

April Worship Schedule

Sunday mornings – the heart of our life together

10:00 Worship for All Ages – Sanctuary in-person or via Zoom

Sunday, April 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

Our gospel lesson is about the time leading up to Jesus' death. And so, in John we read about the anointing of Jesus by Mary. The anointing, by the sister of Martha and Lazarus, is another announcement of the suffering and death which is coming soon for Jesus. In the letter to the Philippians, we are offered a lengthy personal narrative where Paul lists his credentials for high status, according to the flesh, then announces he no longer exploits that status but is willing to share in Christ's suffering and death in order to gain Christ. The Psalm is a song of thanksgiving which becomes a prayer of help and blessing. And finally in Isaiah, after reminding the Hebrews that he delivered them from slavery in Egypt, God, through the prophet, says forget the past, because I am going to do something new.

Sunday, April 13: Palm/Passion Sunday

Scripture (Palm): Psalm 118:1-2 and 19-29, Luke 19:28-40

Scripture (Passion): Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:14-23:56

On this Sunday, we will begin by recalling Jesus' triumphal entry in Jerusalem, the Palm Sunday story, and finish with the retelling of the Passion (suffering and death) of Jesus. The first scriptures we will use are the Lukan account of Jesus' triumphal entry and a psalm which is an account of a liturgical procession of a King and his people. The psalm has two familiar phrases like, "The stone that builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," and "This is the day that the Lord has made."

The psalm for the passion portion of the worship is a prayer for deliverance from enemies and the Old Testament passage from the prophet Isaiah is the third of Isaiah's servant songs, which describes the servant's humiliation and vindication. In Paul's letter to the Philippians, we find a remarkably poetic passage lifting up Jesus' humility, obedience, and ultimate exaltation. The longest passage of the morning will be the Lukan account of Jesus' passion.

Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday/Good Friday

Scripture: Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14, Psalm 116:1-2 and 12-19, I Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17 and 31b-35

Scripture: Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25, John 18:1-19:42

Our Maundy Thursday/Good Friday worship which will take place on Thursday evening, April 17 at 6:30 pm, and will be similar to the worship services we have offered the past two years. The first half of the worship will literally center around a Passover table filled with the food of the Passover. We will honor their symbolic meaning for the Jewish people and what it meant to the disciples as they gathered around Jesus for his Last Supper and then celebrate the Sacrament celebrating its meaning and power for Christians. The second half of the liturgy will move to a remembrance of the events of Good Friday and Christ's Passion and Death.

We will be looking for volunteers to bring the food for the table and to assist with reading and worship leadership. A sign-up sheet will soon be available in the narthex. The foods requested for the worship will include:

Bitter Herbs

Charoset/Fruit and Nuts

Roasted Lamb Shank

Parsley or Green Onion

Matzoh

Roasted Egg

Details about these foods will be found on the sign up or by talking with Pastor Dale.

Sunday, April 20: Easter

Scripture: Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2 and 14-24, I Corinthians 15:19-26, Luke 24:1-12

Easter Sunday brings no scriptural surprises with the familiar and joyful accounts of Jesus' resurrection found in the gospel according to Luke, a song of victory in the Psalms, and Paul's teachings to the Corinthians about the resurrection of the dead and the promise of eternal life which is the result of Christ's work. In the passage from Acts, we read a short and concise summary of Jesus' life and work, which is Peter's last speech in Acts and introduces Christ to the Gentiles.

Sunday, April 27: Second Sunday of Easter.

Family Bible Sunday

On this special Sunday we will celebrate our Family Bibles. We invite our members and friends to bring their big, old Family Bibles to church so we can display and celebrate them and our families.

This special Sunday began when the *Daughters of the American Revolution* informed us of their national genealogical project where they scan these Bibles, mining them for their family data so others around our nation can access it for their own family research. A DAR flyer explaining their project is attached to this newsletter.

Our worship on this day will include a liturgy, prayers, and music chosen and written especially for this Sunday. We have even commissioned a hymn to be written for us by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, an exceptional contemporary hymn writer. We have used many of this writers works in our worship previously as they are easy to sing and wonderfully meaningful. We look forward to singing a hymn written especially for our congregation.

We will not be using the second Sunday of Easter Lectionary readings, but if we did this is what we would use:

Lectionary Scripture: Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 150, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

As we enter the forty-nine-day season of Easter we begin with the gospel of John's account of Jesus' post-resurrection appearance to the disciples in the closed room, with and without Thomas. In the Acts of the Apostles, the apostles stand firm in their faith in the crucified and risen Christ, as they are questioned by the High Priest. The psalm is a song of praise for God's greatness and in Revelation the epistolary (letter like) opening of the book is offered as well as a doxology praising Christ.

