

## March Worship Schedule

*Sunday mornings – the heart of our life together*

*10:00 Worship for All Ages – Sanctuary*

*Available on Zoom and on our Website*

### **Sunday, March 2: Last Sunday of Epiphany or Transfiguration Sunday**

**Scripture:** Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

As March begins, the season of Epiphany ends with the Last Sunday of Epiphany and the expected account of Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop before three of his disciples. In the Old Testament book of Exodus, we have a similar story where Moses' face shines after being in God's presence as it reflects the glory of God. The Psalm is a summons to praise. In 2 Corinthians, Paul writes about seeing God clearly, unlike the Hebrews, and responding by living an honest and faithful life.

### **Wednesday, March 5: Ash Wednesday**

**Scripture:** Joel 2:1-2 and 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6 and 16-21

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with its theme of repentance and mortality. The psalm and its words, "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin," highlight this theme. It is a confession of sin and prayer for forgiveness. The prophet Isaiah compares true and false worship while Paul shares a call to be reconciled to God. Finally, in the gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches about how to give alms, pray, fast, and live a faithful life.

### **Sunday, March 9: First Sunday in Lent**

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2 and 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

The first Sunday of Lent brings us the Lukan account of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness. Paul tells the Romans about the power of confessing Christ and the cross with their lips and with their heart. The psalmist addresses the peace and security of the godly and in Deuteronomy we are given instructions regarding offerings and thanksgiving.

### **Sunday, March 16: Second Sunday in Lent**

**Scripture:** Genesis 15:1-12 and 17-18, Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35

This week the Old Testament lessons are uplifting and positive while the New Testament lessons are more serious and challenging. In Genesis God makes a covenant with Abram and promises him an heir and the psalm is David's song of confidence. In Paul's letter to the Philippians, there is a warning against downplaying God's laws and saving action of Jesus and the cross. In Luke, Jesus sends a message to Herod, who wants to kill him, and sadly weeps over Jerusalem.

### **Sunday, March 23: Third Sunday in Lent**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, I Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

As we venture into the heart of the Lenten season the theme of repentance rises up again. Isaiah prophetically speaks God's words saying the repentant will be blessed and will be commanded to seek the Lord and in Luke, Jesus, too, calls his followers to repent for sinful ways. Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, using immoral Israelites as an example, exhorts us not to engage in immorality. And according to the psalmist thirsty souls who seek God will be quenched.

### **Sunday, March 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Scripture:** Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3 and 11b-32

Our lectionary cycle this week invites us to read the parable of the Lost or Prodigal Son in the New Testament gospel lesson from Luke. And in the Old Testament book of Joshua we are offered a story of how the Passover should be kept. The Psalm is a penitent's psalm which comments on the benefits of confession. Finally in 2 Corinthians, Paul speaks about the ministry of reconciliation saying, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

## **Pastor's Message**

Last week, from Tuesday, February 18 through Thursday, February 20 I attended a clergy retreat sponsored by the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ. This was the first time I have attended an event like this in years and I truly enjoyed it. It was a time to renew friendships with clergy I have not seen in a while, meet new clergy, and participate in educational workshops, and be a part of inspirational worship services.



The guest speaker was Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, and she spoke about the Sacrament of Communion. Rev. Luti is a retired minister and professor. For twenty-two years before her retirement, Luti taught the history of Christianity, Christian worship, and preaching at the former Andover Newton Theological School (now Andover Newton Seminary at Yale). Ordained in the United Church of Christ, she also served First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, as its sixteenth minister since 1633 and the first woman to occupy that historic pulpit. Her most recent publication is *Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living*, from Pilgrim Press

(Stillspeaking Writers Group).

Rev Luti and many of the other leaders of the retreat were energetic, faithful, and inspirational, and I walked away from the retreat definitely feeling renewed. It was so nice I thought I would like to share some of the highlights from the retreat with you.

Here are a few of the simple things I learned:

- The Congregationalists of New England, one of the predecessor denominations in the United Church of Christ, founded the Pilgrim Press which is the oldest surviving publishing operation in North America, The Pilgrim Press was founded in 1617 as an act of religious resistance and continues today as a bold witness for Christian faith that challenges the status quo.
- Little communion cups were not used until the early 1890's and were created due to increased knowledge and fear of spreading germs. In the previous 1900 years, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was always celebrated with a common cup.
- Like many Roman Catholic Saints, Martin Luther, the Protestant Reformer has a Feast Day. The feast day associated with reformer Martin Luther (February 18) is widely celebrated not just in Lutheran congregations, but in a wide variety of denominations and traditions who have been affected by his transformative theological teachings, most particularly that salvation cannot be earned by good deeds,

Retreats and events where clergy gather are often places where we spend beaucoup bucks on books. I only bought two books. (well less than \$100)!



