

IMMANUEL IMAGES September 2024

Worship Schedule

Sunday mornings – the heart of our life together

10:00 Worship for All Ages – Sanctuary

Also available on Zoom or via our website

Sunday, September 1 Proper 17

Scripture: Song of Solomon 2:8-13, Psalm 45:1-2 and 6-9, James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

As we move through the semi-continuous readings of the lectionary, we leave the book of 2 Kings and skip over I and II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, and Proverbs and read from the book of Song of Solomon, where we are offered a poem of love between two lovers. In the Psalm, we have an unusual Ode, or song, for a royal wedding.

In the verses from James this week, the writer says obedience to God's word should flow from the word of truth bestowed in baptism and encourages his readers to be doers of the word and not just hearers. In Mark, Jesus and the Pharisees are at odds over the laws of ritual cleanness and true worship.

On this holiday weekend I will revert back to a personal tradition of reading a light and humorous chapter of the "Home to Harmony" book written by Philip Gulley.

Sunday, September 8 Proper 18

Scripture: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23, Psalm 125, James 2:1-10 (11-13), Mark 7:24-37

As we enter the fall season and the last months of the liturgical year, we will continue to read the semi-continuous readings from the Old Testament. For the next few weeks, we will leave, what the Hebrews called the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings), and move to the Wisdom Literature of Proverbs.

The Old Testament passages assigned for this Sunday offer hope to the poor, marginalized, and suffering. The verses of Proverbs 22 discuss the care of the poor and the nature of injustice. The Psalm, also out the Wisdom tradition, affirms God's sure protection of the community if it remains faithful to God.

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 acknowledges that some people are treated better than others, and 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 pericope (a fancy word for "passage of scripture," pronounced per-rick-coe-pee) addresses the powerful idea that faith without works is dead.

Sunday, September 15 Proper 19

Scripture: Proverbs 1:20-33, Psalm 19, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38

On this week, Pastor Dale, who, with his family, visited Leah in Boston this week, will be on vacation. Rev. Dr. Tom Long will lead worship in his absence. Often, but not always, Dr. Long preaches from the lectionary readings.

Therefore, as we consider the scheduled readings, in the gospel of Mark, our reading begins with Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah. Here, Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" and ends with Peter's grand misunderstanding about Jesus' identity and the meaning of Messiah. Jesus then tells 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.

In the semicontinuous Old Testament readings, in the Proverbs verses we learn of the personification of Wisdom as a woman who reaches out to a world of humans to challenge us to live a wiser life. The Psalm combines a celebration of God's glory in creation, and the Torah, and a petition for forgiveness and concludes with the familiar words, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."

Sunday, September 22 Proper 20

Scripture: Proverbs 31:10-31, Psalm 1, James 13-4:3, 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37

In the very last verses of the book of Proverbs, our reading begins by asking, "A capable wife who can find?" and in the remaining verses answers the question with a detailed description of the wife who is more precious than jewels. The first psalm, in the book of 150 psalms, is a comparison of the ways of the blessed, or happy, and the wicked.

The reality of the world in which we live, and all of its pitfalls and challenges, fill our New Testament scripture lessons this Sunday. In fairly simple terms, James points out the difference between earthly and divine wisdom and the consequences of trusting earthly values. 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.

Sunday, September 29 Proper 21

Scripture: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22, Psalm 124, James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50

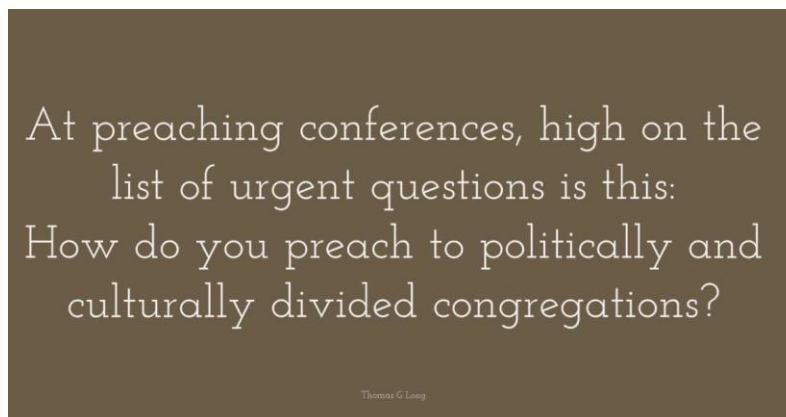
In the book of Esther, a book which never mentions God, the hero of the book, Esther, pleads for the life of her people, the Hebrews, and Haman, the one who put the Hebrews in peril, is hanged. The reading concludes with the institution of the feast of Purim. The Psalm, a communal psalm of thanksgiving, is a song for deliverance from a major unnamed peril.