Pastor's Message

My in-laws often said that if you learn something new on a Friday you get another wrinkle on your butt. That is not exactly what they said, and you can probably guess I made a more “church friendly” substitution on the last word of that statement, but I offer it now, because I have to say I learned something new, and fortunately I don't think it was on a Friday!

It started with a statement by Vice President Vance on a Fox News Interview a few weeks ago. He said:

[As] an American leader, but also just as an American citizen, your compassion belongs first to your fellow citizens. It doesn't mean you hate people from outside of your own borders.

Take note of that last sentence. Vance does not suggest that Americans should despise migrants and refugees, or deny them compassion; he says that our fellow citizens should take priority. In that same interview he went on to explain what he called an “old-school concept”:
... that you love your family, and then you love your neighbor, and then you love your community, and then you love your fellow citizens in your own country, and then after that you can focus and prioritize the rest of the world. (My source for this was [The 'ordo amoris' and the bottom line | Catholic Culture](#))

My first response when I heard his comments, was, “Really?” I was surprised by this statement because it was framed as a Christian concept, and I had never heard of this kind of prioritization of care in any of my childhood or adult Sunday School or seminary experiences. Recalling the parable of the Good Samaritan with its emphasis on identifying all people as our neighbor and treating them with love and respect, I, again first thought Vance was off base. Simply put, I had never heard of a Christian teaching which established a hierarchy or order for caring.

However, just because I have never heard of something does not mean it does not exist. Evidently, there is a theological discussion about this idea that goes back to the early church and medieval days, and it is called, “Ordo Amoris.” The concept of *ordo amoris* has a rich history in Roman Catholic teaching, having been expounded by Sts. Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. As Vance said at the outset, it does *not* imply dismissing the needs of people in other countries. It does mean showing charity first for those who have a special claim.

I do not want to, nor am I qualified to, write more than a few opening thoughts on this subject, but I will share a few brief comments about this.

I believe lifeguards are trained to protect themselves primarily because if they are not safe, they cannot save anyone else. In mental health circles and even clergy circles, there is a similar teaching. You must take care of yourself, preventing burnout and exhaustion, in order to take care of others. On the other side of this point, we must not take this to the extreme. Like the Good Samaritan who cared for an enemy, someone who was very different, the Samaritan took a risk and gave sacrificially to care for another. Sometimes caring for another or those who are not close to us means we must do that which is uncomfortable.

As I read several articles about Mr. Vance's comments I learned of several other Biblical precedents regarding *ordo Amoris*. In order to keep my article from going on forever, I will simply share a few of the passages and a brief personal thought on each and allow you to interpret as you see fit.

- Timothy 5:8 -- ⁸And whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. *This is one most common verses used to support “family first” and is a part of paragraph which calls for respect for many people.*

- Acts 1:8 – Here Jesus commands his followers to be his witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Some have used this as a blueprint for a supposed hierarchy of love. *For those unaware, Jerusalem is at the center, with Judea and Samaria, and then the ends of the earth surrounding Jerusalem like the concentric circles of a bull's eye or target. Used often to support 'ordo Amoris' I, personally, have never heard it used in this way.*
- Matthew 5:44 and 46-47 -- "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. ... If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?"
- Matthew 12:48-50 – ⁴⁸But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹And pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." *When Jesus was told his family was outside, he said family is more about faith in God and less about blood.*
- The Great Commandment, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Is also a verse used often to affirm *Ordo Amoris*.

I most certainly learned a lot as I considered Mr. Vance's comments and for that I am thankful. There are a host of scriptures we should consider when discussing the idea of the priority caring for self, family, and neighbor. Many of these lessons suggest family first and others which encourage sacrificial care for all, and even the definition of family. I struggled with the question, "Should I even write this article at all?" because I knew there would be no clear answer or conclusion. I think though I would like to end my thoughts with this comment I found in one of my sources.

If we find ourselves asking,
 "Who is my neighbor?"
 or "Who is first?"
 — we are already missing the point.
 The better question is:
 How do I love without limits?

Peace, Pastor Dale



Daughters of the American Revolution
Great Choptank Parish Chapter

BIBLE RECORDS PROJECT...

**Preserving Our History, one Bible at
a time!**

WHY THIS PROJECT?

Bibles hold the recordings of special moments in the lives of a family. Recorded in an ancestor's own handwriting, they are a wonderful genealogical resource and are often the only records that may exist of a particular family or family member. Think of the Bible Records Project as a way of "backing up" your Bible's historical value. As Bibles age, they deteriorate. Pages tear, ink fades, and bindings crack. Sometimes, they are inadvertently thrown away. Let the Daughters of the Great Choptank Parish Chapter, NSDAR, help you preserve the historical value of your family Bible.