Mary Luti's book, "**Do This**"

*Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living* is a starting point for (re)engaging the life-shaping themes of Communion:

- belonging and memory,
- bodies and violence,
- food and creation care,
- labor and resilience,
- reconciliation and healing.

With new reflections and prayers, original hymns, and liturgies, *Do This* puts holy mystery into joyful and just practice.



"**The New Bluegrass Hymn**" by Rev. Amy Sens

Written with congregations in mind, The New Bluegrass Hymnal combines good music and progressive theology for a starter kit of music that churches can use to lead their own bluegrass worship services.

The primary focus of our days together was the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, otherwise known as Communion, or the Eucharist. We discussed matters such as:

- The boundaries (or lack of boundaries) we set for communion.
- The frequency of its celebration
- Its history – especially the liturgical structure
- Practical matters such as how the table is set, how it tastes
- A major component of a communion liturgy is remembering or anamnesis. Rev Luti offered strong opinions about who and what we are called to remember, especially:
  - Jesus, we are called to remember the whole Jesus, not just the fun comforting parts
  - Each other/communion of saints
  - Mighty deeds of God
  - The poor and our call to serve
- Confession needs to be included in communion service
- Jesus, at the table, fed the denier and the betrayer, but Jesus also calls them out. Jesus told them the truth – but still fed them. It is not easy to accept, but Jesus confronted his disciples at the table. At times he was oppositional
- In communion we are called take a stand, We must remember who/whose we are and ALL that it means.

Finally, we Rev. Luti shared with us her wish list for worship and Communion, some of which I think is worth consideration. Again, these are her preferences

- She dislikes beginning the worship with, “Good Morning.” Rev. Luti would prefer, “The Lord be with you,” or something more faith based.
- Rev. Luti would like to reconnect word and sacrament. This means using liturgy that includes the scripture lessons used on that day in the communion liturgy
- A good communion service would include a confession in or near the sacrament's liturgy
- She would restore the offertory, meaning we should bring the communion ware and elements and symbols of all the week's work of the congregation to the altar.
  - Dedicate all or a portion of communion Sunday offering to the poor. This would be a true connection and communion with “everyone.”
- In the same way the Lord's Prayer looks to the future in its words, “Thy Kingdom come,” the sacrament of communion should also be future oriented as we seek to let's God's commonwealth (remember Mary is from Massachusetts) come and be built here!

I did not realize how much we discussed, because I could have written a few more pages for this summary, but I won't. I will simply thank you for allowing me to attend this retreat and be fed in so many ways.

Peace, Pastor Dale.

### **Mission \$ Initiative**

Plans are being made by the Mission Committee for two Lenten fund raisers. One will be primarily adult oriented and challenges donors to support the Mission work of Immanuel by donating a dollar a day during Lent. The more kid friendly offering will ask children and their families to donate a "coin of their choice" on a daily basis as they answer questions like, "How many light switches are in your house?" A detailed description of these fund raisers is being finalized now and will be made available in the next week.

### **Family Bible Sunday**

In the last few days Pastor Dale received information about a "Daughters of the American Revolution" project centered around our big old family Bibles. The Spiritual Council will be reviewing this project and hopefully set a Sunday where we will invite our families to bring their Family Bibles to church on a Sunday morning where the DAR will scan or photograph the important pages of these Bible, and our congregation will celebrate their heritage. Stay tuned for more ***details and please let us know if you have one of these treasures!***



### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS RETURNS**

Remember to set your clocks forward 1 hour as Daylight Savings Time returns on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

The first meeting since election and installation of our Church Council will be on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> following the worship service.

## PANCAKE LUNCH

In recognition of Shrove Tuesday, we will offer a pancake lunch following worship on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Ash Wednesday is March 5<sup>th</sup>.. We will have worship service at 6:30pm.

## DORCHESTER COUNTY LADIES PRAYER BREAKFAST



This prayer breakfast is a long-standing tradition of women from many different Dorchester churches joining for prayer. We will be hosting the Prayer Breakfast again this year on **Saturday morning, March 15, starting at 8:00am** in our Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be Pastor Tanya McClain, pastor at Zion United Methodist and St. Paul's United Methodist.

The Hospitality Committer will provide breakfast.

Hope to see you there!

## SPRING SALE – MAY 17



As you start your spring cleaning, remember our Spring Sale will be held on Saturday, **May 17** starting at 7:00 a.m. Tables/space rental: \$10/table. Soups, chicken salad, and baked goods will be available. Call Diane Murphy to reserve tables/space or pre-order soups and chicken salad (410--228-5167).