In the gospel and epistle, problems fill our scripture lessons this week. While the first few verses of gospel on this Sunday address a rival exorcist with 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 letter to James ends with comments about the power of prayer and a call to offer prayer for each other.

Pastor's Message

How to preach has always been a question with which I have struggled. It is a question which has become increasingly difficult to answer in our time. Recently I came across this question on the Clergy Coaching Network Facebook page, and I have decided to share the "wisdom" of others by offering as many of their responses to this question, in order, without editing, as I can share easily in this article.

- I advocate for creation (vote to protect God's good earth) along with the good news and



being a follower of Jesus.

- I understand it's called a purple church. Red and blue mixed.
- Probably best not to preach politics. Preach the Bible.
- Mixing politics and faith are like mixing ice cream and cow manure. It doesn't do anything for the manure but always ruins the ice cream.
- Like every other sermon, preach the truth and let those receiving either learn or manipulate it for their own rationalization.
- You preach Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again. You preach the Roman Road. You preach grace and 70 times 7 forgiveness. You preach the sovereignty of God married to the love of God through Christ Jesus. In other words, you preach the two greatest commandments over and over and over. Love the Lord your God with your whole heart, soul, and mind and love your neighbor as yourself.
- Preach the gospel. People gonna hear what people want to hear. I don't advocate for one candidate...even though I would love to 🤔
- Preach the Gospel.
- While I do think listening comes first, it is never wrong to teach values and foundational ethics. Politics is just the way we organize to put values into action. While I don't preach party or candidate, I do teach caring for the poor, welcoming the stranger, etc. Let your audience draw the connections. Those who want to be moved will be.
- Don't preach politics. Preach the gospel. If some are offended then that must be what they needed to hear. Our churches are void of power because they are void of The Truth.
- Speak the word of the Lord period.
- I don't. Period. I have told them that too. When I pray for the election (for example), I pray for God's will to be done. I preach that everything that they do outside the church needs to match with being a Christian (and that especially means social media).
- Preach the Beatitudes. That will weed out the ones who don't believe in caring for others.
- Preach the Gospel. If you try to preach to what you think people want to hear then you are no longer preaching the Gospel.

- We preach the Gospel at our church. What else would you preach?
- You don't focus on that because we ultimately don't identify based on those things. We identify in Jesus and we're unified in Him. If that's the focus, we will have love and understanding and peace in our differences.
- Use words like both "freedom" and "liberation." People like to hear their ideological "code words" and hopefully, they'll hear the Gospel in there somewhere without tuning you out if they suspect you have different politics.
- Love kindness and compassion are universally understood
- I just switched churches. Second Sunday in a guest speaker talked about Washington State where he lives during Covid. It was clearly politically motivated although he danced around the subject. I will give them 3 chances, then I'm out. Please don't talk about politics at church. Please.
- Carefully, thoughtfully, and prayerfully. Don't settle for memes from either side
- Always preach the Gospel. Do solid, scholarly study of the teachings of Jesus so you can help people understand what it meant to the people who first heard it / then you can begin to apply it to today's world.
- Do not talk about or recommend candidates from the pulpit, but be clear what Gospel values are and are not.

The final comment which I will share was the next comment in line, and is a phrase a lot of preachers believe – but seldom say from the pulpit!

"I have come to comfort the afflicted & afflict the comfortable!"

Peace, Pastor Dale

PRE-PAID FUEL 2024 - 2025

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 15th following worship.

As 2024 draws to the close will you consider serving on the church council. We will be replacing our retiring council members Tina Tyle-Davis, Max Schnoor and Lou Jones. We will also need to elect our Council President for 2025.

BIBLE STUDY

The next Bible Study will start Tuesday, September 3, 2024 from 11-12. "Angels Who They Are and How They Help... What the Bible Reveals" by David Jeremiah. Thank you for your interest, however, our class is full at this time. Interested in a future Bible Study class? Contact Donna Campbell 443-521-0112 or Claudia McDonald 410-463-4055

WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON

Summer, vacations with family and friends are all coming to a close. Take a break from the rush of getting the kids settled back into the school year and enjoy a **“welcome back”** covered dish luncheon following worship on Sunday, September 15th in Fellowship Hall. The Hospitality Committee will provide the meat/main course for the lunch—just bring either a side dish or dessert to share with others. You can enjoy both good fellowship and learn about the trips and fun enjoyed by others during lunch. You’ll have plenty of time to enjoy lunch and still get to see the “kick-off” of your favorite football team.