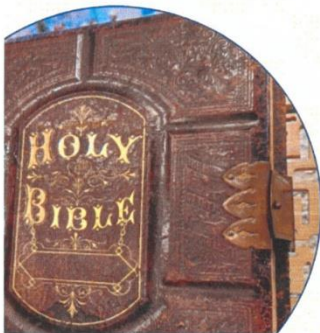
HOW WE PRESERVE BIBLE RECORDS:

Great Choptank Parish Chapter, NSDAR, members will preserve Bible records by photographing historical records contained within the pages of family Bibles. Essential elements include: Bible Cover, Copyright Page, Old Testament Page, New Testament Page, Births Page, Marriages Page, Deaths Page and any related items stored in the Bible, such as pictures, obituaries or newspaper articles.

- * Photographs, transcriptions, articles and family pictures will be compiled as a PDF.
- * Printed and/or digital copies of what is documented will be presented to the families.
- * A copy of each 200-page volume will be sent to the DAR Library in Washington DC where the information will be available for generations to come.

If your Bible is too fragile to move, please contact us for information on How and What to scan/ photograph. We are also willing to come to you!

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
Judith Robbins
JRobbinsDAR@gmail.com**



MD TWO FIFTY
DORCHESTER'S STORY IS AMERICA'S STORY

Registration is Now Open!
Conference Wide Mission Trip for Youth (and other generations too!)

You are invited to join our conference community for a mission trip on July 6-10th in New Bern, N.C. to help with hurricane recovery. We plan to carpool together, staying at a house we have reserved with 58 beds. Once there, we will be working with a construction team. **Youth and chaperones have first choice with a March 31 registration deadline. All additional adults will need to register by April 30th.** The approximate cost for the trip is \$300 per person for lodging, food, and transportation in a church van. All will be expected to purchase their own meal *when we eat out on our final day*. Do not miss this important opportunity to reach out in service and love to others.

For questions or more information, please contact Rev. Mary Jane Norville at reverend.norville@gmail.com or Rev. Scott Winnette at pastorwinnette@gmail.com



We have the perfect midweek ministry connection for your families- “Bedtime Stories and Prayers”! Join us Wednesday evenings on Zoom to hear a children’s story, pray, and be sent forth with a blessing. Come as you are, even if you are in your car running home from soccer practice. The weekly event is **FREE!**

Here pastor Dale can provide a Zoom Link for anyone interested in participating. The weekly time is 7:00-7:15 PM.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Pastor Dale will offer a Maundy Thursday worship service beginning at 6:30pm on April 17th.

EASTER SUNDAY

Join in the fun on Easter Sunday, April 20th. Continental breakfast 8:30am with Easter Egg Hunt for the kids. This is always a fun event. Worship service begins at 10am.

SPAGHETTI DINNER



Plans are well underway for our Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, April 25th 4:30-7pm. Dinner includes spaghetti (sauce – with or without meat) salad, garlic bread and drink.

Desserts available for purchase. Bakers you can bring your desserts on Thursday 9-1 or any time on Friday as someone from Hospitality will be here all day.

Adults: \$12, children 5-12: \$6, children 4 and under: free. Family Package: 2 adults & 2 children (under 12): \$30.

Mission Minute

Volunteers will be needed on Monday, April 7 when we will be serving our community, providing the Monthly Community Meal for One Mission Cambridge. The first Monday of every month, One Mission Cambridge provides a healthy and hearty community dinner. It begins promptly at 4 pm in the event space located at the back of their building located at 614 Race Street in Cambridge. This will be the second time we have provided a Community Meal. Volunteers are needed for shopping for and preparing food, then we deliver it and serve it. We even could use volunteers to mingle and eat or sit/talk with the community members who come to eat. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or you can text 443-521-7869 or email robinimmanuelucc@gmail.com.

The Lent Giving Project is still underway. There are two ways to do this. There is a coin bank with a calendar to be able to drop coins according to the day, and an envelope to insert a dollar a day for each day of lent for a giving project for Lent. For anyone who has already filled it in and turned it in, we are truly grateful. Yes, it is okay to write a check, please be sure to write "Missions" on it.

We continue to help our community, we did two assistance nights in the month of March, helping families, including funds and giving food from our food pantry. We thank you for making this possible.

The Mission Committee

IN THE COMING MONTHS...

MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day will be on Sunday, May 11th. As usual, the men of the church will be providing a Mother's Day breakfast at 8:00am.

CHORUS OF DORCHESTER

We will welcome the Chorus of Dorchester on Saturday, May 31st. More Information will be forthcoming in our May newsletter.