## SUPPORTING EVENTS IN OUR WIDER COMMUNITY



### One Great Hour of Sharing

*“Sharing brings joy to others.” 2 Corinthians 9:7-15*  
*“They shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them..” Isaiah 49:10*

When you share your gifts to OGHS, you Let Love Flow. Your generosity ensures that, even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of love will continue to change the lives of those who are most vulnerable among us. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, United Church of Christ members reach out in the name of Christ to:

- **Build sustainable communities.** OGHS supports self-help programs in more than 80 nations to build sustainable communities that enable people and communities to stand against and rise above hunger, disease, illiteracy, and other forces of injustice that deny and destroy dignity.
- **Respond to disaster.** OGHS provides emergency and long-term assistance to people in the aftermath of hurricanes, tornados, storms, floods, tidal waves, fires, explosions, technological disasters, civil strife, war, or other natural or human-caused events. On average, OGHS responds to a disaster once every 2.5 days.

**Minister to refugees.** OGHS responds with advocacy and help, hope and hospitality for people who have been uprooted from their home of origin. More than 30 million of the world's people are uprooted at any given time.

One Great Hour of Sharing is part of a remarkable network of service and caring that is efficient, effective and faithful. Administrative costs are typically less than eight percent annually.

The UCC annually channels more than \$3 million dollars through One Great Hour of Sharing to humanitarian needs in the world. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, you are part of these networks of relationships all along the way. Together, we are part of God's continuing and amazing work in the world.

Through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing what we can imagine becomes ever more a reality for more and more people. We will welcome our One Great Hour of Sharing offering on **Sunday, March 30 during our worship service.**

## MEMBERS & STAFF MARCH CELEBRATIONS

### Member Birthdays

Owen Dodson	3/02
Cora Ann Tomey	3/03
Keith Malkus	3/04
Diane Murphy	3/06
Beth Giese	3/12
Pat Creighton	3/14
Corey Ashton	3/16
Brent Malkus	3/18
Collin Bair	3/19
David Cannon, Jr	3/21
Jameson Schnoor	3/22
Chuck Hanson	3/23
Christian Schnoor	3/25
Nicholas Barnett	3/27
Phil Albert	3/31



### **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**

Max Schnoor – President

Chuck Hanson  
Carolyn Price  
John Adkins  
Susie Creighton

Debbie Luthy  
Mark Eberspacher  
Stephanie Dunnock  
Sam Reeder  
Roger Segar

### **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)



**IMMANUEL PRAYER LIST:** *You are invited to remember these people in prayer*

***Members of Immanuel:***

Jeri BOUNDS, health issues, friend of Don Rae & Kim Leonard  
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  
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  
Bill CONDON, father of Brandy Keyes, health issues  
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  
Alice FREY, sister of Jim Murphy, health issues and loss of her husband Stuart  
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  
Phillip SPEDDEN, friend of Terry Malkus, health  
Taylor SPIES, friend of Debbie Luthy, 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  
Harley Jones, and all the folks in California suffering with the fires  
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

# MARCH 2025

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

Immanuel United Church of Christ  
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 WEB: www.immanuelucc.faith  
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 pastor@immanuelucc.faith

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10A Worship 11:15a Ash Wed. Pancake Lunch	3	4 11:-noon Bible Study	5 6:30p Ash Wednesday Service	6 6:30p Choir Practice	7	8
9 Lent Begins 10a Worship Daylight Savings Begins	10 Fellowship Hall Closed	11 11:-noon Bible Study	12	13 6:30p Choir Feed the Shelter	14 Garden Club Lunch	15 8am Ladies Prayer Breakfast
16 10a Worship 11:15a Council Meeting	17	18 11:-noon Bible Study	19	20 1-6p Blood Bank 6:30p Choir Practice	21	22
23 10a Worship	24	25 11:-noon Bible Study	26	27 6:30p Choir Practice	28	29
30 10a Worship	31					

**COUNTERS:**

March 2	Tom Wilkison & Bev Shelly	March 23	Tom Wilkison & Bev Shelly	March 2	GREEN
March 9	Robin Burton & Kathy Kelly	March 30	Robin Burton & Kathy Kelly	March 9-30	VIOLET
March 16	George Barnett & Bill Bair				

CHANCEL



**IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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*Return Service Requested*

Pancake Lunch following worship  
11:15am March 2, 2025  
Fellowship Hall



Ash Wednesday Worship Service  
6:30pm, March 5, 2025

LADIES PRAYER BREAKFAST  
IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025 8:00am

