

# IMMANUEL IMAGES JANUARY 2025

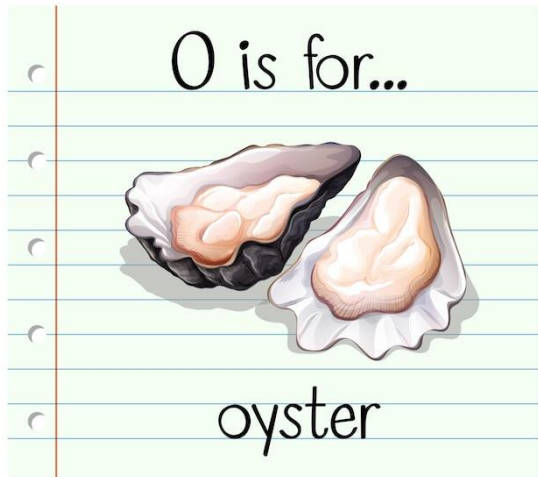
## Worship Schedule

*Sunday mornings – the heart of our life together*

*10:00 Worship for All Ages – Sanctuary*

*Available in person or via Zoom or our website*

*[www.immanuelucc.faith](http://www.immanuelucc.faith)*



But NOT in January  
at Immanuel

*The Oyster and Soup Dinner  
Originally scheduled  
for Saturday, January 25  
has been **POSTPONED.***

*Please join us on  
Friday, February 7  
For our delicious  
Spaghetti Dinner*



### Worship Schedule

As we begin a new year and the new liturgical season of Epiphany and the Sundays after Epiphany, we will make a few changes in our worship. For the next couple months we will add the Psalter (the responsive reading and singing of the psalms) and a creed, like the Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed, and the UCC Statement of Faith.

**Sunday, January 5:** Epiphany Sunday

**Scriptures:** Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7 and 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

As many of you know, in the Christian liturgical calendar, Christmas is a season which lasts twelve days. This means, that technically, this Sunday is the second Sunday after Christmas. The next holiday is Epiphany, or the Day of the Kings, and is on January 6. Many churches, especially ones in the higher liturgical traditions will hold a worship service on January 6, however, we will celebrate Epiphany on this Sunday.

The Epiphany scriptures focus on the star of Bethlehem and the visit of the Magi as told in the gospel of Matthew. In Isaiah, the prophet says, "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." – words especially appropriate for an Epiphany celebration. The Psalm is a prayer for guidance and support for the King, and in Ephesians, the apostle Paul acknowledges that his mission is to bring the gospel to the Gentiles.

**Sunday, January 12:** Baptism of the Lord

**Scripture:** Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17 and 21-22

The first Sunday after January 6, Epiphany, is the celebration of the Baptism of Christ, which this year is told in the third chapter of Luke. The other scripture lessons expand on the meaning and purpose of Christ's baptism. With the phrase, "I have called you by name, you are mine," God promises, through the prophet Isaiah, to protect and restore Israel. "Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength, "is the beginning of the psalm sometimes titled, "The Voice of God in a Great Storm." And in the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples, now apostles, Peter and John go to new Gentile Christians in Samaria and offer support and a connection to the Christians in Jerusalem.

**Sunday, January 19:** Second Sunday after Epiphany

**Scriptures:** Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, I Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

As we move into the season of Sundays after Epiphany, we begin to hear the accounts of the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and the calling of his disciples. In the gospel of John, Jesus' public ministry begins when his mother, urges him to perform his first miracle and turn the water into wine at the wedding in Cana. The other scriptural lessons include, Paul discussing spiritual gifts proclaiming, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;" and the psalm is about human wickedness and God's goodness. In the Old Testament lesson, the prophet Isaiah, using a play on names, with "Zion" replacing "Jerusalem", God again, promises vindication and salvation, and a new beginning for God's people.

**Sunday, January 26:** Third Sunday after Epiphany

**Scriptures:** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19, I Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21

This week, the Old Testament prophet Nehemiah, in something of a rededication ceremony following the return of the exiles, shares the account of Ezra reading the law in the public place for all to hear, and has the people recommitting themselves to the covenant and the law. The psalmist sings about God's glory in creation and law and Paul's writes to the Corinthians about the Spirit powered unity of the church, comparing it to a body with many connected parts. In Luke Jesus reads the Hebrew scripture in the Synagogue and amazes the crowd.

## **Pastor's Message**

The Bible verse "Sing to the LORD a new song" appears in Psalms 96:1 and Psalm 98:1:

- **Psalm 96:1:** "Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth"
- **Psalm 98:1:** "O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvelous things"

In the Bible, "a new song" often signifies:

- A new act of God's deliverance
- A fresh revelation of God's character
- A call to recognize and celebrate God's ongoing work

The word "new" appears in the Bible in many places, including:

- **New covenant:** Mentioned in Luke 22:20, 2 Corinthians 3:6, Hebrews 8:8, 13, and 9:15
- **New creation:** Mentioned in 2 Corinthians 5:17
- **New commandment:** Mentioned in John 13:34
- **New self:** Mentioned in Ephesians 2:15, 4:24, and Colossians

With the "New" Year about to begin, you can tell already that the theme of my pastoral message for this newsletter is "things that are new" and I will offer a couple of new practical and concrete things and a couple of new spiritual thoughts and practices.