SPRING SALE/YARD SALE – MAY 17, 2025

Spring is upon us and we are beginning to plan for our annual Spring/Yard Sale which will be held on Saturday, May 17th. We know it is a little early, but we wanted to let you know that the event is in our schedule and we would like to remind everyone to begin gathering your items for the yard sale. As usual, we are not accepting clothing, but linens will be greatly appreciated and we are also requesting "small appliances only".

If you haven't already begun to do some spring cleaning, perhaps this will give you the "little push" to get started. We know that many of you have brought items in the past, but we are hoping that perhaps you may have a few more items you don't need and those items may help the Church and those that enjoy looking for something special.

We are also going to start accepting the Spring Sale items earlier this year. You may begin to bring them in on April 14th and we would appreciate no deliveries after May 7th. That will give you almost a month to deliver your items and allow us time to separate and price your items. Please remember that the office is only open Monday thru Thursday from 9am until 1pm.

There will be more information about the Spring Sale in the May Newsletter.

Call to reserve your sale table! Or to place an order for food 410-228-5167 or murphy2a@comcast.net

RAMP BUILD

A ramp build is scheduled for Saturday, June 7th. Information will be available in our May newsletter.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

April Birthdays

Allen Dixon	4/2
Audrey Giese	4/4
Carole Ann Brohawn	4/6
Connor Jones	4/10
Rick Kelly	4/11
Dennis James Elzey, Jr.	4/11
Elizabeth Barnett	4/12
Donald Jones	4/14
Susan Collins	4/16
Dennis Jones, Jr.	4/19
Barbara Albert	4/19
Becky Dodson	4/20
Jimmy Windsor	4/20
Mark Luthy	4/22
Justin Leonard	4/24

April Anniversaries

Lou & Denis Jones	4/2
Sandy & Wallace Dodson	4/3
Deana & Mark Kozak	4/6
Michal & Allen Dixon	4/16
Lisa & Kyle Marshall	4/21
Katie & Brendan Anderson	4/23
Debbie & Kirk Collins	4/26
Suzanne & Thomas Wilkison	4/28

Birthdays (Continued)

Sterling Bradley	4/26
Debi Book	4/26
Aiden Barnett	4/27
Lynne Breil	4/28
Spencer Dodson	4/29

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
pastor@immanuelucc.faith

Order flowers for Easter Day today!! Our Easter garden will include:



Easter Flower Order Form

\$9.25 Per Plant Specify Plant: () Hyacinths
 and how many () Daffodils
 of each. () Tulips
 () Lily
 () Mums

Please complete the order form below, put your money in the attached envelope and place in the Secretary's In-Box in the office or in Immanuel's locked mailbox by April 13. If you need more room, please use reverse side. (Circle which one)

In Honor / In Loving Memory

of _____

by _____

Easter Candy Order Form

Handmade with love by Immanuel United Church of Christ!
 Immanuel United Church of Christ

5401 Whie Hall Road, Cambridge, MD 21613 info@immanuelucc.faith

Item	Price	Quantity	Total A
Peanut Butter Egg	\$7.00		
Buttercream Egg	\$7.00		
Chocolate Buttercream Egg	\$7.00		
Coconut Egg	\$7.00		
Peanut Butter Cups	4 for \$7.00		

Name _____ Phone Number _____

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: April 6th PICK-UP OF ORDERS: April 13 9am – 12p.m at
 Immanuel United Church of Christ. Call or email Debbie Luthy with any questions
 and/or to order, 410-463-3128 dbluthy@gmail.com

APRIL 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
Office: 410-228-4640

WEB:
www.immanuelucc.faith
Email—Office:
info@immanuelucc.faith
pastor@immanuelucc.faith

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11-noon Bible Study	2	3 6:30p Choir Practice	4	5
6 10a Worship	7 Mission's Community meal	8 11-noon Bible Study	9	10 6:30p Choir Practice	11	12 11a-3pm Meyer Family Fellowship Hall
13 PALM 14 SUNDAY 10a Worship	14	15 11-noon Bible Study	16	17 6:30p Maundy Thursday Service	18	19
20 EASTER 8:30A Continen- tal breakfast &Eggs Hunt 10a Worship	21	22 11-noon Bible Study	23	24 6:30p Choir Practice	25 4:30-7p Spaghetti Dinner	26
27 Family Bible Sunday 10a Worship	28	29 11-noon Bible Study 6-8p Blood Bank	30			

COUNTERS:

April 6 George Barnett Bill Bair
April 13 Tom Wilkison & Beverly Shelly
April 20 Robin Burton & Kathy Kelly
April 27 George Barnett & Bill Bair

CHANCEL

April 6 & 13 VIOLET
April 20 & 27 WHITE



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

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CAMBRIDGE, MD
21613

Return Service Requested



Spaghetti Dinner
Friday, April 25, 2025
(See inside for details)