, 4:30 to 7:00pm. Adults: \$12.00; Children 5-12: \$6.00; children 4 and under: Free. We will also offer a family package: 2 adults and 2 children under 12: \$30.00. Price includes: Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and drink. Carry-outs will be available. Homemade desserts available for purchase.

CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER

We will again enjoy our “**Christmas in September Snowman Pre-Sale**” on September 17th (third Sunday of the month) with items on display in the “hallway outside of the Narthex”. Diane Murphy will bring a few of her new “snowmen” for your viewing and advance ordering. These items will also be available for sale at the Holiday Bazaar on November 11th (2rd Saturday of the month). As has been the practice for the past several years, she will take orders for the items on display and they will be delivered prior to the Bazaar. Since she only makes a limited number of each “snowman” for the Bazaar, this allows you to order as many as you want of any given item. All sales from the “pre-sale” and “Bazaar” will be donated to the Church needs.

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
Talan Middleton	9/14
Jock Luthy	9/21
Josie Travers	9/23
Jason Segar	9/26
Christy Ashton	9/28
Sherry Hoefler	9/30
Terry Malkus	9/30
Bill Bair	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.faith 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 & Tina Lyte-Davis

Pastor
Church Secretary
Choir Director/Organist
Pianist

Your Church Council

Bill Bair – President

Sherry Hoefer
Tina Lyte-Davis
Max Schnoor
Jack Breil
George Barnett

Lou Jones
Chuck Hanson
Caroline Price
Sam Shelly

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.faith
pastor@immanuelucc.faith

IMMANUEL PRAYER LIST: *You are invited to remember these people in prayer during the Prelude today, and throughout the week.*

Members of Immanuel:

Carter BASS, grandson of Jim & Susie Creighton, health issues
Family & friends of Donald CREIGHTON who died 8/25/23
Patsy CREIGHTON, health issues
Dolores DIXON, health issues
Scott DODSON, health issues
Wells David DODSON, son of Scott & Amy Dodson
Bill FOXWELL, facing health challenges
Evan KOZAK, broken collarbone
Brent MALKUS, health issues by Terry & Bill Malkus
Phyllis MURPHY, health issues
Frank SPILLMAN, health issues

Friends of Immanuel Church:

Shirley BURTON, Robin Burton's mother, health issues at home
Steve CULVER, friend of Kim Leonard, health issues
John GOLDEN of Austin, TX, friend of Brent Malkus, health issues
Mike HICKMAN, health issues, friend of Beverly Shelly
Steve HOEFER, health issues
Carolyn JONES, friend of Beverly Shelly, health issues
Henry KROTEE, Pastor Dale's father, health issues
John LOWENSEN, father of Diana Krotee, health issues
Debbie McCRAY, friend of Beverly Shelly & the Kozaks, health issues
Bill TYLER, husband of Carolyn Tyler, health issues
Terry VINCENT, friend of Beverly Shelly, health issues

Other Prayer Requests:

Guidance in Immanuel's leaders for 2023 and beyond
The leadership of Immanuel church, the need for people willing to
serve to do the business of the church.
Our adopted child, Royer Gaeel Arroyo Sulca, from Peru
Dorchester County Public Schools
Children at the border; Those shot in our country
Those suffering from natural disasters
Those dealing with COVID-19
For the healing of our nation and the world, both physical & emotional

Members and Friends Serving in Our Armed Forces:

Christopher ANTENEN, U. S. Air Force, now stationed in the USA,
grandnephew of the late Jean Haddaway
Hunter BROWN, U.S. Army, stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany
Friend of Laura Dixon
Jake CREIGHTON, Captain, U.S. Army, stationed at Ft. Huachuca, AZ
Alton FRASE, Lance Cpl, US Marine Corps, Camp LeJeune, North
Carolina, Son of Andrew & Tracy Luthy Frase, grandson of Jock &
Debbie Luthy
Buddy HAYDEN, friend of Robin Burton, U.S. Air Force
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 Texas
Lucas TOLLEY, U.S. Marine Corps, son of Leslie & Adam Tolley,
Grandson of Lou & Dennis Jones, stationed in Okinawa, Japan
Jason T. WARDEN, Marines, nephew of Michal Dixon, in Japan



IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
5401 White Hall Road
Cambridge, Maryland 21613
410-228-4640 email: info@immanuelucc.faith

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 150
CAMBRIDGE, MD
21613

Return Service Requested

SPAGHETTI DINNER
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023
(SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS)



“Christmas in September Snowman Pre-Sale”
(See inside for details)