First, allow me to tell you about a simple and practical change I have already made. I have done something new. With Janice out for the last couple of weeks, I have published the bulletins. As I did so, I wondered about the font we have been using, so I

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called my brother-in-law, an experienced graphic designer and vice president of an advertising company. He is an expert on fonts and he told me arial, the font we have been using since before I arrived at Immanuel, is not the easiest font for many people to read. He suggested an easier and more readable font – Times New Roman or Georgia. He said these fonts are easier for folks, especially older people, to read. Furthermore, he suggested using a 14-point size. So, the Christmas Eve and December 29 worship bulletins were changed from Arial 12 pt to Georgia 14 pt. Please let me know if you have noticed, if you have a preference, or if you care at all!

That was one of the practical "new things." There will be other changes – new things -- in the worship as well. The spiritual "new things" I am offering in this writing, were inspired by a New Year's Day liturgy, published by the Iona Community and found in, "Wild Goose big book of lurgies 2." Portions of this liturgy, written by Thom M. Shuman, may show up in our Sunday, January 5 worship. However, allow me to share now a couple of the segments from, "The same old way? A liturgy for a new year."

### ***Call to Reconciliation***

*Will this year be a time of new life, new ways for us –*

*Or will we continue to live the same old way? . . .*

*Let us confess to God our failures, as well as our hopes,*

*As we begin this new year . . .*

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**Prayer for forgiveness:**

*God of every moment,  
we admit that we always find time  
to fill our stomachs,  
but not our souls.  
We spend hours watching television,  
but not the wonders of your creation.  
We arrange outings with our friends,  
yet ignore your invitation to sit and talk.  
We make resolutions to change every aspect of our lives,  
Except for that which pertains to you.  
Forgive us, God of glory,  
And make us new.  
In the moments to come this year,  
Remind us that if there is indeed 'a time for everything',  
Then we do have those moments to spend in grace,  
seeking hope, finding joy,  
and for a relationship with our Lord and Savior,  
Jesus Christ.*

**Assurance of pardon**

*It's over – last year is gone.  
Our words, our thoughts, our deeds are in the past.  
Today, we begin anew.  
Today, and every day, God offers us life and hope.  
Here, now, forever – we are forgiven and healed.  
Let this year be the year we will live as such people.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.*

In some ways the Confession and Assurance above sound like a New Year Resolution and perhaps they are, but we are called to constantly examine our faith and the way we live out our faith, and the new year is a good time to take that task more seriously.

Peace and Happy New Year, Pastor Dale

**Mission Committee News**

**Committee Meeting:** -- The Missions Committee will meet after Church on Sunday, January 5, 2025. Anyone interested in attending is welcome.

**Cold Weather Shelter Meal:** Immanuel and its volunteers will be providing the meal for the people at the Cold Weather Shelter on Thursday, January 9. Please contact Robin Burton if you would like to help with the preparation or delivery.

**Mission Sunday and Brunch:**

A mission Sunday and Brunch will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2025. We hope everyone will mark it on their calendar and plan to attend.

### **Offering Envelopes Available**

The Offering envelopes have been labeled and are ready for pick up in the narthex. If you have not already picked up your envelopes, please feel free to do so. They are ready and waiting. If you do not see your name on a box of envelopes, please see Claudia McDonald or Pastor Dale and we will make sure you get a box!

### **Counter Assignments**

#### **January 2025**

January 5 Tom Wilkison & Bev Shelly  
January 12 Robin Burton & Kathy Kelly  
January 19 George Barnett & Bill Bair  
January 26 Tom Wilkison & Bev Shelly

#### **February 2025**

February 2 George Barnett & Bill Bair  
February 9 Tom Wilkison & Bev Shelly  
February 16 Robin Burton & Kathy Kelly  
February 23 George Barnett & Bill Bair

## **CALL TO THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025**

All members of Immanuel are encouraged to attend to cast your vote for our 2025 Church Council members and review the 2025 budget. If you would like to serve on the Church Council, which meets every other month, please contact a current member of the council or Pastor Dale.

While all members and friends of the Congregation are invited to attend and participate at the Annual Meeting, only members are eligible to vote.

### **ANNUAL REPORTS**

Please have your committee reports into the office by **January 12, 2025**. The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> and this will allow the office time to get it assembled and have it available for you to pick up a copy on Sunday, January 21.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next church council meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19 following worship.

### **SPECIAL BENEVOLENCE**

Thanks to everyone who continues to support our food pantry. Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of each month, we have asked that you bring some item(s) to add to our pantry.

Thanks to you and Robin Burton, through our Special Benevolence efforts, we were able to offer support to many in our community who are struggling with today's economy. Keep up the good work!