SPAGHETTI DINNER

Mark your calendar for our spaghetti dinner on Friday, September 20th, 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 15th (third Sunday of the month) with items on display in the “hall way 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 9th (2nd 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.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR—

There has been a change in our annual Holiday Bazaar date. The date has been moved from Saturday, November 16th to Saturday, NOVEMBER 9th. The Bazaar will remain the same--we will have our soups and chicken salad in the kitchen for sale, our Bake Table, Country Store, White Elephant tables, Bid-It or Buy-It tables, 50/50 raffle and our crafts--crocheted items and snowmen/santas.

There will be more information in the October Newsletter regarding the dates for receipt of the White Elephant items.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR 50/50 RAFFLE

The Hospitality Committee is again going to hold a "Holiday Bazaar 50/50 Raffle" which will be running throughout the year with the drawing taking place on November 9th at the annual Bazaar. We previously held a "50/50 Holiday Bazaar Raffle" in both 2018, 2019 and 2023. Tickets have been printed, some ticket distribution has been done and tickets have been sold by the congregation, at the Spaghetti Dinner.

We are distributing the tickets in packets of 10. The tickets can be purchased at three (3) different prices—1 ticket is \$5.00, 3 tickets are \$10.00 and 7 tickets are \$20.00. In the previous years, we have had great success with this Raffle as it is another means of supporting the Church, and getting the community involved.

If you would like to purchase a ticket(s) or get a packet of tickets to sell, please see Diane Murphy.

HELP WANTED



The Holiday Bazaar is getting closer and we will begin receiving items for the "White Elephant" tables in October. We are asking for assistance in the "pricing" of those items. You will NOT be working long hours or everyday, just when we have an abundance of items arriving to keep up with the pricing and moving the items to other tables. If you think you would be interested, please contact Terry Malkus or Diane Murphy for more information.

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 Hoefer	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 Tyle-Davis

Pastor
Church Secretary
Choir Director/Organist
Pianist

Your Church Council

Bill Bair – President

Tina Lyte-Davis
Max Schnoor
Lou Jones
Sam Shelly

Chuck Hanson
Carolyn Price
John Adkins
Susie Creighton
Debbie Luthy

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*

Members of Immanuel:

Connie BARNETT, health issues
Carter BASS, grandson of Jim & Susie Creighton, health issues
Carole Ann BROHAWN, health issues
Dolores DIXON, health issues
Wells David DODSON, son of Scott & Amy Dodson
Bill FOXWELL, facing health challenges
Family & friends of Barry ADKINS who died 8/26/24
Helen KROM, health issues
Phyllis MURPHY, health issues
Beverly SHELLY, health issues
Frank SPILLMAN, health issues

Friends of Immanuel Church:

Pat ELZEY, friend of Carole Ann Brohawn, health issues
Shirley BURTON, Robin Burton's mother, health issues at home
Joan COLLINS, friend of Beverly Shelly, health issues
Charlotte EDWARDS, friend of Deana Kozak, health issues
Kent ELZEY, brother of Julia Neman, health issues
Carolyn ELZEY, sister-in-law of Julia Newman, health issues
Manford "Hunter" McGLAUGHLIN, friend of Deana Kozak, health issues
Henry & Gerry 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
Terry VINCENT, friend of Beverly Shelly, health issues
George & Linda WRIGHT, friends of Carole Ann Brohawn, health issues
Scott YANN, friend of Carole Ann Brohawn, 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:

Hunter BROWN, U.S. Army, stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany
friend of Laura Dixon
Jake CREIGHTON, Captain, U.S. Army, stationed Ft. Sam Houston, TX
Alton FRASE, 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.
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 North Carolina

SEPTEMBER 2024

An open-hearted church, empowering people to serve God and the community

Immanuel United Church
of Christ
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	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1		2 Closed LABOR DAY	3 11-noon Bible Study	4	5	6	7
7	10a Worship	9	10 11-noon Bible Study Fellowship Hall CLOSED	11	12 6:30p Choir Practice	13	14
15	10a Worship Rev.Dr. Tom Long 11:15a Family Welcome Back	16	17 11-noon Bible Study Fellowship Hall CLOSED	18	19 6:30p Choir Practice	20 4:30-7p Spaghetti Dinner	21
22	10a Worship	23	24 11-noon Bible Study	25	26 1-6p Blood Bank 6:30p Choir Practice	27	28
29	10a Worship	30					

COUNTERS

Sept. 1 George Barnett & Bill Bair
Sept. 8 Tom Wilkison & Beverly Shelly
Sept. 15 Robin Burton & Kathy Kelly

CHANCEL

ALL SUNDAY'S—GREEN

George Barnett & Bill Bair

Sept. 22

Tom Wilkison & Beverly Shelly

Sept. 29

Beverly Shelly

Robin Burton & Kathy Kelly



IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Return Service Requested

SPAGHETTI DINNER
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 , 2024
(SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS)



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