## **WITH GRATITUDE AND THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED IN 2024**

To the Chancel Choir, our Music Director, Curtis White, pianist Lynne Breil and Tina Lyte-Davis, who also fills in for Curtis White when he isn't available, and to Bill Bair for his contribution during many of our worship services on the violin. Thank you!

To those who prepare the meals and to those who transported the meals at the Emergency Cold Weather Shelter – Thank you! Thanks to everyone who provided desserts and breakfast for the shelter.

To Robin Burton who handles our Special Benevolence assistance program and is always ready to lend a helping hand. Thank you.

To our Hospitality Committee who worked long and hard to put on the Spring Sale and the Holiday Bazaar.

To the rest of our staff: Janice Haller, our church secretary, and to all you “behind the scenes” people who keep this place thriving! Thank you!

To Michal Dixon for her help in recycling the ink cartridges with Staples and helping in the food pantry on assistance nights.

We know that it is impossible to cover all the people that need to be thanked for your contributions throughout 2023 but know that you are appreciated and we welcome your continued help and support in the years ahead.

*Church Council 2024*

## **LANDSCAPING**

Our church is planning to replace shrubs this spring (2025) on the west side and front of the church. If you would like to donate to this special fund, mark your offering envelope for “Landscaping Project.”

***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  
Wells David DODSON, son of Scott & Amy Dodson  
Bill FOXWELL, facing health challenges  
Janice HALLER, health issues  
Phil JACKSON, health issues  
Helen KROM, health issues  
Frank SPILLMAN, health issues

### ***Friends of Immanuel Church:***

Shirley BURTON, Robin Burton's mother, health issues at home  
Ed CONNELLY, friend of Jock Luthy, health concerns  
Melvin CORBETT, friend of Diane Murphy, health issues  
Kent ELZEY, brother of Julia Neman, health issues  
Carolyn ELZEY, sister-in-law of Julia Newman, health issues

**FRIENDS CONTINUED:**

Alice FREY, sister of Jim Murphy, health issues  
Stuart FREY, brother-in-law of Jim Murphy, health issues  
Bob KIRWIN, friend of Robin Burton, 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  
George PHILLIPS, friend of Sandy & Wallace Dodson, health issues  
Sharon SHORTER, friend of Carole Brohawn, health issues  
Terry VINCENT, friend of Beverly Shelly, health issues  
and Jill his caregiver  
George & Linda WRIGHT, friends 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 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 Reserves  
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 O Okinawa, Japan  
Jason T. WARDEN, Marines, nephew of Michal Dixon, in North Carolina



## MEMBERS & STAFF JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

### January Birthdays

Kari Lynn Tolley	1/2
Carter Warfield	1/3
John Giese	1/6
Courtney Travers	1/8
Harrison Spies	1/8
Wallace Dodson	1/11
Brian Burton	1/12
Ashton Elzey	1/13
Garrett Luthy	1/15
Elizabeth Krotee	1/16
William Foxwell, Jr.	1/17
Jay Mitchell Simmons	1/18
Alison Cherry	1/19
Vinson Spies	1/19

### January Anniversary

Pati & David Cannon	1/13
Barbara & Phill Albert	1/15
Diane & Jim Murphy	1/23
Debi & Jay Book	1/29
Ann & Mahmod Shariff	1/30

### January Birthdays (Continued)

Donna Campbell	1/19
Thomas Paul Jones	1/20
Debbie Collins	1/22
Sarah Todd	1/23
Arianna Mossberg	1/26
Tammy Luthy	1/28
William Brady Lyons	1/30
Dave Leonard	1/31



### **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  
 Caroline Price  
 George Barnett  
 Jack Breil  
 Sherry Hoefler

Incoming Members  
  
 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](mailto:info@immanuelucc.faith)

[pastor@immanuelucc.faith](mailto:pastor@immanuelucc.faith)



# JANUARY 2025

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

Immanuel United Church of Christ  
 5401 White Hall Road  
 Cambridge, MD 21613  
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 pastor@immanuelucc.faith

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 6:30p Choir	3	4
5 10a Worship 11:15 Mission Meeting	6	7 11:-noon Bible Study	8	9 6:30p Choir Feed the Shelter	10	11
12 10a Worship	13	14 11:-noon Bible Study	15	16 6:30p Choir	17	18
19 10a Worship 11:15a Council Meeting	20 1-6p Blood Bank	21 11:-noon Bible Study	22	23 6:30p Choir Feed the Shelter	24	25
26 10a Worship 11:15a Annual Meeting	27	28 11:-noon Bible Study	29	30 6:30p Choir		

**COUNTERS:**

January 5 Tom Wilkison & Beverly Shelly  
 January 12 Robin Burton & Kathy Kelly  
 January 19 George Barnett & Bill Bair  
 January 26 Tom Wilkison & Beverly Shelly

**CHANCEL**

January 5 & 12—WHITE  
 January 19 & 26—GREEN



**IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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**ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE  
CONGREGATION**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP 11:15 A.M.**